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**CAPROMERYX MINOR TAYLOR FROM THE  
McKITTRICK PLEISTOCENE, CALIFORNIA**

By **EUSTACE L. FURLONG**

With two text-figures

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**Contribution No. 38**

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## INTRODUCTION

The occurrence of a Pleistocene vertebrate fauna in an asphalt deposit near McKittrick, California, has been reported by J. C. Merriam and C. Stock. Since the publication of the provisional list of mammals from this locality, several types new to the assemblage have been discovered in the deposit. Among these should be recorded the small antilocaprid, *Capromeryx minor*. This species occurs here in association with the prong-horn antelope *Antilocapra*.

Three species of the genus *Capromeryx* are now known from the Pleistocene of North America. The type, *C. furcifer*, was described by Matthew<sup>1</sup> from Hay Springs, Nebraska. *C. minor* Taylor<sup>2</sup> occurs at Rancho La Brea, and *C. mexicana* Furlong<sup>3</sup> is recorded from Tequixquiatic, Mexico. The occurrence of *C. minor* at McKittrick extends the range of this species during the Pleistocene from the Los Angeles basin to the Great Valley of California.

Members of the family Antilocapridæ are apparently sparsely represented in the McKittrick fauna, as only one individual of *Capromeryx* has been found, while several individuals of *Antilocapra* are known to occur.

## DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

The specimens available from McKittrick are presumably to be referred to a single individual and include two upper and two lower molars and a calcaneum (figs. 1 and 2). A young adult animal is indicated by the material.

The dentition in specimen No. 15 Calif. Inst. Coll. Vert. Pale. exhibits a stage of wear and development of individual tooth crown comparable to that observed in *Capromeryx minor* from Rancho La Brea. The superior molars from McKittrick (fig. 1a) represent M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub> detached from the left maxillary. These teeth are hypsodont with open root. In M<sub>2</sub> the parastyle and mesostyle are well developed, with the latter style somewhat more pronounced. The tooth is in an early stage of wear with anteroposterior diameter of the triturating surface relatively long. M<sub>2</sub> contracts noticeably in anteroposterior diameter from the wearing surface to the root region. The lingual wall of M<sub>2</sub> is rather sharply ridged dorso-

<sup>1</sup>W. D. Matthew, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 16, pages 317-322, 1902.

<sup>2</sup>W. P. Taylor, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bull. Dept. Geol., vol. 6, pages 191-197, 1911.

<sup>3</sup>E. L. Furlong, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bull. Dept. Geol. Sci., vol. 15, pages 137-152, 1925.

ventrally along the anterior margin, more so than in *C. mexicana*, No. 26649 Univ. Calif. Pale. Coll. The posterior pillar is not so angular as in this species and is more regularly crescentic throughout its length. M<sub>2</sub> in No. 15 from McKittrick may be one-half to two-thirds the size of the comparable tooth in *Antilocapra americana*. The grinding surface may be relatively broader than in some specimens of the modern prong-horn and the outer styles of the tooth have approximately the same position and development as in the latter.

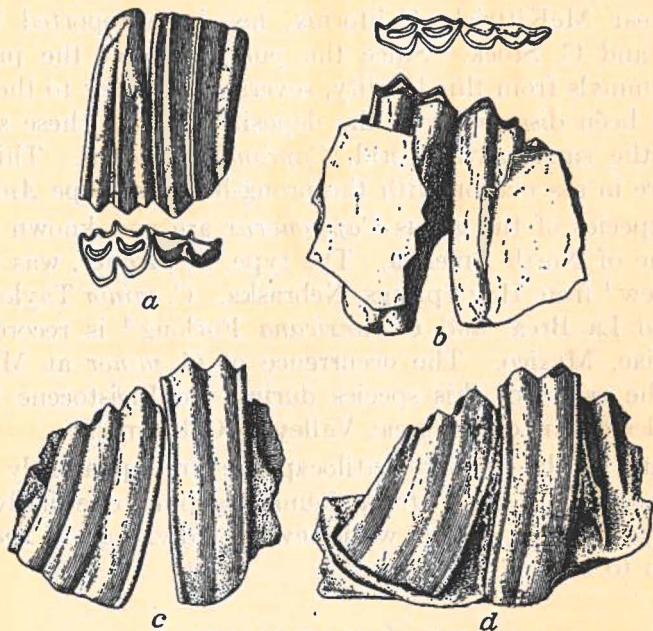


FIG. 1.—*Capromeryx minor* Taylor. Upper and lower molars, x 1.0. a, M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub>, buccal and occlusal views; b, M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub>, buccal and occlusal views; c, M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub>, lingual view; No. 15 Calif. Inst. Tech. Coll. Vert. Pale., McKittrick Pleistocene, California. d, M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub>, lingual view, No. Z8501 L.A. Mus. Coll., Rancho La Brea Pleistocene, California.

In M<sub>3</sub> of specimen No. 15 the crown is unworn. This tooth is two-lobed and is broader at the open root than M<sub>2</sub>. The crown is recurved posteriorly. The outer styles and the character of the inner wall do not differ materially from those in the companion tooth, M<sub>2</sub>.

A fragment of the left ramus with M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub>, found associated with the upper teeth at McKittrick, is like a similar specimen No. Z8501 Los Angeles Mus. Coll. of *C. minor* from Rancho La Brea (compare figs. 1c and 1d). M<sub>2</sub> in No. 15 is very similar in stage of wear, size and character of tooth-crown to the comparable molar in the Rancho La Brea form. The styles on the lingual side are somewhat more pronounced in the former specimen. The three-lobed M<sub>3</sub> exhibits all of the characters seen in the last lower molar of *C. minor* from Rancho La Brea.

In the calcaneum of the McKittrick form (fig. 2) the epiphysis is firmly joined with the os calcis, but the suture is still distinct and indicates the

youth of the animal. The articulating surfaces for the astragalus and for the fore-leg element are like those in Rancho La Brea specimens. No. 15 agrees also in size and in proportions with calcanei of *C. minor*.

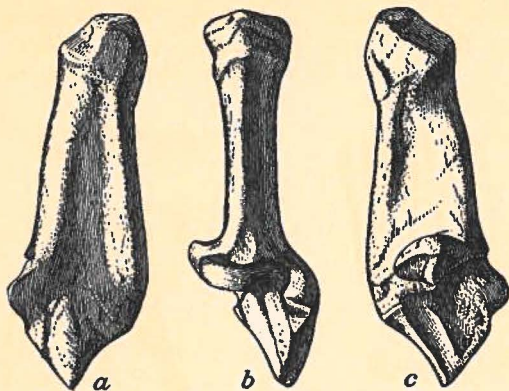


FIG. 2a, b, c—*Capromeryx minor* Taylor. Calcaneum; a, outer, b, anterior, and c, inner views; x 1.0. McKittrick Pleistocene, California.

*Measurements (in millimeters) of dentition of Capromeryx minor*

	McKittrick No. 15 C. I. T.	Rancho La Brea No. Z8501 L. A. Mus.
M2, greatest anteroposterior diameter.....	9.7	.....
M2, greatest transverse diameter.....	7	.....
M2, height of crown.....	26.4	.....
M3, greatest anteroposterior diameter.....	10.4	.....
M3, greatest transverse diameter.....	6.5	.....
M3, height of crown.....	26.2	.....
M2, greatest anteroposterior diameter.....	10.8	10
M2, greatest transverse diameter.....	4.7	4.8
M2, height of crown.....	31.7	30.3
M3, greatest anteroposterior diameter.....	13.3	12.2
M3, greatest transverse diameter.....	4.3	4.4
M3, height of crown.....	28.3	26.3

SUMMARY

A single individual of *Capromeryx* is recorded from the Pleistocene asphalt deposits of McKittrick, California. The characters of the form clearly indicate its specific identity with *C. minor* of Rancho La Brea.

Judging from the mammalian collection at present available from McKittrick, *Capromeryx* was apparently more sparsely represented in the Pleistocene assemblage than *Antilocapra*.