

NEW MAMMALS FROM THE DESEADAN (LATE OLIGOCENE) OF SALLA, BOLIVIA

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New remains of carnivorous marsupials and a new genus of mylodontid sloth were collected during recent National Geographic sponsored fieldwork at Salla (late Oligocene, Bolivia). The marsupial specimens include a partial cranium of a short-faced, dog-like borhyaenid and the mandibles of a much larger beast. The smaller, dog-like borhyaenid was collected from Poco Poconi North, of Unit 3 of the Salla Beds. It appears derived relative to most other borhyaenids in having only two upper premolars. The first upper molar has short, blunt para and metacones and the M2-3 are distinctive in having obliquely oriented carnassial blades. The blade of the M3 is nearly perpendicular to the long axis of the skull. The animal is so distinctive that we have been unable to refer it to any known genus, just referring it for now to the Borhyaeninae. The jaw of a much larger sparassodont, similar to that of *Proborhyaena gigantea*, was discovered in Pasto Grande at the base of Unit 3. It measures 154 mm from the canine to m4. The hemimandibles are solidly fused at the symphysis. The right lower canine is over 7 cm long and is worn much like the canines of *P. gigantea*, but it is not as vertically placed as those of *P. gigantea*. The m4 is a hypercarnassial tooth, being exceedingly broad, but quite thin for its large size. The specimen is tentatively referred to *Paraborhyaena*, a taxon known from Salla.

The partial cranium of a mylodont sloth is not referable to any known genus. It is smaller than other Deseadan sloths (e.g., *Octodontotherium*, *Orophodon*). Derived characters include its very reduced caniniform, broad muzzle, and its distinctive tooth histology (well-developed vasodentine and thick cementum). Characters plesiomorphic to most other mylodontids include the relatively simple, figure eight in cross section shaped molariforms (though, more complex than the peg-like teeth of *Orophodon* and *Pseudopreotherium*), the lack of any significant gap between the molariform and caniniform teeth, and the small size of the last molariform (inferred from alveolus).