

5513) this species. Regrettably, the Chilean specimens could only be coded for 11 (SGOPV 3349) and 17 (SGOPV 5513) of the 48 total characters in the original matrix. This highlights the need for additional specimens preserving other craniodental information and/or an expanded character matrix to further clarify the phylogenetic affinities of these specimens.

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NINETY YEARS LATE TO THE PARTY: NEW GENERA AND SPECIES OF SPARASSODONTA FROM HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE MIDDLE EOCENE GRAN BARRANCA AND CAÑADÓN VACA MEMBERS (SARMIENTO FORMATION) OF PATAGONIA

R. K. ENGELMAN¹ AND D. A. CROFT²

¹Department of Biology, Case Western Reserve University. 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, USA. neovenatoridae@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0002-9988-7427

²Department of Anatomy, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4930, USA. dcroft@case.edu, ORCID: 0000-0002-6514-2187

Sparassodonts were the dominant carnivorous mammals in South America for over sixty million years, rapidly evolving from unassuming opossum-like taxa in the Paleocene to massive megafaunal predators by the middle Eocene. However, the early evolutionary history of Sparassodonta, particularly the adaptive radiation of the group during the Eocene, is very poorly documented compared to later intervals. For example, the middle Eocene layers of the Sarmiento Formation has few described sparassodonts except for *Patene* spp. and the proborhyaenids *Callistoe* and *Arminiheringia*. Here, we report on several isolated sparassodont teeth collected from middle Eocene sites in Patagonia by the American Museum of Natural History in 1930. These teeth represent at least four species, including 1) a new genus and species of *Cladosictis*-sized sparassodont from the Gran Barranca Member of the Sarmiento Formation represented by an upper molar with perpendicular preparacrista, large StB, and presence of StC and StD, 2) an upper molar representing a slightly older species of the same genus from Cañadón Vaca with well-developed ectocingulum, 3) isolated upper molars from Cañadón Vaca that might pertain to a species of *Patene* intermediate in morphology between *P. simpsoni* and *P. coluapiensis*, and 4) an isolated lower molar from a *Sipalocyon*-sized sparassodont from Eocene levels at Cabeza Blanca that could either pertain to an m2-3 of an early hondadelphid or the m1 of a very early-diverging sparassodont similar to *Mayulestes* or *Allqokirus*. The phylogenetic positions of these new taxa are unstable, but they all appear to have diverged prior to the common ancestor of Hathliacynidae and Borhyaenoidea. These new taxa effectively fill in the gaps of the size distribution of the Casamayoran sparassodont guild and suggest that the Casamayoran sparassodont community was as ecologically diverse as that of the Neogene. This result also supports the previous hypotheses that metatherian diversity was at its highest during the Eocene and that sparassodonts radiated explosively between the early and middle Eocene.

PRIMER PYROTHERIA (MAMMALIA, MERIDIUNGULATA) DE LA FORMACIÓN QUEBRADA DE LOS COLORADOS (EOCENO MEDIO-TARDÍO), PROVINCIA DE SALTA, NOROESTE ARGENTINO

M. FERNÁNDEZ^{1,2,3}, J. C. FERNICOLA^{1,2,3}, M. BOND^{3,4}, L. CHORNOGUBSKY^{1,3}, N. ZIMICZ^{3,5} Y N. A. MUÑOZ^{3,6*}

¹Sección Paleontología de Vertebrados, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia". Av. Ángel Gallardo 470, C1405DJR Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina. mechisfernandezpaleo@gmail.com; jctano@yahoo.com; lchorno@macn.gov.ar

²Laboratorio de Anatomía y Biología Evolutiva de los Vertebrados-Universidad Nacional de Luján, Departamento de Ciencias Básicas. Ruta 5 y Av. Constitución, 6700 Luján, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

³Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET).

⁴División Paleontología Vertebrados, Museo de La Plata, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata. Paseo del Bosque s/n, B1900FWA La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. constantino1453@yahoo.com.ar

⁵Instituto de Bio y Geociencias del Noroeste Argentino. Av. Bolivia 5550, 4400 Salta, Salta, Argentina. natalia.zimicz@gmail.com

⁶División Paleontología Vertebrados, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Unidades de Investigación Anexo Museo de La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata. Av. 60 y 122, B1900FWA La Plata, Argentina. nahuelmunoz@fncnym.unlp.edu.ar

El orden Pyrotheria es uno de los cinco grandes grupos de ungulados nativos de América del Sur, el cual incluye grandes organismos herbívoros que están representados desde el Eoceno temprano (Edad Mamífero Casamayorensis) hasta el Oligoceno tardío (Edad Mamífero Deseadense). En el noroeste argentino, este orden estuvo representado por el género