

A mandible of the hyracoid mammal *Titanohyrax andrewsi* in the collections of the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris (France) with a reassessment of the species

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Abstract: An unpublished mandible of the large hyracoid *Titanohyrax andrewsi* from the early Oligocene Jebel Qatrani Formation, Fayum Depression, Egypt is described. This specimen has a twofold importance. Firstly, it opens an unexpected window on early paleontological research in the Fayum because it was discovered as early as 1904 by the French paleontologist René Fourtau during an expedition to the Fayum organized by the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris (MNHN). This expedition has remarkably never been mentioned in the literature. Secondly, the mandible documents the best-preserved specimen of *T. andrewsi*, permitting a revision of one of the very rare Paleogene hyracoids. Interestingly, the new mandible was discovered two years before the first report of the species by Charles W. Andrews. The hypodigm of *T. andrewsi* is reviewed and the dentition as a whole is compared in detail, notably with other *Titanohyrax* species from the Fayum. The validity of the large *Titanohyrax* “*schlosseri*” species is discussed, but a pronounced sexual size dimorphism for *T. andrewsi* is favoured.

Keywords: Titanohyracidae, Oligocene, Afro-Arabia, Fayum

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INTRODUCTION

The hyracoid *Titanohyrax* is one of the most iconic mammals from the African Paleogene fauna since Matsumoto (1922:844) described *T. ultimus* from the early Oligocene of the Jebel Qatrani Formation, Fayum Depression, Egypt, as an “extremely gigantic species, being the largest of all the hyracoids hitherto known”. Body mass estimates for this species range from around 600 kg to more than 1300 kg, close in weight to the extant Sumatran rhinoceros (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995, but see Pickford 2015:204). The large size of *T. ultimus* evidently contrasts with the small sizes of the three living hyracoid genera whose body masses range from 1.3 to 5.5 kg (Shoshani *et al.*, 2013). Besides *T. ultimus*, three other *Titanohyrax* species are known from the Jebel Qatrani Formation: *T. angustidens* Rasmussen & Simons, 1988, *T. andrewsi* Matsumoto, 1922, and *Titanohyrax* nov. sp. (see Rasmussen & Gutiérrez, 2010) (Fig. 1). These three species, although smaller than *T. ultimus*, are also part of the mammalian megafauna from the Fayum.

From the late early or early middle Eocene of Northwest Africa, two other *Titanohyrax* species are documented, *T. mongereaui* Sudre, 1979 from Glib Zegdou, Algeria and *T. tantulus* Court & Hartenberger, 1992 from Chambi, Tunisia (Fig. 1). These two species were proposed to be the earliest representatives of the *Titanohyrax* lineage, but recently Barrow *et al.* (2010) questioned their generic attribution. These two Eocene species differ greatly by their sizes: *T. tantulus* from Chambi is putatively the smallest *Titanohyrax* species with a body mass estimated around 23 kg (Tabuce *et al.*, in press), whereas *T. mongereaui* from Glib Zegdou is estimated to have weighed about 675 kg (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995), and is thus the largest African terrestrial mammal from the early Paleogene period. In addition to *T. mongereaui*, two other very large, as

yet undescribed, ?*Titanohyrax* species are known from the Glib Zegdou Formation (Tabuce *et al.*, 2011) (Fig. 1). Besides its size and relatively high specific diversity, the genus *Titanohyrax* is peculiar among the numerous Paleogene hyracoids by its lophoselenodont dental pattern, fully molariform premolars, and relatively high-crowned cheek teeth (with the exception of *T. mongereaui*). This morphology, which is also characteristic of *Antilohyrax* — another titanohyracid from the Fayum —, is indicative of a probable folivorous diet (Rasmussen, 1989).

Despite their apparent central role in the Paleogene mammalian communities, the various *Titanohyrax* species are still poorly known due to their rarity in the fossil record. It is worth mentioning here that *T. mongereaui* is only documented by its holotype despite recent intensive field research in the Glib Zegdou area during the years 2003 to 2011 by the joint Montpellier/Tlemcen/Oran Universities fieldwork (Tabuce *et al.*, 2011). Likewise, *T. ultimus*, initially described by Matsumoto (1922) based on four heavily worn and isolated teeth, has never been rediscovered in the Fayum during the productive joint Duke University/Egyptian Geological Museum fieldwork (1977 to present). As for *T. angustidens* and *T. andrewsi*, only eight and five specimens, respectively, have been described and recognized according to Rasmussen & Simons (1988). Among these rare specimens, Rasmussen & Gutiérrez (2010) recently reattributed, without any comment, a maxilla and a mandible of *T. angustidens* to *T. andrewsi*, thereby confusing the systematics of *Titanohyrax*, a genus with an already long and complicated systematic history.

The unexpected recent recognition of a well-preserved mandible of *Titanohyrax andrewsi* (MNHN-F-LBE 694) (Figs. 2-3) in the collections of the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle* in Paris offers a unique opportunity to better document and review a very rare species from the Fayum. Moreover, this

specimen which was discovered by the French geologist and paleontologist René Fourtau as early as March–April 1904 — i.e. two years before the primary description of the two first *Titanohyrax* specimens by Andrews (1906) — opens a window on early research in the Fayum.

Abbreviations.

- AMNH: American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA
- CGM: Egyptian Geological Museum, Cairo, Egypt
- DPC: Duke Lemur Center Division of Fossil Primates, Durham, North Carolina, USA
- FFZ: Fayum Faunal Zone (Rasmussen *et al.*, 1992)
- NHMUK: Natural History Museum, Department of Palaeontology, London, UK
- MNHN: Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France
- SMNS: Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart, Germany
- YPM: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

HYRACOIDS FROM THE FAYUM, CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY RESEARCH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO *TITANOHYRAX* AND MNHN-F-LBE 694

Summary of early research

In 1898, the British geologist Hugh J. L. Beadnell from the Egyptian Geological Survey in Cairo, who explored and mapped the eastern and northern border areas of the Fayum Depression, discovered numerous vertebrate remains north of the lake Birket Qarun. In April 1901, he was joined by the paleontologist Charles W. Andrews from the British Museum of Natural History for fieldwork in this area. Rapidly, they found land mammals in the Qasr el Sagha Series but also at a point higher in the escarpment, in the Fluvio-Marine Series also called Jebel el Qatrani beds (Beadnell, 1901, 1905).

Among the numerous specimens discovered by Andrews and Beadnell in the Jebel el Qatrani beds, the maxilla CGM 8635 was recognized as a member of the Hyracoidea and named *Saghattherium antiquum*, in reference to the ancient Qasr el Sagha temple situated on the northern shore of Birket Qarun (Andrews & Beadnell, 1902). *Saghattherium antiquum* was the first hyracoid known from the Paleogene and the second fossil hyracoid documented, after *Pliohyrax graecus* (Gaudry, 1862) from the European late Miocene, only recognized as a hyracoid by Osborn (1899). In addition to *S. antiquum*, Andrews & Beadnell (1902) also described but did not figure *Saghattherium “minus”* (now *S. antiquum*) based on the maxilla CGM 10011, later recognized as bearing DP1-4 instead of P4-M3 (Matsumoto, 1926). Andrews & Beadnell (1902) also figured the premaxilla CGM 10009 which they attributed to the proboscidean *Phiomia ?serridens*. Only one year later, Andrews (1903) recognized the hyracoid affinity of this specimen while describing *Megalohyrax eocaenus* based on the premaxilla/maxilla NHMUK M8502.

In 1904, Andrews published two other papers dedicated to new hyracoids from the Fayum. In April, based on the fragmentary mandibles CGM 8634 and NHMUK M8435, he described respectively *Geniohyus mirus* and “*G.*” *fajumensis* (now *Bunohyrax fajumensis*) (Andrews, 1904a; NHMUK M8435 was figured in Andrews, 1906). One month later,

Andrews (1904b) described but did not figure *Megalohyrax “minor”* based on the maxilla CGM 8818 (figured in Andrews, 1906) now attributed to *Megalohyrax eocaenus*. He also described *Saghattherium “magnum”* (now *Geniohyus magnus*) based on the maxilla NHMUK M8398, and “*Geniohyus” major* (now *Bunohyrax major*) based on the three associated lower premolars CGM 8980 (figured in Andrews, 1906). At that time, Andrews referred *Geniohyus* to the Suidae.

Subsequent to this series of short papers, Andrews (1906) published additional hyracoid fossils in his comprehensive ‘Descriptive Catalogue of the Tertiary Vertebrata of the Fayum, Egypt’. He figured several specimens already described (see above), but also the mandible CGM 8822-3 which he attributed to his small species *Megalohyrax “minor”*. He also attributed to this species the mandible NHMUK M9220. These two specimens were later attributed to the new genus and species *Titanohyrax andrewsi* by Matsumoto (1922), CGM 8822-3 being the holotype (Figs. 4-5).

After a last expedition in the Fayum in the spring of 1906, Andrews (1907) figured the mandible NHMUK M9480 attributed to *Saghattherium “magnum”* (now the holotype of *Thyrohyrax pygmaeus*) and he suggested that *Geniohyus mirus* (NHMUK M9485) may have some relationships with hyracoids instead of suids, a suggestion which is now fully accepted. Among the specimens discovered in 1906, Andrews also cited an enormous canine that he tentatively attributed to the creodont *Pterodon africanus*. Based on data listed on the NHMUK accession register, this canine is possibly

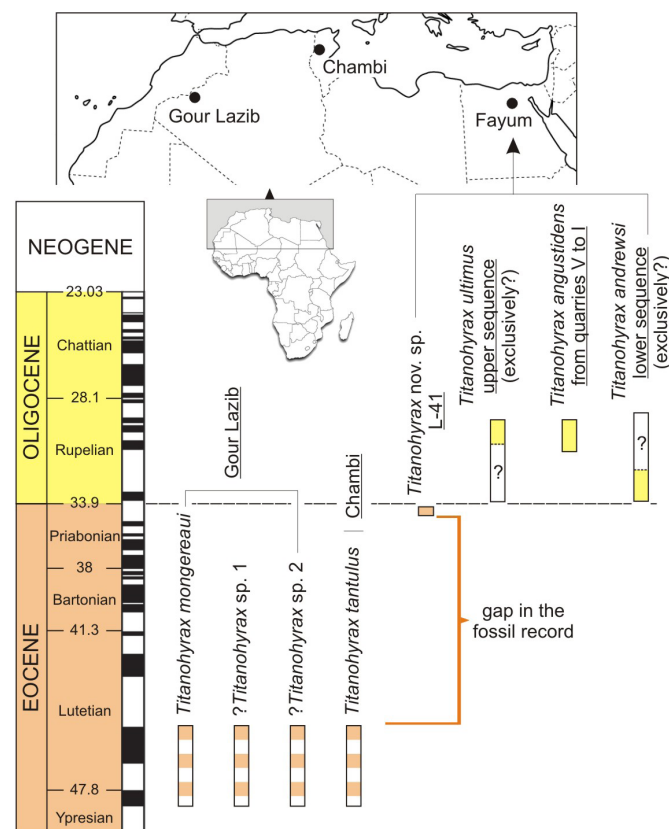


Figure 1. Temporal and geographic distribution of *Titanohyrax* species. Dashed blocks highlight the poorly-constrained dating (late early or early middle Eocene) for Gour Lazib and Chambi localities. Note also the uncertainties regarding the stratigraphic range of *Titanohyrax ultimus* and *T. andrewsi* (see text for discussion).

NHMUK M9479, a specimen later included in the hypodigm of *Titanohyrax ultimus* by Matsumoto (1922). Surprisingly, all the three other specimens attributed to *T. ultimus*, although already recorded in the NHMUK accession register in 1904, were neither described nor mentioned by Andrews.

After Andrews' last contribution to the Fayum fauna was published, the British Museum of Natural History continued to acquire, at least until 1911, other hyracoid specimens from the Fayum from the German fossil dealer Friedrich Krantz, who purchased these fossils from the famous private collector Richard Markgraf.

Richard Markgraf, a Bohemian expatriate, worked principally in the Fayum from 1903 to 1916, where he collected Eocene and Oligocene vertebrates for several museums (Schmidt, 2009; Gingerich, 2014). He first arrived in the Fayum in November 1903 while he was engaged on a three-month expedition by Ernst Stromer from the *Königlich Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften* in Munich. Since 1897, Markgraf collected marine Eocene vertebrates in the stone quarries of Gebel Mokattam for Eberhard Fraas from the *Königlichen Naturalien-Cabinet* in Stuttgart. During Stromer's expedition, some vertebrates were collected north of Birket Qarun, near the British localities (Stromer, 1907). After the end of the field expedition, Markgraf continued to live in the Fayum, in the small village of Senoures, and collected mammals, especially for E. Fraas. In 1905, he notably discovered the juvenile maxilla SMNS 11579 of *Saghatherium antiquum* described by Osborn (1906). Later, in 1907, when the American Museum of Natural History organized a collecting expedition to the Fayum, Markgraf was engaged in parallel to his work for E. Fraas (Morgan & Lucas, 2002). After that, and until his death

in 1916, Markgraf continued to provide many institutions with Fayum mammals.

The hyracoids discovered by Markgraf between 1903 and 1916, including those he discovered during the 1907 AMNH expedition, have been the source of two principal monographs (Schlosser, 1911; Matsumoto, 1926). For a long time, these studies along with Andrews' (1906) monograph, provided all available data for Paleogene hyracoids. It was only during and after the 1970's that our knowledge progressed with the works of Meyer (1978), Sudre (1979), and Rasmussen & Simons (1988). As for *Titanohyrax*, Markgraf collected for instance the best-preserved specimens of *Titanohyrax angustidens* ever found (the maxillae AMNH 14470 and SMNS 43921 and the mandibles AMNH 14555 and SMNS 43922). He also found SMNS 43941 which represents the only currently known maxilla of *Titanohyrax andrewsi*. In fact, excluding the rare DPC specimens published by Rasmussen & Simons (1988) and the few NHMUK specimens, Markgraf found all the published Oligocene specimens documenting *Titanohyrax*.

Based on these specimens, Schlosser (1911) — like Andrews (1906) before him — failed to recognize the genus *Titanohyrax* as distinct; all specimens were treated as belonging to *Megalohyrax*. In addition to Andrews' *Megalohyrax* species (i.e., *M. "minor"* and *M. eocaenus*), he created *M. "palaeotherioides"* for the high-crowned specimens SMNS 43922 and SMNS 43921. Matsumoto (1922) partially clarified the problem by creating the new genus *Titanohyrax*. He listed four species: *T. "palaeotherioides"* (Schlosser's *Megalohyrax palaeotherioides*), *T. andrewsi* (including the lower dentition of Andrews' *Megalohyrax minor*), *Titanohyrax ultimus*, and *T. "schlosseri"* (Schlosser's *Megalohyrax eocaenus* specimens). Later, Meyer (1978) synonymized *T. "palaeotherioides"* and *T. "schlosseri"* within *T. andrewsi* judging that there are no morphological or metrical differences between these three species. Finally, Rasmussen & Simons (1988) considered that Matsumoto's *T. palaeotherioides* is morphologically distinct from *T. andrewsi*; they thus erected the new species *T. angustidens*.

Titanohyrax has therefore a long taxonomic history that started in 1906 with the description of the two mandibles CGM 8822-3 and NHMUK M9220. It is thus astonishing that, two years before, when the MNHN acquired the well-preserved specimen MNHN-F-LBE 694, here attributed to *Titanohyrax andrewsi*, no paleontologist has paid attention to this specimen. This is all the more surprising because at that time "among recent discoveries in palaeontology, none have excited more interest than the Lower Tertiary vertebrate faunas of the Fayum" (Smith Woodward in Andrews, 1906).

The 1904 forgotten MNHN Expedition to the Fayum and the discovery of MNHN-F-LBE 694

Based on the MNHN accession register, MNHN-F-LBE 694 was discovered in 1904 by René Fourtau along with twenty-nine other mammalian specimens (including *Palaeomastodon* and *Arsinoitherium*) during excavations carried out in the Fayum. René Fourtau, who lived in Egypt beginning in 1888, was a French civil engineer associated with the Egyptian railway administration. Early he became interested in the problems of Egyptian geology and paleontology (Hume, 1921). As a member of the *Institut Egyptien* and later of the Geological Survey of Egypt, he published a series of papers dealing with invertebrates, notably echinoids, from the Eocene of Egypt (e.g., Fourtau, 1913). He received the 1903 *Prix Savigny* from the French *Académie des Sciences* (anatomy and

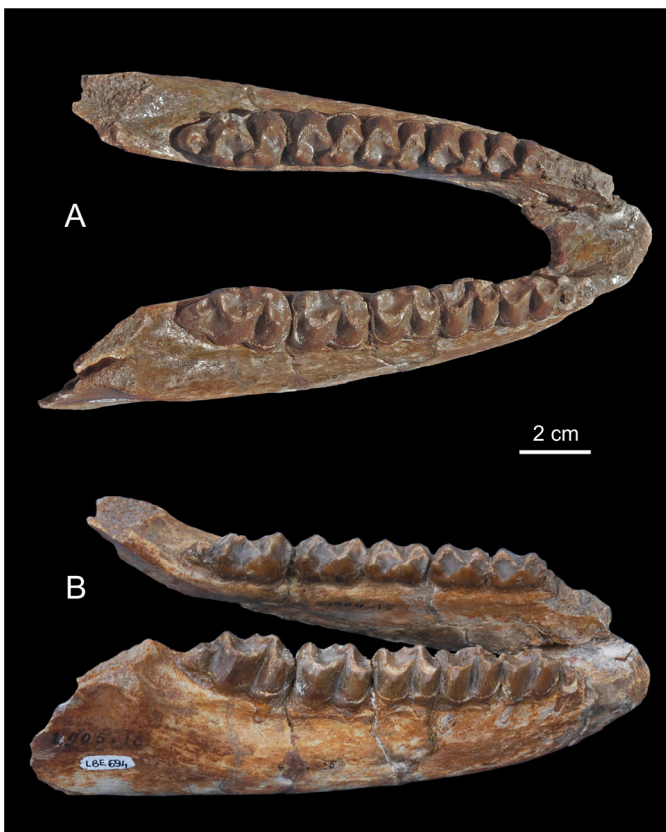


Figure 2. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* MNHN-F-LBE 694, left and right p3-m3; in occlusal (A) and lateral (B) views.

zoology section) for his extensive contributions to knowledge of both fossil and extinct echinoids of Egypt. Fourtau also published the first treatise on the Miocene Moghara vertebrate fauna (Fourtau, 1918), and possibly collected an archaeocete rostrum from the Eocene of Egypt (Gingerich, 1991).

Institutional archives of the MNHN, consisting of correspondence and personal papers of Marcellin Boule and Albert Gaudry (consulted in March 2016), revealed that in March-April 1904, after he was named correspondent of the MNHN, Fourtau organized an expedition to the Fayum at the instance of M. Boule, professor and chair of paleontology at the MNHN. A two-week expedition received funding support from Edmond de Rothschild. Despite suitable results, this 1904 MNHN expedition to the Fayum has remarkably never been mentioned in the literature. Fortunately, the MNHN archives illuminate with details this expedition (Tabuce, Delmer and Tassy, in prep). For instance, on the 10th April 1904, back to Cairo, Fourtau sent a letter to Boule in which he mentioned having found “*une machoire inférieure à peu près complète, d’une espèce voisine des suiliens qui constitue au dire d’Andrews un genre nouveau*” [an almost complete lower jaw of a species related to suillines which constitutes according to Andrews a new genus]; Fourtau added “*le Geological Survey of Egypt ne*

possède qu’un côté de la machoire” [the Geological Survey of Egypt has only one side of the lower jaw]. There is no doubt that Fourtau is referring here to MNHN-F-LBE 694 and that he wrongly attributed this specimen to *Geniohyus mirus* which was described — as a suid — by Andrews in April 1904 based on the mandible CGM 8634 (see above).

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Class Mammalia Linnaeus, 1758

Order Hyracoidea Huxley, 1869

Family Titanohyracidae Matsumoto, 1926

Genus *Titanohyrax* Matsumoto, 1922

Titanohyrax andrewsi Matsumoto, 1922

Holotype. CGM 8822-3, a partial mandible with left i1-2, p3-m2 and right p2-m3. The right p2 was complete at the time of Andrews’s publication (cast NHMUK M8871) but is now broken.



Figure 3. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* MNHN-F-LBE 694, right p3-m3; in occlusal (A) buccal (B) and lingual (C) views.

Type locality. Unspecified locality in the “Fluvio-Marine beds” north of Birket Qarun (Andrews, 1906:97).

Hypodigm. The holotype; NHMUK M9220, a partial left hemi-mandible with fragmentary p3-m3; MNHN-F-LBE 694, a mandible with well-preserved left and right p3-m3; SMNS 12626b, two poorly preserved hemi-mandibles with right and left fragmentary p1-m3; SMNS 43941, a left maxilla with worn P2-M2.

Range and distribution. Early Oligocene, Jebel Qatrani Formation, Fayum Depression, northern Egypt.

Revised diagnosis. Differs from *T. tantulus* and *T. mongereaui* by much larger size and smaller size (respectively), higher crowned cheek teeth, more pronounced selenodonty with sharper parastyle and mesostyle, more centrally positioned paracone and metacone, shorter preprotocrista and prehypocrista and absence of a paraconular swelling in upper molars. It further differs from *T. tantulus* by the presence of a preentocristid on m2. Differs from *T. ultimus* in its much smaller size, higher crowned cheek teeth, wider than long upper premolars with very short postmetacrista and poorly defined metastyle. Differs from *T. angustidens* by the lack of mandibular fenestra, lower crowned cheek teeth, relatively broader and more robust lower molars, mesiodistally-compressed trigonids, mesoconid on cristid obliqua, smaller hypoconulid, presence of a preentocristid on m2-3, wider than long upper premolars with smaller styles on the ectoloph, and smaller mesostyle and metastyle on upper molars.

New data on previously described hyracoid specimens collected by Richard Markgraf and a revision of the hypodigm of *Titanohyrax andrewsi*

Since Meyer (1978), the premaxilla AMNH 13328 has been attributed to *T. andrewsi*. A survey of the AMNH collections reveals however that the original label associated with the specimen shows it was collected “40 m below basalt, north west of Quarry A by Markgraf in 1907”. This locality information refers to the Widan El Faras Basalt which overlies the sediments of the Jebel Qatrani Formation; it implies that AMNH 13328 was collected by R. Markgraf in the upper sequence of the Jebel Qatrani Formation. It is worth remembering that early workers, with the exception of Markgraf, collected mammals almost exclusively in the lower sequence, probably near the Quarries A and B (Simons, 1995:204). As for *Titanohyrax*, the levels of the upper sequence have never yielded *T. andrewsi* but only *T. angustidens* at Quarries V, R, and I (= FFZ 3 and 4). This statement is based on the YPM and DPC collections. In contrast, all specimens belonging to *T. andrewsi* are presumed to be from the FFZ 2 of the lower sequence, but their exact localities are unknown (see also discussion p9-10). To conclude, the presumed provenance of the premaxilla AMNH 13328 precludes its attribution to *T. andrewsi* and favours its attribution to *T. angustidens*. In addition to this stratigraphic evidence, AMNH 13328 perfectly matches the morphology of SMNS 43921, a specimen which preserves the premaxilla and the maxilla of *T. angustidens* (Schlosser, 1911 Plate XI, fig.1). AMNH 13328 and SMNS 43921 share the I3 and I2 close together (their alveolar borders are separated by only 4 mm) and the same short distance between I1 and I2 (~1 cm). There is therefore little doubt that AMNH 13328 belongs to *T. angustidens*.

Another *Titanohyrax* specimen, curated in SMNS

collections, deserves comment. This specimen, also collected by R. Markgraf, was figured and succinctly described by Schlosser (1911 Plate XI, fig.7) as bearing C-M2. Since Matsumoto (1922), this specimen has been attributed to *T. andrewsi*. However, a survey of the Stuttgart collections reveals that Schlosser’s figure combines in fact two distinct specimens: SMNS 43941 (a left maxilla with P2-M2) and SMNS 47769 (a right premaxilla/maxilla fragment with I1, C, and P1, plus the alveoli of I2-3). These specimens do not fit together; moreover if SMNS 43941 undoubtedly belongs to *T. andrewsi* (see below), the premaxilla/maxilla fragment SMNS 47769 is obviously distinct from *Titanohyrax*. On this specimen, the distance between the I1 and the canine is about 10 cm, the I1 is separated from I2 by a diastema of 3 cm length, the I2 is separated from I3 by a diastema of 1 cm length, and the canine is also separated from the I3 by a long diastema of 3 cm. As a result, SMNS 47769 documents a taxon with a long rostrum, a morphology which is incompatible with *Titanohyrax*. Indeed all available specimens (SMNS 43921 and SMNS 43922 for *T. angustidens*; CGM 8822-3 for *T. andrewsi*) demonstrate that *Titanohyrax* had a short rostrum with very short diastemata. In contrast, the premaxilla/maxilla fragment SMNS 47769 figured by Schlosser (1911) evokes both in size and morphology a large male of *Pachyhyrax crassidentatus* (I1 with an equilateral triangular cross section, quadrate pre-molariform P1 with a well-individualized metacone and a short postprotocrista directed towards the incipient hypocone which is not isolated from the cingulum).

A last short comment is needed regarding the maxilla AMNH 14470 and the juvenile mandible AMNH 14555, also collected by R. Markgraf in 1908 and 1909, respectively. These specimens, traditionally included in the hypodigm of *Titanohyrax angustidens* since Rasmussen & Simons (1988), were recently reattributed, without any specific comment, to *T. andrewsi* by Rasmussen & Gutiérrez (2010). Considering that these two specimens are characterized by high-crowned cheek teeth, which is the main diagnostic trait of *T. angustidens*, there is no reason to accept the systematic revision proposed by Rasmussen & Gutiérrez (2010); it seems that these authors simply made a typographical error, using the old synonymy list of *Titanohyrax andrewsi* sensu Meyer (1978).

Description and Comparison

As stated above, the unique specimen documenting the upper dentition of *T. andrewsi* is SMNS 43941, a left maxilla with worn P2-M2 (Fig. 6). Based on this specimen alone, comparisons with *Titanohyrax* species and other titanohyracids (*Antilohyrax*, *Afrohyrax*, and *Rupestrohyrax*) are limited. Upper premolars of *T. andrewsi* appear wider than long while those of *T. angustidens*, *T. ultimus*, *Afrohyrax* and *Antilohyrax* are more quadrate. Moreover, compared to these taxa, the P4 of *T. andrewsi* is much more mesiodistally compressed than P3, with a relative smaller hypocone. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* has a peculiar ectoloph on all its cheek teeth: the parastyle is more developed and buccally displaced compared to the mesostyle, the postmetacrista is short and the metastyle is poorly defined. In *T. angustidens*, *T. ultimus*, *Antilohyrax* and *Rupestrohyrax* the mesostyle and metastyle are larger; *T. angustidens* differs also by a more mesially projected parastyle. Finally, the degree of hypsodonty of *T. andrewsi* is intermediate between *T. ultimus* and *T. angustidens*. Putting aside these differences, *T. andrewsi* and *T. angustidens* share, from P2 to M2, a bulbous protocone with a short preprotocrista and an insignificant to absent postprotocrista; such a morphology of the protocone

also characterizes the P4 and M2 of *T. ultimus* and *Afrohyrax*. *Antilohyrax* and *Rupestrohyrax* have also an insignificant to absent postprotocrista but a longer preprotocrista. In *Rupestrohyrax*, the protocone is conical instead of being bulbous. All titanohyracids share a small compressed hypocone in contrast to the large protocone. The molars of *T. andrewsi*, *T. angustidens* and *T. ultimus* differ from those of *T. tantulus* and *T. mongereaui* by their higher crowns, more pronounced selenodonty and centrally positioned paracone and metacone, sharp parastyle and mesostyle, shorter preprotocrista and prehypocrista, and by the absence of a paraconular swelling. As a result, several characters set apart the Oligocene species (*T. andrewsi*, *T. angustidens* and *T. ultimus*) from the Eocene ones (*T. tantulus* and *T. mongereaui*).

As for the lower dentition, only two mandibles — the holotype (a mandible with left i1-2, p3-m2 and right p2-m3) and NHMUK M9220 (a mandible with fragmentary p3-m3) — have been described so far; only the holotype was figured (Andrews, 1906; Matsumoto, 1922). It illustrates an old individual with somewhat worn teeth (Fig. 5). NHMUK M9220 bears crushed and broken teeth (Fig. 4). Accordingly, the new mandible MNHN-F-LBE 694, which belongs to a young adult individual with unworn teeth, documents with more details the morphology of *T. andrewsi* (Fig. 3). This specimen reveals that *T. andrewsi* possesses an incipient mesoconid on lower molars which increases in size from m1 to m3, such a mesoconid is present in *T. tantulus* but absent in *T. angustidens*, *Afrohyrax*, *Antilohyrax*, and *Rupestrohyrax*. In addition, *T. andrewsi* — as *Antilohyrax* and *Afrohyrax* — presents a small hypoconulid on m1-2 whereas this structure constitutes in *T. angustidens* (SMNS 43922 and CGM 42848) a larger and sharply defined spur, having a hook-like outline in occlusal view. The morphology of the hypoconulid in *T. tantulus* is intermediate in

morphology between *T. andrewsi* and *T. angustidens*. As for *T. ultimus*, the unique known lower molar is too worn and distally damaged to determine whether the mesoconid is present and the hypoconulid is large and sharp. Besides, as Court & Hartenberger (1992) proposed, MNHN-F-LBE 694 confirms that *T. andrewsi* differs from *T. tantulus* and *T. angustidens* in having a short preentocristid on m2-3. Such a preentocristid also occurs in some specimens of *Afrohyrax*. Furthermore, as indicated by Rasmussen & Simons (1988), MNHN-F-LBE 694 confirms that *T. andrewsi* differs from *T. angustidens* by the lack of mandibular fenestra (see below) and in having relative shorter and larger lower molars (length/width of m1-2 less than 1.5) due to a mesio-distally compressed trigonid. However, contrary to previous opinions (Rasmussen & Simons, 1988; Rasmussen & Gutiérrez, 2010), *T. andrewsi* does not differ from *T. angustidens* on the basis of a heavy buccal cingulid; both species having indeed a similarly constructed buccal cingulid (see SMNS 43922 for *T. angustidens*). Finally, as other *Titanohyrax* species, *T. andrewsi* is characterized by a well-pronounced metastylid. This character distinguishes *Titanohyrax* from other titanohyracids.

As for the anterior dentition, Andrews (1906) suggested that only two pairs of lower incisors were present in *T. andrewsi*; this statement was surely based on the short distance (2.3 cm) between i2 and the mesial root of p2. Meyer (1978) argued moreover that there is some question as to whether there is also enough room for a canine. MNHN-F-LBE 694 unfortunately does not preserve the anterior dentition nor the front of the dentary, but viewing the holotype in lateral view (Fig. 5B), I see no reason to exclude the possibility that *T. andrewsi* had, as all Paleogene hyracoids for which the anterior dentition is known, a third reduced, usually caniniform, i3 (compared to the large i1-2) and a small (one- or two-rooted) premolariform canine

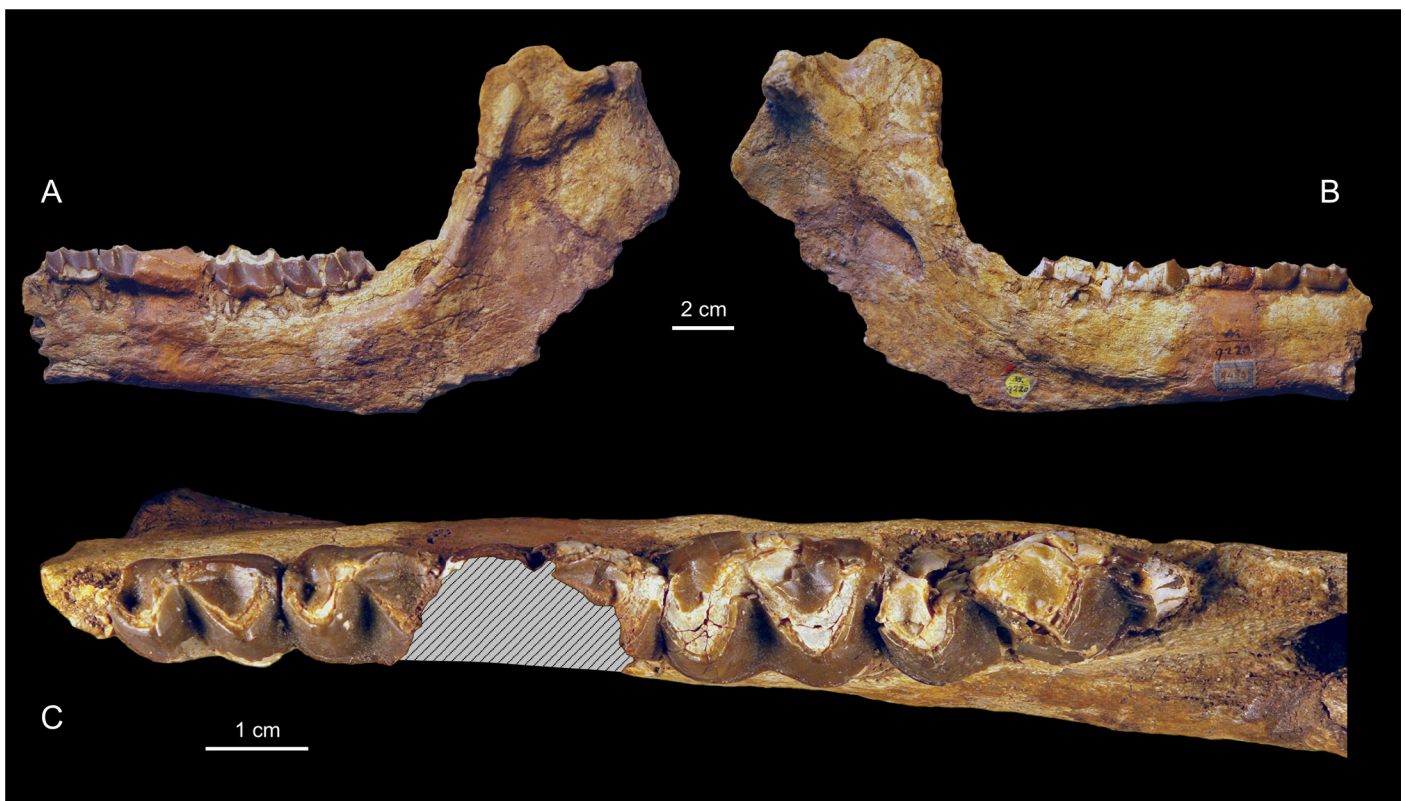


Figure 4. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* NHMUK M9220, left p3-m3; in buccal (A), lingual (B) and occlusal (C) views.

in front of a larger two-rooted p1. Interestingly, *T. andrewsi*, *T. angustidens* and *T. tantulus* share broad and spatulate i1-2; whereas *Antilohyrax* developed mesiodistally elongated and hyperpectinate i1-2, and *Afrohyrax* shows the typical hyracoid condition (mesiodistally short i1-2 with slight pectinations at the apex) (Rasmussen & Gutiérrez, 2010).

The mandibular corpus of MNHN-F-LBE 694 and of NHMUK M9220 are better preserved than that of the holotype. At the base of the ascending ramus, just behind m3, they show the typical hyracoid anterior opening of the coronoid canal. Besides, as in all Paleogene hyracoids for which the medial side of the ascending ramus is sufficiently preserved, the caudal foramen of the mandibular canal is visible as well as that of the coronoid canal situated just above it (Fig. 7A). Among living procaviids, some specimens of the genus *Dendrohyrax* also presents a very close position of the coronoid and mandibular caudal foramina, whereas *Heterohyrax* and *Procavia* usually have a coronoid caudal foramen more dorsally positioned on the ascending ramus. According to Andrews (1906), NHMUK M9220 presents an endocoronoid crest (Fig. 7B) similar to that of *Procavia*. Janis (1983) showed that *Procavia* exhibits a prominent boss on this crest for the tendinous insertion of the anterior deep temporalis. NHMUK M9220 presents no trace of this boss, showing instead a smooth (partially broken) en-

docoronoid crest; the same is true for *Titanohyrax angustidens* (SMNS 43922). *Bunohyrax fajumensis*, *Megalohyrax eocaenus*, and *Thyrohyrax pygmaeus* are intermediate between the *Titanohyrax* and procaviid condition. In lateral view, the ascending ramus of NHMUK M9220 is almost at right angles to the horizontal ramus (Fig. 4) demonstrating that *Titanohyrax andrewsi* is distinct from procaviids in which the ascending ramus (including the coronoid process) is rostrally inclined. The vertical condition of the ascending ramus of *T. andrewsi* also characterizes the pliohyracids, *Afrohyrax*, and all other Paleogene hyracoids (with the exception of few specimens of *Saghattherium boweni* and *Thyrohyrax meyeri* in which the ascending ramus is rostrally inclined, E. Seiffert, pers. comm.).

The horizontal ramus of the holotype, NHMUK M9220, and MNHN-F-LBE 694 is massive but shallow. Its depth does not increase gradually and uniformly towards the rear (similarly to *Titanohyrax angustidens*, *Antilohyrax*, *Seggeurius*, and *Microhyrax*), contrasting with the morphology of most Paleogene hyracoids (*Bunohyrax*, *Megalohyrax*, *Pachyhyrax*, *Saghattherium*, and, to a lesser degree, *Thyrohyrax*), *Afrohyrax*, and modern hyracoids (pliohyracids and procaviids). On MNHN-F-LBE 694, two mental foramina are preserved, one medially positioned on the dentary under the roots of p2, the other more ventrally positioned under the roots of m1. On the holotype and NHMUK M9220, the posterior mental foramen is positioned under p4. Additionally, whereas the two hemi-mandibles of the holotype do not join because some fragments of bone in the front part of the symphyseal region are missing, MNHN-F-LBE 694 shows that *T. andrewsi* has a fused symphysis as in all hyracoids (Fig. 2). The symphysis, which extends back distally to the level of the posterior part of the p2, is deep, with the mesial ventral side steep. This peculiar morphology of the symphysis is similar in *Titanohyrax angustidens* and *Antilohyrax*, resembles *Thyrohyrax*, pliohyracids, and procaviids, but contrasts with the slender symphyses of *Afrohyrax*, *Bunohyrax*, *Megalohyrax*, *Pachyhyrax*, and *Saghattherium*. On MNHN-F-LBE 694 and NHMUK M9220,

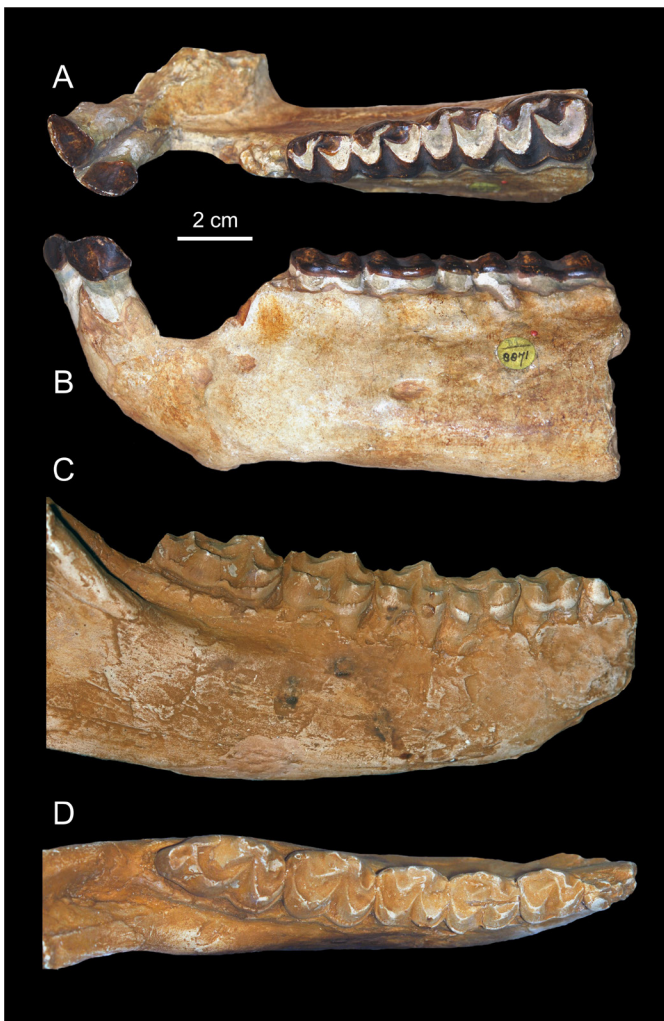


Figure 5. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* Holotype CGM 8822-3, left i1-2, p3-m2 in occlusal (A) and buccal (B) views (cast NHMUK M8871) and right p2-m3 in buccal (C) and occlusal (D) views (cast YPM 34807).

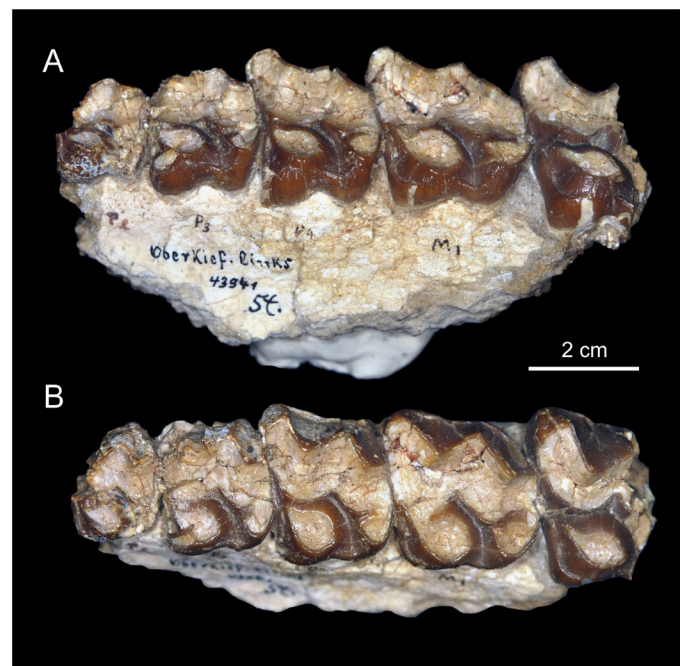


Figure 6. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* SMNS 43941, left P2-M2 in lingual (A) and occlusal (B) views.

there are two large depressions corresponding to the pockets for the geniohyoid muscle on the ventral part of the symphysis. *Afrohyrax* presents the same character (Pickford 2009). This area is rarely preserved in Paleogene hyracoids. In *Thyrohyrax*, as in the extant procaviids, these insertions are slightly more internal and smaller; *Bunohyrax* (SMNS 43936) has no trace of these insertions.

In the Stuttgart collections, Schlosser (1911:105) briefly mentioned and measured but did not figure the two hemi-mandibles SNMN 12626b (Fig. 8). These specimens, which likely belong to one individual, were included by Matsumoto (1922) within his *Titanohyrax* “*schlosseri*”, arguing that they are significantly larger than the two mandibles CGM 8822-3 and NHMUK M9220 that he referred to his *T. andrewsi*. When Meyer (1978) synonymized *T. “schlosseri”* and *T. “andrewsi”* sensu Matsumoto (1922), he unfortunately did not examine SNMN 12626b because all hyracoid specimens from the Stuttgart collections were thought lost, since they were packed up at the start of World War II (Meyer, 1978:288). Actually, the specimens were never lost. During the war, the Stuttgart collections were outsourced to a salt mine at Kochendorf, in monasteries away from Stuttgart, and in some other buildings outside Stuttgart (R. Ziegler, pers. comm.). In spite of the real interest of SNMN 12626b, these two hemi-mandibles were never figured nor discussed; it was only on the basis of the little data published by Schlosser (1911) that Meyer (1978) attributed them to *T. andrewsi*. Lastly, in their revision of *Titanohyrax*, it seems also that Rasmussen & Simons (1988) paid no attention to SNMN 12626b. The attribution of SNMN 12626b to *Titanohyrax* is justified by the occurrence of well-developed metastylids on the high-crowned premolars and molars (Fig. 8). Moreover, although detailed comparisons are impossible due to its fragmentary nature, SNMN 12626b is here attributed to *T. andrewsi* because of the presence of a small hypoconulid on m1-2 and the relative short and large lower molars (length/width of m1-2 smaller than 1.5) having a mesio-distally compressed trigonid.

Size variability in *Titanohyrax andrewsi*: sexual dimorphism, trend toward increasing body size through the Fayum Oligocene sequences, or revival of *Titanohyrax “schlosseri”*?

Despite the dental similarities between SNMN 12626b and other *T. andrewsi* specimens, it greatly differs from them by the height and robustness of the horizontal ramus (Fig. 8A-B). The height under m2 is near 8 cm in SNMN 12626b whereas this value is only 4.2 cm in the holotype, 3.6 cm in NHMUK M9220, and 3.4 cm in MNHN-F-LBE 694. The angular region of SNMN 12626b is also very broad. The enlargement of this specimen is however certainly partially overestimated because of an important lateral compression and crushing.

The dental measurements of SNMN 12626b are 6–28% larger than other specimens (depending on dental position), the holotype being intermediate in size between SMNS 12626b and MNHN-F-LBE 694 (Table 1). Despite these significant size differences in the lower dentition, the length of the premolars and molars of SNMN 12626b perfectly matches those of the large maxilla SMNS 43941 discussed above. This suggests the existence of a possible bimodal distribution, due to sexual dimorphism, of dental and mandibular measurements within *T. andrewsi*: SMNS 12626b and SMNS 43941 (large specimens) may belong to males whereas the three other mandibles (small specimens), including the holotype, may document females.

Estimated using the ungulate regression equation for m1 area proposed by Legendre (1989), male and female body mass of *T. andrewsi* is estimated to have been around 430 kg and 240 kg, respectively. As a result, the ratio male/female body mass of *T. andrewsi*, which reaches 1.79, is strong by comparison with procaviids (1.11) and most extant ungulates, but similar to that of the African elephant (1.78), pholidotans (1.76) and American bison (1.63), and smaller than the nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) (2) and the caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) (2) (Owen-Smith, 1988; Lindenfors *et al.*, 2007).

The hypothesis of pronounced sexual size dimorphism in *T. andrewsi* is supported by comparisons with some other hyracoids from the Fayum, and more particularly with *Saghattherium* species, which also present a large range of dental and mandibular sizes (Meyer, 1978; Rasmussen & Simons, 1991). In *Saghattherium antiquum* for instance, molar sizes of males can be 10–15% larger than those of females. As in *T. andrewsi*, male mandibles of *S. antiquum* are remarkably deep and thick with very broad angular regions (Rasmussen & Simons, 1991). The height of the mandible under m2, measured on three males (AMNH 13317, NHMUK M8879, and YPM 18105) and three females (NHMUK M8868a, YPM 18075, and SMNS 47774) of *S. antiquum*, has a mean of 3.9 cm and 2.2 cm, respectively. The ratio between these values is thus similar to what is measured in *T. andrewsi* in which the height of the mandible under m2 is twice as high in males as in females. Living procaviids also present considerable cranial and dental size differences (e.g., Pickford, 2005), although they exhibit little or no size sexual dimorphism (Dunham & Rudolf, 2009). According to Barrow *et al.* (2012), across a sample of 51 specimens of *Procavia capensis* and 17 specimens of *Heterohyrax brucei*, the largest specimens are 44% and 43% longer than the smallest (respectively) for the distance from the interincisal gap to the most distal point on M3 (these samples include different subspecies).

In addition to body size dimorphism, Paleogene hyracoids developed other patterns of sexual dimorphism. As in modern hyracoids, I1 are sexually dimorphic, with those of males being relatively longer, sharper, and more triangular in cross section than those of females (Fourie, 1983). Sexual dimorphism in the central lower incisors is also documented, with the enlargement of i2 in males. Accordingly, the similar size of i1 and i2 in

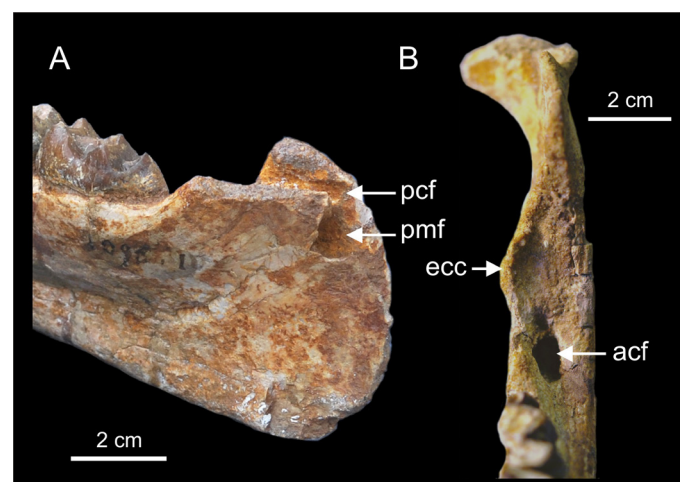


Figure 7. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* MNHN-F-LBE 694 (A) and NHMUK M9220 (B) showing details of the ascending ramus. Abbreviations: acf (anterior coronoid foramen); pcf (posterior coronoid foramen); ecc (endocoronoid crest); pmf (posterior mandibular foramen).

NHMUK M9220 supports its attribution to a female.

The most striking sexually dimorphic trait within Paleogene hyracoids concerns the occurrence of an internal mandibular fenestra and chamber in many species; this structure possibly housed a laryngeal air sac that may have had a vocal function by acting as a resonating chamber (DeBlieux *et al.*, 2006). In some species, the internal mandibular chamber is found exclusively in males (*Thyrohyrax meyeri* and *Thyrohyrax domorictus*). Other species (e.g., *Thyrohyrax litholagus*) show another pattern where an internal mandibular fenestra and inflated mandibular chamber occurs in males whereas females show the variable presence of an internal mandibular fossa or fenestra but lack an expanded chamber. Finally, some taxa (e.g., *Pachyhyrax crassidentatus* and *Megalohyrax* sp. from the quarry L-41 of the Fayum) have an internal mandibular fenestra in both sexes but with the greatest development of the mandibular chamber occurring in males (DeBlieux *et al.*, 2006). In the titanohyracids *Titanohyrax*, *Antilohyrax*, and *Afrohyrax*, the internal mandibular fenestra and chamber also exhibit a variable pattern. In *Afrohyrax*, the fenestra and chamber are present in all adequately preserved mandibles, regardless of sex (Whitworth, 1954). In contrast, there is no fenestra and chamber in *Antilohyrax pectidens* in either sex (DeBlieux *et al.*, 2006). As for *Titanohyrax*, no mandibles of *T. tantulus*, *T. mongereaui*, and *T. ultimus* are known. Concerning

T. angustidens, there are not enough mandibles to fully evaluate the dimorphism and variation of the mandibular fenestra. Finally, in *T. andrewsi*, the lack of mandibular fenestra in the larger mandible SMNS 12626b (presumably a male) as well as in the three smaller ones (presumably females) suggest that this species is similar to *Antilohyrax pectidens* in having no fenestra and chamber in either sex.

In addition to the here favoured sexual dimorphism hypothesis to explain the presence of both small and large specimens in *T. andrewsi*, another hypothesis involves the existence of two distinct species. This hypothesis would require the revival of *Titanohyrax schlosseri* Matsumoto, 1922 for the large maxilla SMNS 43941 and mandible SMNS 12626b. Besides its large size, *Titanohyrax* “*schlosseri*” would differ from *T. andrewsi* by only one character, a wider and longer third lobe on the m3 (Fig.8). This unique character often being variable within hyracoids, and mammals as a whole, it is here not considered enough to confirm the validity of *T. “schlosseri”*. It is noteworthy, however, that Markgraf’s collections held in Stuttgart include some other unique enigmatic specimens of unknown provenance such as the holotypes of the hyracoid “*Mixohyrax niloticus*” and of the primates *Moeripithecus markgrafi*, *Propithecus haeckeli*, and *Parapithecus fraasi*. Sadly we will probably never know where these specimens were recovered. Nevertheless, based on our current knowledge

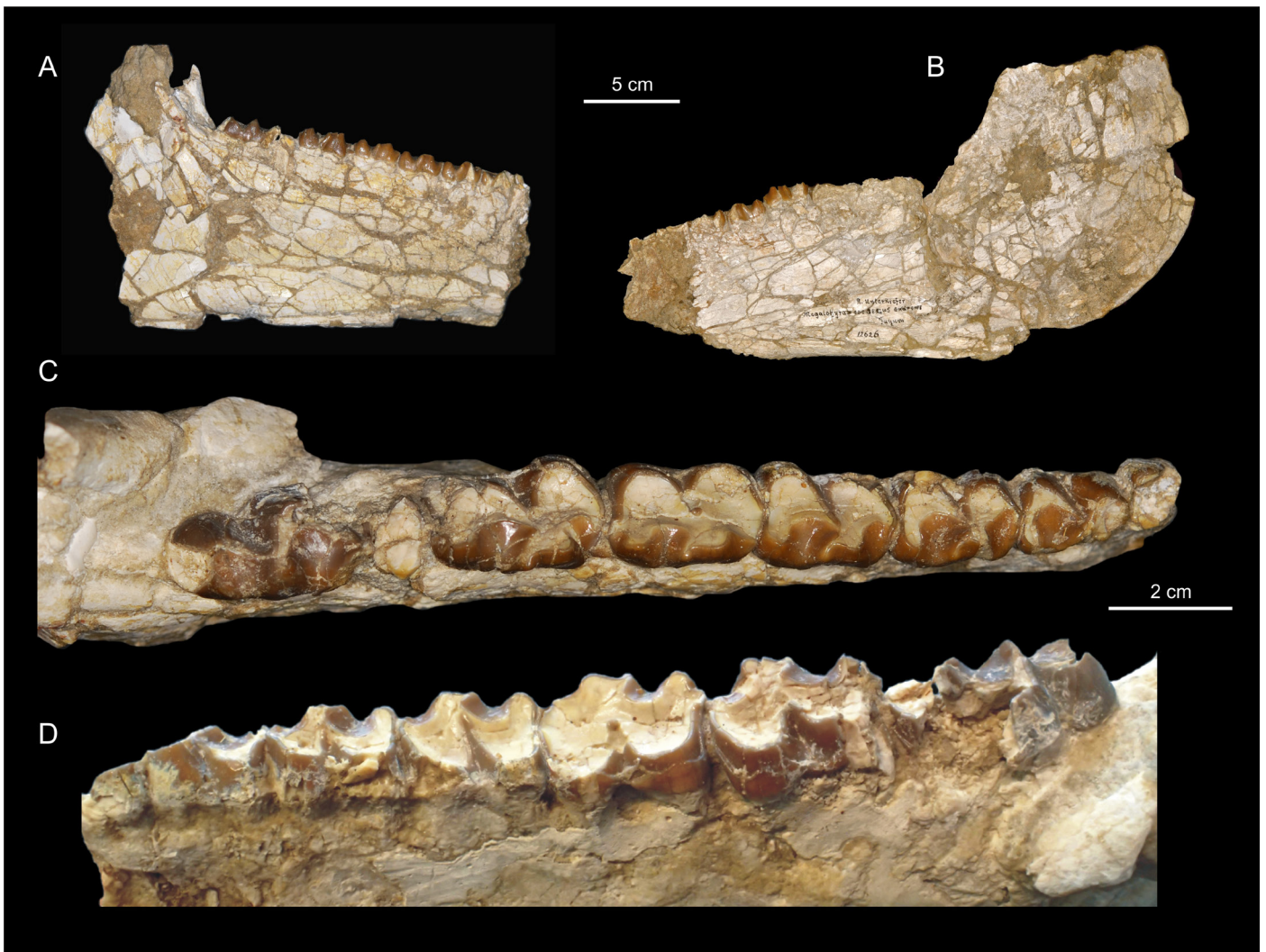


Figure 8. *Titanohyrax andrewsi* SMNS 12626b, left p1-m3 in lingual (A), occlusal (C) and buccal (D) views, and right p1-m3 in lingual view (B).

	P1		P2		P3		P4		M1		M2		M3	
	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W
SMNS 43941			>16.7	>21	20	>23.8	24.6	28.6	29.6	27.9	?	33.3		

	p1		p2		p3		p4		m1		m2		m3	
	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W
Holotype CGM 8822-3 (right)			19.1	11.9	17.6	15.1	20	16.5	21	17.2	26.5	20.1	36	20
Holotype CGM 8822-3 (left)					17.9	14.3	18.9	16.4	21.4	17.5	26.3	19.9		
NHMUK M9220					16.5	12.5	?	14	?	?	21	18	≈ 30	
MNHN-F-LBE 694 (right)					17	12.7	17.6	13.7	19.3	14.7	21.9	16.6	30.8	17.3
MNHN-F-LBE 694 (left)					17.5	12.7	18.9	14.8	19.3	14.6	21.2	16.5	31.8	17.4
SMNS 12626b (left)			18.3	14.4	20.8	15.8	22.8	17.2	24.7	17.2	26.8	19.4	40	?
SMNS 12626b (right)	16.4	?	16.9	?	20.9	?	22.2	21	26.5	20	29	?	?	?

Table 1. Dental measurements (mm) of *Titanohyrax andrewsi* (L: length; W: width).

of the primate fossil record from the Fayum and of the phylogenetic relationships of early anthropoids (Seiffert *et al.*, 2010; Seiffert, 2012), it is possible to envisage that Markgraf discovered these enigmatic primate specimens — and also hyracoids, including SMNS 43941 and SMNS 12626b — in levels stratigraphically situated between the Quarry E (FFZ 2) and the Barite Sandstone which marks the boundary between the lower and upper sequences of the Jebel Qatrani Formation. These levels, which constitute the upper part of the lower sequence, are represented by more than 50 meters of sediments (the “upper gravelly sandstone and upper red sandstone” of Bown & Kraus, 1988). Since the 1960’s, these levels have yielded rare vertebrate remains and few localities are known (Bown & Kraus 1988:27).

As for the large *Titanohyrax* specimens (SMNS 43941 and SMNS 12626b), one cannot exclude another hypothesis that Markgraf recovered them very high in the upper sequence, in levels stratigraphically situated above the quarry M (see the same conclusion for the premaxilla AMNH 13328 here attributed to *T. angustidens*). This possibility is supported by the recent discovery in the uppermost levels of the upper sequence of some anthracotheriid remains attributed to *Bothriogenys andrewsi* (Sileem *et al.*, 2015). Interestingly, until this discovery, the only reported specimens of *Bothriogenys andrewsi* — of unknown provenance — were also those collected by R. Markgraf, housed in the Stuttgart collections.

In light of all of this, it could be that SMNS 43941 and SMNS 12626b really document a unique species (i.e., *Titanohyrax “schlosseri”*) younger than *T. andrewsi* and intermediate in size between *T. andrewsi* and *T. ultimus*. If true, this implies that the upper dentition of *T. andrewsi* is unknown. Finally, one cannot exclude a final hypothesis that SMNS 43941 and SMNS 12626b could illustrate — by their large size and possible provenance — a trend towards increasing body size within *T. andrewsi* through the Fayum Oligocene sequences. All these hypotheses are plausible but speculative and they can only be tested by the discovery of new large Oligocene specimens of *Titanohyrax* with a well-established stratigraphic provenance.

CONCLUSION

The discovery of a new specimen of *Titanohyrax andrewsi* is important as it yields evidence of the dental and mandibular morphology, not known so far from the few previously available specimens, thereby allowing a reassessment of the species. This revision is a first step towards a comprehensive revision of the genus *Titanohyrax* as several questions need to

be resolved by further discoveries and/or analyses. Firstly, the alleged earliest *Titanohyrax* species, namely *T. tantulus* from Chambi *T. mongereaui* from Glib Zegdou and the two as yet undescribed *?Titanohyrax* sp. from Gour Lazib, need to be reassessed considering that Barrow *et al.* (2010) argued that the available material for the two first species does not provide enough evidence to substantiate their attribution to the genus *Titanohyrax*. If true, this implies that the earliest *Titanohyrax* species is the yet undescribed species from the Late Eocene Fayum quarry L-41 (FFZ 1). The relationships of this species to the Oligocene *Titanohyrax andrewsi*, *T. angustidens*, and *T. ultimus* are also unresolved questions. Finally, the discovery in Afro-Arabia of new Middle to Late Eocene hyracoids would be crucial to test the hypothesis proposed by Barrow *et al.* (2010), that the radiation of Fayum hyracoids, including the *Titanohyrax* lineage, postdated the early Late Eocene (early Priabonian). In any case, the recent discovery of the new titanohyracid genus *Rupestrohyrax* from the Bartonian of Namibia (Pickford 2015) seems to suggest that the titanohyracid evolutionary history is more complex than previously thought.

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