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A SYSTEMATIC REASSESSMENT AND PALEOGEOGRAPHIC REVIEW OF FOSSIL XENARTHRA FROM PERU

François PUJOS*, Rodolfo SALAS**

Abstract

A revision of Peruvian Xenarthra and the discovery of new specimens have increased our knowledge of the Order in this country. About thirty sites from three geographic regions, Amazonian Forest, the Andes, and the coast have yielded Xenarthra in Peru. The only well known Pre-Pleistocene Xenarthra is *Thalassocnus* from the Mio-Pliocene of the Pisco Formation. Pleistocene Phyllophaga (Megatheriidae, Nothrotheriidae, Mylodontidae, and Megalonychidae) and Cingulata (Pampatheriidae and Glyptodontidae) are rare in the Amazonian forest region, abundant in the coastal region and are particularly frequent in the Andes (between 2 500 and 4 500 meters). Cingulata are not as diverse and are represented only by *Holmesina* cf. *paulacoutoi* along the coast and *Glyptodon clavipes* in the Andes. The mylodontid *Glossotherium* sp. is recognized in the entire Peruvian coast and the scelidotherid *Scelidodon chiliensis* is abundant in both the Andes and northern coast region. Pleistocene nothrotheres are found only in the Amazonian forest region (*Nothropus priscus* in Río Acre). Megatheriidae are well diversified and have an extended geographic range. The tropical genus *Eremotherium* (*E. laurillardii*) is present on the northern coast and is possibly represented in Amazonia by a gigantic form. The temperate genus *Megatherium* is represented in Peru by a small-sized, quadrupedal, and browser of the Andean lineage of the subgenus *M. (Pseudomegatherium)*, which includes *M. (P.) tarijense*, *M. (P.) elenense*, *M. (P.) urbinai*, and new species from the northern Andes. Large species of sloths such as *Megatherium (Megatherium) americanum*, *Lestodon* sp., and *Scelidotherium leptcephalum* that are typical of the Argentinian Pampas are absent in Peru. A peculiar new megalonychid was discovered in the north coast region (Cupisnique desert) and in the Andes near Lake Titicaca at Casa del Diablo cave. ¹⁴C dating indicates that most of fossil mammals in Peru are Lujanian in age. Along the coast and probably in Amazonia, Xenarthra are found in open

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localities, in contrast to the Andean region in which most specimens are preserved in caves. In Peru, and all over South America, large Xenarthra did not survive beyond the beginning of the Holocene.

Key words: *Xenarthra, Peru, Cenozoic, Quaternary, Systematic revision, Paleogeography.*

RÉÉVALUATION SYSTÉMATIQUE ET RÉVISION PALÉOGÉOGRAPHIQUE DES XÉNARTHRES FOSSILES DU PÉROU

Résumé

La révision des Xénarthres péruviens ainsi que la découverte de nouveaux spécimens permet d'étendre la connaissance de cet ordre sur ce territoire. Une trentaine de sites de la forêt amazonienne, des Andes et de la Côte ont révélé la présence de Xénarthres au Pérou. *Thalassocnus*, du mio-pliocène de la Formation Pisco, est le seul Xénarthre pré-pléistocène bien connu. Les Phyllophaga (Megatheriidae, Nothrotheriidae, Mylodontidae et Megalonychidae) et les Cingulata (Pampatheriidae et Glyptodontidae) pléistocènes sont rares dans la forêt amazonienne, mais sont abondants sur la côte et extrêmement fréquents dans les Andes (entre 2 500 et 4 500 mètres d'altitude). Les Cingulata sont faiblement diversifiés et représentés uniquement sur la côte par *Holmesina* cf. *paulacoutoi* et dans les Andes par *Glyptodon clavipes*. Le mylodontide *Glossotherium* sp. est reconnu sur l'ensemble de la côte péruvienne alors que le scelidotheriine *Scelidodon chiliensis* est abondant dans les Andes ainsi que sur la côte nord. Les nothrotheriides pléistocènes sont uniquement localisés en forêt amazonienne (*Nothropus priscus* de Río Acre). Les Megatheriidae sont géographiquement particulièrement bien représentés et diversifiés. Le taxon tropical *Eremotherium* (*E. laurillardii*) est présent sur la côte nord et peut-être également par une forme de grande taille en Amazonie. Le genre tempéré *Megatherium* est représenté au Pérou par une lignée andine présentant des formes de petite taille, quadrupèdes et plutôt brouteuses (*Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*)). Cette lignée regroupe *M. (P.) tarijense*, *M. (P.) elenense*, *M. (P.) urbinai* ainsi qu'une espèce inédite du nord des Andes. Les taxons de grande taille tels que *Megatherium* (*Megatherium*) *americanum*, *Lestodon* sp. et *Scelidotherium leptcephalum*, typiques des vastes pampas d'Argentine, sont absents au Pérou. Un nouveau mégalonychidé très particulier vient d'être découvert sur la côte nord (désert de Cupisnique) ainsi que dans les Andes à proximité du lac Titicaca (grotte de Casa del Diablo). Des datations ¹⁴C traduisent que la majorité des mammifères fossiles découverts au Pérou sont d'âge Lujanien. Sur la côte et probablement également en Amazonie, les Xénarthres proviennent de localités à ciel ouvert mais pas de grottes comme dans les Andes. Au Pérou comme dans l'ensemble de l'Amérique du Sud, les grands Xénarthres se sont éteints au début de l'Holocène.

Mots clés : *Xénarthres, Pérou, Cénozoïque, Quaternaire, révision systématique, paléogéographie.*

REEVALUACIÓN SISTEMÁTICA Y REVISIÓN PALEOGEOGRÁFICA DE LOS XENARTROS DEL PERÚ

Resumen

Una revisión de los xenartros peruanos, así como el descubrimiento de nuevos especímenes, han incrementado nuestro conocimiento sobre el Orden en este país. Cerca de treinta localidades pertenecientes a tres regiones geográficas (el bosque amazónico, los Andes y la costa) han brindado restos de Xenartros en el Perú. *Thalassocnus*, del Mio-Plioceno de la Formación Pisco, es el único Xenartro pre-pleistocénico bien conocido. Los Phyllophaga (Megatheriidae,

Nothrotheriidae, Mylodontidae y Megalonychidae) y Cingulata (Pampatheriidae y Glyptodontidae) pleistocénicos son escasos en la región amazónica, abundantes en la costa y muy frecuentes en los Andes (entre 2 500 y 4 500 metros de altitud). Los Cingulata no son tan diversos y están representados solo por *Holmesina* cf. *paulacoutoi* a lo largo de la costa norte y *Glyptodon clavipes* en los Andes. El milodóntido *Glossotherium* sp. es reportado en toda la costa peruana y el escelidoterino *Scelidodon chilensis* es abundante en los Andes y en la costa norte. Notrotéridos pleistocénicos solo han sido hallados en la región amazónica (*Nothropus priscus* de Río Acre). Por su parte, los Megatheriidae están bien diversificados y ampliamente distribuidos geográficamente. La forma tropical *Eremotherium* (*E. laurillardii*) está registrada en la costa norte y posiblemente representada en la región amazónica por un espécimen gigantesco. El género *Megatherium* de clima templado está representado en el Perú por un linaje exclusivamente andino presentando formas de tamaño pequeño, cuadrupedos y con tendencia a pastar perteneciente al subgénero *M. (Pseudomegatherium)* e incluye a *M. (P.) tarijensis*, *M. (P.) elenense*, *M. (P.) urbinai* y una nueva especie de la zona norandina. Las grandes especies de perezosos como *M. (Megatherium) americanum*, *Lestodon* sp., y *Scelidotherium leptcephalum* descubiertos en las Pampas Argentinas no han sido reportados en el Perú. Un nuevo megaloníquido muy peculiar fue descubierto en la costa norte (desierto de Cupisnique) y en los Andes, cerca al lago Titicaca (cueva casa del diablo). Dataciones realizadas con ^{14}C , así como la asociación faunística indican que la mayoría de los mamíferos fósiles del Perú pertenecen al Lujanense. A lo largo de la costa y probablemente en la Amazonía, los Xenarthra han sido descubiertos en localidades abiertas, en contraste con la región andina donde la mayor parte de los especímenes se conservaron en cuevas. En el Perú y en toda Sudamérica los grandes Xenartros se extinguen al comienzo del Holoceno.

Palabras claves: *Xenarthra*, Perú, Cenozoico, Cuaternario, revisión sistemática, paleogeografía.

Tertiary and Quaternary fossil land mammals are particularly well-represented in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador. In contrast, our knowledge of Peruvian fossil land mammals is far from satisfactory. The presence of fossil mammals in Peru has been known for a century and several authors such as Gervais (1855), Nordenskiöld (1905; 1908), Lisson (1912), Spillmann (1949), Churcher (1959; 1962; 1965), Hoffstetter (1970; 1986), McNeish *et al.* (1970), Cardich (1973), Marshall *et al.* (1983; 1984), Frailey (1986), Muizon & McDonald (1995), Pujos (2000; 2001; 2002b), Salas *et al.* (2003), Pujos & Salas (2002; 2004) and Pujos *et al.* (2004), have all contributed to our understanding of fossil mammals in Peru. Hoffstetter (1970; 1986) and Marshall *et al.* (1983; 1984) provided reviews of South American mammals.

Xenarthrans represent an original and significant group of the endemic South American mammal fauna. This peculiar Order is represented by the Phyllophaga (= Tardigrada, sloths), the Vermilingua (= anteaters), and the Cingulata (= armadillos, glyptodonts, and pampatheres). They are present in South America since the Paleocene and are endemic to the Americas, with two exceptions, in Antarctica (Vizcaíno & Scillato-Yané, 1995) and West Indies (MacPhee & Iturralde-Vinent, 1994).

The aim of this work is to actualize the Xenarthran fauna of Peru. The material presented includes a revision of the specimens previously cited and described by earlier authors and to summarize new Xenarthran material recently discovered. About thirty

Peruvian localities with fossil Xenarthran assemblages will be presented. Information collected for each locality includes the geology, stratigraphy, taphonomy, and age. A systematic study of all the specimens of known geographic origin and age from Peru is provided for both the Phyllophaga (*i.e.* [Megatheriidae + Nothrotheriidae + Megalonychidae + Mylodontidae]) and Cingulata (*i.e.* [Pampatheriidae + Glyptodontidae]). The distribution of members of each family in each of the three main regions in the country, the coastal area, the Andes, and/or the Amazonian forest is considered. Geographical range, diversity, intraspecific variations, and adaptations will be also discussed. The chronology of South American Land Mammal Ages (SALMA) corresponds to the one proposed by McKenna & Bell (1997).

INSTITUTIONAL ABBREVIATIONS

- FMNH – Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA
 GRD-NPS – National Park Service - Geologic Resources Division, Denver, USA
 HDD – Huaca del Dragón, Trujillo, Peru
 IFEA – Institut Français d’Etudes Andines, Lima, Peru
 INC – Instituto Nacional de la Cultura del Perú, Lima, Peru
 IPGQ – Institut de Paléontologie et de Géologie du Quaternaire, Bordeaux, France
 IPH – Institut de Paléontologie Humaine, Paris, France
 LACM – Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, USA
 MAE – Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Paris, France
 MLH – Casa Museo de La Huaca “Elba Aranda de Sarango”, Piura, Peru
 MLP – Museo de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina
 MNHN – Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, France
 MUSM – Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru
 NMR – Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden
 ROM – Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
 SMNK – Staatliche Museum für Naturkunde, Karlsruhe, Germany
 UF – Florida Museum of Natural History – University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
 UNALM – Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima, Peru
 UNI – Universidad Nacional de la Ingeniería, Lima, Peru
 UNMSM – Facultad de Geología de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru

1. MIO-PLIOCENE SITES

Mio-Pliocene non-marine formations are rare in Peru (Fig. 1). Three Mio-Pliocene mammal bearing sites are recognized from the Amazonian forest and one from the Peruvian Coast.

Material

Several complete or sub-complete specimens (see Muizon & McDonald, 1995; McDonald & Muizon, 2002; Muizon *et al.*, 2003; 2004) with the following types MNHN SAS 734 (*T. natans*), MNHN SAS 1615 (*T. littoralis*), SMNK PAL 3814 (*T. carolomartini*), and MUSM 228 (*T. antiquus*).

Hoffstetter (1968) reported the existence of a marine vertebrate fauna from the Pisco formation. “This fauna has yielded numerous remains of a Xenarthra which shares features with both *Planops* and *Pseudopreotherium*” (Hoffstetter, 1970: 976; Marshall *et al.*, 1983: 55). Muizon latter collected several complete specimens in Pisco formation. Muizon & McDonald (1995), McDonald & Muizon (2002), and Muizon *et al.* (2003; 2004), have documented the existence of a possible nothrothere lineage: *Thalassocnus antiquus* (late Miocene from Aguada de Lomas) – *T. natans* (late Miocene from Sud-Sacaco) – *T. littoralis* (early Pliocene from Sud-Sacaco) – *T. carolomartini* (early-late Pliocene from Sacaco). *Thalassocnus* is interpreted to have fed in a marine environment (McDonald & Muizon, 2002) and is associated with marine mammals, marine birds, crocodiles, fishes, and chondrichthians. It is the first Phyllophaga to be recognized as having aquatic or semi-aquatic habits (Muizon & McDonald, 1995).

2. PLEISTOCENE SITES

Pleistocene mammals are relatively common in Peru (Fig. 1). Hoffstetter (1970, 1986) and Marshall *et al.* (1984) summarized the diversity of Pleistocene mammals in Peru. Xenarthran sites here are described from North to South and separated into three broad regions, coastal, Andean, and Amazonian following Marshall *et al.*, 1984. Only those specimens for which the locality is known are listed.

2. 1. Coastal Region

Paleontological sites from of the Peruvian coast are more abundant in the north than in the south (Fig. 1). Today the Peruvian coast is a desert, and except for, occasional oasis, with no vegetation. In part for this reason, paleontological sites are relatively abundant and often cover a large area. At the Cupisnique desert or those Pleistocene sites located on top of the Pisco formation, paleontological areas are often vast and may include several localities.

2. 1. 1. Miramar (Corrales San Pedro de los Incas), Tumbes

Pleistocene – *Eremotherium laurillardi* (Fig. 5E-F).

Material: long bone diaphysis (MUSM 93), atlas fragment (MUSM 94), body of thoracic vertebra (MUSM 95), caudal vertebra (MUSM 96), long bone fragment (MUSM 97), vertebra fragment (MUSM 98), thoracic vertebra dorsal fragment (MUSM 99), proximal epiphysis of right ulna (MUSM 100), axis (MUSM 101), thoracic vertebra fragment (MUSM 102), left Mc V without distal epiphysis (MUSM 103), partial body of thoracic vertebra (MUSM 104), left Mc IV without distal epiphysis (MUSM 105), spinous process of dorsal vertebra (MUSM 106), bone fragment (MUSM 107), two

skull fragments (MUSM 108), fragment of left dental with the four teeth (MUSM 109), distal epiphysis of left humerus (MUSM 110), skull fragment (MUSM 111), rib fragment (MUSM 112), right humerus diaphysis (MUSM 113), calcaneum fragment of a juvenile specimen (MUSM 114), two fragments of temporal region (MUSM 115), teeth fragments (MUSM 116), fragment of right radius diaphysis (MUSM 117), right ulna fragment (MUSM 118), occipital condyle (MUSM 119), fragment of long bone diaphysis (MUSM 120), right calcaneum without tuber calcanei (MUSM 21), right calcaneum (MUSM 122), medial half of proximal epiphysis of right tibia (MUSM 123), maxilla fragment (MUSM 124), acromion (MUSM 125), spinous process fragment (MUSM 126), Mt V diaphysis (MUSM 127), glenoid fossa of scapula (MUSM 128), spinous process fragment (MUSM 129), glenoid fossa and coracoid process of scapula (MUSM 130), olecranon of left ulna (MUSM 131), fragment (MUSM 132), and scapula fragment (MUSM 133).

The material was collected by R. Salas in high-energy alluvial Pleistocene deposits. It belongs to at least two adults of different size. Additional *Eremotherium* cf. *laurillardii* material collected in La Cruz (Tumbes) is deposited in Club Sunset, La Cruz.

2. 1. 2. La Brea-Talara, Piura

Pleistocene – Lujanian (^{14}C dating between $13\ 616 \pm 600$ ybp and $14,418 \pm 535$ ybp, Bryan, 1973: 244) – *Megatherium elenense* (Fig. 7A-B, D, F, I-K), *Glossotherium robustum*, *Scelidodon chiliensis*, and *Holmesina* cf. *paulacoutoi*.

Material

Megatherium elenense: right scapula (glenoid cavity and a portion of the body, ROM 2140), body of a thoracic vertebra (juvenile specimen, ROM 2144), right Mt III (ROM 2682), right lunar (ROM 2683), sternebra (ROM 2685), left cuboid (ROM 2686), right magnum (ROM 2687), left calcaneum (ROM 2697), left astragalus (ROM 2698), right dental (fragment, ROM 3756), right lunar (partial, ROM 3778), left Mc II (ROM 3779), right navicular (ROM 3783), right Mt III (ROM 3784), diaphysis of right radius (juvenile, ROM 5391), jugal (juvenile, ROM 10401), right zygomatic arch (fragment, ROM 10402), occipital condyle (ROM 10403), right unciform (ROM 10404), fragments of thoracic vertebrae (ROM 10405-10408), sacral vertebra (fragment, ROM 10409), caudal vertebra (ROM 10410), right acetabulum (fragment, ROM 10412), fragment of acetabulum (ROM 10413), diaphysis of left tibia (juvenile, ROM 10414), diaphysis of left humerus (juvenile, ROM 10415), lunula (ROM 10417-10420), right mesocuneiform-entocuneiform-complex (ROM 10422), left MEC (ROM 10423), right fibula (distal epiphysis, ROM 12690), diaphysis of right tibia (ROM 28575), left Mc III (ROM 35033), left Mc III (distal epiphysis, ROM 35872), palmar sesamoid (ROM 35873), proximal epiphysis of a radius (juvenile, ROM 35874), caudal vertebrae (ROM 35875-35878), sternal rib (ROM 35879), rib fragments (ROM 35882-35885, 35862-35896), right clavicle (fragment, ROM 35886), left ectocuneiform (ROM 35907), and several fragments of teeth.

Holmesina cf. *paulacoutoi*: dorsal plates (MUSM 155, 163, and 164).

No information about the remaining Xenarthra material. La Brea-Talara is one of the best known Pleistocene mammal sites of South America (Churcher 1959; 1962;

1965; Lemon & Churcher, 1961; Churcher & Zyll de Jong, 1965; Hoffstetter, 1970: 979; Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 52-54). The name La Brea-Talara is commonly used to avoid confusion with the North American site Rancho La Brea in California (McDonald, 1987: 7). The vertebrate fauna was discovered 14 km south-east of Talara city (Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 52). Lemon & Churcher (1961) gave a faunal list of mammals that included *Glossotherium* sp., *Scelidotherium* sp., *Eremotherium* sp., and the armored Xenarthra *Chlamytherium*. According to McDonald (1987 for Scelidotheriinae), Esteban (1996 for Mylodontinae), and De Iuliis (1996 for Megatheriinae), the sloths present in Talara are *Glossotherium robustum*, *Scelidodon chiliensis*, and *Megatherium elenense*. *Chlamytherium* and *Pampatherium* are synonym of *Holmesina* (see Edmund, 1987) and the skeletal elements are extremely similar to the large *Holmesina paulacoutoi* from Brazil. The fauna from Talara (Lemon & Churcher, 1961) is comparable to the Lujanian mammal fauna described by Hoffstetter (1952) from La Carolina, Ecuador.

The fauna associated with the Xenarthra includes ?*Marmosa* sp., ?*Nechoerus* sp., ?*Phyllotis* sp., ?*Sigmodon* sp., *Canis* sp., *Pseudalopex* (= *Dusicyon*) sp., *Panthera* (= *Leo*) sp., *Smilodon* sp., *Conepatus* sp., *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) sp., *Equus* (*Amerhippus*) sp., ?*Tapirus* sp., *Palaeolama* (*Astylolama*) sp., *Odocoileus* sp., and *Mazama* sp. (see Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 54).

2. 1. 3. La Huaca, Piura

Pleistocene – Lower Lujanian ($^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$ dating is $304\,000 \pm 54\,000$ ybp, Falguères *et al.*, 1994) – *Eremotherium laurillardi* and *Glossotherium* sp..

Material

Eremotherium laurillardi: proximal tibia (MLH 11), vertebrae fragments (MLH 14-16), rib fragment (MLH 17), associated dentary, occipital region, scapula, and rib fragments (MLH 20), femur condyle (MLH 21), proximal ulna (MLH 22), caudal vertebra (MLH 23), partial pelvis (MLH 24), partial humerus (MLH 32), partial left astragalus (MLH 33), and a vertebra of a juvenile specimen (MLH 36). Martínez & Jacay (2000) report a dentary and a single tooth (without reference number).

Glossotherium sp.: right astragalus (without reference number, a cast kept at MUSM).

Martínez & Jacay (2000) reported the presence of a Megatheriinae indet. near La Huaca, associated with other Pleistocene mammal remains. The fauna found at the same site and stored in MLH includes *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) *waringi*, *Macrauchenia* sp., Equidae, Cervidae, and Hydrochoeridae. The elements were collected in surface (Martínez & Jacay, 2000). The specimen size, astragalus morphology, and degree of hypsodonty of the dentary, correspond to the large tropical Megathere, *Eremotherium laurillardi*, commonly found along the northern Peruvian coast.

2. 1. 4. Cupisnique Desert (including Pampa de los Fósiles and Piedra Escrita sites), La Libertad

Pleistocene – Lujanian ($^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$ dating between $25\,000 \pm 1\,000$ and $15\,000 \pm 500$ ybp, Falguères *et al.*, 1994 and contra ^{14}C $8\,910 \pm 200$ ybp [on *Scelidodon chiliensis*

MNHN CPN 16] suggested by Marshall *et al.*, 1984) – *Eremotherium laurillardii* (Figs. 5B-C, D, G, J-K, 6A, C, D, F, G, I-K), *Scelidodon chiliensis* (Fig. 4A, E-G), Megalonychidae gen. nov. (Pujos, 2000; 2002b; Pujos *et al.*, 2004; in preparation), and *Holmesina* cf. *paulacoutoi*.

Material

Eremotherium laurillardii: proximal two thirds of Mt V (HDD PV22-44-U12); two large specimens represented by cranial and mandibular portions (HDD PV22-40); several postcranial elements of a single specimen without skull but with atlas, axis, several thoracic vertebrae, portions of both radii, right clavicle, right femur (proximal epiphysis), right tibia-fibula (poorly preserved), and both astragali (HDD PV22-44-U9).

Scelidodon chiliensis: a sub-complete specimen (MNHN CPN 16) described by Pujos (2000); a poorly preserved right foot which consists of tibia (distal epiphysis), of calcaneum fragment, navicular fragment, of astragalus fragment, fragments of metatarsals and phalanx, two sesamoids (cyamo-fabella and ossified meniscus from the knee joint as in Megatheriinae and the Mio-Pliocene nothrothere *Thalassocnus*, Salas *et al.*, 2002). Moreover several osteoderms were discovered associated with the skeleton (HDD PV-22-44-U6).

Megalonychidae gen. nov.: a single partial specimen with skull, dentary, and post-cranial elements (MNHN CPN 9-1) under study (Pujos, 2002b; Pujos *et al.*, 2004; in preparation).

Holmesina cf. *paulacoutoi*: three phalanges, one carpal (scaphoid?), a fragment of maxilla, and several undetermined fragments (all under the reference number HDD PV22-108-U3); fragments of skull and dental (HDD PV-22-109), and several plates coming from various localities of Cupisnique desert.

The first discoveries in the Cupisnique Desert were made by Ubbelohde-Doering (1939). The Cupisnique Desert is located from 50 to 100 km north of Trujillo city (600 km north of Lima).

The material mentioned in this work has been collected over twenty years by the Paleontological mission of the IPGQ. A part of MNHN CPN 16 is yielded at MNHN as well as specimen MNHN CPN 9-1 (Pujos *et al.* 2004, and in preparation), collected by a Hoffstetter-Chaachat mission in 1975 at Piedra Escrita site (Pujos, 2002b; Pujos *et al.*, 2004).

The Pleistocene mammal fauna includes Xenarthra and *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) sp., *Nechoerus* sp., *Palaeolama* sp., *Equus* (*Amerhippus*) *santaeelenae*, *Odocoileus* sp., and *Pseudalopex* (= *Dusicyon*) sp. (Marshall *et al.*, 1984; Collina-Girard *et al.*, 1992; Pujos, 2000; 2002b).

This region is especially well known for its archaeological sites (Chaachat, 1998) but none have been shown to be related to any of the Pleistocene paleontological sites. Pleistocene levels of the Cupisnique Desert are formed by heterometric breccia with large elements (channel deposits where the fossiliferous levels are located), aeolian sands and windworn, and littoral limestones (Pujos, 2002b).

All specimens come from Pampa de los Fósiles except MNHN CPN 9-1 which is from Piedra Escrita.

2. 1. 5. *Uyujalla* (= *Samaca*) – *Ocucaje*, *Ica*

Pleistocene – *Megatherium* cf. *urbinai* and *Mylodontidae* indet.

Material

Megatherium cf. *urbinai*, complete skeleton of a sub-adult individual collected (Fig. 2, pictures of the specimen before its loss).

Mylodontidae indet.: manubrium sterni, right unciform, phalanges, and osteoderms (MUSM 452).

Unusual specimen of the Megatheriid *Megatherium* cf. *urbinai* found in aeolian deposits, preserved soft tissue (Fig. 2). Unfortunately, the specimen has disappeared before to be collected.

Previous discoveries on the site reported by Casa-Vilca (1958) and others stored in MUSM include *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) *waringi* and *Equus* (*Amerhippus*) *santaeelenae*. Recent field work has permitted the discovery by M. Urbina and one of us (F. Pujos) of new specimens of *Megatherium* cf. *urbinai* and *Mylodontinae* sp. associated with *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) sp., *Equus* (*Amerhippus*) sp., *Cervidae*, and *Canidae*.

2. 1. 6. *Quebrada El Jahuay*, *Arequipa*

Pleistocene – *Megatheriidae* indet. and *Mylodontidae* indet.

Material:

Megatherium (*Pseudomegatherium*): mandibular portion of an adult (MUSM 450) and right maxilla of a juvenile (MUSM 409).

Glossotherium sp.: left femur (MUSM 451).

These fluvial deposits were discovered by M. Urbina and T. DeVries in 2002. They run along the Santa Lucia River near the El Jahuay area. Faunistic association, that includes *Phyllophaga*, *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) *waringi*, and *Equus* (*Amerhippus*) *santaeelenae*, indicates Lujanian SALMA.

2. 1. 7. *Sacaco* – *Aguada de Lomas*, *Arequipa*

Pleistocene – *Megatherium urbinai* (Pujos & Salas, 2002; 2004) and *Glossotherium* sp..

Material

Megatherium urbinai: partial skeleton (without skull), teeth and axial skeleton (except the tail) (MUSM 15, Fig. 8, Pujos & Salas, 2002; 2004).

Glossotherium sp.: dentary with poorly preserved teeth of an immature specimen (MNHN-PRU9).

The Quaternary deposits were identified as “*estructuras de flujo formadas por materiales tobáceos y cenizas con limos y arcillas gris-blancuecinas*” (Caldas Vidal, 1978).

Hoffstetter (1968) reported that: “*Equidé (Equus)*”, had originated from “*une couche blanche récente (peut-être Holocène), peu cohérente, qui recouvre par place les sédiments marins*”. A geological and paleoenvironmental analysis of this locality is in progress by Pujos & Pichon.

Xenarthrans are associated with *Equus* (*Amerhippus*) *santaeelenae*, *Lama guanicoe*, *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) sp., *Calomys* sp., and *Conepatus* sp. (Salas & Stucchi, 2002).

2. 2. Andean Region

Paleontological sites are abundant in the Peruvian Andes (Fig. 1). Practically all the paleontological remains were discovered in caves, often by speleological expeditions.

2. 2. 1. Celendín (~2 500 m including Llaucán) – Celendín (2 650 m) Cajamarca

Pleistocene (Lujanian, dating in progress by IPH) – *Megatherium* sp. nov. (Pujos, 2001; 2002b; in progress), *Megatheriinae* indet., and perhaps *Mylodontidae* indet. (see Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 55).

Material

Megatherium sp. nov.: partial skeleton with skull (MUSM 157 from Santa Rosa Cave, see Pujos, 2001; 2002a).

Megatherium sp.: partial and poorly preserved specimen (MUSM 158, from Huayobamba, 30 km to Celendín).

Megatheriinae indet.: several teeth fragments (UNI 667 from “Provincia de Cajamarca, Terciario”), glenoid cavity of a scapula (UNI H1 from “Los Paucos, Celendín”).

Megatherium sp.: astragalus and some other postcranial elements from Llaucán, Bambamarca (Maguiña, 1988).

The presence of *Mylodontidae* is stated by Marshall *et al.* (1984) but has not been confirmed.

Several localities with *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) and *Megatheriidae* are present in the karstic mountains of the Cajamarca area approximately at an altitude of 2 500 m (Hoffstetter, 1970: 977; Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 54). Pleistocene faunas in caves are common in karstic areas and have been discovered during French speleological expeditions (altitude between 3 350 and 3 550 m, 20 km South of Celendín; see Sanmartino *et al.*, 1981 in Hoffstetter, 1986). *Panthera onca* (= *Felis* (*Jaguaris*) *onca andinus*) and *Onohippidion* cf. *peruanum* in particular have been found there. *Megatherium* sp. material from Llaucán was deposited in the public school of the city (Maguiña, 1988). A visit by one of us (R. Salas) in 1999, revealed that the material is now lost.

Megatherium sp. nov. (MUSM 157) comes from Santa Rosa Cave near the city of Celendín (Pujos, 2001; 2002b; in progress), which is part of a karst system. This taxon, collected by one of us (F. Pujos), was found and associated with Cervidae, and Muridae. Preserved floral remains indicate the presence of fern spores from the surrounding areas of the cavity (Pujos, 2002a). MUSM 158 is a large *Megatherium* specimen. The metacarpal-carpal-complex (MCC) of the specimen is typically *Megatherium* (fusion of the trapezium-first digit) and similar in shape to the MCC of *M. (P.) tarijense*.

2. 2. 2. *Recuay* (4 350 m), *Ancash*

Pleistocene – *Scelidotheriinae* indet.

Material

Partial skeleton found by Ing. Orlando Felix and referred by Rangel & Romero (1985).

This skeleton is not registered in any Peruvian Institution. A partial postcranial *Scelidotheriinae* without locality information is deposited in UNMSM and could correspond to this specimen.

2. 2. 3. *Chingas* (4 350 m), *Ancash*

Pleistocene (probably Lujanian or early Holocene, dating in progress by IPH) – *Scelidodon chiliensis* (Fig. 3).

Material

Complete specimen without reference number conserved at the Chingas council. A cast of the specimen is preserved at MUSM and a cast of the skull and dentary at the MNHN.

This specimen was discovered in the sediments of Yanacocha lagoon in 1991 by the Chingas community. It was mounted by R. Salas at MUSM before returning to the INC. The exceptional preservation of the specimen permits the possibility that original paleo-DNA may be preserved (in progress MNHN). The *Scelidodon* sp. specimen is associated with remains of an Equidae indet.

2. 2. 4. *Huargo* (4 050 m), *Huánuco*

Pleistocene – Lujanian (dating of Huargo Cave bed 8: ^{14}C 13 460 \pm 700 ybp, Cardich, 1973: 30) – *Scelidotheriinae* indet. (Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 55; Hoffstetter, 1986: 228).

Material

Left Mc IV, vertebra, right and left M1-4, and right m4 (without catalog number and maybe conserved at the INC, see Pascual & Odreman Rivas, 1973: 31-32).

The Lujanian fauna contains *Scelidotherium* s.l. (most probably *Scelidodon*) associated with *Parahipparion* sp., *Lama* sp., and *Puma* sp. (Hoffstetter, 1986: 230). The cave is located south of the city of La Unión, (Pascual & Odreman Rivas, 1973)

2. 2. 5. *Sansón-Machay* (4 400 m), *Pasco*

Pleistocene – *Scelidotheriinae* indet. (*Scelidotherium* according to Gervais, 1855: 48-49; Hoffstetter, 1970: 978; 1986: 228).

Material

Dentary fragment (with three teeth), two dorsal vertebrae, a partial sternum, an incomplete scapula, and two fibulae (without reference number and location of the material, see Gervais, 1855: 49-50).

The fauna was originally discovered by the Castelnau expedition at the end of the nineteenth century. Sansón-Machay is located near to Cerro de Pasco City (Hoffstetter, 1970: 976). The fauna was studied and described by Gervais (1855). According to Marshall *et al.* (1984: 55) the cave is located 2 km east of Guayllarisquiza.

2. 2. 6. Cerro de Pasco (4 300 m), Pasco

Pleistocene – *Megatherium elenense* (Fig. 7C, E, G-H, L-N), *Scelidodon cf. chiliensis* (Fig. 4C-D).

Material

Megatherium elenense: a single specimen, MUSM 134, consisting of 14 vertebrae, rib fragments, pelvis, proximal epiphysis of left femur, left astragalus (without odontoid process), left Mc II-IV, anterior phalanges (left (1-2) III, right 1 II, left 3 III, right partial 3 IV, right Mt V, posterior phalanx (right 3 III).

Scelidodon cf. chiliensis: a radius (MUSM 122 and associated with MUSM 134).

MUSM 134 specimen of *Megatherium* is similar to the elements of *M. (P.) elenense* from Talara. It is also similar to *M. (P.) urbinai* (MUSM 15 specimen from Sacaco, Pujos & Salas, 2002; 2004) and *M. (P.) tarijense* from Tarija (FMNH P14216). Hoffstetter (1986: 227) considered that these remains belonged to a new genus of megathere. One scelidotherine humerus from the same locality is associated with MUSM 134. This element shows the same characteristics as *Scelidodon chiliensis* MNHN CPN16, the specimen from Pampa de los Fósiles (Cupisnique Desert).

2. 2. 7. Yantac (4 500 m, including Tarma), Junín

Pleistocene – *Megatherium (Peusomegatherium) tarijense* (Figs. 9-10) and Megatheriinae indet..

Material

Megatherium (P.) tarijense: one partial specimen armed (UNI 1) consisting of the skull, dentary, right scapula, both humeri, both femora, pelvis, and several vertebrae (7 cervicals, 16 thoracics, 3 lumbar, and 3 caudals).

Megatheriinae indet.: distal epiphysis of left femur from Tarma.

The specimen of *M. (P.) tarijense* was collected by Eugenio Alecchi in lacustrine deposits near to Yantac city. The discovery was reported by Lisson (1912). The specimen is exposed and conserved in the Geological Department of the UNI (Figs. 9-10). UNI 1 was considered by Hoffstetter (1986: 227) as an unnamed new genus of megathere.

This well preserved specimen is extremely similar to the complete specimen of *M. (P.) tarijense* (FMNH P14216) from Tarija (Bolivia). The small differences between both specimens are considered as intra-specific variations. It is the most complete megathere skull from Peru. It is typical of the Andean *Megatherium* lineage recognized by Pujos *et al.* (2002). It is a small sized Megathere that is distinguished by “X-shaped” premaxillae, posteriorly prominent occipital condyles, and straight lateral margin of the

femur which is poorly twisted. The distal femur from Tarma is deposited at the Museo de la Universidad Nacional de San Martín without catalog number. Its preservation does not permit a determination under the subfamily level.

2. 2. 8. *Tres Ventanas Cave (4 000 m), Lima*

Pleistocene – Lujanian (^{14}C dating: older than 40 000 ybp, Engel, 1970) – *Megatherium* (*P.*) *urbinai*, *Scelidodon* cf. *chiliensis* (as suggested by Hoffstetter, 1970: 977; Fig. 4B).

Material

M. (P.) urbinai: one hand, one foot, ribs, and vertebrae (UNA V2642), see Pujos & Salas (2004).

Scelidodon cf. *chiliensis*: immature right humerus (same reference number than *M. (P.) urbinai*).

Both specimens were collected by F. Engel in Cave Number 2 of Tres Ventanas Cave (70 km east-south-east of Lima, Engel, 1970). The fossil bed is overlaid by a bed that preserves evidence of human activity and dated to 6 080 ybp (Engel 1970). The *Megatherium* specimen was identified as *Megatherium* sp. by Hoffstetter (1970; 1986) and is now referred to *Megatherium (P.) urbinai* by Pujos & Salas (2002; 2004).

2. 2. 9. *Ayacucho Valley (including Pikimachay cave, 2 800 m), Ayacucho*

Pleistocene – Lujanian (^{14}C dating of Pikimachay cave between 14 150–180 and 19 620–3 000 ybp, McNeish *et al.*, 1970) – *M. (M.) americanum* or *M. (P.) tarijense* (McNeish *et al.*, 1975, identification by B. Patterson; Hoffstetter, 1986: 227), *Scelidotherium tarijense* (i.e. *Scelidodon* sp., in Pikimachay cave [= Flea Cave], Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 55; Hoffstetter, 1986: 228–229).

Material not listed by the authors.

Following McNeish (1971) and McNeish *et al.* (1970; 1975), Marshall *et al.* (1984) note the presence of these two sloths along with *Equus* sp., Cervidae sp., *Lama* sp., Felidae, *Pseudalopex* (= *Dusicyon*) sp., *Conepatus* sp., *Lagidium* sp., and *Phyllotis* sp.

2. 2. 10. *Ayusbamba (3 800 m), Cusco*

Pleistocene – Scelidotheriinae indet. (Hoffstetter, 1970: 978; 1986: 228), Mylodontinae (*Myiodon* for Eaton, 1914; *Glossotherium*?, Hoffstetter, 1986: 229).

Material

Mylodontinae: proximal epiphysis of a humerus (Eaton, 1914: 148 and figs. 5–6).

Scelidotheriinae: no specific information given by Hoffstetter (1970; 1986).

Phyllophaga indet.: fragmentary teeth (MUSM 74–75) and the diaphysis of a humerus (MUSM 73).

The open-air site of Ayusbamba is located south of Cusco (Gregory, 1914; Ramírez Pareja, 1958). The proximal epiphysis of the mylodontine humerus does not permit a determination beyond the subfamily level. Hoffstetter (1986) considered that

all the mylodontine remains from this area probably belong to *Glossotherium* sp. Material recently collected and stored in MUSM confirms the previous report of this Xenarthra, *Cuvieronius hyodon*, *Lama* sp., Cervidae and Equidae (Eaton, 1914).

2. 2. 11. Cusco Valley (3 350 m, including San Sebastián - Corimachachuy, Huanaro, and Wimpillay), Cusco

Pleistocene – *M. (P.) tarijense* or *M. (M.) americanum* (Hoffstetter, 1970: 977-978; 1986: 227) and *Glyptodon* cf. *clavipes* (Kalafatovich, 1955; Hoffstetter, 1970: 978, 1986: 229) from Cusco; Mylodontinae (*Glossotherium*?, Hoffstetter, 1986: 229) from Huanaro (south of Cusco).

Material

M. (P.) tarijense or *M. (M.) americanum*: a twisted femur (see Hoffstetter, 1986: 227) and deposited at the Cusco INC with no reference number.

Mylodontidae: no specific information given by Hoffstetter (1986: 229).

Glyptodon cf. *clavipes*: “carapace and fragments of several bones” (Kalafatovich, 1955: 154-155) and a complete specimen (R. Salas, pers. obs., 2001).

If the megathere femur mentioned by Hoffstetter is actually twisted, the specimen mentioned may belong to *M. (M.) americanum* or *M. (M.) altiplanicum* but not to *M. (P.) tarijense* in which the femur is poorly twisted.

Kalafatovich (1955) described *Glyptodon* remains from San Sebastian (in Corimachachuy), near Cusco. The elements come from the sediments of ancient Lake Makril and are held at UNSA (R. Salas pers. obs, 2001).

A complete skeleton of *Glyptodon* cf. *clavipes* was discovered at Cerro Wimpillay in 1998. The specimen is mounted and exposed in the Museo Histórico Regional Casa Garcilaso, Cusco.

2. 2. 12. Llali (3 900 m), Arequipa

Pleistocene – Megatheriinae indet. (Hoffstetter, 1970: 978; 1986: 227).

Material

A femur of a small Megatheriinae kept at the University of Arequipa (Hoffstetter, 1986: 227).

Hoffstetter (1986) does not provide more information about this femur.

2. 2. 13. Tirapata area including Casa del Diablo Cave (3 819 m) and Azángaro Cave (3 859 m), Puno

Pleistocene – Scelidotheriinae (*Scelidodon* sp.), Mylodontinae (*Glossotherium*?, Hoffstetter, 1986: 229), *Megatherium* sp., and Megalonychidae gen. nov. (Pujos, 2002b; Pujos *et al.*, 2004) from Casa del Diablo Cave; *Megatherium* sp. (Marshall *et al.*, 1984: 55; Hoffstetter, 1986: 227) and Glyptodontidae indet. (Hoffstetter, 1970: 978) from Azángaro Cave.

Material from Casa del Diablo Cave

Scelidotheriinae: dentary of an immature specimen associated with other fragmentary elements (Nordenskiöld, 1908: 20)

Myodontinae: mentioned without any details by Hoffstetter (1986: 229) but not by Nordenskiöld (1905; 1908).

Megatherium sp.: one calcaneum (NRM M4451) and one astragalus (NRM M4290) (material under study by De Iuliis *et al.*).

Megalonychidae gen. nov.: a complete left humerus (NMR-PZ M4286) figured by Nordenskiöld (1908: fig. 2) and a right dentary without teeth (NRM-PZ M4287).

Material from Azángaro: lower jaw of a small megathere unnamed genus (Hoffstetter, 1986: 227) and an unidentified Glyptodont (Hoffstetter, 1970: 978).

Casa del Diablo Cave is located near Tirapata (Hoffstetter, 1970: 976). The presence of Myodontinae in Casa del Diablo Cave is uncertain because it is not mentioned by Nordenskiöld who discovered the cave and the paleontological remains. The megalonychid bones elements are under study (Pujos, 2002b; Pujos *et al.*, 2004) and are similar to the megalonychid remains from Piedra Escrita (Cupisnique Desert, Peruvian Coast). The astragalus-calcaneum complex from Casa del Diablo Cave is similar to *M. (M.) americanum* but extremely small (out of intra-specific size variation of this *Megatherium* species).

2. 2. 14. Ymata (~3 850 m), Puno

Pleistocene (Pliocene?) – Glyptodontidae cf. *Panochthus* sp. (see Hoffstetter, 1970: 978).

Hoffstetter (1970: 978) does not give more information about the armored Xenarthra from Ymata. For Hoffstetter (1986: 226), the age could be Pliocene or Pleistocene. Remains were collected by Parodi during the fifties in the hacienda Ymata.

2. 3. Amazonian Region

Paleontological sites are extremely rare in the Amazonian forest region because of the presence of acid environment (which destroy the paleontological remains) and the presence of luxuriant vegetation (Fig. 1) which limits the number of exposed areas.

2. 3. 1. Tarapoto, San Martín

Pleistocene – *Eremotherium* cf. *laurillardi*.

Material of *Eremotherium* cf. *laurillardi*

Sub-complete right astragalus (MUSM 22, Fig. 11A, D, G).

The astragalus has been collected by Tarapoto residents in Pleistocene deposits exposed near the confluence of Mayo and Huallaga Rivers. A gomphothere, possibly *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*), was reported from this site (Raimondi, 1898). Additionally, Willard (1966) mentions the presence of a Toxodontidae indet.

2. 3. 2. Río Acre – “Iñapari Formation”, Madre de Dios

Holocene (maximum radio isotopic date: 11 000 ybp) *Nothropus priscus*.

Material

Partial skeleton that lacks the left hind limb and both hind feet (LACM 117533, Frailey, 1986: 34).

Only the skull and dentary have been described by Frailey (1986). The mammal fauna comes from the “Acre Conglomerate Member” of the Holocene Iñapari Formation which is composed of four members named by Frailey (1986: 5).

Nothropus priscus comes from the Member A of this formation (Frailey, 1986: 6).

2. 3. 3. Ucayali basin (Río Inuya and Río Ucayali), Ucayali

Pleistocene – *Eremotherium* sp., *Glyptodon* sp..

Material

Eremotherium sp. (from Río Ucayali), no details were given by Buffetaut & Hoffstetter (1977: 1663).

Glyptodon sp. (from Río Inuya): dentary and plates (Willard, 1966: 238-239)

Fossiliferous Pleistocene levels are located above the Miocene Ipururo Formation.

Eremotherium sp. remains are associated with *Stegomastodon* (= *Haplomastodon*) sp. and *Toxodon* sp..

3. DISCUSSION

The distribution of Peruvian Xenarthra is quite heterogeneous in time and space (Fig. 1). Pre-Pleistocene Xenarthra are present in the Mio-Pliocene Pisco Formation as represented by the aquatic or sub-aquatic lineage of *Thalassocnus* (McDonald & Muizon, 2002) and in two Amazonian sites (Río Ucayali and Río Acre) (Table 1). The Phyllophaga remains from the Middle Miocene of Río Ucayali are fragmentary (Buffetaut & Hoffstetter, 1977) but represent the oldest documented Peruvian Xenarthra. No other remains of *Acremylodon campbelli* from Río Acre (Late Miocene) has been mentioned since Frailey's publication (1986). A possible Pliocene Cingulata (Glyptodontidae cf. *Panochthus* sp.) could be present in the south of the Andes (Ymata) but this data is not reliable (Hoffstetter, 1986).

Pleistocene Peruvian Xenarthra are abundant (Figs. 2-11, Table 2). They are present in some coastal localities, in nearly all of the Andes, and in three Amazonian sites.

The large Pamphatere *Holmesina* cf. *paulacoutoi* (Cingulata) has been reported from Peru by Edmund (1987). Several plates have been discovered in the Talara Tarbeds and from the Cupisnique Desert (Peruvian coast). *Holmesina* is absent in the Andes. *Glyptodon clavipes* is present in the Cusco and Puno areas. According to Hoffstetter (1986: 229), no fossil Pleistocene Dasypodidae are known from Peru.

Phyllophaga are common in Peru (Fig. 1). Fossil sloths were apparently not limited by geographic barriers (such as the Andes). They are rare in the Amazonian forest region essentially because of the absence of paleontological sites, but are common on the coast, and extremely abundant in the Andes.

Nothropus priscus (Río Acre, Frailey, 1986) is the only Pleistocene-Holocene Nothrotheriidae present in Peru. A detailed anatomical description of the specimen is necessary to appraise its relationships with *Nothrotherium* and *Nothrotheriops* (from the Pleistocene of Brazil and North America respectively).

Mylodontidae are represented by the mylodontine *Glossotherium* sp. on the coast (several specimens from Talara and one dentary from Sacaco) and more rarely in the Andes (one partial humerus from Ayusbamba and maybe also in Cusco, Casa del Diablo, and Cajamarca). The Mylodontidae scelidotherine *Scelidodon chiliensis* (Figs. 3-4) is more abundant than *Glossotherium robustum*. *Scelidotherium leptcephalum* has been found in Argentina (Hoffstetter, 1986) and Uruguay (Mones, 1986). The sub-complete scelidotherine specimens from Peru, e.g. Chingas (Fig. 3), MNHN CPN 16 from Pampa de los Fósiles (Pujos, 2000; Fig. 4E, F-G), and material from Talara, belong to *Scelidodon chiliensis*. Moreover, the intraspecific variation in *S. chiliensis* specimens is minor.

Members of the Megatheriinae are the most abundant Phyllophaga in Peru (Figs. 2, 5-11). They are present in nearly all the Peruvian Pleistocene sites. Both Pleistocene genera, *Megatherium* and *Eremotherium*, are abundant in Peru.

The tropical genus *Eremotherium* (species *E. laurillardi*) is reported only from the northern part of the Peruvian coast (Miramar, Tumbes, Cupisnique, La Huaca, and Piura) to latitude 8° South (Figs. 5-6). Morphological variability in Megatheriinae is extremely important according to De Iuliis (1996), Pujos & Salas (2004) and Pujos (2001 and new species under study). On the northern coast of Peru *Megatherium* and *Eremotherium* might have been sympatric. Material from La Brea (Talara) conserved at the ROM is similar to the small megathere specimens from Santa Elena (Ecuador) described by Hoffstetter (1952) as “*Eremotherium elenense*” (= *Megatherium* (*P.*) *elenense*) (Fig. 7). The small sized temperate megathere *M. (P.) elenense* (approximately half the size of *E. laurillardi*) belongs to the Andean lineage recognized by Pujos *et al.* (2002) that forms the clade [*M. (P.) tarijense* + *M. (P.) elenense* + *M. (P.) urbinai* + *M. (P.)* sp. nov. from Celendín] within the subgenus *M. (Pseudomegatherium)*. A revision of *M. (P.) elenense* is necessary to establish its phylogenetic relationships within of the subgenus *Megatherium (Pseudomegatherium)*. The Andean megathere was more of a grazer than browser contrary to what is commonly considered for the largest plain-dwelling megatheres *E. laurillardi* and *M. (M.) americanum* (Pujos *et al.*, 2002). Moreover, pairs of large and small sized sloths have been recognized to have shared a common habitat, like the large *M. (M.) americanum* and the small *M. (P.) tarijense*, present in Tarija (Bolivia), and the large *E. laurillardi* and the small *M. (P.) elenense* in Santa Elena (Ecuador). *E. laurillardi* and *M. (P.) elenense* may therefore have cohabited the same area until the end of Pleistocene in northern Peru. A new small sized *Megatherium* species was discovered in both the

coastal region and in the Andes of Peru (*Megatherium* (*P.*) *urbinai*, Fig. 8; Pujos & Salas, 2002; 2004).

M. (P.) tarijense is known only by the partial specimen UNI 1 from Yantac (Andean Pleistocene site, Figs. 9-10). Hoffstetter (1986: 227-228) suggested the existence in the Peruvian Andes of a megatheres, a “smaller, unnamed genus, with at least two species of different sizes...”. The only small sized megatheres known from in the Andes are *M. (P.) tarijense* (Yantac) and *M. (P.) urbinai* (Tres Ventanas, Pujos & Salas, 2004). In Peru, *M. (P.) elenense* is only reported on the northern coast (Talara) and in the central Andes (Cerro de Pasco). Moreover, a large and peculiar megatheres has been discovered in the northern part of the Peruvian Andes. Pujos (2001) first considered this partial specimen as a megatheres clearly distinct from *Megatherium* and *Eremotherium*. However, the discovery of additional material required Pujos to include this taxon in *Megatherium* genus (*Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) sp. nov., Pujos, 2002b and under study).

All these small-sized Andean *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) species are distinct from the second *Megatherium* clade [*M. (M.) americanum* + *M. (M.) altiplanicum*] (= *Megatherium* (*Megatherium*)), of St-André & De Iuliis (2001). They are distinguished by the weak degree of hypsodonty in the mandible and a poorly twisted femur. These characters of the subgenus *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) defined by Pujos (2002b) seem to correspond to the “unnamed genus” previously described by Hoffstetter (1986: 227-228). These “Peruvian Andean” species (*M. (P.) elenense*, *M. (P.) tarijense*, *M. (P.) urbinai*, and *Megatherium* (*P.*) sp. nov.) are located in the Andes and/or in the coast but not in the Amazonian forest Region. The Andean lineage range seems to include northern Chile, Bolivian altiplano, and coast of Ecuador.

A peculiar megatheres astragalus has been reported from Tarapoto. The astragalus (MUSM 22) is gigantic (Fig. 11A, D, G) and quite similar to *Eremotherium laurillardi* based on the large distance between the discoid and ectal facets (in dorsolateral view). It is the largest megatheres astragalus currently known reaching an anteroposterior length (APL) of 285 mm. Some large astragali of *E. laurillardi* from Florida (APL = 238 mm, UF 115692; APL = 224 mm, UF 7474) show a slightly posteromedial extension of the odontoid process and a flat discoid facet (in dorsolateral view) as the specimen from Tarapoto and contrasting smaller *E. laurillardi* samples. In anterior view, the angle between the odontoid and discoid facets is approximately 90°, less than that of *Megatherium* and *Eremotherium* genera. Morphological differences in big specimens of *E. laurillardi* might be related to huge size. The discovery of more material is necessary to understand possible consequences of gigantism in the locomotor apparatus of *Eremotherium*.

Finally the most interesting Xenarthra from Peru is the Phyllophaga reported by Nordenskiöld (1908) and published by Kraglievich (1926; 1931) as “cf. *Nothropus nordenskiöldi*”. The holotype is a humerus from Casa del Diablo Cave in the Andes (Puno Department) and a sub-complete specimen referred to this taxon discovered by Hoffstetter and Chauchat in 1975 (see Marshall *et al.*, 1984) at the Piedra Escrita Site in the Cupisnique Desert. This taxon (Pujos *et al.*, 2004, and under study) is a new Megalonychidae which shows climbing capabilities (Argot & Pujos, 2003), although it

is clearly distinct from the modern tree-sloths *Bradypus* and *Choloepus* that currently inhabit the Amazonian forest. If we consider the Nothrotheriidae as a distinct family (according to Gaudin & De Iuliis, 1999), it turns out that this later new taxon represents the only true Peruvian Megalonychidae. Hoffstetter (1986: 230-231) also indicated the presence of a “medium-sized megalonychid (ulna, vertebrae, etc.)” from Gruta Blanca, Parque Nacional Cutervo (Sanmartino *et al.*, 1981 *in* Hoffstetter, 1986) but did not provide details.

CONCLUSIONS

As in other South American countries, the Xenarthra constitute a large part of the Pleistocene mammal fauna of Peru. Except for a nothrothere lineage from the Pisco Formation, a mylodont from Río Acre, and Glyptodontinae and Dasypodidae from Río Utoquina, Peruvian fossil xenarthrans are from Pleistocene beds. The origin of Peruvian Xenarthra is poorly known because of the absence of material from sites earlier than the mid Tertiary and because faunal turnover between the Late Miocene, Pliocene, and Holocene are not well documented in the country. Based on the current available specimens the major features of the paleogeographical history of Peruvian Xenarthra are:

- most of Peruvian Xenarthra are known from sites dating to the end of the Pleistocene (Lujanian) and/or Holocene;
- Pleistocene Cingulata are poorly represented in Peru:
 - *Holmesina cf. paulacoutoi* is present only on north and middle of the coastal region (at latitude 5-7° South),
 - *Glyptodon clavipes* is present only in the Cusco-Puno area,
- by contrast, Pleistocene Phyllophaga are abundant, although relatively poorly diversified taxonomically (except for the genus *Megatherium*), and are found in all three regions, the coast, Andes, and Amazonian forest. They are commonly found in Andean caves, particularly between 2 500 and 4 500 m in elevation,
- *Nothropus priscus* from Río Acre (Amazonian forest) is the only Pleistocene Nothrotheriidae recognized in Peru,
- Peruvian Mylodontidae are not abundant in contrast to those from Argentina and Brazil:
 - a few Mylodontinae (*i.e.* *Glossotherium robustum*) were found in the Andes and Peruvian coast (Talara and Sacaco),
 - a single Scelidotheriinae (*i.e.* *Scelidodon chiliensis*) is present in Peru but is abundant in several coastal and Peruvian localities,
- Megatheriinae represent the most abundant Peruvian Xenarthra:
 - *Eremotherium* sp. is abundant in the northern part of the Peruvian coast (*i.e.* *E. laurillardi*) and probably in some Amazonian localities (e.g. Tarapoto); this tropical genus is typically found in plains and does not seem to have been adapted to an Andean environment,
 - the subgenus *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) includes 4 species in Peru [*M. (P.) tarijense* + *M. (P.) elenense* + *M. (P.) urbinai* + *Megatherium (P.)* sp.

nov. from Celendín]. It has been found in several Andean sites (e.g. Celendín-*Megatherium* (P.) sp. nov., Yantac-*M. (P.) tarijense*, Tres Ventanas -*M. (P.) urbinai*, Cerro de Pasco-*M. (P.) elenense*) and two coastal sites (Talara-La Brea-*M. (P.) elenense* and Sacaco-*M. (P.) urbinai*) but not in the Amazonian forest region. The Andean lineage (which also includes the Chilean forms *M. (P.) medinae* and *M. (P.) sundti*) is characterized by a small size (except *Megatherium* (P.) sp. nov. from Celendín), a low degree of hypsodonty, prominent occipital condyles, a poorly twisted femur, and a high torsion degree of the feet,

- *Megatherium* (*Megatherium*) s.s. (i.e. [*M. (M.) americanum* + *M. (M.) altiplanicum*]) is not reported from Peru and seems to be more characteristic of the Argentinian Pampas (*M. (M.) americanum*) and Bolivian Altiplano (*M. (M.) americanum* from the Pleistocene of Tarija, *M. (M.) altiplanicum* from the Pliocene of Ayo Ayo),

- a new peculiar small-sized Pleistocene Megalonychid is reported from Piedra Escrita (coastal desert) and Casa del Diablo (Andean cave near Lake Titicaca). This strange sloth (Argot & Pujos, 2003; Pujos *et al.*, 2004 and under study) shows several characters that could suggest an arboreal mode of life (but distinct from the suspensory mode of locomotion of modern tree-sloths, Argot & Pujos, 2003).

The last fossil Xenarthrans (fossil sloths, Pampatheriidae, Glyptodontidae) disappeared in Peru at the beginning of the Holocene. Xenarthra is the one of the most diversified mammal group of the South American Pleistocene (Patterson & Pascual, 1972). They survived to the Great American Biotic Interchange and competition with new large North American emigrants (after the formation of the Panama isthmus) and several important glacial/interglacial periods during the Pleistocene. This raises several questions, as: Why did this group which colonized all American biotopes (from Alaska to Patagonia and from the Amazonian forest to the Andean summits) disappear? What is the new South American event at the Pleistocene/Holocene transition that resulted in the extinction of the giant Xenarthrans? Did man play a direct or indirect role in the extinction of these great South American mammals? New Pleistocene/Holocene discoveries and new dating necessary to answer to these questions.

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Table 1 – Mio-Pliocene Xenarthra from Peru.

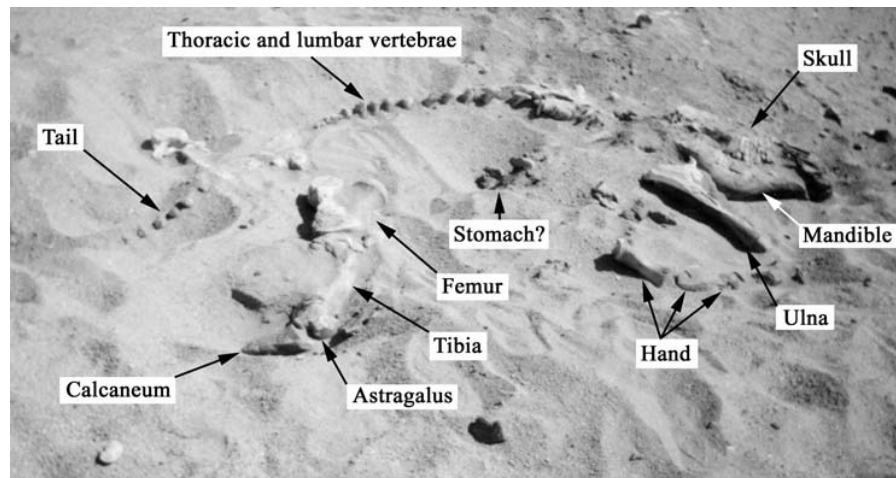
Phyllophaga Owen, 1842
Megatherioidea Gray, 1821
Nothrotheriidae Gaudin, 1995
Nothrotheriinae Kraglievich, 1923
<i>Thalassocnus antiquus</i> Muizon <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>Thalassocnus natans</i> Muizon & McDonald, 1995
<i>Thalassocnus littoralis</i> McDonald & Muizon, 2002
<i>Thalassocnus carolomartini</i> McDonald & Muizon, 2002
Megalonychidae Gervais, 1855
Doubtful data
Mylodontidae Gill, 1872
Mylodontinae Gill, 1872
<i>Myodon campbelli</i> Frailey, 1986
Cingulata Illiger, 1811
Glyptodontoidea Gray, 1869
Pampatheriidae Paula Couto, 1954
Pampatheriinae Paula Couto, 1954
Gen. & sp. indet. (see Frailey, 1986)
Dasypodoidea Gray, 1821
Dasypodidae Gray, 1821
Gen. & sp. indet. (see Spillmann, 1949)

Table 2 – Pleistocene-Holocene Xenarthra from Peru.

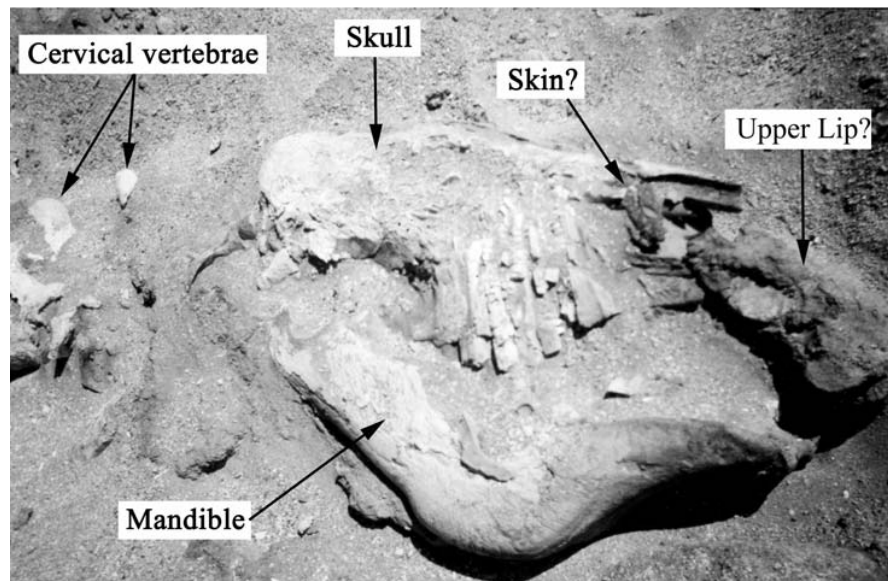
Cingulata Illiger, 1811	
Glyptodontoidea Gray, 1869	
Pampatheriidae Paula Couto, 1954	
Pampatheriinae Paula Couto, 1954	
	<i>Holmesina</i> cf. <i>paulacoutoi</i> Cartelle & Bohórquez, 1985
Glyptodontidae Gray, 1869	
Glyptodontinae Gray, 1869	
	<i>Glyptodon clavipes</i> Owen, 1938
	cf. <i>Panochthus</i> sp. Burmeister, 1866
Phyllophaga Owen, 1842	
Megatherioidea Gray, 1821	
Megalonychidae Gervais, 1855	
	New taxa Pujos <i>et al.</i> , 2004 and under study
Nothrotheriidae Gaudin, 1995	
Nothrotheriinae Kraglievich, 1923	
	<i>Nothropus priscus</i> Burmeister, 1882
Mylodontidae Gill, 1872	
Mylodontinae Gill, 1872	
	<i>Glossotherium robustum</i> (Owen, 1840)

Scelidotheriinae Ameghino, 1904	
	<i>Scelidodon chiliensis</i> (Lydekker, 1886)
Megatheriidae Owen, 1843	
Megatheriinae Gill, 1872	
	<i>Eremotherium laurillardi</i> (Lund, 1842)
	<i>Megatherium</i> (<i>Pseudomegatherium</i>) <i>tarijense</i> Gervais & Ameghino, 1880
	<i>Megatherium</i> (<i>Pseudomegatherium</i>) <i>elenense</i> (Hoffstetter, 1949)
	<i>Megatherium</i> (<i>Pseudomegatherium</i>) <i>urbinae</i> Pujos & Salas, 2004
	<i>Megatherium</i> (<i>Pseudomegatherium</i>) sp. nov. Pujos, 2001, 2002b, and under study

FIGURES



A



B

Fig. 2 – Skeleton of *Megatherium Pseudomegatherium* cf. *urbinai* from Uyujaalla (Ocucaje). A: lateral view of the skeleton; B: lateral view of the skull and the mandible.

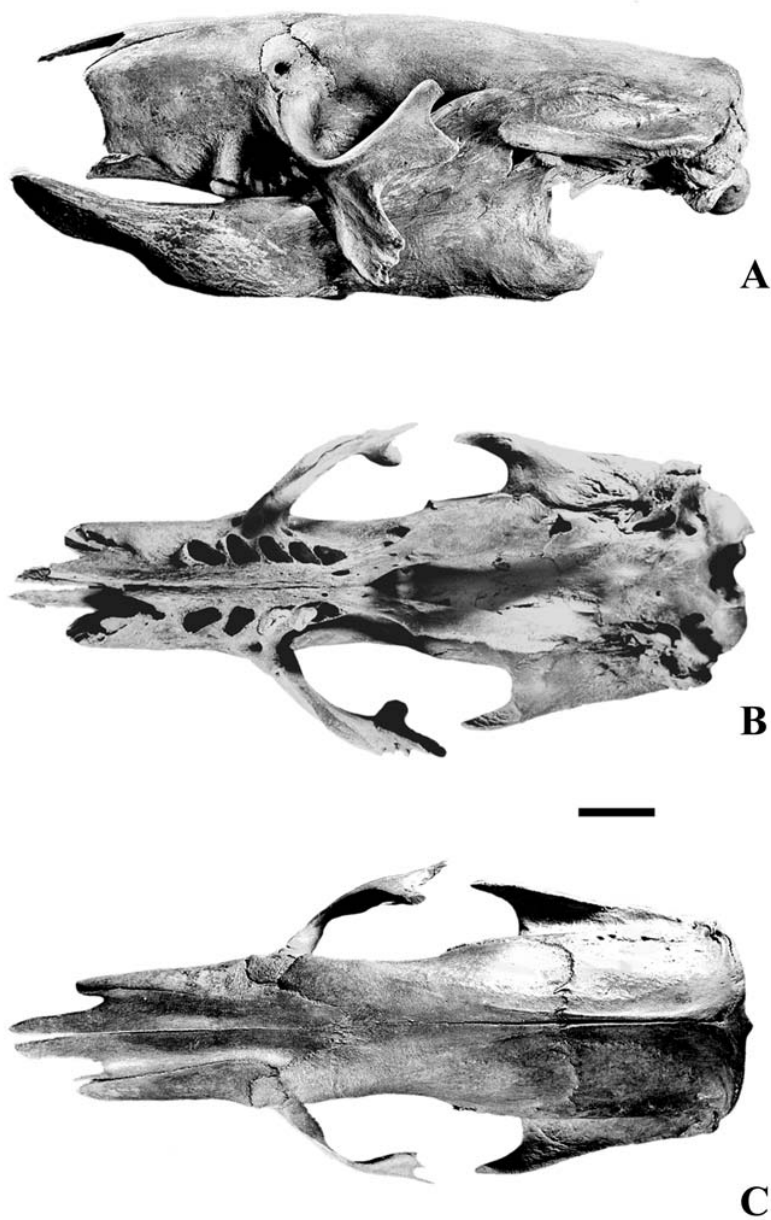


Fig. 3 – Skull of *Scelidodon chiliensis* from Chingas (conserved at the Chingas council, without reference number) in lateral (A): ventral (B), and dorsal (C) views. Scale bar equals 5 cm.

Fig. 4 – *Scelidodon chiliensis* from Pampa de los Fósiles, Cerro de Pasco, and Tres Ventanas. A: right scapula (MNHN CPN 16) in lateral view (anterior towards top); B: right humerus (juvenile specimen, UNA with the same reference number than UNA V2642 of *M. urbinai* sp. nov.) in anterior view (medial towards right); C-D: left radius (MUSM 122') in posterior and anterior views (medial towards right); E: right femur (MNHN CPN 16) in posterior view (proximal towards top); F: left tibia, fibula and astragalus (MNHN CPN 16) in anatomical position in anterior view (proximal towards top); G: right damaged calcaneum (HDD PV22-44-U6) in dorsal view (posterior towards top). Scale bar equals 5 cm.

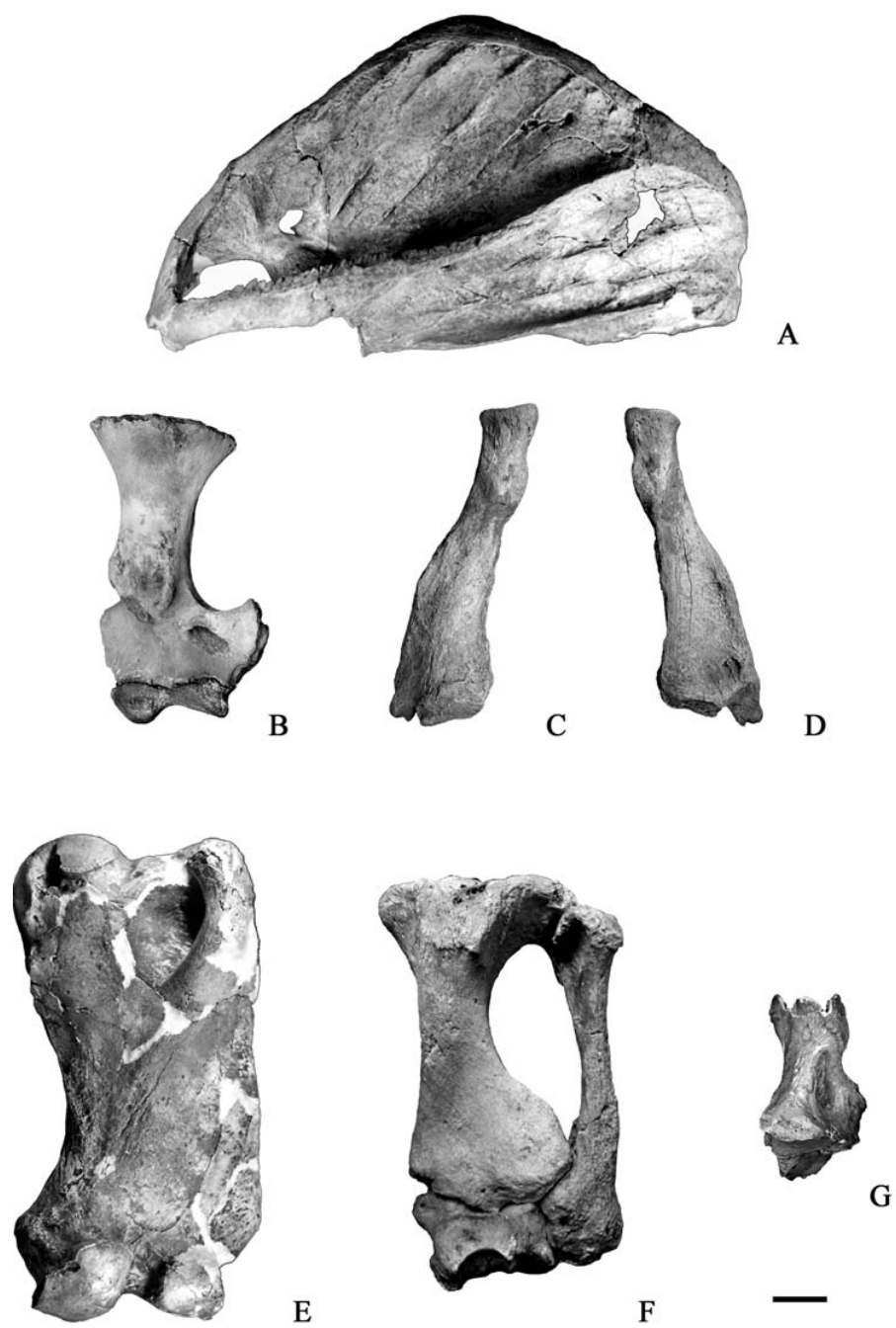


Fig. 5 – *Eremotherium laurillardi* from Pampa de los Fósiles, Tumbes and La Huaca. A: skull (MUSM 108) in ventral view (anterior towards left); B-C: skull (first specimen of HDD PV22-40) in ventral (anterior portion of the skull) and dorsal (posterior portion of the skull) views (anterior towards left); D: skull (second specimen of HDD PV22-40) in dorsal view (anterior towards left); E-F: right dental (MUSM 109) in occlusal and medial views (anterior towards left); G: right dental (first specimen of HDD PV22-40) in lateral view (anterior towards left); H-I: dental in occlusal and medial view (anterior towards left); J-K: molariform tooth (HDD PV22-40) in profile and open (a pathological nodule of vasodentine can be observed inside). Scale bar equals 5 cm.

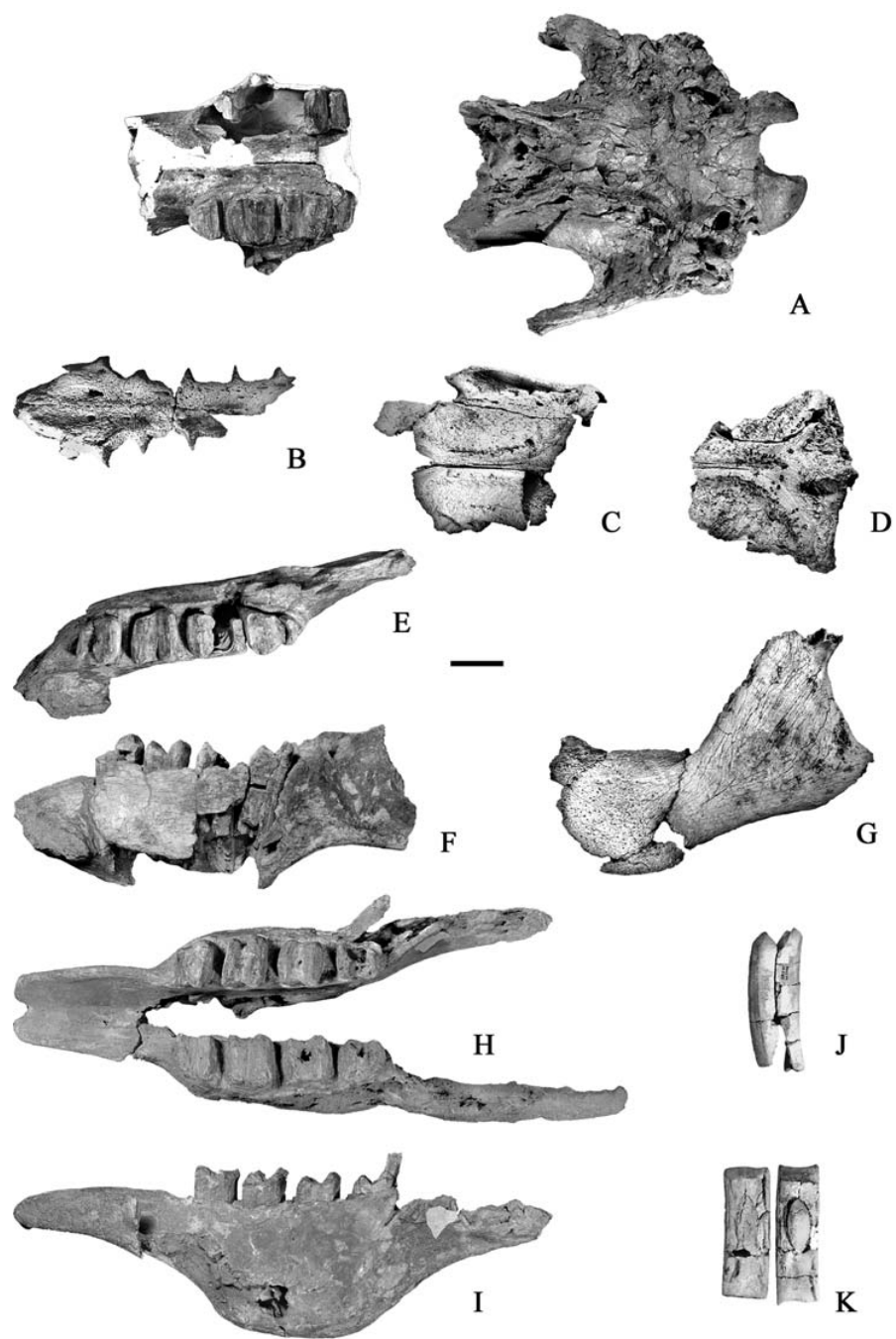


Fig. 6 – *Eremotherium laurillardi* from Pampa de los Fósiles and Tumbes. A: atlas (HDD PV22-44-U9) in ventral view (anterior towards bottom); B: axis (MUSM 101) in anterior view (dorsal towards top); C: left clavicle (HDD PV22-44-U9) in dorsal view (posterior towards bottom); D: right humerus in anterior view (lateral towards left); E: proximal epiphysis of the right ulna (MUSM 100) in lateral view (proximal towards top); F: proximal extremity of the left femur (HDD PV22-44-U9) in anterior view (proximal towards top); G: left partial tibia and fibula (HDD PV22-44-U9) in anterior view (proximal towards top); H: right calcaneum (MUSM 122) in dorsal view (anterior towards left); I-K: left astragalus (HDD PV22-44-U9) in plantar (posterior towards top), lateroplantar (anterior towards left) and anterodistal (medial towards left) views. Scale bar equals 5 cm.

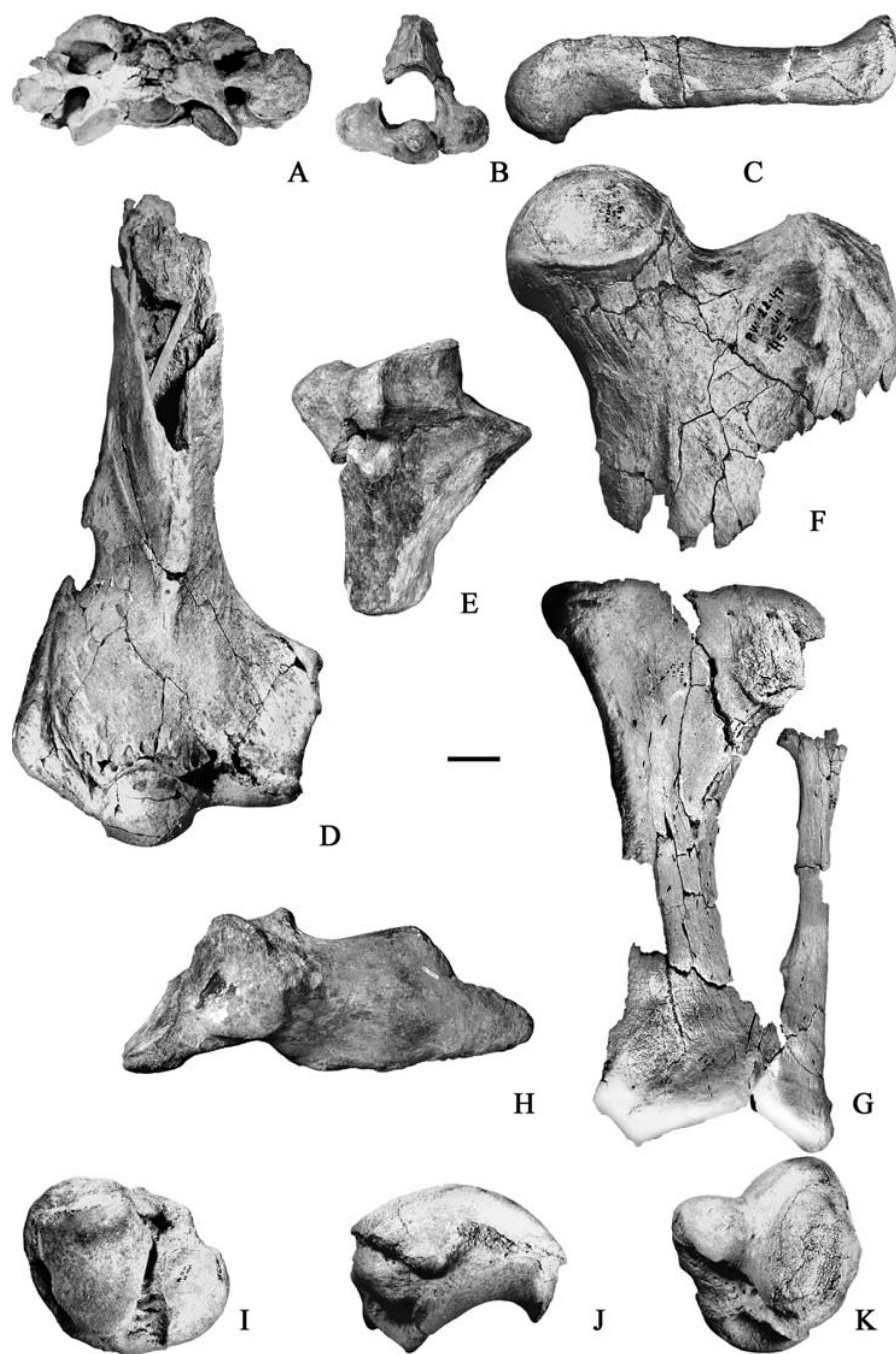


Fig. 7 – *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) *elenense* from Talara (ROM material) and Cerro de Pasco (MUSM material). A-B: dental (ROM 3756) in occlusal and left lateral views (anterior towards right); C: partial left manus (MUSM 134) in dorsal view (proximal towards top); D: left Mc III (ROM 35033) in dorsal view (proximal towards top); E: anterior portion of left femur (MUSM 134) in posterior view; F: left calcaneum (ROM 2697) in dorsal view (anterior towards left); G-H: pelvis (MUSM 157) in anterior (dorsal towards top) and ventral (anterior towards top) views; I-K and L-N: left astragali (ROM 1698 and MUSM 134 respectively) in anterior (I, L: dorsal towards top), dorsolateral (J, M: medial towards left), and plantar (K, N: posterior towards top) views. Scale bars equals 5 cm.

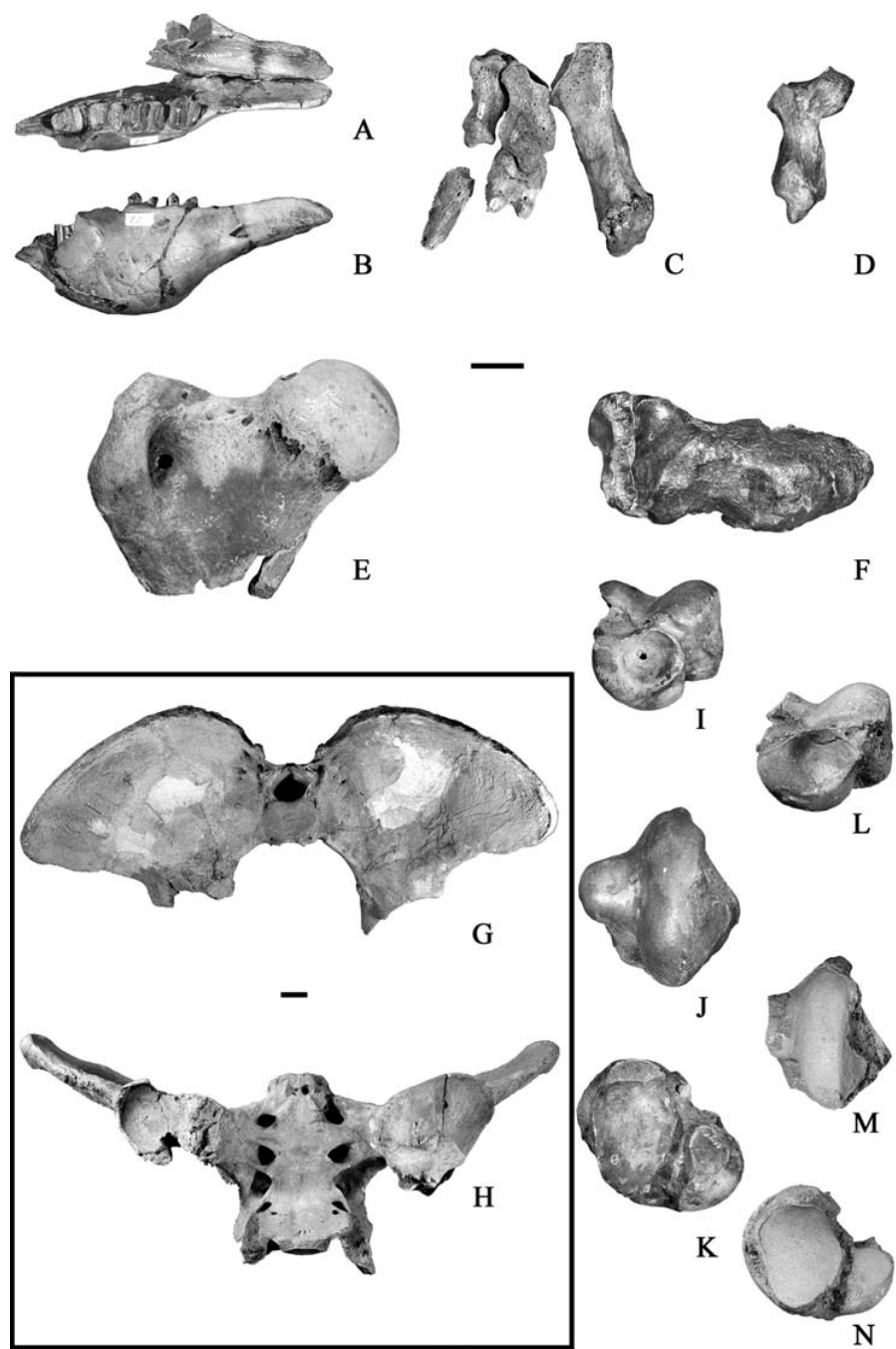


Fig. 8 – Photographs of selected elements of *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) *urbinai* (after Pujos & Salas, 2004). A: left manus in dorsal view (proximal towards top, medial towards left); B: right foot in dorsal view (posterior towards top, medial towards right); C: right ulna in anterior view (proximal towards top); D: left radius in anterior view (proximal towards top); E: right femur in anterior view (proximal towards top); F: right tibia-fibula in anterior view (proximal towards top); G: caudal vertebrae in dorsal view and hemal arch in lateral view.
Scale bar equal 5 cm.



Fig. 9 – *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) *tarijense* (UNI 1) from Yantac. A-B: skull in lateral and ventral views respectively (anterior towards right); C-D: mandible in lateral (reversed from the original) and occlusal views respectively (anterior towards right). Scale bar equals 5 cm.

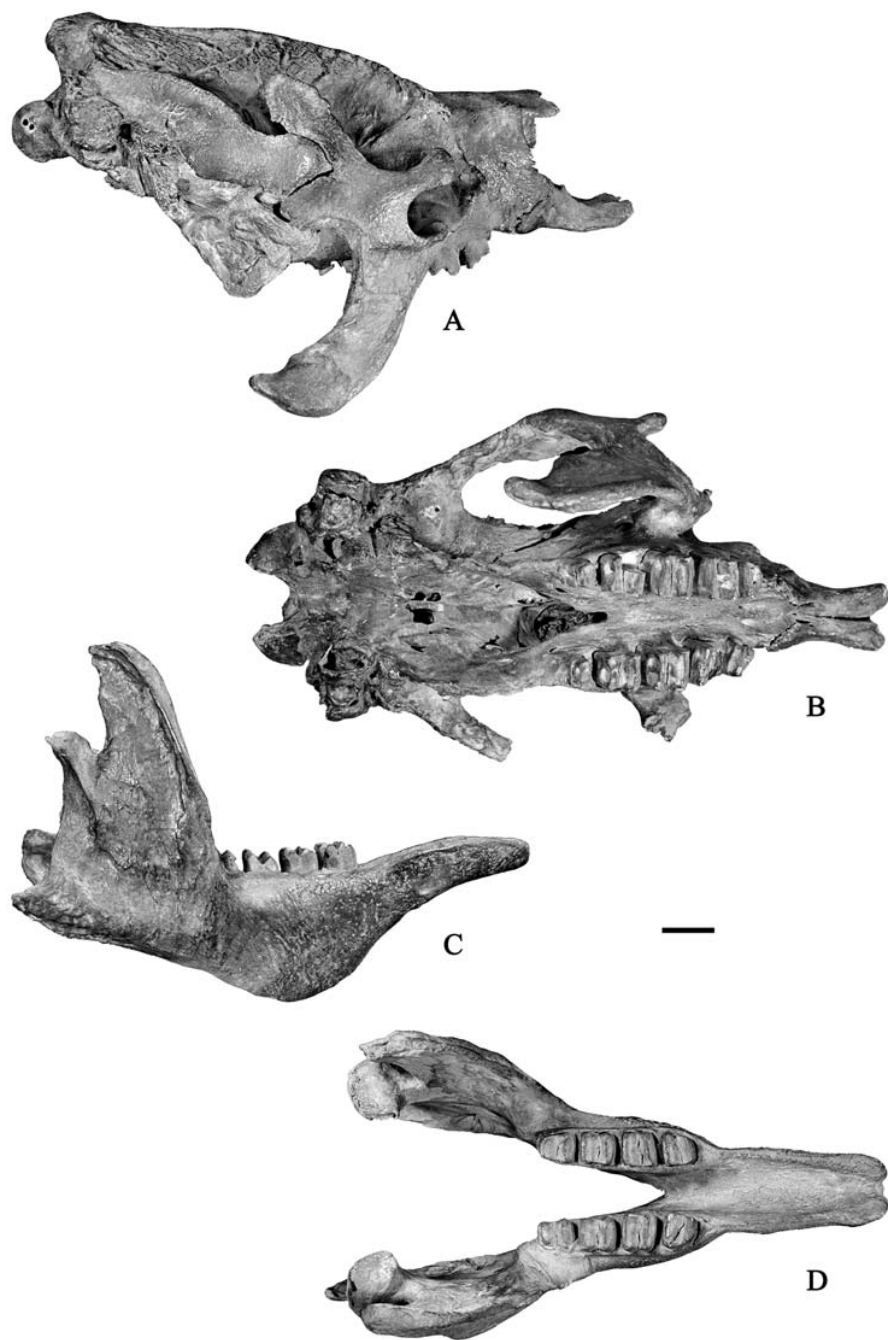


Fig. 10 – *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) *tarijense* (UNI 1) from Yantac. A: right Mc III in dorsal view (proximal towards top); B: right humerus in posterior view (medial towards right); C-D: right femur in anterior (lateral towards left) and anterodistal (anterior towards top) views; E: pelvis in anterior view (dorsal towards top). Scale bars equals 5 cm.

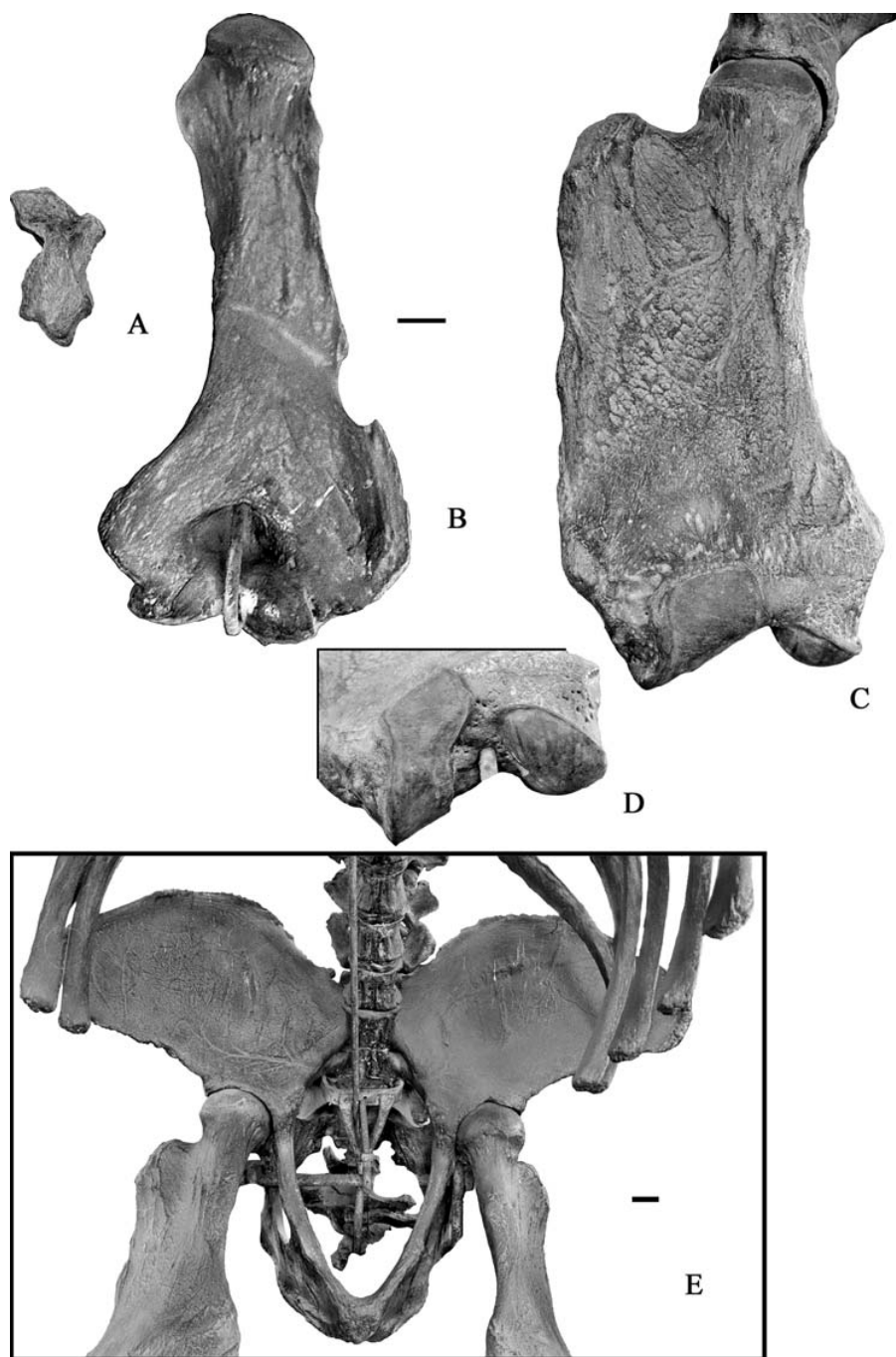
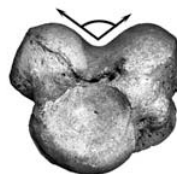
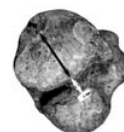
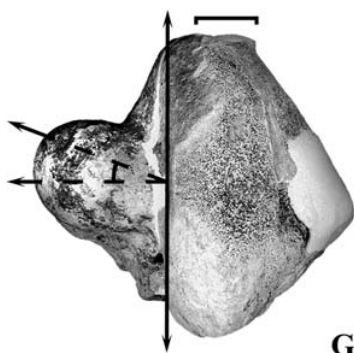
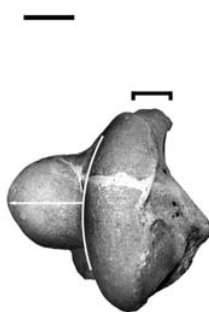
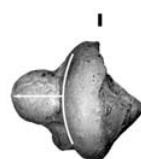


Fig. 11 – Left astragali of: cf. *Eremotherium* sp. (A, D, G: MUSM 22, reversed from the original) from Tarapoto; *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) sp. nov. (B, E, H: MUSM 157) from Celendín; *Megatherium* (*Pseudomegatherium*) *urbinai* (C, F, I, MUSM 15) from Sacaco (Pujos & Salas, 2004). All astragali are seen in anterior (A-C: dorsal towards top, medial towards left), plantar (D-F: posterior towards top, medial towards right), and dorsolateral (G-I: posterior towards top, medial towards left) views. A-C: angle between the plan of the discoid and odontoid facets; D-F: extensions of the ectal facet and the sulcus tali; G-I: direction of the odontoid process, convexity of the discoid plan, and distance between discoid and ectal facets. Scale bar equals 5 cm.

**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I**