

# **Mammals from the earliest Uintan (middle Eocene) Turtle Bluff Member, Bridger Formation, southwestern Wyoming, USA, Part 3: Marsupialia and a reevaluation of the Bridgerian-Uintan North American Land Mammal Age transition**

**Paul C. Murphey, Thomas S. Kelly, Kevin R. Chamberlain,  
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## **ABSTRACT**

This is the third and last of a series of reports that provide detailed descriptions and taxonomic revisions of the fauna from the Turtle Bluff Member (TBM) of the middle Eocene Bridger Formation of southwestern Wyoming. The TBM has been designated as the stratotype section for biochron Ui1a (earliest Uintan) of the Uintan North American Land Mammal age and here we document new faunal elements along with new U-Pb geochronologic and paleomagnetic data for the TBM. Prior to these reports, detailed systematic accounts of the taxa from the TBM were unavailable with the exception of one primate (*Hemiacodon engardae*). Here we document the occurrence of the following didelphimorphian marsupials from the TBM: *Herpetotherium knighti*, *Herpetotherium marsupium*, *Peradectes chesteri*, and *Peradectes californicus*. New U-Pb dates of  $47.31 \pm 0.06$  Ma and  $46.94 \pm 0.14$  Ma from the TBM provide precise constraints on the age of the fauna. These dates plus new paleomagnetic data further support the existing evidence that the TBM Fauna and the boundary between the Bridgerian and Uintan North American Land Mammal ages occurs within the lower part of Chron C21n of the Geomagnetic Polarity Time Scale. The only other fauna from North America that can confidently be assigned to biochron Ui1a is the Basal Tertiary Local Fauna from the Devil's Graveyard Formation of Texas. Revisions of the faunal characterizations of biochrons Ui1a (earliest Uintan) and Ui1b (early Uintan) of the Uintan North American Land Mammal age are proposed to further clarify their differences.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Turtle Bluff Member (TBM) of the Bridger Formation in the Bridger Basin of southwestern Wyoming, USA, has been designated as the stratotype section for the earliest Uintan biochron Ui1a of the Uintan North American Land Mammal age (Evanoff et al., 1994; Murphey and Evanoff, 2007; Murphey and Dunn, 2009; Gunnell et al., 2009). In the Bridger Basin, the TBM overlies the Blacks Fork and Twin Buttes members of the Bridger Formation, which have been designated as the stratotype sections for the middle Bridgerian biochron Br2 and late Bridgerian biochron Br3 of the Bridgerian North American Land Mammal age, respectively (Gunnell et al., 2009). As such, greater knowledge of the taxa comprising the TBM Fauna is important to better characterize the beginning of the Uintan and further our understanding of the Bridgerian-Uintan faunal transition. The TBM, formerly referred to as the Bridger E, was previously considered only sparsely fossiliferous (Matthew, 1909; West and Hutchinson, 1981). However, owing to many years of field work by one of us (PCM) and crews from the University of Colorado Natural History Museum and San Diego Natural History Museum, numerous fossil mammals have been recovered from seven superposed stratigraphic levels in the TBM (Figure 1). This is the third and last report in a series (Kelly and Murphey, 2016a; Murphey and Kelly, 2017) that provides a comprehensive taxonomic analysis and revision of the mammals from the TBM and includes the marsupials along with a reevaluation of the Bridgerian-Uintan North American Land Mammal age transition based on new paleomagnetic and radioisotopic data.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

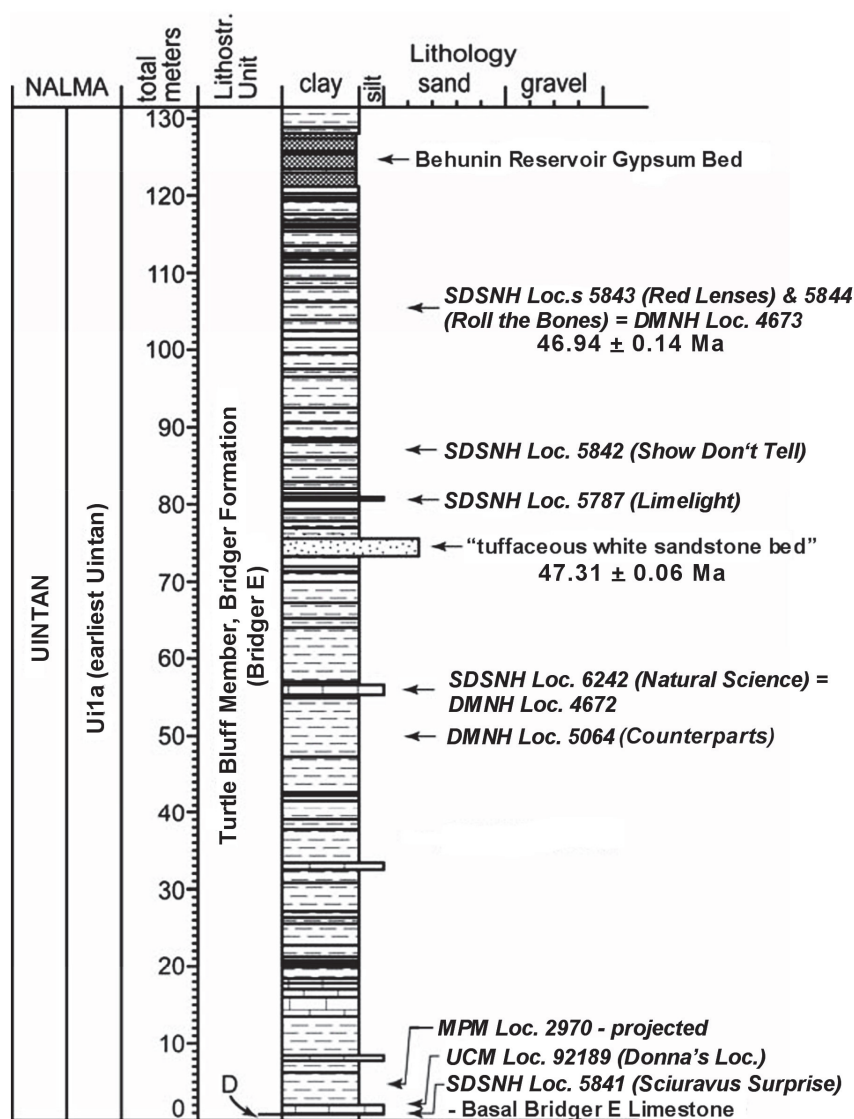
### U-Pb Geochronology

Zircon grains were separated from two tuffaceous rock samples (PCM3Aug14-04 and

PCM3Aug14-07) collected from the TBM (Bridger E) on Cedar Mountain in Uinta County, Wyoming. Sample PCM3Aug14-04 came from the base of the tuffaceous white sandstone bed, which occurs at about 74-75 m above the base of the TBM (Figure 1). Sample PCM3Aug14-07 came from Locality SDSNH 5844 (Roll the Bones) at 105 m above the base of the TBM on Cedar Mountain (Figure 1). The rock samples were mechanically crushed and zircons were concentrated by a combination of ultrasonic defloculation of slurries and Wilfley shaker table separations. Zircons were further purified by magnetic separation and heavy liquid flotation of lighter minerals.

Each sample yielded a range of zircon morphologies (Figures 2-3), including euhedral subpopulations with characteristics typical of volcanic origins and ash-fall deposition, such as acicular grains with elongate tips, axial melt trails and transverse channels (Corfu et al., 2003; Hoskin and Schaltegger, 2003; Machlus et al., 2015). More equant, euhedral grains that did not exhibit these volcanic characteristics were also abundant, and each sample also contained rounded, detrital zircons that were likely entrained during deposition. Zircons from the volcanic/ash-fall and euhedral subpopulations were preferentially chosen for dissolution and U-Pb analysis.

Selected single grain zircons were annealed at 850 °C for 50 hours, then dissolved in two steps in a chemical abrasion, thermal ionization mass spectrometric U-Pb dating method (CA-TIMS) modified from Mattinson (2005). The first dissolution step was in hydrofluoric acid (HF) and nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>) at 180 °C for 12 hours. This removed the most metamict zircon domains in the annealed crystals. Individual grains were then spiked with a mixed <sup>205</sup>Pb-<sup>233</sup>U-<sup>235</sup>U tracer (ET535), completely dissolved in HF and HNO<sub>3</sub> at 240 °C for 30 hours, and then converted to chlorides. The dissolutions were loaded onto rhenium filaments with phosphoric acid and silica gel without any further chem-



### SOUTHWEST FLANK OF CEDAR MOUNTAIN (TYPE SECTION)

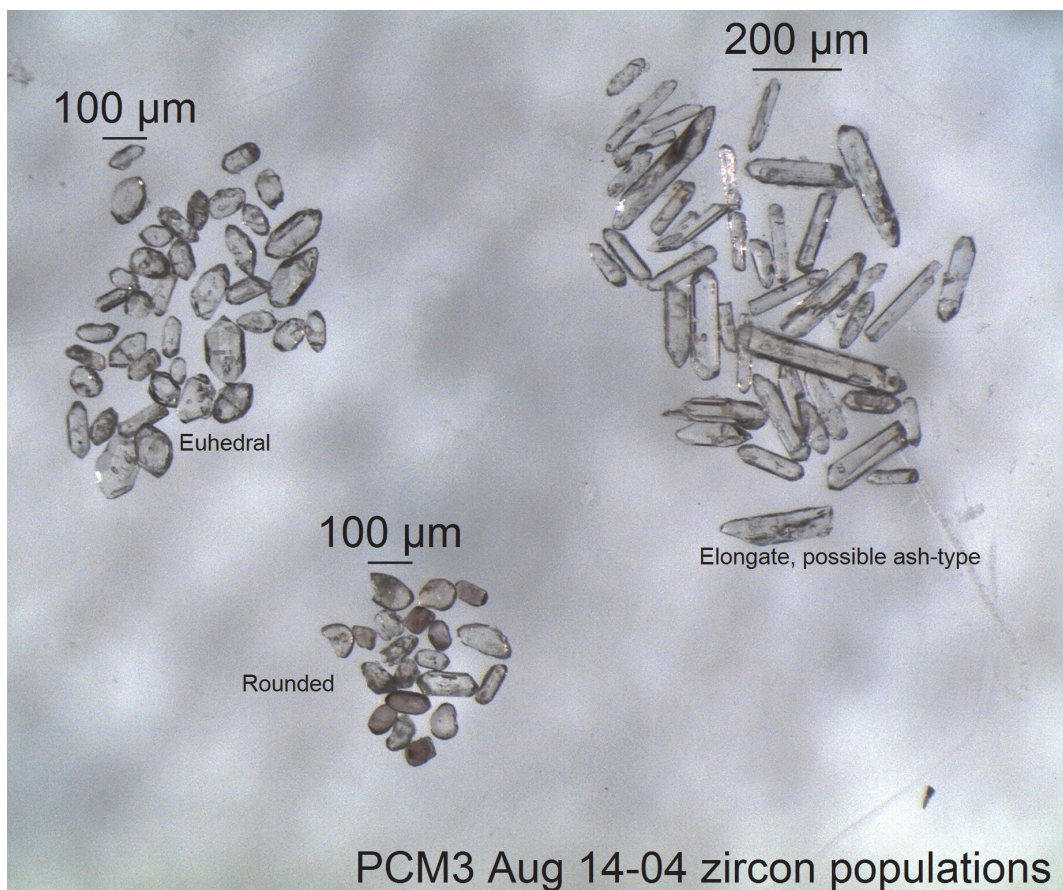
**FIGURE 1.** Schematic stratigraphic column of type section Turtle Bluff Member, Bridger Formation, on southwest flank of Cedar Mountain, Uinta County, Wyoming, showing relative stratigraphic positions of SDSNH, DMNH and UCM localities (along with the locality names in parentheses) that yielded the fossils described in this paper and U-Pb CA-TIMS dates for two tuffs (stratigraphic column reproduced and modified from Kelly and Murphey, 2016a). Locality MPM 2970 occurs on southwest flank of Sage Creek Mountain and its approximate relative stratigraphic position is projected onto type section. Abbreviations are: Lithostr., lithostratigraphic; NALMA, North American Land Mammal age.

ical processing. Pb and UO<sub>2</sub> isotopic compositions were determined in single Daly-photomultiplier mode on a Micromass Sector 54 mass spectrometer. Data were reduced, and ages calculated using PbMacDat and ISOPLOT/EX after Ludwig (1988, 1991, 1998). Total common Pb varied from 0.5 to 4 picograms and was all assigned to blank. All analy-

ses were conducted at the Radiogenic Isotope Laboratory at the University of Wyoming.

#### Magnetostratigraphy

A set of pilot paleomagnetic samples was collected to determine the potential of creating a reliable magnetostratigraphy for the uppermost Bridger Formation and to spot test the polarity of

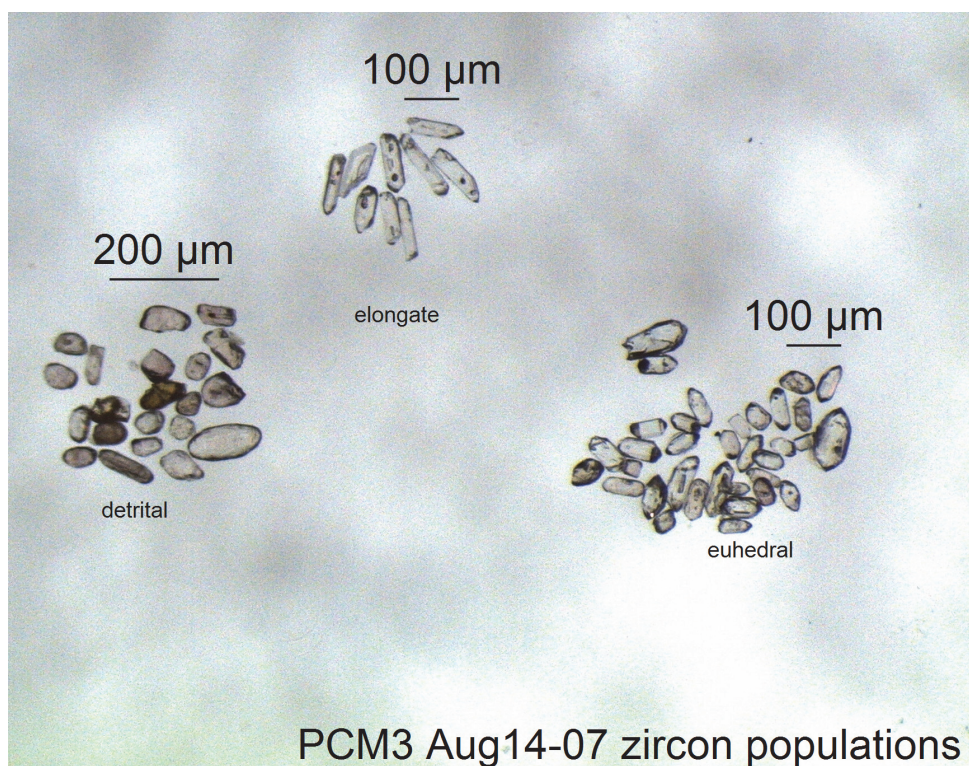


**FIGURE 2.** Examples of zircon subpopulations recovered from TBM tuff sample PCM3 Aug14-04, shown in their approximate abundances. Longitudinal bubble tracks and elongate habits (upper right) are typical of ash-fall zircons. CA-TIMS dating was limited to single zircons from the ash-type and euhedral subpopulations. The rounded grains are likely to be older, detrital grains incorporated into the tuff during deposition. Scale bars in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ).

key stratigraphic levels. Two separately oriented blocks were collected from three different stratigraphic levels, including: 1) the tuffaceous white sandstone bed; 2) the level of the Roll the Bones Locality in the stratotype section of the TBM (Bridger E) on the southwest flank of Cedar Mountain; and 3) from a tuff (= the Basal E tuff of Murphey and Evanoff, 2007) in the uppermost Twin Buttes Member (Bridger D) on Sage Creek Mountain. The name (Basal E tuff) that was used by Murphey and Evanoff (2007) to refer to this stratigraphic unit is confusing considering that it does not occur in the TBM (formerly the Bridger E), so it is here renamed the uppermost Twin Buttes Member tuff. PCM6Sept15-02 and PCM6Sept15-03 were collected from the base of a tuffaceous white sandstone, 74 m above base of the TBM, and PCM6Sept15-04 and PCM6Sept15-05 were collected from Locality SDSNH 5844 (Roll the Bones), 105 m above base of the TBM (Figure 1).

PCM7Sept15-01 and PCM7Sept15-02 were collected from the uppermost Twin Buttes Member tuff, about 8 m below the base of the TBM. Each oriented block was cut down to form three separate 8 cm<sup>3</sup> samples. Samples were analyzed in the Paleomagnetism Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire with an HSM2 SQUID cryogenic magnetometer, a Molspin tumbling alternating-field demagnetizer, and an ASC Model TD48 SC thermal demagnetizer. Sample demagnetization protocol included: 1) step-wise alternating field demagnetization in 2 mT steps up to 15 mT, then 5 mT steps up to 40 mT, and then 10 mT steps thereafter (to a maximum of 100 mT); and 2) step-wise (up to 18 steps) thermal demagnetization. After demagnetization, samples with Natural Remanent Magnetization (NRM) directions exhibiting a relatively linear decay to the origin were characterized by least squares analysis (Kirschvink, 1980). Samples that exhibited non-linear unstable demagneti-





**FIGURE 3.** Examples of zircon subpopulations recovered from TBM tuff sample PCM3 Aug14-07, shown in their approximate abundances. Elongate, ash-type zircons were only a minor component in the total zircon yield. CA-TIMS dating was limited to single zircons from the elongate and euhedral subpopulations. Most of these analyses gave dates ca. 47.0 Ma, but two single-grain analyses, sK (47.8 Ma) and sM (61.2 Ma) demonstrated that some older, euhedral, detrital grains were incorporated into the tuff during deposition. Scale bars in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ).

zation behavior were not considered further. Oriented blocks that produced three samples with well-defined Characteristic Remanent Magnetizations (ChRM) that cluster together and passed the Watson test for randomness (Watson, 1956) were considered reliable and are reported here using standard Fisher statistics (Fisher, 1953).

### Paleontology

Teeth were measured with an optical micrometer to the nearest 0.01 mm. Upper molars were measured following the methods used by Rothacker and Storer (1996), Eberle and Storer (1995), and Kihm and Schumaker (2015), which results in slightly shorter anteroposterior lengths and slightly wider transverse widths than the method used by Korth (1994). Dental terminology follows Marshall et al. (1990). Upper and lower teeth are designated by uppercase and lowercase letters, respectively. All specimens described here are curated in the research collections of three different institutions: the Department of Paleontology at the San Diego Natural History Museum, the Paleontology Section

of the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, and the Department of Earth Sciences, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Detailed locality data are available at these institutions.

Subzones or subbiozones of the Bridgerian and Uintan North American Land Mammal ages (e.g., Br2, Br3, Ui1a, Uilb, Ui2, and Ui3) follow Gunnell et al. (2009).

### Abbreviations

ap, greatest anteroposterior length; L, left; GPTS, Geomagnetic Polarity Time Scale; kyr, one thousand years in the radioisotopic time scale; Ma, megannum (one million years in the radioisotopic time scale); R, right; tr, greatest transverse width; tra, anterior transverse width; trp, posterior transverse width.

### Institutional Acronyms

AMNH, American Museum of Natural History; DMNH, Denver Museum of Nature and Science; SDNHM, San Diego Natural History Museum; LACM (CIT), California Institute of Technology,

specimens now housed at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; SDSNH, San Diego Society of Natural History; TMM, Texas Memorial Museum; UCM, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History; UCMP V-, University of California, Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, vertebrate fossil locality; USNM, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; YPM, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

## U-PB ZIRCON GEOCHRONOLOGY

### Results

Four single-grain analyses from PCM3Aug14-04 produced concordant data that overlap within error (Figure 4, Table 1). Weighted mean analytical  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  date is  $47.313 \pm 0.059$  Ma (Figure 5, 95% confidence, mean square weighted deviation [MSWD] 0.97) with correction for  $^{230}\text{Th}$  disequilibrium (after Schärer 1984) assuming a magma Th/U of 2.2. The  $^{230}\text{Th}$  correction increased the date by about 60 kyr. The Concordia Age (Ludwig 1998) from these data, which incorporates both the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$  data, is  $47.290 \pm 0.051$  Ma (2 sigma, MSWD 2.9, Figure 4) without propagating uncertainties in the two U decay constants. These dates can be compared internally to other U-Pb dates to evaluate age differences, as the decay constant errors will bias the U-Pb dates systematically. When tracer errors and decay constant errors are included following Schoene et al. (2006), the weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  date and Concordia Age for this sample become  $47.313 \pm 0.081$  Ma and  $47.290 \pm 0.075$  Ma, respectively. These dates include all external sources of U-Pb errors and can be directly compared to  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  dates as long as the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  dates have similarly included all external errors and have been recalculated to reflect the new age for the Fish Canyon  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  standard (e.g., Kuiper et al., 2008; Smith et al., 2010). All older  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  dates reported here have been recalculated relative to the astronomically calibrated age of 28.201 Ma for the Fish Canyon sanidine standard (Kuiper et al., 2008) and include  $\pm 2\sigma$  fully propagated uncertainty.

Ten single grain analyses from PCM3Aug14-07 yielded nine concordant analyses with  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  dates that range from 48.5 to 46.3 Ma (Figure 6, Table 1) and a single concordant analysis at  $612 \pm 1.3$  Ma (sample 07 ash s (single grain) M in Table 1). The range of ca. 47 Ma dates is interpreted to reflect minor inherited zircon components, minor differences in magma chamber residence times

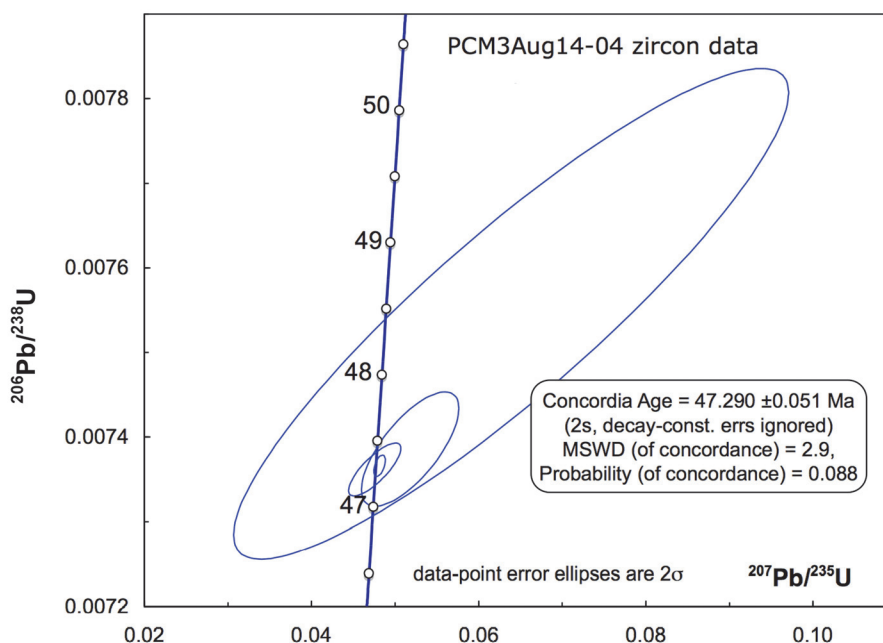
and possibly some detrital zircon gains, although less than half of the recovered zircons were demonstrably rounded, detrital grains (Figure 3), and these grains were avoided during dating. The weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  date from the six youngest and overlapping analyses is  $46.94 \pm 0.14$  Ma (Figure 7, 95% confidence, MSWD 0.48, corrected for  $^{230}\text{Th}$  disequilibrium) and is interpreted as the best estimate of the eruption age of this ash. The date with fully propagated uncertainties, including those from tracer and decay constant is  $46.94 \pm 0.15$  Ma.

Sample PCM3Aug14-04 is 30 m stratigraphically below sample PCM3Aug14-07 and the internal  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  dates do not overlap (Figure 8). The differences in these ages require a minimum of 174 kyr between deposition of these two strata and a maximum of 572 kyr.

### Remarks

The new radioisotopic data provide important constraints for the age of the TBM as well as its Ui1a fauna. The new U-Pb dates are generally consistent with the U-Pb and  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages of ash beds from the Bridger Formation in Smith et al. (2008, 2010) and Tsukui (2016). Of the two dated samples in this study, the date of sample PCM3Aug14-04 from the tuffaceous white sandstone bed is in close agreement with the U-Pb date of the Sage Creek Mountain tuff by Tsukui (2016), and the two ages overlap within analytical error. These two U-Pb dates are also in agreement with the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  date of Smith et al. (2008, 2010) for the Sage Creek Mountain tuff when the astronomically calibrated age of the Fish Canyon sanidine is used, although the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  date is comparatively older. Based on the age as well as the description of the bed from which the sample was collected, it is likely that the Sage Creek Mountain tuff of Smith et al. (2008, 2010) and Tsukui (2016) is the same bed as the bed from which PCM3Aug14-04 was collected. The best age estimate for the Ui1a fauna in the TBM is thus provided by the radioisotopic (U-Pb and  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ) dates from the level of Locality SDSNH 5844 (Roll the Bones) as well as the stratigraphically lower tuffaceous white sandstone bed and the apparently laterally equivalent Sage Creek Mountain tuff.

The Bridger Formation is now calibrated in absolute time by  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  and U-Pb dates of four ash beds including the Church Butte tuff that forms the contact between the lower and middle B, the Henrys Fork tuff that forms the contact between the middle C and upper C, as well as the tuffaceous



**FIGURE 4.** Concordia Age plot for sample PCM3Aug14-04. Data have been corrected for  $^{230}\text{Th}$  disequilibrium.

white sandstone bed and Roll the Bones level in the TBM (Smith et al., 2008, 2010; Tsukui, 2016; this paper). Taken together, deposition of the Bridger Formation at minimum spanned from  $\sim 48.9$  Ma to  $\sim 46.9$  Ma, and a simple calculation indicates that sedimentation rate between the Church Butte tuff and the tuffaceous white sandstone bed ( $0.314$  mm/yr) took place at a rate  $\sim 4$  times faster than the succeeding interval between the tuffaceous sandstone bed and the Roll the Bones Level ( $0.081$  mm/yr).

## PALEOMAGNETIC ANALYSIS

### Results

Paleomagnetic samples collected from three sites at two stratigraphic levels produced reliable, well-clustered paleomagnetic directions (samples PCM6Sept15-02, PCM6Sept15-03, PCM7Sept15-01). These samples were characterized by ChRM directions that (a) were defined by a line fit through more than 10 contiguous demagnetization points and a MAD (Maximum Angular Deviation) of less than  $20^\circ$  (Appendix 1) and (b) significantly clustered together based on the Watson test for randomness (Watson, 1956). The mean site directions indicate normal polarity for these stratigraphic levels (Table 2, Figure 9). Paleomagnetic samples PCM6Sept15-04 and PCM6Sept15-05 from Local-

ity SDSNH 5844 (Roll the Bones) were very unstable and did not yield reliable results.

### Remarks

By correlation to the GPTS (Gradstein et al., 2012), the U-Pb age of  $47.313 \pm 0.059$  Ma from the same level (tuffaceous white sandstone bed) as the paleomagnetic samples, PCM6Sept15-02 and PCM6Sept15-03, indicates that these samples with normal polarity determination are likely to correlate to Chron C21n (Figure 10). The magnetostratigraphy of Tsukui (2016) from the Bridger Formation does not extend up to the Sage Creek Mountain tuff. However, the top of her magnetostratigraphic section, which is  $\sim 30$  m below the Sage Creek Mountain tuff, was assigned to Chron C21n. Thus, correlating the two samples PCM6Sept15-02 and PCM6Sept15-03 to Chron C21n is consistent with the magnetostratigraphy of Tsukui (2016).

The stratigraphic level of sample PCM7Sept15-01 from the uppermost Twin Buttes Member tuff was magnetostratigraphically correlated to Chron C21n by Tsukui (2016), and thus, it is consistent with our determination that the sample has normal polarity, and PCM7Sept15-01 is likely to also correlate to Chron C21n. The new U-Pb and paleomagnetic polarity data provide further support for the magnetostratigraphic chron assignment of the Bridgerian-Uintan boundary to Chron C21n (Tsukui, 2016).

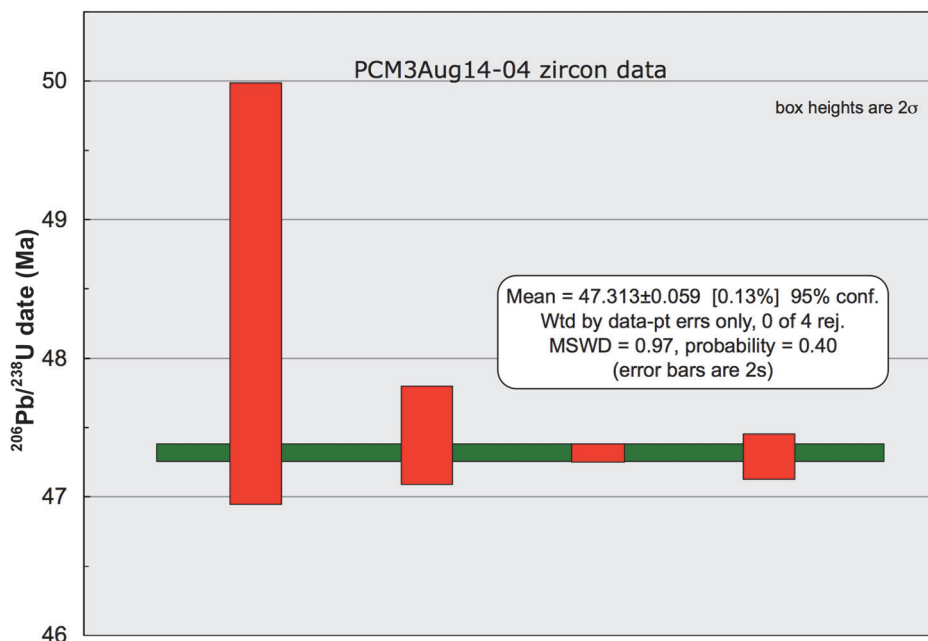
**TABLE 1.** CA-TIMS U-Pb zircon data. Zircon dissolution and chemistry were adapted from methods developed by Krogh (1973), Parrish et al. (1987) and Mattinson (2005). All zircons were chemically abraded (CATIMS). Final dissolutions were spiked with a mixed  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{233}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$  tracer (ET535). Pb and  $\text{UO}_2$  from zircons were loaded onto single rhenium filaments with silica gel without any ion exchange cleanup; isotopic compositions were measured in single Daly-photomultiplier mode on a Micromass Sector 54 thermal ionization mass spectrometer at the University of Wyoming. Mass discrimination for Pb was  $0.245 \pm 0.10\%$  for daily analyses based on replicate analyses of NIST SRM 981. U fractionation was determined internally during each run. Procedural blanks ranged from 0.55 to 4 picograms Pb during the course of the study. U blanks were consistently less than 0.1 pg. Isotopic composition of the Pb blank was measured as  $18.419 \pm 1.37$ ,  $15.369 \pm 0.63$ , and  $37.228 \pm 2.59$  for  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ,  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ , and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ , respectively. Concordia coordinates, intercepts, uncertainties and Concordia Ages were calculated using PbMacDat and ISOPLOT programs (based on Ludwig 1988, 1991, 1998); initial Pb isotopic compositions for zircon were estimated by Stacey and Kramers (1975) model. The decay constants used by PbMacDat are those recommended by the I.U.G.S. Subcommittee on Geochronology (Steiger and Jäger, 1977):  $0.155125 \times 10^{-9}/\text{yr}$  for  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $0.98485 \times 10^{-9}/\text{yr}$  for  $^{235}\text{U}$  and present-day  $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U} = 137.88$ .

Sample	Weight ( $\mu\text{g}$ )	U (ppm)	Corrected atomic ratios										Age (Ma)	Rho					
			sample Pb		cPb (pg)	Pb* (pg)	Th (pg)	$^{206}\text{Pb}$ ( $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ )	$^{208}\text{Pb}$ ( $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ )	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ (rad.)	% err (rad.)	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ (rad.)			% err (rad.)	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ (Ma)	err (Ma)		
			(ppm)	(pg)														(pg)	(pg)
<b>PCM3 Aug14-07 volcanic tuff</b>																			
07 ash sG*	0.4	152	1.5	0.6	1.3	0.4	0.8	42	0.3	0.00755	-2.51	0.0569	-38.15	0.0546	-35.91	48.48	$\pm 1.22$	56.2	0.9
07 ash sK*	0.7	373	3.1	2.2	0.6	1.4	0.7	101	0.22	0.00748	-0.73	0.0485	-12.57	0.047	-11.93	48.03	$\pm 0.35$	48.1	0.88
07 ash sI*	0.6	630	5.5	3.4	0.9	2.7	0.9	164	0.31	0.00737	-0.42	0.0502	-6.78	0.0494	-6.42	47.33	$\pm 0.20$	49.7	0.87
07 ash sD	0.8	322	3	2.5	1.1	2.2	1.2	130	0.4	0.00732	-0.55	0.0491	-8.95	0.0486	-8.48	47.04	$\pm 0.26$	48.6	0.87
07 ash sA	2.8	73	0.7	1.9	3.1	0.6	1.2	50	0.44	0.00732	-1.91	0.0522	-30.6	0.0517	-28.9	47	$\pm 0.90$	51.6	0.9
07 ash sN	0.2	641	5.4	1.1	0.6	1.9	0.8	126	0.23	0.00731	-0.52	0.0419	-10.01	0.0416	-9.57	46.93	$\pm 0.24$	41.7	0.87
07 ash sB	1.4	241	2.2	3.1	3.1	1	1.1	70	0.41	0.0073	-1.18	0.0533	-18.4	0.0529	-17.3	46.91	$\pm 0.55$	52.7	0.9
07 ash sL	0.5	358	3	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.8	104	0.23	0.0073	-0.69	0.0411	-13.64	0.0409	-13.03	46.87	$\pm 0.32$	40.9	0.89
07 ash sH	1.6	83	0.8	1.2	1.2	0.5	1.2	45	0.38	0.00721	-2.27	0.0474	-39.51	0.0478	-37.48	46.28	$\pm 1.05$	47.1	0.9
07 ash sM*	0.4	100	10.7	4.3	0.6	7.2	0.5	443	0.17	0.09959	-0.21	0.8355	-1.83	0.0608	-1.7	612	$\pm 1.3$	616.7	0.62
<b>PCM3 Aug14-04 volcanic tuff</b>																			
04 euh sC	1.1	142	1.1	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.4	38	0.17	0.00755	-3.14	0.0639	-42.49	0.0614	-39.69	48.46	$\pm 1.52$	62.9	0.9
04 euh sA	0.2	3294	27	6.6	4	1.9	0.7	126	0.24	0.00739	-0.75	0.0518	-9.22	0.0508	-8.7	47.44	$\pm 0.35$	51.3	0.71
04 ash sD	2.8	927	8.3	23.2	3.5	17.6	1.1	929	0.36	0.00737	-0.14	0.0481	-1.16	0.0474	-1.1	47.31	$\pm 0.07$	47.7	0.51
04 ash sA	1.4	735	6	8.4	2.4	3.6	0.7	222	0.24	0.00736	-0.35	0.0475	-5.38	0.0468	-5.1	47.28	$\pm 0.16$	47.2	0.8

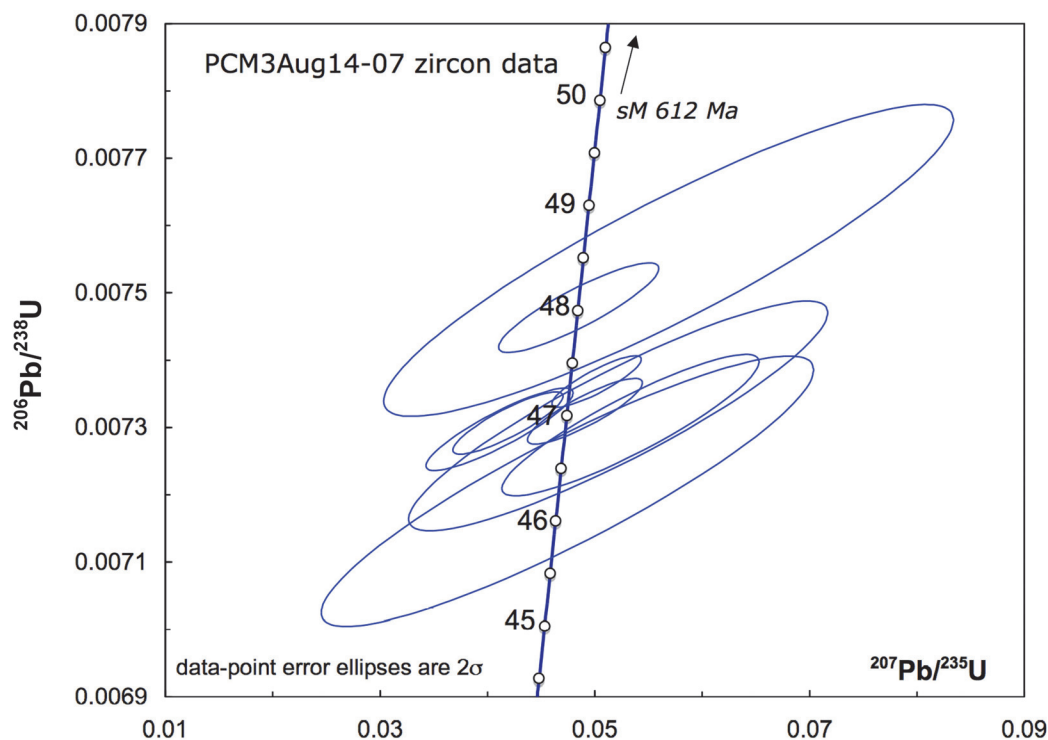
## Abbreviations and notes

Sample: euh = euhedral; ash = ash-fall zircon morphology; s = single grain; \* excluded from age calculations. Weight: represents estimated weight after first step of CATIMS zircon dissolution and is only approximate. U and Pb concentrations are based on this weight and are useful for internal comparisons only. Picograms (pg) sample and common Pb from the second dissolution step are measured directly, however, and are accurate. Sample Pb: sample Pb (radiogenic + initial) corrected for laboratory blank. cPb: total common Pb. All was assigned to laboratory blank. Pb\*/Pbc: radiogenic Pb to total common Pb (blank + initial). Corrected atomic ratios:  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  corrected for mass discrimination and tracer, all others corrected for blank, mass discrimination, tracer and initial Pb, values in parentheses are 2 sigma errors in percent.  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{Pb}$  ratios and dates corrected for Th disequilibrium assuming Th/U magma of 2.2. Rho:  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  versus  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$  error correlation coefficient.

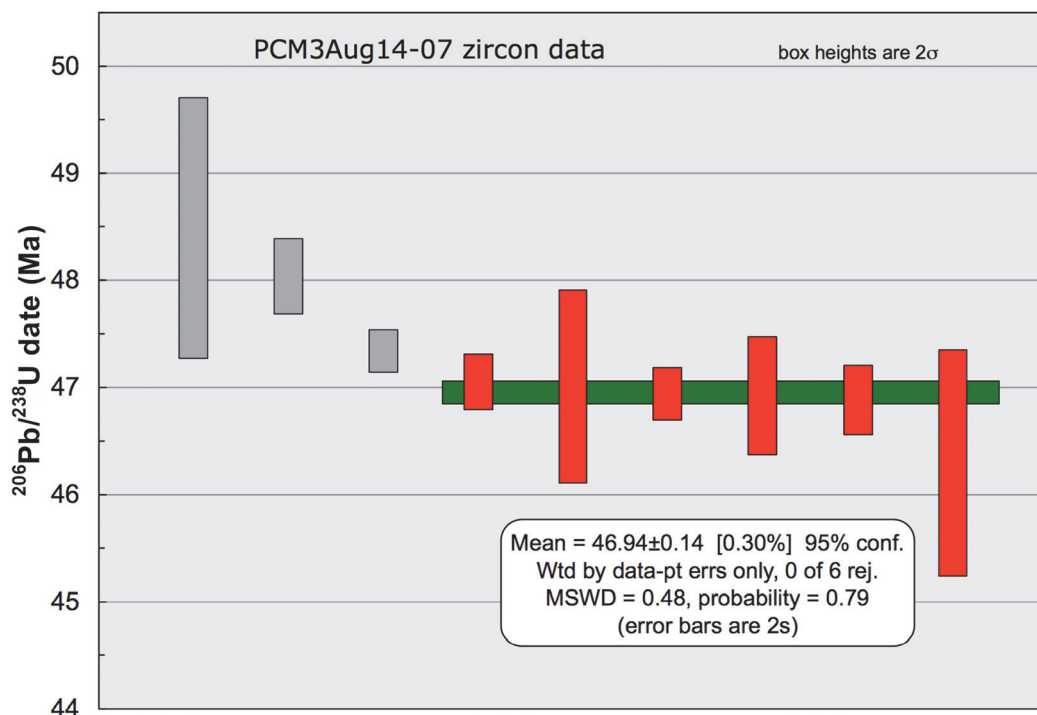




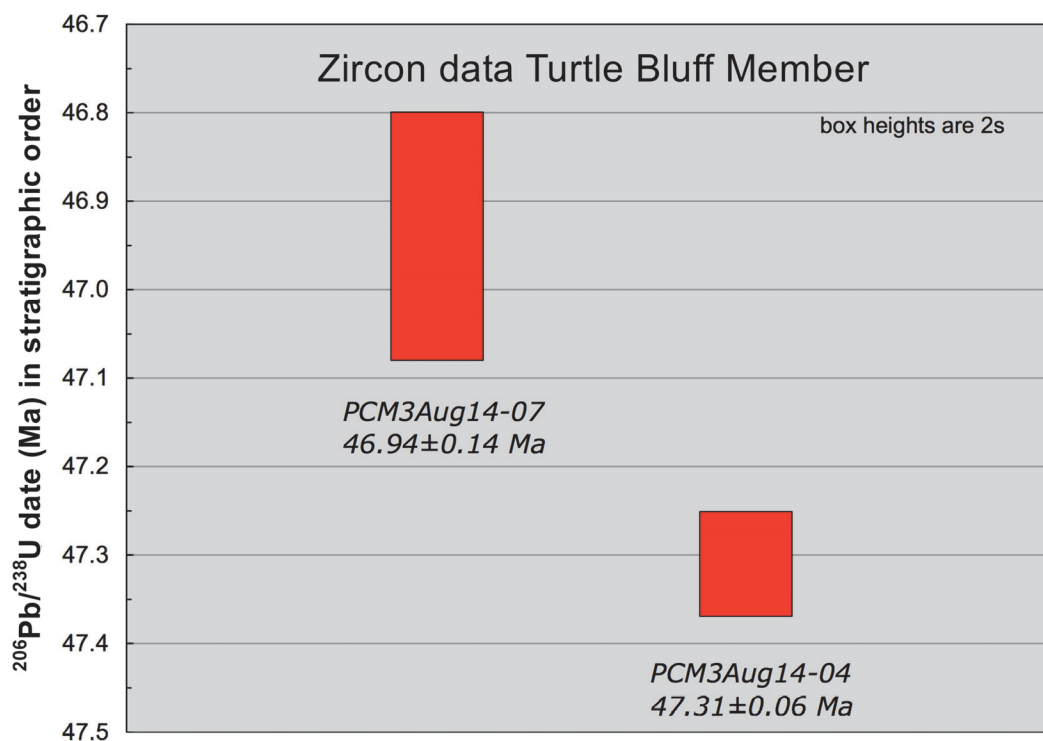
**FIGURE 5.** Weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  plot for CA-TIMS zircon data from PCMAug14-04. All four analyses were included in the weighted mean calculation (green bar).



**FIGURE 6.** Concordia plot for sample PCM3Aug14-07. Spread of analyses from ca. 48 to 46.5 Ma is interpreted to reflect minor inheritance or differing magma chamber residence times. The best estimate of the ash-fall date comes from weighted mean date of youngest six analyses (see Figure 7). Data from single grain M (sM) plots off the figure, concordant at 612 Ma (Table1).



**FIGURE 7.** Weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  plot for CA-TIMS U-Pb zircon data from sample PCMAug14-07. Data from gray boxes (sG, sK, sI) were excluded from calculation, as they do not overlap the weighted mean (green bar) from the youngest six analyses.



**FIGURE 8.** Comparison of weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  dates of two samples from the TBM, Bridger Formation. Precisions exclude tracer and decay constant uncertainties as these are systematic for both samples. Dates require a minimum of 174 kyr between deposition of these two strata and a maximum of 572 kyr.

**TABLE 2.** Paleomagnetic data for samples from two stratigraphic levels in uppermost Bridger Formation. PCM6Sept15-02 and PCM6Sept15-03 are from the base of white tuffaceous sandstone in the TBM type section on the southwest flank of Cedar Mountain (Figure 1). PCM7Sept15-01 is from the Basal E tuff in the uppermost Twin Buttes Member (Bridger D) on west flank of Sage Creek Mountain. Latitude and Longitude are relative to WGS84 datum. Stratigraphic level (in meters) of site relative to the base of the TBM (= Basal E limestone, Figure 1). Dec<sub>strat</sub> and Inc<sub>strat</sub> are declination and inclination of Characteristic Remanent Magnetization in stratigraphic coordinates,  $\alpha_{95}$  is 95% cone of confidence, K is value of precision parameter, R is length of resultant vector, VGP long/lat are longitude and latitude of virtual geomagnetic pole.

Site	Lat (degree)	Long (degree)	Strat Level (m)									
				Dec <sub>strat</sub>	Inc <sub>strat</sub>	$\alpha_{95}$	K	N	R	VGP <sub>long</sub>	VGP <sub>lat</sub>	
PCM6Sept15-02	41.08888	-110.08462	74	347.86	46.24	28	20.45	3	2.9	110.09	73.2	
PCM6Sept15-03	41.08888	-110.08462	74	316.98	34.72	30.58	17.31	3	2.88	142.09	47.38	
PCM71501	41.12615	-110.13862	-8	28.98	62.73	19.3	41.87	3	2.95	322.08	68.58	

### SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Cohort MARSUPIALIA Illiger, 1811

Order DIDELPHIMORPHIA Gill, 1872

Family HERPETOTHERIIDAE Trouessart, 1879

Genus HERPETOTHERIUM Cope, 1873a

**Type species.** *Herpetotherium fuzax* Cope, 1873a by original designation, emended to *Herpetotherium fugax* Cope 1873c.

**Other included species.** *H. comstocki* (Cope, 1884); *H. valens* (Lambe, 1908); *H. merriami*

(Stock and Furlong, 1922); *H. marsupium* Troxell, 1923a; *H. youngi* (McGrew, 1937); *H. edwardi* (Gazin, 1952); and *H. knighti* (McGrew, 1959).

*Herpetotherium knighti* (McGrew, 1959) in McGrew et al. (1959)

Figures 11.1-9, 12.1-10, Table 3

1959 *Peratherium knighti*; McGrew, in McGrew et al., p. 147, figure 3.

1962 *Peratherium morrissi*; Gazin, p. 21, pl. 1, figure 1.

1970 *Peratherium* sp.; McGrew and Sullivan, p.74.

1973 *Peratherium knighti*; West and Dawson, p. 35.

1975 *Peratherium* cf. *P. knighti*; Setoguchi, p. 267, figures 3-6.

1976 *Peratherium knighti*; Gazin, p. 2, 7.

1976 *Peratherium* sp., cf. *P. knighti*, in part; Lillegraven, p. 86, pl. 1, figures 1a-c, pl. 2, figures 1a-c, 2a-c, 3a-c, pl. 3, figures 1a-c, 2a-c, 3a-c, pl. 4, figures 1a-c, 2a-c, 3a-c, 4a-c, pl. 5, figures 1a-c.

1982 *Peratherium knighti*; Bown, p. A43.

1983b *Peratherium knighti*; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 235, figure 2.

1984 *Peratherium knighti*; Storer, p. 17.

1985 *Peratherium* sp., cf. *P. knighti*; Eaton, p.347, figure 3a.

1996 *Herpetotherium* sp., cf. *H. knighti*; Rothecker and Storer, p. 772.

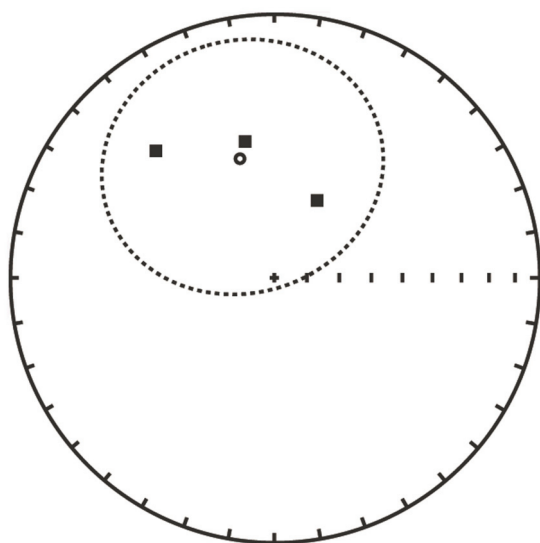
1996 *Herpetotherium knighti*; Storer, p. 245, 247.

1996 *Herpetotherium knighti*; Stucky et al., p. 44.

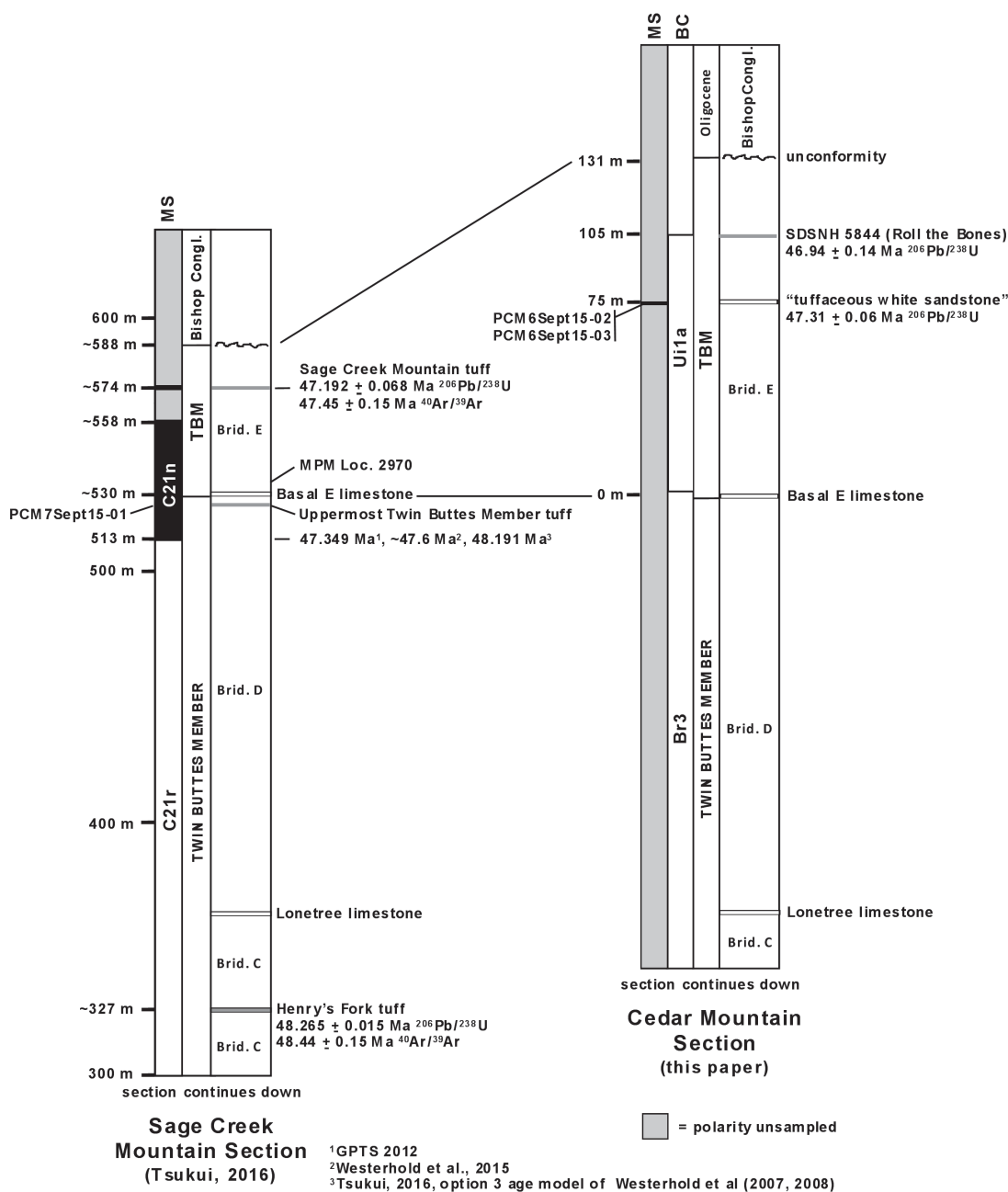
1998 *Peratherium knighti*; Gunnell, p. 88.

2008 *Herpetotherium knighti*; Korth, p. 42.

**Referred specimens.** From locality SDSNH 5841: Lm2 or 3, SDSNH 110339. From locality DMNH 4672: LM1, DMNH 75286; Ldp3, DMNH 75324. From locality SDSNH 5844: LM1, SDSNH 110429; partial LM1 or 2, SDSNH 110430; partial RM1 or 2,



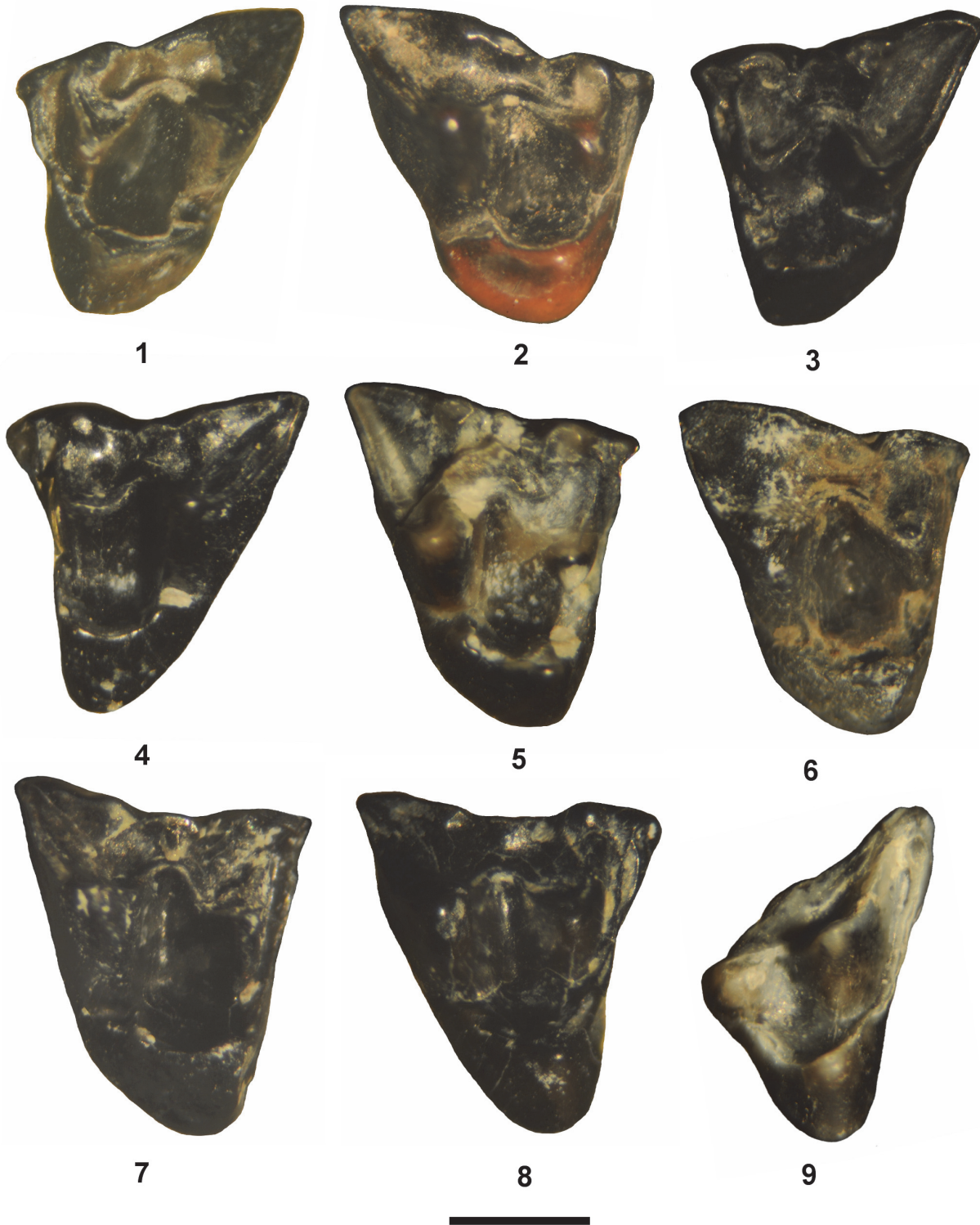
**FIGURE 9.** Equal area projection of site mean directions that satisfied the Watson test for randomness (Table 2). Open (closed) symbols are on the upper (lower) hemisphere. Directions are shown in geographic coordinates, but beds dip no more than 2 degrees. Open point and dotted circle represent the overall mean direction and 95% cone of confidence.



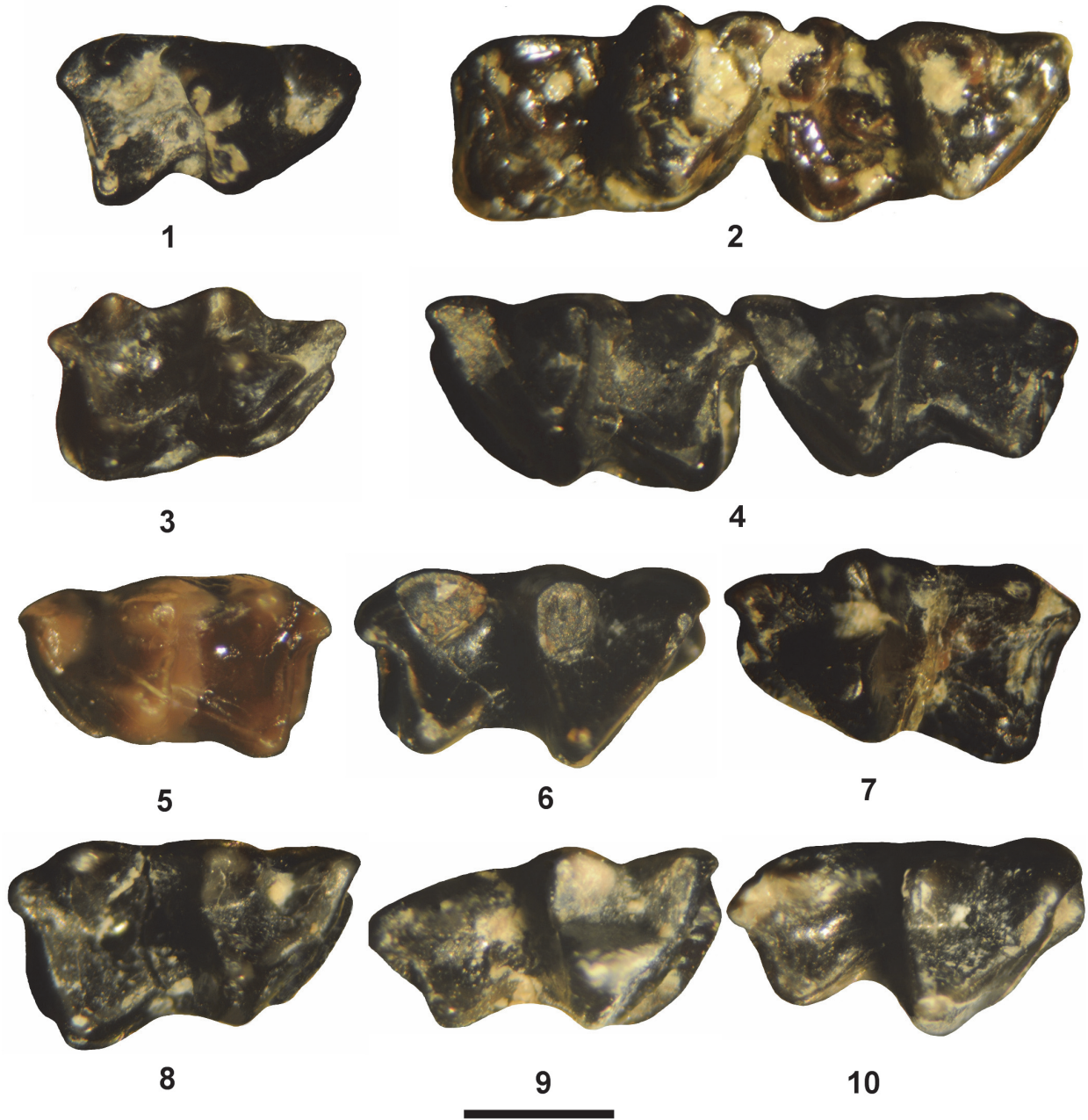
### BRIDGER FORMATION, UINTA COUNTY, WYOMING

**FIGURE 10.** Schematic stratigraphic columns of the upper part of the Twin Buttes Member and Turtle Bluff Member (TBM), Bridger Formation, on Sage Creek and Cedar Mountains showing magnetostratigraphy and radioisotopic dates relative to biochrons Br3 (late Bridgerian) and U1a (earliest Uintan). Sage Creek Mountain magnetostratigraphic section (shown on left) with key stratigraphic levels from Tsukui (2016, figure 2.5). Paleomagnetic sample, PCM7Sept15-01, analyzed in this paper was collected from uppermost Twin Buttes Member tuff, which occurs about 8 m below the Basal E limestone (= base of the TBM) on Sage Creek Mountain, and corroborates the Sage Creek Mountain magnetostratigraphic section of Tsukui (2016). Paleomagnetic samples (PCM6Sept15-02 and PCM6Sept15-03) analyzed in this paper were collected from the tufaceous white sandstone, which occurs at 74-75 m above the Basal E limestone (= base of the TBM) on Cedar Mountain. Most recent competing dates for boundary between Chrons C21r and C21n are also shown (Ogg, 2012 [GPTS]; Westerhold et al., 2015; Tsukui, 2016). Abbreviations are: Brid, Bridger; Congl, conglomerate; BC, biochron; MS, magnetostratigraphy. <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar dates are from Smith et al. (2008, 2010).





**FIGURE 11.** Upper molars of *Herpetotherium knighti*: 1, LM1, SDSNH 110429; 2, RM1, DMNH 75286; 3, LM2, UCM 68793; 4, LM2, UCM 70637; 5, RM2, UCM 95783; 6, RM2, UCM 70639; 7, RM3, UCM 68794; 8, RM3, UCM 73770; 9, RM4, UCM 95784. All occlusal views. Scale bar = 1 mm.



**FIGURE 12.** Lower cheek teeth of *Herpetotherium knighti* from TBM: 1, Rdp3?, UCM 68902; 2, Rm2-3, UCM 68574; 3, Rm1, UCM 95792; 4, Lm3-4, UCM 95780; 5, Lm2 or 3, SDSNH 110339; 6, partial Rm2 or 3, SDSNH 110427; 7, Lm2 or 3, UCM 70977; 8, Rm2 or 3, UCM 95785; 9, Rm4, UCM 67896; 10, Rm4, UCM 95793. All occlusal views. Scale bar = 1 mm.

**TABLE 3.** Measurements (in mm) of Didelphimorphia from TBM (a = approximate; b = broken dimension; p. = partial).

Taxon/Specimen number	Position	ap	tr	tra	trp
<i>Herpetotherium knighti</i>					
SDSNH 110429	M1	2.06	2.01	-	-
DMNH 75286	M1	2.28	2.06a	-	-
UCM 68793	M2	2.08	2.26	-	-
UCM 70637	M2	2.13	2.21	-	-
UCM 70639	M2	2.03	2.32	-	-
UCM 95783	M2	2.10	2.29	-	-
SDSNH 110430	p. M1 or 2	2.10b	-	-	-
SDSNH 110431	p. M1 or 2	-	2.00b	-	-
UCM 68622	p. M2 or 3	-	2.56	-	-
UCM 68794	M3	2.10	2.41	-	-
UCM 70770	M3	2.20	2.41	-	-
UCM 69973	p. M3	2.10b	-	-	-
UCM 95784	M4	1.99	2.15	-	-
UCM 95797	p2	1.61	0.54	-	-
DMNH 75324	dp3	1.64	-	0.64	0.85
UCM 68902	dp3	2.02	-	0.93	1.03
UCM 68908	p3	1.90	0.98	-	-
UCM 68937	p3	1.85	0.85	-	-
UCM 95792	m1	1.90	-	0.98	1.05
UCM 70636	m2 or 3	2.20	-	1.26	1.35
UCM 70977	m2 or 3	2.38	-	1.31	1.31
UCM 78454	m2 or 3	2.15	-	1.28	1.23
UCM 95785	m2 or 3	2.33	-	1.26	1.39
UCM 95790	m2 or 3	2.28	-	1.28	1.26
SDSNH 110427	p. m2 or 3	2.39	-	1.33	-
UCM 68901	p. m2 or 3	2.38b	-	1.41	-
SDSNH 110339	m2	2.08	-	1.18	1.23
UCM 68574	m2	2.08	-	1.20	1.23
	m3	2.18	-	1.26	1.26
UCM 95780	m3	2.26	-	1.26	1.23
	m4	2.26	-	1.23	1.09
UCM 67896	m4	2.33	-	1.23	1.03
UCM 95793	m4	2.38	-	1.31	1.05
<i>Peradectes chesteri</i>					
DMNH 75275	dP3	1.39	1.33	-	-
UCM 68427	M1	1.34	1.49	-	-
SDSNH 110418	p. M1	-	1.27b	-	-
UCM 95781	M2	1.31	1.49	-	-
	M3	1.28	1.59	-	-
UCM 78458	m2 or 3	1.41	-	0.72	0.72
<i>Peradectes californicus</i>					
SDSNH 110432	m2 or 3	1.28	-	0.77	0.72

SDSNH 110431; partial Rm2 or 3, SDSNH 110427. From locality UCM 92189: LM1, UCM 68793; RM2s, UCM 70636, 70639, 95783; partial RM2 or 3, UCM 68622; RM3s, UCM 68794, 70770; partial RM3, UCM 69973; RM4, UCM 95784; partial dentary with Lp2, UCM 95797; Rdp3, UCM 68902; Lp3, UCM 68908; Rp3, 68937; Rm1, UCM 95792; Lm2 or 3s, UCM 70977, 95790; Rm2 or 3s, UCM 78454, 95785; partial Rm2 or 3, UCM 68901; partial dentary with Rm2-3, UCM 68574; partial dentary with Lm3-4, UCM 95780; Rm4s, UCM 67896, 95793.

**Description.** In the TBM sample, all the upper molars are isolated teeth. In Paleogene and early Neogene herpetotheriids, the M1 can usually be distinguished from M2 by having a larger ap/tr ratio, that is the ap dimension is usually greater than the tr dimension, whereas in M2 the ap/tr ratio is smaller (more transverse) with the ap dimension usually smaller than the tr dimension (Korth, 1994; Kihm and Schumaker, 2015). The M3 is more easily distinguished from the first two upper molars by having a more V-shaped occlusal outline and its ap/tr ratio is usually smaller than that of M2 (Korth, 1994; Kihm and Schumaker, 2015). Thus, the ap/tr ratio progressively decreases from M1 to M3. The above criteria were used in this study to identify the tooth positions of the first three upper molars, but it should be noted that without intact dentitions our identifications for M1 and M2 are provisional. In the TBM sample, two M1s (Figure 11.1-11.2) are identified with ap/tr ratios of 1.03 and 1.11, whereas the four M2s (Figure 11.3-11.6) are identified with a mean ap/tr ratio of 0.92 (range = 0.88-0.96).

Besides the M2s being more transverse relative to the M1s, their occlusal morphologies are very similar. They have a dilambdodont centrocrista and a very shallow ectoflexus. The paracone is smaller and lower in height than the metacone. The protocone is robust and anteriorly positioned. The preprotocrista and postprotocrista extend labially from the protocone to terminate at a well-developed protoconule and metaconule, respectively. All styler cusps are positioned along the labial edge of the styler shelf. Styler cusp A is absent in five specimens, only represented by an anterolabial spur that is connected to the labial terminus of the anterior cingulum, and on one specimen it is vestigial (a very small, low cusp on the spur). Styler cusp B is robust, connected lingually to the preparacrista and positioned opposite of the paracone apex. Styler cusp C is moderately developed and positioned just posterior of the ectoflexus. Styler cusp D is moderately developed, slightly smaller than C in

five specimens and about equal in size to C in one specimen and positioned very close to C in four specimens and joined to C in two specimens. A styler cusp E is lacking on all specimens.

The occlusal morphology of the M3 (Figure 11.7-11.8) is quite similar to that of the M1-2 (Figure 11.1-11.6), but minor differences can be discerned. As noted above, the M3 has a more V-shaped occlusal outline and is slightly more transversely broad than M1-2, which is due to a relatively shorter metastylar wing on the styler shelf. The ectoflexus of M3 is slightly deeper than that of M1-2, but still quite shallow. The styler cusp C is positioned slightly more anteriorly, close to the center of the ectoflexus. Styler cusps C and D are slightly better developed and slightly more separated.

The M4 (Figure 11.9) has a very transversely elongated occlusal outline. The paracone is about equal in size to the metacone. The protocone is robust with its apex nearly in line with that of the paracone. The paraconule and metaconule are small and poorly developed. A metastylar shelf is lacking posteriorly, whereas the styler shelf extends anterolabially from near the labial base of the metacone to join the anterolabial terminus of the elongated preprotocrista. The anterior cingulum is distinct, extending from the protoconule to the anterolabial projection of the styler shelf. A single styler cusp is present that is positioned just slightly posterior of the paracone apex as a flattened, oval bulge on labial edge of the styler shelf, and probably represents cusp C. The ectoflexus is nearly straight.

The p2 and p3 have a simple morphology, typical of those of *Herpetotherium* (Lillegraven, 1976; Korth, 1994), with a relatively tall protoconid and weakly-developed anterior and posterior cuspid that are nearly in line with the protoconid apex. The p2 differs from the p3 by being smaller, narrower, and more elongated anteroposteriorly with the protoconid apex positioned more anteriorly, resulting in a longer, more steeply inclined central ridge from the protoconid apex to the posterior cuspid and by having a slightly better developed posterior cuspid.

Two lower teeth agree well in proportions and overall structure to those previously identified as a deciduous p3 of *Herpetotherium* (Lillegraven, 1976; Rothecker and Storer, 1996; Kihm and Schumaker, 2015). They exhibit an occlusal morphology that is similar to that of the lower molars, including a well-developed entoconid that is taller, larger, and separated from the shelf-like, posteri-



only projecting hypoconulid by a distinct notch (Figure 12.1). It differs from the lower molars by the following: 1) smaller size; 2) a lower, relatively smaller and slightly more anteriorly projecting paraconid, resulting in the trigonid being longer than wide; 3) the protoconid larger than the metaconid with their apices positioned relatively closer to each other; and 4) the trigonid and talonid narrower relative to the length.

One tooth is identified as an m1 (Figure 12.3). It differs from m2-3 (Figure 12.2, 12.4-12.8) by being slightly smaller in size and by having the paraconid projecting slightly more anteriorly and positioned slightly more labially. Otherwise, the m1-3 are very similar in occlusal morphology. The protoconid is the tallest primary cusp and is about equal in size to the metaconid. The paraconid is anteroposteriorly compressed, projects anterolabially, and is lower in height than the protoconid and metaconid. The width of the talonid is usually equal to or slightly wider than the trigonid. The hypoconid is the largest and tallest talonid cusp. The entoconid is robust, conical, and taller than the hypoconulid, and separated from it by a distinct notch. The hypoconulid is shelf-like, projecting well posterior of the entoconid, and is connected to the hypoconid by a distinct, relatively tall postcristid. The cristid obliqua extends anterolabially from the hypoconid apex to terminate on the posterior wall of the talonid, about halfway between the protolophid notch and protoconid apex. The anterior and posterior cingulids are moderately robust.

The m4 (Figure 11.9-11.10) only differs from the m1-3 by having a considerably narrower talonid that results in it appearing slightly more anteroposteriorly elongated and a slightly more labially positioned hypoconulid.

**Remarks.** The familial and subfamilial status of *Herpetotherium* and other closely related North American and Eurasian genera vary among investigators, with some allocating them to the subfamily Herpetotheriinae Trouessart, 1879, within the Didelphidae Gray, 1921 (e.g., Korth, 1994, 2008; Hayes, 2005), whereas others have elevated the subfamily to familial rank as Herpetotheriidae (e.g., Case et al., 2005; Kelly, 2010; Ladevèze et al., 2012; Williamson et al., 2012). Regardless of which rank is preferred, most investigators agree on their generic composition. Here, we follow Williamson et al. (2012) and allocate *Herpetotherium* to Herpetotheriidae.

The Paleogene and early Neogene herpetotheriid marsupials of North America have a rather complicated taxonomic history. Krishtalka and

Stucky (1983b) and Korth (1994, 2008) documented detailed historic accounts of their taxonomy, from which a brief updated summary is provided here.

Cope (1873a) described a new genus and species, *Herpetotherium fuzax*, from what is now known as the late Eocene and early Oligocene White River Formation of Colorado, which he regarded as an insectivore. Shortly afterwards, Cope (1873c) corrected the specific name for the genotype to *Herpetotherium fugax* and described five additional species of *Herpetotherium*, which he also regarded as insectivores. Eleven years later, Cope (1884) recognized that *Herpetotherium fugax* actually represented a marsupial and transferred all six of his species to the European genus *Peratherium* Aymard, 1850. Most subsequent investigators followed this generic allocation and referred many Paleogene and early Neogene North America marsupials to *Peratherium* (e.g., Matthew, 1903; Stock and Furlong, 1922; McGrew, 1937; Stock, 1936; Gazin, 1952; Galbreath, 1953; Guthrie, 1971; West and Dawson, 1974; Setoguchi, 1974; Lillegraven, 1976; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a, 1983b, 1984; Russell, 1984; Storer, 1984). However, of Cope's (1873a, 1873c) original six species, one (*Herpetotherium marginale*) was later transferred to the geolabidid eulipotyphlan genus *Centetodon* Marsh, 1872a (McKenna, 1960; Lillegraven et al., 1981), and two (*Herpetotherium huntii* and *Herpetotherium stevesonii*) were transferred to other marsupial genera (Crochet, 1980; Scott, 1941; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a, 1983b; Korth, 1994).

Lavocat (1951) and Hough (1961) first proposed that the type species, *Herpetotherium fugax*, should be regarded as generically distinct from *Peratherium* based on the incorrect assumption that an inflected mandibular angle was lacking in the former, but continued to include most of the remaining North American species in *Peratherium*. Crochet (1977) went further with the resurrection of *Herpetotherium*, referring many of the North American species to the genus based on certain differences in the cheek teeth, but his proposal was not widely accepted. Stock (1936) described *Peratherium californicum* from the Uintan of California and Gazin (1952) described *Peratherium chesteri* from the late Wasatchian of Wyoming. Setoguchi (1973) proposed that *Peradectes protinnominatus* Simpson, 1928, is a junior synonym of *Peratherium chesteri*, which he considered as probably assignable to *Peradectes* within a peradectid lineage that included *Peradectes* Matthew and Granger, 1921,

and *Nanodelphys* McGrew, 1937. Setoguchi (1973) also suggested that *Nanodelphys* may be a junior synonym of *Peradectes*, whereas Lillegraven (1976) retained *Nanodelphys* as a valid genus and transferred *Peradectes californicum* to *Nanodelphys* as *N. californicus*. Bown (1979) followed Setoguchi's (1973) proposal and formally synonymized *Peratherium protinnominatus* with *Peratherium chesteri*, and assigned *Peratherium chesteri* to *Peradectes*. Crochet (1978, 1979, 1980) provided a different taxonomic scenario as follows: 1) erected the subgenus *Peradectes* for the type species, *Peradectes elegans* Matthew and Granger, 1921; 2) reduced *Nanodelphys* to a subgenus of *Peradectes*, which resulted in *Peradectes californicus* along with *Nanodelphys minutus* McGrew, 1937, and *Peradectes protinnominatus* being assigned to *Peradectes* (*Nanodelphys*) and 3) transferred *Peradectes chesteri* to *Herpetotherium* (a mistaken assignment that Krishtalka and Stucky [1983b] later corrected). Subsequently, Krishtalka and Stucky (1983b) demonstrated that *Peradectes protinnominatus* is specifically distinct from *Peradectes chesteri* and, following Setoguchi (1973), regarded *Nanodelphys* as a synonym of *Peradectes*. However, Korth (1994) provided convincing evidence that *Nanodelphys minutus* is a junior synonym of *Herpetotherium huntii* Cope, 1873c, then recombined the nomenclature for the genotype to *Nanodelphys huntii* and demonstrated that it is generically distinct from *Peradectes*, making the genus monotypic.

Fox (1983) recognized certain differences in the antemolar dentition between *Herpetotherium fugax* and European species of *Peratherium*, supporting Crochet's (1977, 1980) original proposal. Korth (1994) provided further evidence that most Chadronian through Hemingfordian herpetotheriid species previously referred to *Peratherium* should be allocated to *Herpetotherium*, but retained all Duchesnean and older species in *Peratherium*. Based on size and certain dental differences, Korth (1994) also erected a new genus, *Copedelphys*, wherein he transferred two Chadronian species previously assigned to *Peratherium* (*Peratherium titanelix* Matthew, 1903, and *Peratherium stevensonii* Cope, 1873c) to his new genus. Rothecker and Storer (1996) concluded that *Peratherium innominatum* Simpson, 1928, actually represents a primitive species of *Copedelphys* and reassigned it to *C. innominata*. Rothecker and Storer (1996) also recognized additional differences between the cheek teeth of *Herpetotherium* and *Peratherium*, and referred almost all Wasatchian through Hem-

ingfordian North American herpetotheriids to *Herpetotherium*, which was also followed by McKenna and Bell (1997) and Korth (2008). However, Beard and Dawson (2001) referred material from the early Eocene (Wasatchian) Tuscahoma Formation of Mississippi to the European species, *Peratherium constans*. Thus, except for *Peradectes constans*, *Peradectes californicus*, *Peradectes chesteri*, *Nanodelphys huntii*, the three species now assigned *Copedelphys* (*C. titanelix*, *C. stevensonii*, *C. innominata*) and the one species transferred to *Centetodon* (*C. marginale*), the current consensus is that all the other Paleogene and early Neogene North American herpetotheriids originally assigned or transferred to *Peratherium* are now allocated to *Herpetotherium*. Two additional herpetotheriid genera have also been recognized from the Paleogene of North America, *Swaindelphys* Johanson, 1996, from the middle Paleocene of Montana and *Estelstes* Novacek et al., 1991, from the middle Eocene of Baja California, Mexico. Horovitz et al. (2009) referred two partial skulls to *Herpetotherium* sp., cf. *H. fugax* that exhibit procumbent lower incisors and a large styler cusp C on M3, characters typical of the genus (Fox, 1983; Korth, 1994).

*Copedelphys innominata*, *Peradectes chesteri*, and two species of *Herpetotherium*, *H. knightii* (McGrew, 1959), and *H. marsupium* (Troxell, 1923a), are currently recognized from the Bridger Formation (Gazin, 1976; West and Hutchinson, 1981; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b; Gunnell, 1998; Rothecker and Storer, 1996; Korth, 2008). The TBM specimens can be confidently assigned to *Herpetotherium* because they exhibit the following diagnostic characters (Setoguchi, 1975; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a, 1983b; Rothecker and Storer, 1996; Korth, 2008): 1) a dilambodont centrocrista on M1-2; 2) a reduced paracone on M1-2 that is smaller and lower in height than the metacone; 3) a large, conical, relatively tall entoconid on m1-3; and 4) a posteriorly projecting hypoconulid on m1-3 that is shelf-like, smaller, and notably lower in height than the entoconid and separated from it by a distinct notch.

As with other Paleogene and early Neogene marsupials, species of *Herpetotherium* are differentiated primarily by size, dental proportions, and differences in the occurrence and positions of the upper molar styler cusps (Korth, 1994, 2008). Although many early studies dealt with very small samples, more recent investigations utilizing larger sample sizes for North American species of *Herpetotherium* have demonstrated that a fair degree of individual variation in size and in the occurrence

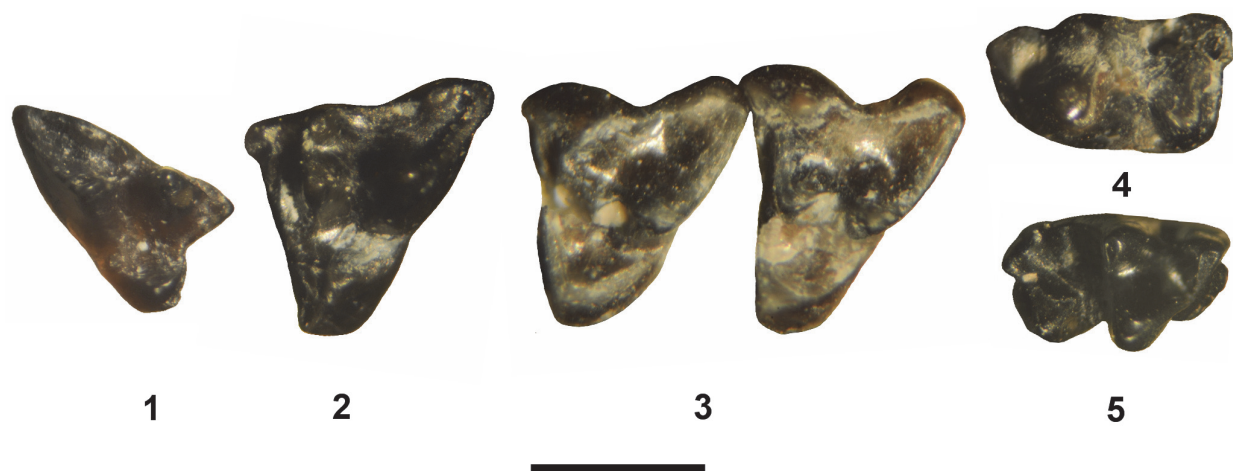
and positions of the upper molar styler cusps can be discerned (e.g., Eberle and Storer, 1995; Rothecker and Storer, 1996; Hayes, 2005; Kihm and Schumaker, 2015; Korth, 2015). Ladevèze et al. (2005) reported similar examples of individual variation in the herpetotheriid marsupials of Europe. These studies indicate that the frequency and morphological trends for these character states should be utilized to differentiate species rather than definitive diagnostic statements regarding these character states.

Based on a partial dentary with p3-m2 (YPM 13518) from the Bridger Formation of the Bridger Basin, Troxell (1923a) described *Herpetotherium marsupium* and differentiated it from *Entomacodon minutus* Marsh, 1872a (= *Herpetotherium knighti* see McKenna, 1960 and Robinson, 1968; see also Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b for nomenclatural priority) by having a presumably more diagonally transverse trigonid wall on the lower molars. The holotype of *Herpetotherium knighti*, a partial maxilla with M1-3 (AMNH 55684), came from the Bridger Formation at Tabernacle Butte and was initially characterized by McGrew (1959) by having the following: 1) length of M1-3 equals 5.9 mm; 2) three principal styler cusps on M1-3 that are low and positioned on extreme labial border of the styler shelf; and 3) a well-developed paraconule and metaconule on M2-3. Lillegraven (1976) assigned specimens from the Bridger Formation and Teepee Trail Formation of Wyoming to *Herpetotherium knighti* and specimens from the Uintan Friars and Mission Valley formations of California to *Herpetotherium* sp., cf. *H. knighti*. However, Krishtalka and Stucky (1983b) considered Lillegraven's sample from California to represent a mixed sample of the larger *Herpetotherium knighti* and the smaller *Copedelphys innominata*. Subsequently, samples ranging from the Wasatchian through the Duchesnean have been referred to *Herpetotherium knighti* and *Herpetotherium marsupium*, with *H. knighti* being distinguished from the latter by having the following (Setoguchi, 1975; West and Dawson, 1975; Bown, 1982; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a, 1983b, 1984; Russell, 1984; Storer, 1984; Rothecker and Storer, 1996): 1) smaller size; 2) significantly shallower M2-3 ectoflexi, especially on M3; 3) M1-3 styler cusps positioned along extreme labial border of the styler shelf; 4) styler shelf usually lacking crenulation along its labial border; 5) less tendency toward reduction of cusp C on M1-3 and less separation of cusps C and D on M1-2; 6) lack of a tendency towards twinning of styler cusp

C on M1-3; and 7) m1-3 cristid obliqua with tendency to terminate slightly more labially on the posterior wall of trigonid. The TBM specimens are intermediate in size between typotypic samples of *Herpetotherium knighti* and *Herpetotherium marsupium*, but within the observed ranges of the larger specimens of Lillegraven's (1976) sample of *Herpetotherium* sp., cf. *H. knighti* from the Uintan of California, which Krishtalka and Stucky (1983b) referred to *H. knighti*. In all other dental characters, especially the shallow ectoflexi on M1-3, labially positioned styler cusps and the close positioning of cusps C and D on M1-2 with the tendency to share a common base, the TBM specimens are indistinguishable from those of *Herpetotherium knighti*. Considering the individual variation in size noted above for large samples *Herpetotherium*, we refer the TBM specimens to *Herpetotherium knighti*.

#### *Herpetotherium marsupium* Troxell, 1923a

- 1923 *Herpetotherium marsupium*; Troxell, 1923a, p. 508, figures 1-2.
- 1928 *Peratherium marsupium*; Simpson, p. 5, figure 4.
- 1975 *Peratherium marsupium*; West and Dawson, p. 237.
- 1970 *Peratherium* cf. *marsupium*; McGrew and Sullivan, p. 74.
- 1973 *Peratherium* cf. *P. marsupium*; West, p. 80.
- 1975 *Peratherium* cf. *P. marsupium*; Setoguchi, p. 264, figures 1-4.
- 1976 *Peratherium marsupium*; Gazin, p. 2.
- 1981 *Peratherium marsupium*; West and Hutchinson, p. 61.
- 1982 *Peratherium* cf. *marsupium*; Bown, p. A43.
- 1982 *Peratherium marsupium*; West, p. 2, figures 2a-b.
- 1982 *Herpetotherium* sp., cf. *H. marsupium*; Eaton, p. 162.
- 1983a *Peratherium marsupium*; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 214, figure 3.
- 1983b *Peratherium marsupium*; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 232.
- 1984 *Peratherium marsupium*; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 33, figure 1.
- 1984 *Peratherium marsupium*; Storer, p. 16, figures 1c-f.
- 1996 *Herpetotherium* sp., cf. *H. marsupium*; Rothecker and Storer, p.772.
- 1996 *Herpetotherium marsupium*; Storer, p. 245, 247.
- 1998 *Peratherium marsupium*; Gunnell, p. 85, figure 2a.
- 2008 *Herpetotherium marsupium*; Korth, p. 42.



**FIGURE 13.** Upper and lower dentition of *Peradectes* from TBM. 1-4, *Peradectes chesteri*: 1, RdP3, DMNH 75275; 2, LM1, UCM 68427; 3, LM2-3, UCM 95781; 4, Lm2 or 3, UCM 78458. 5, *Peradectes californicus*, Rm2 or 3, SDSNH 110432. All occlusal views. Scale bar = 1 mm.

**Remarks.** The holotype of *Herpetotherium marsupium*, a partial right dentary with p3-m3 (YPM 13518), came from an undetermined stratigraphic level (either Br2 or Br3) of the Bridger Formation in the Bridger Basin (Troxell, 1923a). Subsequently, numerous specimens of *Herpetotherium marsupium* have been recorded from the Blacks Fork and Twin Buttes members (biochrons Br2 and Br3) in the Bridger Basin (Gazin, 1976; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a, 1983b). Gunnell (1998) referred to *Herpetotherium marsupium* three specimens collected from exposures of the lowermost Bridger Formation (early Bridgerian, biochron Br1a = Bridger A of Matthew [1909]) in the northern portion of the Bridger Basin near the town of Opal. West and Hutchinson (1981) described a single upper molar (MPM 5888) of *Herpetotherium marsupium* from locality MPM 2970, which occurs low in the TBM on the southwest flank of Sage Creek Mountain. *Herpetotherium marsupium* has also been recorded from the early Eocene (late Wasatchian, biochron Wa6) through the middle Eocene (Duchesnean, biochron Du) of North America (Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b; Korth, 2008), resulting in a geochronologic range of about 12.4 Ma. No additional specimens of this species were recovered from our study area of the TBM exposed on southwest flank of Cedar Mountain.

Family PERADECTIDAE Crochet, 1979  
Genus PERADECTES Matthew and Granger,  
1921

**Type species.** *Peradectes elegans* Matthew and Granger, 1921, by original designation.

**Other included species.** *P. californicus* (Stock, 1936); *P. chesteri* Gazin, 1952; *P. pauli* Gazin, 1956; *P. protinnominatus* McKenna, 1960; *P. austrinum* Sigé, 1971; *P. louisii* Crochet, 1979; *P. minor* Clemens, 2006; *P. gulottai* Rose, 2010; *P. coprexches* Williamson and Taylor, 2011.

*Peradectes chesteri* (Gazin, 1952)  
Figure 13.1-4, Table 3

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 1952   | <i>Peratherium chesteri</i> ; Gazin, p. 18, pl. 1, figure 1.          |
| 1962   | <i>Peratherium chesteri</i> ; Gazin, p. 21.                           |
| 1973   | <i>Peratherium innominatum</i> , in part; West, p. 79.                |
| 1980   | <i>Peradectes chesteri</i> ; Bown, p. 131.                            |
| 1982   | <i>Peratherium</i> sp., cf. <i>P. innominatum</i> ; Bown, p. A43.     |
| 1983a  | <i>Peradectes chesteri</i> ; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 219.           |
| 1983b  | <i>Peradectes chesteri</i> ; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 249, figure 5. |
| 1984   | <i>Peradectes chesteri</i> ; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 37, figure 3.  |
| 1994 P | <i>eradectes chesteri</i> ; Bown et al., p. 4, tab. 1.                |
| 1998   | <i>Peradectes chesteri</i> ; Gunnell, p. 88.                          |
| 2008   | <i>Peradectes chesteri</i> ; Korth, p. 43.                            |

**Referred specimens.** From locality UCM 92189: LM1, UCM 68427; partial maxilla with LM2-3, UCM 95781; Lm2 or 3, UCM 78458. From locality SDSNH 5842: partial RM1, SDSNH 110418. From locality DMNH 4672: RdP3, DMNH 75275.

**Description.** DMNH 75275 is identified as a dP3 (Figure 13.1) because of its nearly equilateral



dimensions (just slightly longer than wide), very elongated posterior metastylar wing, and reduced anterior parastylar shelf. It is significantly smaller than the M2-3. The paracone and metacone are equal in size and height. The protocone and talon basin are reduced as compared to those of the M2-3. The paraconule is weakly developed with very short, vestigial pre- and post paraconulecristae, whereas a metaconule is lacking. Styler cusp C is represented by an elongated, weak bulge along the labial rim of the styler shelf approximately opposite of the metacone apex, whereas styler cusps A, B, D, and E are lacking. The ectoflexus is very shallow. The posterior cingulum (postcingulum) is weakly developed and an anterior cingulum (precingulum) is lacking.

An isolated M1 (UCM 68427, Figure 13.2) is compatible in size and very similar in occlusal morphology to the associated M2-3 (UCM 95781, Figure 13.3) described below, both of which were recovered from UCM Locality 92189. It differs from M2-3 by the following: 1) slightly longer relative to its width (slightly less transversely broad); 2) a weakly-developed styler cusp (probably cusp D) present on the styler shelf posterior of the metacone apex and anterior to the labial terminus of the metastylar wing; 3) a shallower ectoflexus; and 4) a metacone slightly larger than the paracone. All of these differences are typically used to separate the M1 from the M2-3 of *Peradectes* (McGrew, 1939; Lillegraven, 1976; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b). Like the M2-3, UCM 68427 is lacking styler cusps A, C, and E, and a protoconule and metaconule, and has a non-dilambodont centrocrista with the metacone slightly taller than the paracone.

UCM 95781 (Figure 13.3) consists of a partial right maxilla with fragments of the M1 due to its crown being broken off, a nearly complete M2 with only the apex of the paracone broken off, and a complete M3. Although the occlusal morphologies of the M2 and M3 are quite similar, the M3 differs by being more transverse and by having a slightly deeper, more defined ectoflexus and a significantly more anteroposteriorly compressed protocone. The M2-3 have the paracone and metacone subequal in size, with the former slightly lower in height. A protoconule and metaconule are lacking. Styler cusp B is moderately developed and connected lingually to the preparacrista on M2, but on the M3 it is isolated from the labial terminus of the preparacrista by a very shallow, narrower valley. Styler cusps A, C, D, and E are lacking. The styler shelf is relatively wide and the ectoflexus relatively

deep, especially on M3. Anterior and posterior cingula are lacking.

An isolated left lower molar, either m2 or 3 (Figure 13.4), was recovered from the same locality as the partial maxilla with M2-3. Its trigonid and talonid are equal in width. The primary cusps of the trigonid (protoconid, metaconid, and paraconid) are robust, with the paraconid about one-half the height of the protoconid and the metaconid just slightly lower in height than the protoconid. The paracristid is straight, connecting the paraconid and metaconid. The entoconid is about equal in size to the hypoconulid, closely positioned to it, and separated from it by a shallow notch. The cristid obliqua extends from the hypoconid apex to terminate on the posterior wall of the trigonid, just below the protocristid notch. The anterior and posterior cingula are moderately distinct. The labial border between the trigonid and talonid is almost straight with very little emargination.

**Remarks.** Crochet (1979) erected the tribe Peradectini, based primarily on North American species of *Peradectes*. Subsequent investigators have either elevated its rank to the subfamily level as Peradectinae (e.g., Korth, 2008) or family level as Peradectidae (e.g., Reig et al., 1985; Johanson, 1996; Rothecker and Storer, 1996; Case et al., 2005; Horovitz et al., 2009; Rose, 2010) or used both ranks (e.g., Korth, 1994). Williamson et al. (2012) regarded "Peradectidae" sensu lato as an unranked clade composed a basal polytomy of species, which also included certain Cretaceous Eurasian and Paleocene South American taxa. Following Horovitz et al. (2009), we regard Peradectidae as a familial rank.

*Peradectes* is characterized by the following (Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b; Korth, 2008): 1) the M1-3 paracone and metacone subequal in size and not dilambodont; 2) the M1-3 styler cusps, protoconule and metaconule weakly developed and in some species all styler cusps, except B, vestigial or absent; 3) the M1-3 posterolingual base of the protocone unexpanded; 4) the m1-3 talonid relatively short with a labially positioned cristid obliqua and a low entoconid; and 5) the m1-3 hypoconulid and entoconid subequal in size, positioned relatively close to each other, and separated by a weak notch. The TBM specimens exhibit the above diagnostic characters of *Peradectes* and can be confidently assigned to the genus.

The holotype of *Peradectes chesteri*, a partial right dentary with m3 (USNM 19199), came from the late Wasatchian (biochron Wa7) Wasatch Formation near La Barge, Wyoming (Gazin, 1952).

Subsequently, *Peradectes chesteri* has also been recorded from earliest Bridgerian (biochron Br1a) through the early Uintan (biochron Ui1b), resulting in a geochronologic range of about 7 Ma (West, 1973; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a, 1983b; Gazin, 1976; Walsh, 1996; Gunnell, 1998; Gunnell et al., 2009).

*Peradectes chesteri* is characterized by having the following (Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a, 1983b, 1984): 1) small size; 2) M1-3 with a moderately reduced stylar cusp B and other stylar cusps vestigial or absent; 3) M1-3 paracone taller than protocone and stylar cusp B; 4) M1-3 paraconule and metaconule greatly reduced (vestigial); 5) M2-3 ectoflexus well defined and moderately deep; 6) M3 with a highly compressed protocone and more transversely broadened than M2; 7) p3 with short talonid that is lower in height than m1; 8) m1-3 narrow in proportion to length with little to no labial emargination between the trigonid and talonid; 9) m1 smaller than m2-3; and 10) m4 talonid shorter than trigonid. The specimens from the TBM are indistinguishable in size and occlusal morphology from those of *Peradectes chesteri* and are referred to that species.

*Peradectes californicus* (Stock, 1936)

Figure 13.5, Table 3

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1936  | <i>Peratherium californicum</i> ; Stock, p. 123, figures 2, 2a.  |
| 1975  | <i>Nanodelphys</i> cf. <i>N. minutus</i> , in part; Setoguchi, p. 269.   |
| 1976  | <i>Nanodelphys californicus</i> ; Lillegraven, p. 91, pl. 5, figure 3, pl. 6, figures 1a-c, pl. 7, figures 1a-c, 2a-c, pl. 8, figures 1a-c, pl. 9, figures 1a-c, 2a-c, 3a-c, pl. 10, figures 1a-c, 2a-c, 3a-c, 4a-c. |
| 1983a | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 219.  |
| 1983b | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Krishtalka and Stucky, p. 247.  |
| 1984  | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Storer, p. 21, figures 1k.  |
| 1990  | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Kelly, p. 8.  |
| 1994  | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Kelly and Whistler, p. 2, figure 1.   |
| 1996  | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Rothecker and Storer, p. 773, figure 1o-q.  |
| 2008  | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Korth, p. 43.   |
| 2010  | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Kelly, p. 160, figure 1b-f.   |
| 2013  | <i>Peradectes californicus</i> ; Kelly, p. 58, figure 2c.  |

**Referred specimen.** From locality SDSNH 5844: Rm2 or 3, SDSNH 110432.

**Description.** The lower molar trigonid is slightly wider than the talonid. The primary cusps of the trigonid are robust, with the protoconid larger and slightly taller than the metaconid. The paraconid and metaconid are subequal in size, with the paraconid about one-half the height of the protoconid. The paracristid extends anterolabially from the protoconid apex and then turns more directly labially to join the paraconid apex, giving it a curved appearance in occlusal view. The entoconid and hypoconulid are subequal in size, closely positioned to one another and separated by a shallow notch. The cristid obliqua extends anterolabially from the hypoconid apex to terminate on the posterior wall of the trigonid, between the paracristid notch and the protoconid apex. The labial margin between the trigonid and talonid is distinctly emarginated. The anterior cingulid is robust, whereas the posterior cingulid is slightly less developed.

**Remarks.** One lower molar, either m2 or 3 (SDSNH 110432, Figure 13.5), that came from the highest fossil yielding level in the TBM, can be eliminated as belonging to *Herpetotherium* or *Copedelphys* by having the following combination of characters: 1) small size; 2) the entoconid and hypoconulid about equal in size and height, positioned close to each other and separated by a weak notch; and 3) the hypoconulid cusps (not shelf-like) and not projecting well posterior of the entoconid. This talonid morphology is typical of members of the *Peradectes-Nanodelphys* lineage (Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b; Korth, 1994).

As discussed above, the taxonomic history of *Peradectes californicus* is complicated. The holotype, a partial right dentary with p3-m2 (LACM [CIT] 1943), came from the late Uintan (biochron Ui3) part of the Sespe Formation, Ventura County, California (Stock, 1936). *Peradectes californicus* has also been recorded from the late Uintan Mission Valley and Santiago Formations of San Diego County, California, the late Duchesnean (biochron Du) part of the Sespe Formation, California, the medial Uintan to early Duchesnean (biochrons Ui2-Du) Wagon Bed Formation of the Wind River Basin, Wyoming, the Duchesnean (biochron Du) Tepee Trail Formation of Wyoming, and late Uintan to Duchesnean (biochrons Ui3-Du) Cypress Hills Formation of Saskatchewan (Setoguchi, 1975; Lillegraven, 1976; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b; Storer, 1984; Rothecker and Storer, 1996; Korth, 2008; Kelly, 2010, 2013).

*Peradectes californicus* is similar in size to *Peradectes chesteri*, but differs by the following (Lillegraven, 1976; Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983a,

1983b, 1984): 1) M1-3 length shorter relative to width (ap and tr nearly equal); 2) M1-3 paraconule, metaconule usually slightly better developed, but still weak; 3) M1-3 with very small stylar cusps C and D commonly present; 3) M3 less transverse with less compression of protocone; 4) p3 talonid absent; and 5) m1-3 wider relative to length and with a distinct labial emargination between the trigonid and talonid. As in *Peradectes californicus*, SDSNH 110432 exhibits a very distinct emargination between the trigonid and talonid and its width relative to its length is wider ( $\text{tra/ap} = 0.62$ ) than that of the m2 or 3 referred above to *Peradectes chesteri* from lower in the TBM ( $\text{tra/ap} = 0.51$ ).

Setoguchi (1973) originally assigned certain specimens from the Uintan and Duchesnean Tepee Trail Formation at Badwater Creek to two informal species of *Nanodelphys*; *Nanodelphys* sp., cf. *N. minutus* and *Nanodelphys* sp. nov. Later, Setoguchi (1975) subsumed the sample of *Nanodelphys* sp. nov. into his *Nanodelphys* sp., cf. *N. minutus*. Krishtalka and Stucky (1983b) determined that Setoguchi's (1975) sample of *Nanodelphys* sp., cf. *N. minutus* actually consisted of three species; *Peradectes californicus*, *Peratherium innominatum* (= *Copedelphys innominata*, see Rothecker and Storer [1996]), and *Nanodelphys* sp., cf. *N. minutus* (= *Nanodelphys* sp. nov. of Setoguchi [1973]). Korth (1994) noted that the upper molars that Krishtalka and Stucky (1983b) retained in *Nanodelphys* sp., cf. *N. minutus* may represent a new species of *Peradectes* because their length to width ratios are intermediate between those of *Nanodelphys* and *Peradectes*, and they have less reduction of the stylar cusps than that of *Nanodelphys*. Korth (1994) also noted that the lower molars of *Nanodelphys* differ from those of *Peradectes* by having relatively narrower and more elongated trigonids and straighter paracristids. In SDSNH 110432, the paracristid is slightly curved posteriorly and the ratio for its trigonid length/ap is 0.54, whereas that for the mean m2-3 trigonid length/ap of *Nanodelphys huntii* is 0.64 (Korth, 1994).

Based on the above comparisons, SDSNH 110432 can be eliminated as representing either *Peradectes chesteri* or *Nanodelphys* sp., cf. *N. minutus*, but is indistinguishable from the lower molars of *Peradectes californicus* and is assigned to that species.

## A REEVALUATION OF EARLIEST UINTAN FAUNAS

### Correlations of Ui1a and Ui1b Faunas

Flynn (1986) proposed the "Shoshonian" subage for what he regarded as earliest Uintan faunas whose compositions appeared transitional between those of the Bridgerian and Uintan. He based his new subage primarily on the faunas from the Bone Bed A (Horizon D) of the type Tepee Trail Formation, Wyoming, and what he considered as correlative faunas from the Friars and Mission Valley Formations in the greater San Diego area, California. Based on his magnetostratigraphic correlations alone, Flynn (1986) also proposed that a "Shoshonian" fauna should be present within the middle to upper part of the lower subunit of the Adobe Town Member of the Washakie Formation, Wyoming. After Flynn's (1986) proposal, many investigators debated the validity of the "Shoshonian" subage and it was not generally accepted (e.g., Krishtalka et al., 1987; Prothero and Emry, 1996; Walsh, 1996a; Janis, 1998). Robinson et al. (2004) questionably proposed a new biochron named Ui1 for what they regarded as earliest Uintan faunas, which included most of the faunas that Flynn (1986) referred to his "Shoshonian" subage. For many years, investigators referred to earliest Uintan faunas informally as "Shoshonian" in age and subsequent to Robinson et al. (2004), also as Ui1 faunas. Most recently, Gunnell et al. (2009) divided Ui1 into two biochrons, Ui1a and Ui1b, with Ui1a based on the oldest transitional faunas and Ui1b based on younger transitional faunas with both biochrons characterized by the following: 1) the presence of index taxa; and 2) the lowest range datum's (LRD = FAD, first appearance datum of Berggren and Van Couvering, 1974, and Woodburne, 2004a) and highest range datum's (HRD = LAD, last appearance datum of Woodburne, 2004a) of certain key taxa. The changing nomenclature and definition of what the term "earliest Uintan" refers to has led to some confusion in the literature, wherein investigators have sometimes included both Ui1a and Ui1b faunas in the earliest Uintan (e.g., Tsukui, 2016). For this reason, we present a reevaluation of the correlations of the Ui1a and Ui1b faunas, which will hopefully clarify the faunal distinctions between these biochrons.

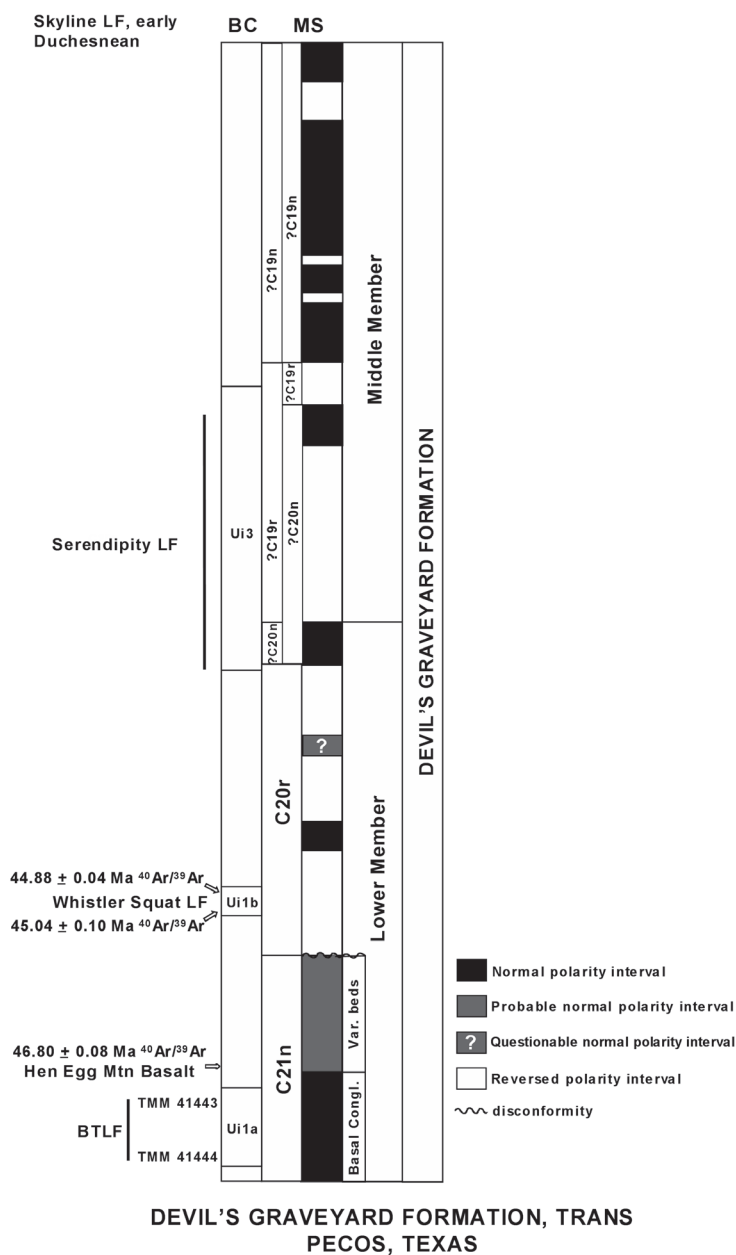
Gunnell et al. (2009) assigned the type section of the TBM as the stratotype section for Ui1a, and also referred the Tertiary Basal Local Fauna (Walton, 1992) of the Devil's Graveyard Formation, Texas, to Ui1a along with possibly all of informal

unit A of the Uinta Formation in the eastern Uinta Basin and the lower part of unit B of the Uinta Formation in the western Uinta Basin, Utah. Gunnell et al. (2009) did not recognize a stratotype section for the Ui1b, but referred the following sections to it: 1) the Washakie Formation of the Sand Wash Basin of Colorado; 2) the middle unit of the Adobe Town Member of the Washakie Formation of Wyoming; 3) the lowermost Tepee Trail Formation of the East Fork Basin of Wyoming; 4) the Friars Formation and the upper part of Member B of the Santiago Formation of southern California; 5) the portion of the lower member of the Devil's Graveyard Formation yielding the Whistler Squat Local Fauna of Texas; and 6) tentatively all or a portion of the informal units A and B1 of the Uinta Formation of the eastern part of the Uinta Basin and the lowermost part of unit B in the western part of the Uinta Basin of Utah.

Tsukui (2016) provided the most complete record of the magnetostratigraphy of the Bridger Formation along with precise U-Pb geochronology, including the placement of the Uintan-Bridgerian boundary within the lower part of Chron C21n. Our new U-Pb dates from the stratotype section of the TBM (Figures 1, 10) provide accurate constraints on the ages of the Ui1a localities in the stratigraphic interval from the tuffaceous white sandstone to the highest localities (Localities SDSNH 5843 and 5844, and Locality DMNH 4673). However, a precise date for the lowermost Ui1a localities (Localities UCM 92189 and SDSNH 5841), which occur at about 1 to 2 m above the base of the TBM (= Basal E Limestone) or about 72-73 m below the tuffaceous white sandstone (Figure 1), has not been determined. Murphey et al. (1999) reported an  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  date of  $47.13 \pm 0.45$  Ma (corrected) for the uppermost Twin Buttes Member tuff (= Basal E tuff of Murphey and Evanoff, 2007) that occurs about 8 m below the base of the TBM in the uppermost Twin Buttes Member, but this date has a large uncertainty so that it is of little value in constraining the age of the beginning of the Ui1a in the TBM. The base of the TBM begins at the Basal E Limestone at about 27 m above the base of Chron C21n (= the boundary between chrons C21r and C21n) in the Sage Creek Mountain sections of Tsukui (2016). The C21r/C21n boundary has been calibrated to 47.349 Ma according to the GPTS 2012 (Ogg, 2012). However, a number of studies using different methods have suggested varying calibrations for the Paleogene segment of the GPTS (e.g., Tsukui and Clyde, 2012; Westerhold and Röhl, 2009; Westerhold et al., 2015; Tsukui,

2016). If a consensus on the age for the base of Chron C21n emerges, the age for the beginning of the Ui1a in the TBM will be better constrained. The date for the beginning of the Ui1a in the TBM could be further clarified by re-dating the uppermost Twin Buttes Member tuff using the more precise U-Pb method.

The magnetostratigraphy of the Devil's Graveyard Formation (DGF) of the Agua Fria area, Texas, is complicated with a number of possible interpretations for Chron assignments in the middle member (Walton, 1992; Prothero, 1996b). The polarity of the samples from the variegated beds (maximum thickness of about 33 m) overlying the Basal Conglomerate was difficult to assess, but two samples showing normal polarity suggested that this interval may represent Chron C21n (Walton, 1992). Furthermore, the contact between the variegated beds and the overlying strata containing the Whistler Squat Quarry is erosional (Stevens et al., 1984), indicating that some portion of the strata may be missing. So, the Basal Tertiary Local Fauna (BTLF, Walton, 1992, = localities TMM 41443 [locality name Junction] and TMM 41444 [locality name .6 miles east of Junction]) and the Hen Egg Mountain localities in the lowermost part of the lower member of the DGF appear not to occur at the top of Chron C21n, but somewhere within the chron (Figure 14). The BTLF and the Hen Egg Mountain localities are Ui1a in age (Gunnell et al., 2009; Kelly and Murphey, 2016a; Murphey and Kelly, 2017), whereas the stratigraphically higher Whistler Squat Quarry in the lower member of the DGF is Ui1b in age and occurs in Chron C20r (Gunnell et al., 2009; Campisano et al. 2014; Kelly and Murphey, 2016a; Murphey and Kelly, 2017). Murphey and Kelly (2017) retained the BTLF in the Ui1a, but noted it may be slightly younger than the Ui1a fauna from the TBM of the Bridger Formation based on certain faunal differences (e.g., the larger proportion of Bridgerian hold over taxa present in the TBM, the lack of selodont artiodactyls in the TBM and the fact that the rodent cf. *Pareumys* sp. of the TBM is slightly less derived than *Pareumys boskeyi* Wood, 1973, of the BTLF), along with an  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  date of  $46.80 \pm 0.08$  Ma (corrected) for a basalt overlying the Hen Egg Mountain localities (Miggins, 2009). The proposal that the TBM is older than the BTLF is further supported by our new U-Pb dates from the TBM, which provide precise dates for the fauna (46.94 Ma for locality Roll the Bones and 47.31 Ma for the tuffaceous white sandstone). Thus, what can be confidently stated is that the BTLF occurs within Chron



**FIGURE 14.** Schematic stratigraphic column of Devil's Graveyard Formation, Trans Pecos, Texas, showing correlation of magnetostratigraphy to biochrons of the Uintan North American Land Mammal age. Magnetostratigraphic sections after Walton (1992) and Prothero (1996b). Abbreviations are: BC, biochron; BTLF, Basal Tertiary Local Fauna; Congl., conglomerate; L.F., local fauna; MS, magnetostratigraphy. TMM, Texas Memorial Museum localities; Var., variegated.

C21n and the Whistler Squat Quarry occurs somewhere within the lower part Chron C20r (Figure 14).

The history of the biostratigraphic/lithostratigraphic divisions of the Uinta Formation of the Uinta Basin is somewhat complicated (Prothero, 1996a). Peterson (in Osborn, 1895) recognized

three horizons, in ascending stratigraphic order, Uinta A, B, and C, and considered the lithostratigraphic boundary between his Uinta B and C to occur at the change from gray mudstone beds to red and orange claystone beds in the Devil's Playground area of the eastern Uinta Basin. However, Osborn and Matthew (1909) and Osborn (1929)

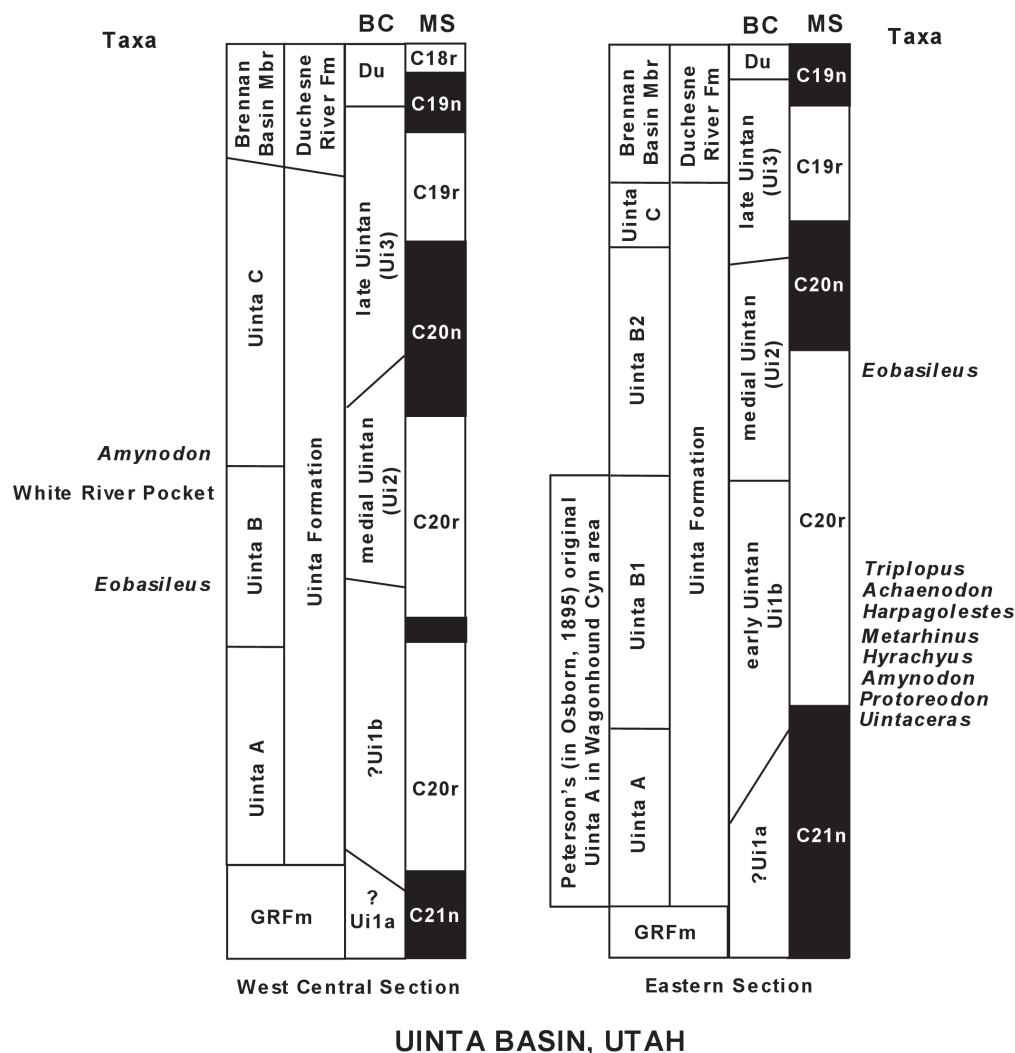


redefined the Uinta B-C boundary as the *Amynodon* sandstone of Riggs (1912), a locally restricted unit that occurs stratigraphically lower in the section (Cashion, 1986; Townsend et al., 2006). Moreover, Osborn (1929) further modified Peterson's (in Osborn, 1895) divisions of the Uinta Formation as follows: 1) Peterson's Uinta A was divided with the lower half retained as Uinta A and the upper half named Uinta B1; and 2) Peterson's original Uinta B was renamed Uinta B2. Many of the early collections of fossil mammals from the Uinta Basin lacked detailed locality data and stratigraphic control, but recent investigations indicate that the Ui2-Ui3 faunal transition actually occurs at about 53-63 m above the *Amynodon* sandstone or at about 10-20 m below the revised lithologic boundary of the Uinta B-C in the eastern Uinta Basin (Rasmussen et al., 1999; Townsend et al., 2006).

Prothero (1996a) documented the magnetostratigraphy of the Uinta Formation in the Uinta Basin. Assuming Prothero's (1996a) magnetostratigraphy is correct, what is recognized as Uinta A in the eastern section is older than the Uinta A in the west-central section. There are no documented mammal fossils with reliable locality data from the Uinta A (in the modern sense) in the eastern section or west-central section of the Uinta Formation. Kelly et al. (2012) reevaluated the correlation of late Uintan and Duchesnean faunas of the Uinta Basin to the GPTS and determined that late Uintan faunas (Ui3) occur from somewhere within Chron C20n to the lower third of Chron C19n, and that the Uintan-Duchesnean boundary occurs in about the lower third of Chron C19n. Considering that certain taxa whose LRDs within the eastern section (e.g., the rhino *Uintaceras* Holbrook and Lucas, 1997, and the agriochoerid *Protoreodon* Scott and Osborn, 1887) are low or near the base of the Uinta B1 or are recorded within the Uinta B1 (e.g., the brontothere *Metarhinus* Osborn, 1908, the rhino *Amynodon* Marsh, 1877, and the entelodont *Achaenodon* Cope, 1873b), then by definition (Gunnell et al., 2009), this interval represents the Ui1b (Figure 15). The speculation of Gunnell et al. (2009) as to what portions of the Uinta Formation represent the Ui1a is still uncertain until the discovery of age diagnostic taxa. It is speculative to use the paleomagnetic data to assign with any certainty biochrons to stratigraphic intervals within the Uinta Formation without diagnostic mammal fossil assemblages to support the correlations. Thus, what can be reasonably stated regarding the correlations of faunas to the magnetostratigraphy of the Uinta and Duchesne River Formations in the

Uinta Basin are as follows (Figure 15): 1) no Ui1a faunas are currently recognized; 2) Ui1b faunas appear to occur at or near the top of Chron C21n to somewhere within Chron C20r; 3) Ui2 faunas occur from somewhere within Chron C20r to somewhere within Chron C20n; and 4) Ui3 faunas occur from somewhere within Chron C20n through about the lower third of Chron C19n.

The Washakie Formation in the main Washakie Basin, Wyoming, is subdivided into the Kinney Rim Member and the much thicker and overlying Adobe Town Member. The Adobe Town Member has been subdivided into lower, middle and upper informal subunits (McCarroll et al., 1996a). The lowest stratigraphic datum (LSD) of *Amynodon* is low in the Adobe Town middle subunit (bed 630 of Roehler, 1973), which by definition equates this level to Ui1b (Gunnell et al., 2009). The Adobe Town middle subunit has also yielded the two Ui1b index species *Achaenodon robustus* Osborn, 1883, and *Achaenodon insolens* Cope, 1873b (McCarroll et al., 1996a; Gunnell et al., 2009), along with *Uintaceras*, *Metarhinus*, and the camelids *Protylopus* Wortman, 1898 and *Poebrodon* Gazin, 1955, of which the first two are typical Ui1b taxa (Figure 16). Tsukui (2016: figure 2.11) correlated the lower part of the Adobe Town middle subunit to the Ui1a, but it appears that her Ui1a interval actually represents the Ui1b, at least in part, because of the LSD of *Amynodon* (Walsh, 1996a; Gunnell et al., 2009). The upper boundary of the Ui1b is undetermined for the Washakie Formation, but could extend upward into Chron C20r. The faunas from the Kinney Rim Member and the Adobe Town lower subunit consist of typical late Bridgerian (Br3) taxa with no Ui1a or Ui1b index taxa (McCarroll et al., 1996a, 1996b). Most of the mammal fossils from the lower subunit came from the middle red beds (McCarroll et al., 1996a). The upper part of the lower subunit is sparsely fossiliferous with no Ui1a age diagnostic taxa, and the lowermost part of the middle subunit is unfossiliferous (McCarroll et al., 1996a). It is possible that some interval between the upper part of the lower subunit and the lowermost part of the middle subunit is Ui1a in age, but the lack of fossils makes this highly speculative and unprovable. The lower 90 m of the Skull Creek section in the Washakie Basin is unsampled (polarity undetermined). However, Stucky et al. (1996) stated that it contains a "Shoshonian" fauna. This fauna has not been documented in detail, so whether it represents a Ui1a or Ui1b fauna is undetermined. In summary, a Ui1b fauna occurs within Chron C21n and appears to

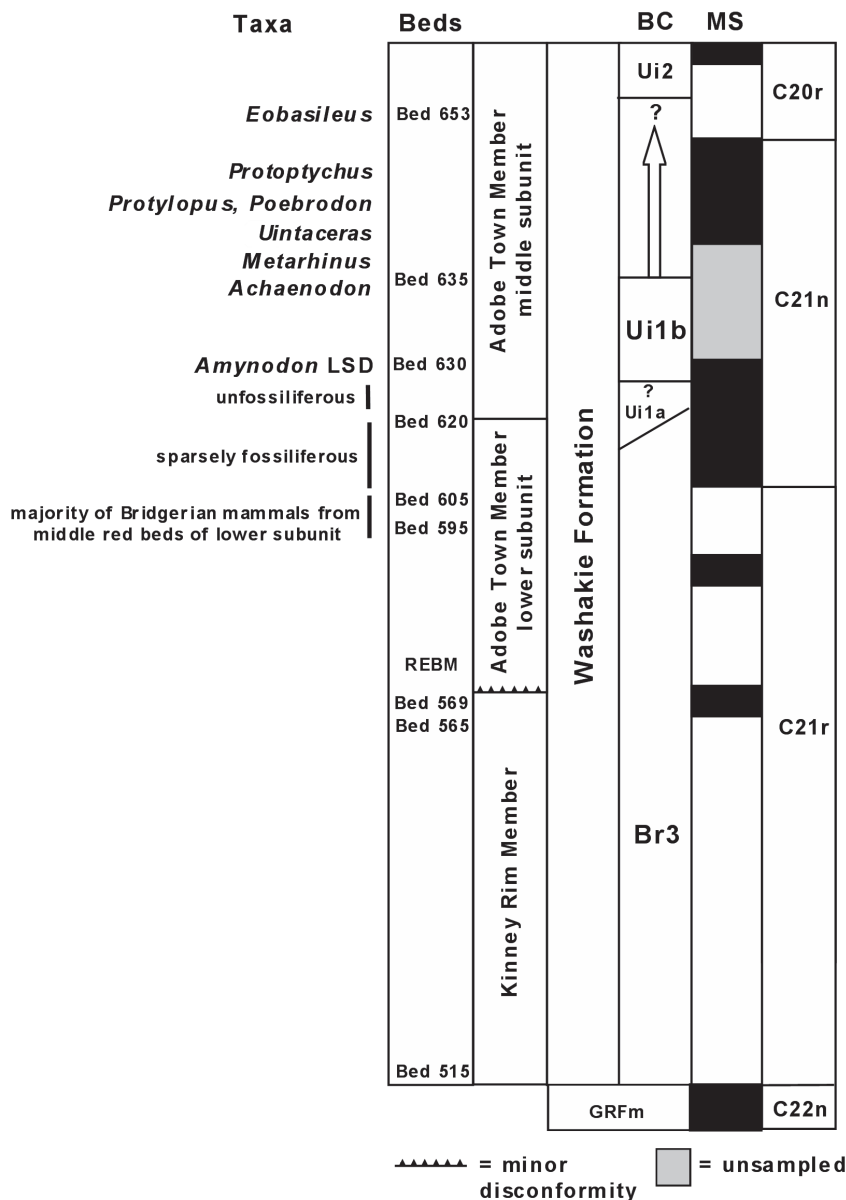


**FIGURE 15.** Schematic stratigraphic columns of west central and eastern sections of Uinta Formation, Uinta Basin, Utah, showing correlations of magnetostratigraphy to biochrons of the Uintan North American Land Mammal age. Sections modified after Prothero (1996a) and Kelly and Murphey (2012). Note that no Ui1a faunas are currently recognized from the Uinta Formation due to the lack of diagnostic mammal fossils (see text for discussion). Abbreviations are: BC, biochron; Cyn, Canyon; Du, Duchesnean North American Land Mammal age; Fm., formation; GRFm, Green River Formation; Mbr, member; MS, magnetostratigraphy.

extend upward into Chron C20r and there are no confidently recognized Ui1a faunas from Washakie Formation of the main Washakie Basin (Figure 16).

In the Sand Wash Basin, the putative "Shoshonian" localities have yielded a mixture of typical Bridgerian and Uintan taxa. As noted above, "Shoshonian" or "earliest Uintan" faunas of Flynn (1986) include both Ui1a and Ui1b faunas (Gunnell et al., 2009), so there is much confusion in the literature regarding the faunal separation of these biochrons. Of the two main Sand Wash Basin sections, Locality 1 (DMNH 296) of West and Dawson (1975) is

reported to occur at the top of a reversed polarity interval within the lower section, which Stucky et al. (1996) regarded as "Shoshonian" in age, whereas the upper section (upper Vaughn Draw section) consists of a long normal interval with a short reversed interval occurring near its center (Figure 17). Except for Localities 1 and 20, Stucky et al. (1996: figure 4) did not provide the relative stratigraphic positions of any of the other Sand Wash Basin localities relative to their two main sections, only a label reading "earliest Uintan" that was positioned in the lower part of the normal polarity inter-



### WASHAKIE BASIN, WYOMING

**FIGURE 16.** Schematic stratigraphic column of Washakie Formation, Washakie Basin, Wyoming, showing correlations of biochrons of the late Bridgerian through middle Uintan North American Land Mammal ages to the magnetostratigraphy. Alternative magnetostratigraphic correlation D of McCarroll et al. (1996a) as preferred by Walsh (1996a) and Tsukui (2016). Marker beds after Roehler (1973). Adobe Town Member upper subunit not included because its polarity is undetermined. Note that no Ui1a faunas are currently recognized from the Washakie Formation of the Washakie Basin due to the lack of diagnostic mammal fossils (see text for discussion). Abbreviations are: BC, biochron; GRFm, Green River Formation; MS, magnetostratigraphy; REBM, Robin's Egg Blue marker bed.

val in the upper Vaughn Draw section. Stucky et al. (1996) provided two possible correlations of the Sand Wash Basin sections to the magnetostratigraphic sections of McCarroll et al. (1996a) in the main Washakie Basin (Figure 17). In correlation 1,

both of the main Sand Wash sections above the Robins Egg Blue Marker Bed (REBM) sample are correlated to Chron C21n. Correlation 1 assumes that the 90 m unsampled portion of the lower Skull Creek section of the main Washakie Basin will be

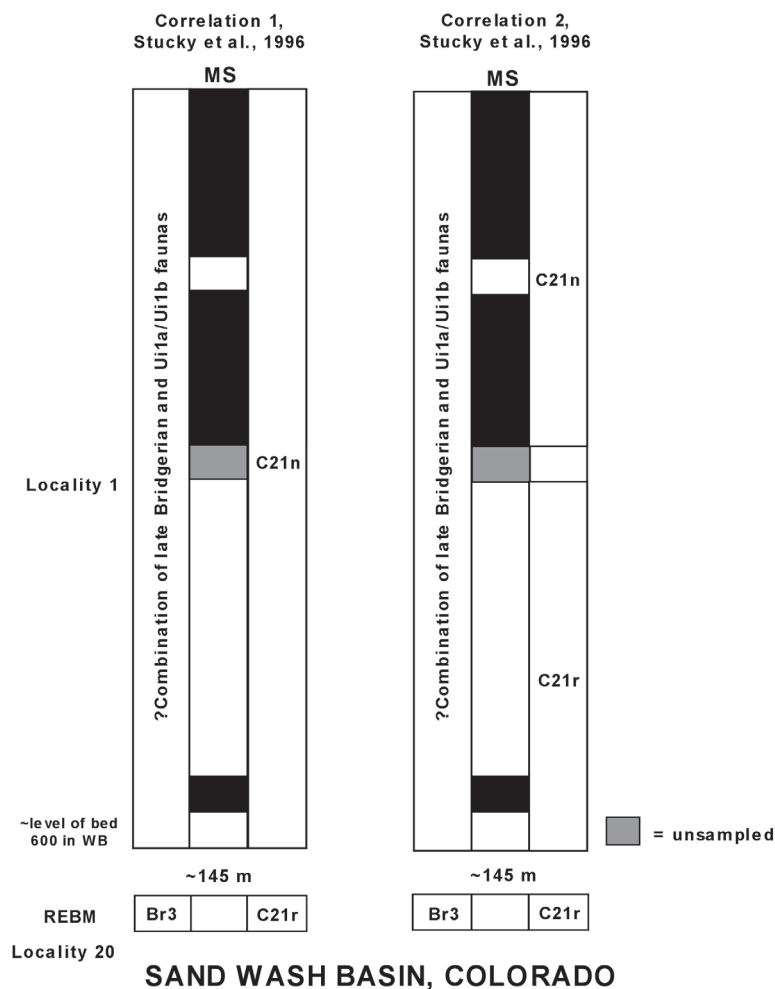
found to be of reversed polarity in the future. In correlation 2, the lower reversed interval is correlated with the uppermost Chron C21r. The base of the lower Sand Wash Basin section was stated to be stratigraphically positioned at the Tbl/Tbu contact, which was previously mapped by McKay (1975) as the lower and upper parts of the Bridger Formation, respectively. Stucky et al. (1996) stated that Locality 20 is the only locality that occurs below the REBM (= bed 579 of Roehler, 1973) in the Sand Wash Basin. Stucky et al. (1996) sampled the polarity of the REBM from an isolated outcrop that occurs about 14.5 km north of the other two main Sand Wash Basin sections and found it to be reversed. Based on the stratigraphy in the main Washakie Basin to the north, Stucky et al. (1996) estimated that about 143 m of section separated the REBM from the base of their lower Sand Wash Basin section, placing Locality 1 at about 205 m above the REBM, which they also estimated to be about equal to the level of bed 600 of Roehler (1973) in the Washakie Formation of the Washakie Basin (McCarroll et al., 1996a). Assuming the REBM in the Sand Wash Basin is temporally equivalent to the REBM in the main Washakie Basin, which occurs in Chron C21r, a Br3 (late Bridgerian) age for Locality 20 is supported.

Locality 1 has yielded the following taxa (Stucky et al., 1996): *Herpetotherium knighti* (= *Peratherium marsupium* of West and Dawson, 1975, see Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983b); the pantolestid *Pantolestes natans* Matthew, 1909; the hyracodont *Triplopus* sp. (= *Hyrachyus* small sp. of West and Dawson, 1975, see Stucky and Snyder, 1992, and Stucky et al., 1996); and an indeterminate uinthere. Although the holotype of *Herpetotherium knighti* is from the Bridger Formation (Br3) at Tabernacle Butte (McGrew, 1959, in McGrew et al., 1959), it is a long ranging species (Wasatchian through Duchesnean), so its occurrence at Locality 1 is of little biostratigraphic significance (Krishtalka and Stucky, 1983). *Pantolestes natans* occurs in the late Bridgerian (Br3) of the Bridger Formation (Matthew, 1909; Gazin, 1976) and is also known from the Adobe Town lower member (Br3) of the Washakie Formation in the main Washakie Basin (McCarroll et al., 1996a). Westgate and Emry (1985) tentatively assigned a partial dentary lacking teeth to cf. *Pantolestes natans*. This specimen came from the Crow Creek Quarry of the Jackson Group, Arkansas, which is probably no older than late Uintan (Ui3). Although the Crow Creek Quarry edentulous dentary appears to represent a pantolestid, its specific identification is dubious and

cannot be regarded as a reliable record for the species. *Triplopus* sp. was also reported to occur at Locality 3 in the Sand Wash Basin (Stucky et al., 1996). *Triplopus* Cope, 1880, is a common Uintan genus that extends into the Duchesnean (Prothero, 1998) and its LRD is otherwise in the Turtle Bluff Member Fauna (Ui1a) of the Bridger Formation (Murphey and Kelly, 2017).

West and Dawson (1975) reported the occurrence of the equid *Orohippus sylvaticus* (Leidy, 1870) from Localities 3, 4, and 20 of the Washakie Formation in the Sand Wash Basin. West and Dawson (1975) only compared the Sand Wash Basin equid specimens to *Orohippus agilis* Marsh, 1873, and *Orohippus sylvaticus* and assigned them to *O. sylvaticus* based on the subequal widths of the trigonids and talonids in p4 and a broad m3 hypoconulid. The Sand Wash Basin specimens exhibit relatively wide p4 trigonids that are nearly equal in width to the talonids, as seen in *O. sylvaticus*, whereas in *O. agilis* the p4 talonid is much wider relative to the p4 trigonid. Also, in *O. agilis*, the p4 is the widest of all the lower teeth (Kitts, 1957). The character state of a broad m3 hypoconulid is not present in *O. sylvaticus*, instead in this species the m3 hypoconulid is relatively long, narrow, and unconstricted anteriorly, whereas in *O. agilis* the m3 hypoconulid is relatively short and wide (Kitts, 1957).

The equids *Orohippus* Marsh, 1872b, and *Epihippus* Marsh, 1878, are distinguished from each other by the progressive molarization of the upper and lower premolars in the latter (Granger, 1908; Kitts, 1957; MacFadden, 1980; Kelly and Murphey, 2016b). In both *Orohippus* and *Epihippus*, the p4 is molariform. The main difference in the lower premolars of *Orohippus* and *Epihippus* is the greater degree of molarization of p2-3 in *Epihippus* (Granger, 1908; Kitts, 1957; MacFadden, 1980; Kelly and Murphey, 2016b). Separating these genera based on the morphology of p4 is difficult since both exhibit a molariform p4. Moreover, in both *Orohippus sylvaticus* and *Epihippus*, the p4 trigonid and talonids widths are subequal, so this character cannot be used to differentiate them. In examining the p4s of *O. sylvaticus* from the type Bridger Formation, one difference may be a slightly better developed p4 metastylid in *Epihippus*, which is seen in the unworn p4 of UCM 24302 from the Sand Wash Basin. West and Dawson (1975) did not compare the Sand Wash equid specimens to *Epihippus* and they did not report any specimens preserving the p2 or p3. This is problematic because a definitive generic diagnosis requires



**FIGURE 17.** Composite schematic stratigraphic section of the Washakie Formation, Sand Wash Basin, Colorado, showing two alternative correlations of the magnetostratigraphy by Stucky et al. (1996). Marker beds after Roehler (1973). Note that separation of Br3, Ui1a, and Ui1b faunas cannot be confidently determined for the main upper section because the precise stratigraphic levels of almost all of the Sand Wash Basin localities relative to the section are unknown and detailed systematic accounts of many of the taxa from these localities are lacking (see text for discussion). Abbreviations are: MS, magnetostratigraphy; REBM, Robin's Egg Blue marker bed; WB, Washakie Basin.

knowledge of the morphologies of p2 and p3. Interestingly, Stucky et al. (1996) listed the occurrence of *Epihippus parvus* Granger, 1908 (= *E. gracilis* [Marsh, 1871], see MacFadden, 1980), from West and Dawson's (1975) Locality 16. This specimen was not described or illustrated by Stucky et al. (1996), so confirmation of their assignment cannot be made. The specimens illustrated by West and Dawson (1975, figures 5-7) are not complete enough to confirm their generic assignments and could represent either *Orohippus* or *Epihippus*. Based on the fact that the RBEM is well within Chron C21r in the Washakie Formation of the main Washakie Basin and that interval has yielded only late Bridgerian mammals, the equid specimen from

Locality 20 may very well represent *Orohippus*. In addition, the other taxa recorded from Locality 20 (the viverravid *Viverravus* sp., the primate *Hemiacodon* sp (= *Washakius* sp. of West and Dawson, 1975, see Stucky et al., 1996), and the rodent *Tillomys* sp., cf. *T. senex* Marsh, 1872b, are typical Bridgerian taxa. The equid specimens from Localities 3 and 4 should be reexamined to see whether there are any specimens that can be confidently assigned to *Orohippus*. For now, all that can be said of the Sand Wash Basin equids is that their generic assignments are uncertain and the specimens are in need of a more detailed systematic analysis.



Of further interest is the fact that Stucky et al. (1996) provided additional revisions to certain other taxa in the Sand Wash Basin faunal list of West and Dawson (1975). The specimen from Locality 3 originally referred to the rhinocerotoid *Hyrachyus modestus* Leidy, 1870, represents either *Hyrachyus eximus* Leidy, 1871, or *Uintaceras*, with *Hyrachyus eximus* known to have its HRD in the lower part of the Foggy Day beds of the Tepee Trail Formation (Ui1b, Chron C20r) and *Uintaceras* to have its LRD near the base of the Holy City beds (Ui1b) of the Tepee Trail Formation and the Uinta B1 (Ui1b) of the Uinta Formation in the eastern Uinta Basin. The specimen from Locality 3 originally referred to the dichobunid *Homacodon* sp., cf. *H. vagans* Marsh, 1872a, actually represents the homacodont *Hylomeryx* sp., a genus with its LRD in the Whistler Squat Local Fauna (Ui1b, Chron C20r) of the Devil's Graveyard Formation, but also known from as late as the Ui3 in the Uinta Formation (Myton Member). There is also a new record of *Protoreodon* sp. from Locality 3. The LRD for this genus is otherwise in the Poway Fauna of the Friars Formation (Ui1b) and the Uinta B1 (Ui1b) of the Uinta Formation in the eastern Uinta Basin. New records of oromerycid *Oromeryx* Marsh, 1894, were recorded from Localities 9 and 12. The LRD for this genus is otherwise in the Uinta B (Ui2, Chron C20r) of the Uinta Formation. Although Stucky et al. (1996) used the faunal list of West and Dawson (1975) for the brontotheres, Muhlbachler (2008) revised the brontothere taxa from the Sand Wash Basin as follows: 1) *Tanyorhinus blairi* Cook, 1926, and *Tanyorhinus bridgeri* Cook, 1926, = *Sphenocoelus uintensis* Osborn, 1895; 2) *Telmatherium accola* Cook, 1926, and *Telmatherium advocata* Cook, 1926 = *Metarhinus* sp.; 3) a nomen dubium assignment for *Tanyorhinus harundivorax* Cook, 1926, *Manteoceras foris* Cook, 1926, and *Manteoceras pratensis* Cook, 1926 (all generically and specifically indeterminate); and 4) *Tanyorhinus* sp. = indeterminate brontothere. Muhlbachler (2008) also recorded the occurrence of a species closely related to, but slightly larger than, *Mesatirhinus junius* (Leidy, 1872) from the Sand Wash Basin. The LRD of *Sphenocoelus* Osborn, 1895, is otherwise in the Adobe Town middle subunit of the Washakie Formation (Ui1b) in the Washakie Basin. The LRD of *Metarhinus* is otherwise in the Adobe Town middle subunit (Ui1b) of the Washakie Basin. The LRD of *Mesatirhinus junius* is undetermined because the holotype specimen's provenance is unknown, but it has been confidently recorded from the upper Bridger For-

mation (Br3) in the Bridger Basin and the Kinney Rim Member and lower subunit of the Adobe Town Member of the Washakie Formation (McCarroll et al., 1996; Muhlbachler, 2008). Muhlbachler (2008) also described a new brontothere, *Wickia brevirhinus*, based on a partial skull from the Sand Wash Basin and a referred specimen from above bed 17 of Granger (1909) in the Adobe Town middle subunit (Ui1b) of the main Washakie Basin. The LRD for *Wickia* is otherwise from the Roll the Bones Locality (Ui1a) of the TBM, Bridger Formation (Murphey and Kelly, 2017). Thus, only *Sphenocoelus uintensis*, *Wickia brevirhinus*, *Metarhinus* sp., and *Mesatirhinus* sp. are confidently known from the Sand Wash Basin. The dinocerate *Eobasileus cornutus* (Cope, 1872) is reported from Localities 11 and 13 in the Sand Wash Basin (West and Dawson, 1975). The LRD of *Eobasileus* Cope, 1872, is otherwise in the Adobe Town middle subunit of the Washakie Formation (?Ui1b) in the Washakie Basin, but is also known from the Uinta B (Ui2) in the western Uinta Basin and the Uinta B2 of the eastern Uinta Basin (Ui2). The primate *Notharctus robustior* Leidy, 1872, was reported to occur at Locality 3 in the Sand Wash Basin (West and Dawson, 1975), a Bridgerian hold over species that is also known from Adobe Town middle subunit (Ui1b) of the Washakie Formation in the main Washakie Basin and the Turtle Bluff Member (Ui1a) of the Bridger Formation (McCarroll et al., 1996a; Kelly and Murphey, 2016a). West and Dawson (1975) referred specimens from Localities 2, 3, and 12 in the Sand Wash Basin to the hyposodontid *Hyopsodus despiciens* Matthew, 1909, whereas McCarroll et al. (1996) referred these specimens to *Hyopsodus markmani* Abel and Cook, 1925, without explanation. Previously, Gazin (1968) regarded *Hyopsodus markmani* as a synonym of *Hyopsodus despiciens*, whereas West (1979) regarded *H. markmani* as a synonym of *Hyopsodus paulus* Leidy, 1870. Regardless of which final species diagnosis is accepted for the Sand Wash Basin *Hyopsodus*, the chronologic range of *Hyopsodus* Leidy, 1870, extends from the Wasatchian (early Eocene) to the Chadronian (late Eocene), so the occurrence of the genus cannot be used to separate Bridgerian, Ui1a, and Ui1b faunas (Gazin, 1968; Archibald, 1998). West and Dawson (1975) reported the occurrence of *Viverravus minutus* Wortman, 1901, from Locality 3, *Viverravus* sp. from Locality 20, and the miacid *Uintacyon vorax* Leidy, 1873, from Locality 4. *Viverravus minutus* is also known from the early Bridgerian (Br1b through Br2) and the genus has a chronologic range of the

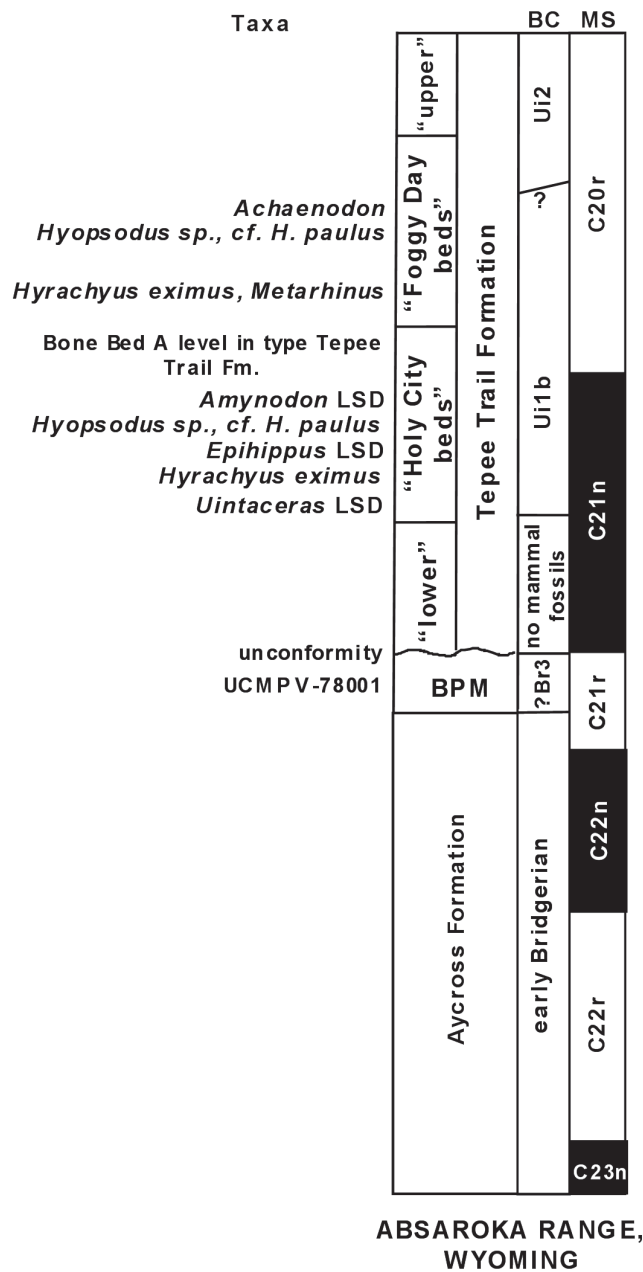
Clarkforkian through the late Uintan, Ui3 (Flynn, 1998). *Uintacyon vorax* is also known from the early Bridgerian Powder Wash Fauna of the Green River Formation and the Black's Fork Member of the Bridger Formation (Br2). *Uintacyon* has a long chronologic range in the western interior, being reported from the Clarkforkian (Ck2) through the Duchesnean (Flynn, 1998).

The above faunal evidence suggests that the fauna from Locality 20 is late Bridgerian in age, and the localities that occur well above Locality 20, or at least part of the fauna from these localities in the Sand Wash Basin, may be Ui1b in age. However, the question arises whether there could be a combination of Ui1a and Ui1b faunas from the Sand Wash Basin. Before assigning the entire or any part of the main Sand Wash fauna from these localities to a biochron or subage, the relative stratigraphic positions of all of the Sand Wash Basin localities are sorely needed along with a detailed account of the systematic paleontology justifying the taxonomic assignments. Without this information, any faunal correlations or interpretations of the magnetostratigraphy of the Sand Wash Basin are highly speculative.

In the Tepee Trail Formation of the Absaroka Range, Wyoming (= East Fork Basin of Flynn, 1986, and Tsukui, 2016), the "Holy City beds" (HCB) yielded a fauna with *Amynodon* (LSD near middle of HCB), *Epihippus*, *Hyrachyus eximus*, *Uintaceras* (LSDs near base of HCB), and *Hyopsodus* sp., cf. *H. paulus* (Eaton, 1985; Walsh, 1996a), indicating that this interval represents a Ui1b fauna (Gunnell et al., 2009). The occurrence of *Achaenodon* at locality UCMP V-78003, *Metarhinus* at locality UCMP V-77022, *Hyrachyus eximus* at locality UCMP V-77022 and *Hyopsodus* sp., cf. *H. paulus* at localities UCMP V-78008 and V-78012, also indicates a Ui1b age for about the lower three-quarters of the "Foggy Day beds." Therefore, the Ui1b faunal interval in the Tepee Trail Formation appears to span from about the middle of Chron C21n to somewhere within Chron C20r (Figure 18). There are no known mammal fossils from the "lower" part of the Tepee Trail Formation (= about lower half of Chron C21n), so its age is undetermined. An unconformity separates the Blue Point Marker bed (BPM) from the overlying "lower" part of the Tepee Trail Formation (Sundell et al., 1984; Eaton, 1985). The BPM has yielded a Bridgerian fauna (?Br3) from Locality UCMP V-78001 (Eaton, 1982; Sundell et al., 1984; Walsh, 1996a). Thus, no Ui1a faunas can be confidently recognized from the Tepee Trail Formation (Figure 18).

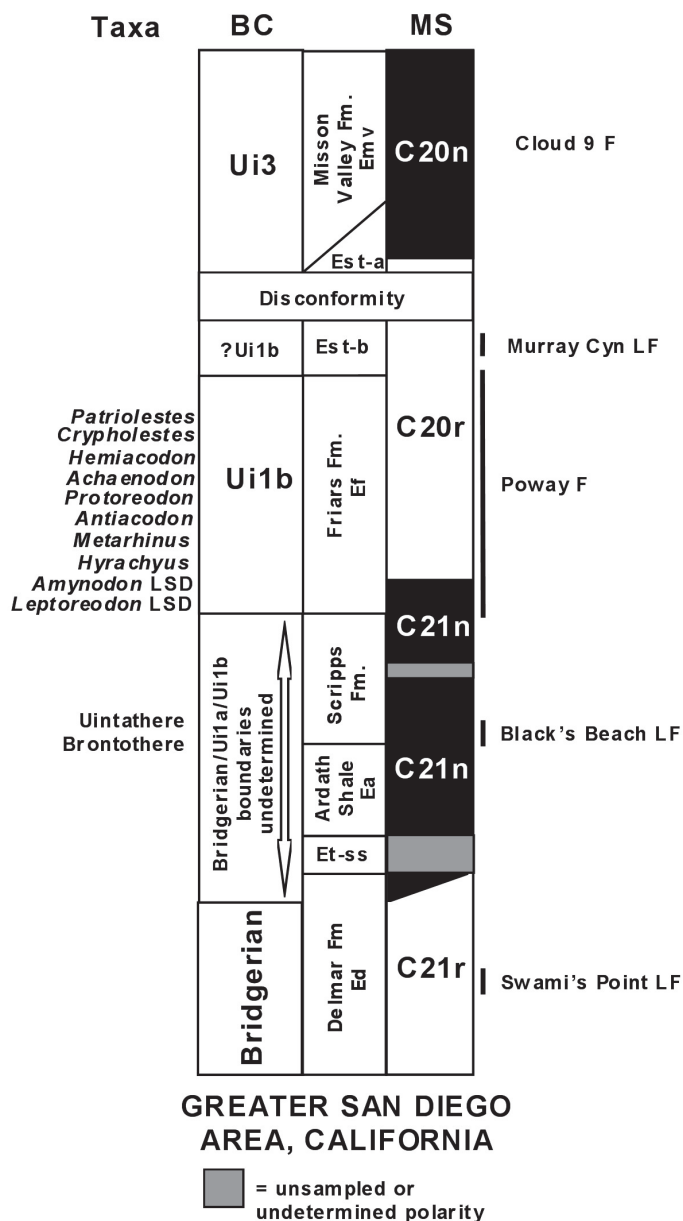
The Poway Fauna from the Friars Formation of the greater San Diego area, California, includes the LSD for *Amynodon* near the base of the formation, and the fauna is regarded as Ui1b based on this fact plus the other taxa in the fauna (Figure 19). The Mesa Drive Local Fauna of member B of the Santiago Formation is Ui1b in age, and the Murray Canyon Local Fauna of the Stadium Conglomerate is probably Ui1b in age (Walsh, 1996b). These faunas span the upper part of Chron C21n through a portion of Chron C20r (Walsh, 1996a, 1996b; Walsh et al., 1996). The Black's Beach Local Fauna consists of an indeterminate uin-tathere and an indeterminate brontothere, which are not age diagnostic and the fauna could represent either a Ui1a or late Bridgerian age. The faunas from the Santiago Formation of San Diego and Orange Counties span the Ui1b through the Duchesnean (Walsh, 1996b; Kelly, 2015; Kelly and Murphey, 2016b). The only confirmed Bridgerian fauna from the greater San Diego area is the Swami's Point Local Fauna (Walsh, 1996a, Miyata and Deméré, 2016) from the Delmar Formation, which occurs in Chron C21r. Thus, no Ui1a faunas can be confidently recognized from the greater San Diego area.

To summarize, Tsukui's (2016) magnetostratigraphy of the Bridger Formation is the most reliable for placement of the Bridgerian/Uintan boundary, which is in the lower part of Chron C21n (Figure 10). The Ui1a TBM Fauna occurs in the lower part of Chron C21n with two  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  dates,  $47.31 \pm 0.06$  Ma and  $46.94 \pm 0.14$  Ma, directly associated with the fauna in the stratotype section. The Ui1a Basal Tertiary Local Fauna of Devil's Graveyard Formation also occurs in Chron C21n (Walton, 1992; Prothero, 1996b). Based on faunal correlations, no Ui1a faunas can be confidently recognized from the Uinta Formation, the Washakie Formation of the main Washakie Basin, the Tepee Trail Formation, and the greater San Diego area. The fauna from Locality 20 in the Washakie Formation of the Sand Wash Basin appears to be late Bridgerian in age. An age assignment for the fauna (or any part of the fauna) from all the other localities that occur stratigraphically much higher in the Washakie Formation of the Sand Wash Basin cannot be determined with confidence until the relative stratigraphic levels of the localities are determined and a detailed account of the systematic paleontology of the fauna is documented. The Ui1b Whistler Squat Quarry (local fauna) of the Devil's Graveyard Formation occurs within the lower part of Chron C20r and is  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$



ABSAROKA RANGE, WYOMING

**FIGURE 18.** Schematic stratigraphic section of Aycross and Tepee Trail formations, Absaroka Range, Wyoming, showing correlation of magnetostratigraphy to biochrons of Bridgerian and Uintan North American Land Mammal ages. Magnetostratigraphic correlation to the GPTS according to Sundell et al. (1984), Walsh et al. (1996a), and Tsukui (2016). Note that no Ui1a faunas from the lower part of the Tepee Trail Formation are recognized due to the lack of mammal fossils (see text for discussion). Abbreviations are: BC, biochron; BPM, Blue Point marker bed; Fm., formation; LSD, lowest stratigraphic datum; MS, magnetostratigraphy; UCMP V-, University of California, Berkeley, Museum of Paleontology vertebrate locality.



**FIGURE 19.** Schematic stratigraphic section of Eocene formations of the Greater San Diego area, southern California, showing correlation of magnetostratigraphy to biochrons of the Uintan North American Land Mammal age. Section modified after Walsh (1996b) and Walsh et al. (1996). Note that no Ui1a faunas are recognized from the greater San Diego area (see text for discussion). Abbreviations are: BC, biochron; Est-a, upper Stadium Conglomerate; Est-b, lower Stadium Conglomerate; Et-ss, Torrey Sandstone; F, fauna; LF, local fauna; MS, magnetostratigraphy.

dated at  $45.04 \pm 0.10$  Ma and  $44.88 \pm 0.04$  Ma for the lower tuff and upper tuff, respectively (Walton, 1992; Prothero, 1996; Campisano et al., 2014). In most other correlated sections, Ui1b faunas appear to occur from somewhere near the middle to the upper part of Chron C21n to somewhere between about the middle to the upper part of Chron C20r. The "Shoshonian" of Flynn (1986) includes Ui1a

and Ui1b faunas as now understood (Gunnell et al., 2009), and investigators need to differentiate these two biochrons based on faunal compositions in order to make accurate faunal correlations. Investigators also need to recognize that biochrons do not necessarily have to be isochronous throughout North America with some possibly being time transgressive (Clemens, 2010; Kelly, 2014).

## Revision of Age Qualifiers for Uintan Biochrons

The North American Land Mammal ages were first established by the Wood Committee (Wood et al., 1941). Subsequently, investigators provided further refinements and subdivisions of the North American Land Mammal ages (e.g., Rensberger, 1971; Fisher and Rensberger, 1972; Lindsay, 1972; Krishtalka et al., 1987; Woodburne, 1987). As noted above, Flynn (1986) proposed the "Shoshonian Subage" of the Uintan for certain older faunas that appeared transitional between typical Bridgerian and Uintan faunas. Krishtalka et al. (1987) divided the Uintan faunally into early and late segments. Woodburne (2004b) and Robinson et al. (2004) recognized two Uintan biochrons, the Ui2 and Ui3, and provisionally recognized a third earliest Uintan biochron, the Ui1, which they questionably equated with the "Shoshonian" of Flynn (1986). Gunnell et al. (2009) proposed the division of Ui1 into two biochrons, the Ui1a and Ui1b, with faunas from the former regarded as earliest Uintan in age. After Robinson et al. (2004) but prior to Gunnell et al. (2009), Ui1, Ui2, and Ui3 faunas were generally referred to as earliest, early and late Uintan faunas, respectively. However, with the recognition that Ui1a faunas are older and faunally distinctive from Ui1b faunas, the problem of what informal age qualifier is used with each biochron needs revision. To clarify the age qualifiers and attempt to avoid future confusion in the literature, we propose the following descriptive age terms for each Uintan biochron: 1) Ui1a as earliest Uintan; 2) Ui1b as early Uintan; 3) Ui2 as medial (or middle) Uintan; and 4) Ui3 as late Uintan.

### Faunal Characterization of Biochrons Ui1a and Ui1b

Many investigators have discussed in detail the concerns and problems of using fossil datum events in defining biochrons and biostratigraphic zones (e.g., Berggren and Van Couvering, 1974; Opdyke et al., 1977; Lindsay et al., 1987; Lindsay and Tedford, 1990; Aubry, 1995; Berggren et al., 1995; Walsh, 1998; Woodburne, 2004a, 2004b). Here we follow Gunnell et al. (2009) and Campisano et al. (2014) in the use of the following temporal and biostratigraphic terms: 1) LRD (lowest range datum) defined as the first appearance (= oldest record) of a taxon among its fossil occurrences in a large geographic region, either by origin or immigration; 2) HRD (highest range datum) defined as the last occurrence (= youngest record) of a taxon among its fossil occurrences in a large geographic region, either by emigration or extinc-

tion; 3) LSD (lowest stratigraphic datum) defined as the lowest stratigraphic occurrence of a taxon within a given section; and 4) HSD (highest stratigraphic datum) defined as the highest stratigraphic occurrence of a taxon within a given section. Lindsay et al. (1987), Walsh (1998), and Woodburne (2004a) recognized that LRD and HRD are not necessarily synchronous with LSD and HSD, respectively. However, if a taxon's LSD or HSD within a given section can be determined by paleomagnetic data and/or radioisotopic dates to be the earliest or latest record of that taxon, then that LSD or HSD becomes equivalent (synchronous) to its LRD or HRD, respectively (Woodburne, 2004a). Some investigators have advocated the use of a single taxon LRD to define the beginning of a mammalian biochron (e.g., Woodburne, 1977, 1987; Flynn, 1986; Walsh, 1996a). Flynn (1986) and Walsh (1996a) used the LRD of *Amyndodon* to define the beginning of the Uintan. However, there can be inherent problems with using a single taxon LRD due to paleoenvironmental, taphonomic, and sampling biases (Lindsay et al., 1987; Walsh, 1998). Nevertheless, *Amyndodon* is a widespread taxon, known from both the western interior, the Gulf Coast and the Pacific Coast of North America, so its LSD within a given section can still be useful if that section has been placed in a temporal context by paleomagnetic data and/or radioisotopic dates. The use of LRDs of multiple taxa to define a biochron or land mammal age boundary can help to alleviate the problem of knowing whether a single taxon's LSD and LRD are actually isochronous over a wide geographical area. Index taxa are also useful in defining a biochron because they are restricted to a single biochron. However, often index taxa are at the species level and are not widespread geographically, but endemic to a particular formation or small geographic area. Even considering these concerns, the most practical method to assign a fauna to a biochron age is to use the LRDs of multiple taxa and the occurrence of index taxa (Robinson et al., 2004; Gunnell et al., 2009; Campisano et al., 2014).

Our proposals for the faunal characterizations of biochrons Ui1a and Ui1b are presented in Tables 4 and 5. Table 4 is a revised version of table 5 of Murphey and Kelly (2017), and Table 5 is a revised version of table 7 of Gunnell et al. (2009).

## CONCLUSIONS

The Turtle Bluff Member of the Bridger Formation exposed on the southwest flank of Cedar Mountain, Uinta County, Wyoming, is the stratotype



**TABLE 4.** Faunal characterization of Ui1a faunas (revised after Murphey and Kelly, 2017, table 5). Taxonomic lists of mammals of Uintan biochron Ui1a from TBM and the basal Tertiary Conglomerate Local Fauna (BTC) of lower member of the Devil's Graveyard Formation, Texas, along with taxa from lower in Bridger Formation (Br2 or Br3) that are hold overs in the TBM and BTC, and taxa that range-through to Ui1b or later. References: Leidy, 1872<sup>1</sup>; Marsh, 1872b<sup>2</sup>; Matthew, 1909<sup>3</sup>; Troxell, 1923b<sup>4</sup>; Wilson, 1937<sup>5</sup>; McKenna and Simpson, 1959<sup>6</sup>; Wood, 1959<sup>7</sup>, 1973<sup>8</sup>; Robinson, 1968<sup>9</sup>; Szalay, 1969<sup>10</sup>, 1976<sup>11</sup>; West, 1974<sup>12</sup>; Gazin, 1976<sup>13</sup>; Krishtalka, 1976<sup>14</sup>; Lillegraven et al., 1981<sup>15</sup>; West and Hutchinson, 1981<sup>16</sup>; Wilson and Schiebout, 1984<sup>17</sup>; West, 1982<sup>18</sup>; Wilson, 1984<sup>19</sup>, 1986<sup>20</sup>; Krishtalka, personal communication in Wilson, 1986<sup>21</sup>; McCarroll et al., 1996a<sup>22</sup>; Walsh, 1996b<sup>23</sup>; Asher et al., 2002<sup>24</sup>; Turnbull, 2002<sup>25</sup>; Williams and Kirk, 2008<sup>26</sup>; Gunnell et al., 2008<sup>27</sup>, 2009<sup>28</sup>; Mhibachler, 2008<sup>29</sup>; Murphey and Dunn, 2009<sup>30</sup>; Campisano et al., 2014<sup>31</sup>; Kelly and Murphey, 2016a<sup>32</sup>; Murphey and Kelly, 2017<sup>33</sup>; this paper<sup>34</sup>. LRD, lowest range datum (= first appearance). Index species, taxa restricted to Ui1a. N, number of taxa.

Designation	N	TBM Taxa	N	BTC Taxa
Index species	5	<i>Hemicodon engardae</i> <sup>30</sup> <i>Nyctitherium gunnelli</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Entomolestes westgatei</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Elymys?</i> <i>emryi</i> <sup>32</sup> <i>Merycobunodon?</i> <i>walshi</i> <sup>33</sup>	0	
Genus LRD	5	<i>Metanoiamys</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Wickia</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Triplopus</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Epihippus</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Merycobunodon</i> <sup>33</sup>	2	<i>Prolapsus</i> <sup>8</sup> <i>Leptoreodon</i> <sup>19</sup>
Species LRD	16	<i>Peradectes californicus</i> <sup>34</sup> <i>Nyctitherium gunnelli</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Entomolestes westgatei</i> <sup>33</sup> Sespedectinae, genus indet. <sup>33</sup> unnamed eulipotyphlan sp. <sup>33</sup> <i>Hemicodon engardae</i> <sup>30</sup> <i>Microparamys</i> sp. <sup>32</sup> new cylindrodont or ailuravine sp. <sup>32</sup> cf. <i>Pareumys</i> sp. <sup>32</sup> sciuravid sp. A <sup>32</sup> <i>Metanoiamys</i> sp. <sup>32</sup> <i>Elymys?</i> <i>emryi</i> <sup>32</sup> <i>Wickia</i> sp., cf. <i>W. brevirhinus</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Triplopus</i> sp., cf. <i>T. obliquidens</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Epihippus</i> sp., cf. <i>E. gracilis</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>Merycobunodon?</i> <i>walshi</i> <sup>33</sup>	4	<i>Prolapsus juntionalis</i> <sup>8</sup> <i>Prolapsus</i> sp. <sup>8</sup> <i>Pareumys boskeyi</i> <sup>8</sup> <i>Leptoreodon pusillus</i> <sup>19</sup>
Species also known from Br2 or Br3	29	<i>Peradectes chesteri</i> <sup>34</sup> <i>Herpetotherium knighti</i> <sup>34</sup> <i>Herpetotherium marsupium</i> <sup>34</sup> <i>Apatemys bellulus</i> <sup>4, 13, 33</sup> <i>Apatemys rodens</i> <sup>4, 33</sup> <i>Uintasorex parvulus</i> <sup>3</sup> <i>Microsypops annectans</i> <sup>10</sup> <i>Notharctus robustior</i> <sup>1, 28, 32</sup>	14	<i>Scenopagus priscus</i> <sup>21</sup> <i>Scenopagus</i> sp. <sup>21</sup> <i>Entomolestes?</i> sp. <sup>21</sup> <i>Centetodon pulcher</i> <sup>21</sup> <i>Nyctitherium velox</i> <sup>21</sup> cf. <i>Pantolestes</i> sp. <sup>21</sup> <i>Microsypops annectans</i> <sup>18</sup> <i>Omomys carteri</i> <sup>18, 25</sup>

TABLE 4 (continued).

	<i>Troglemur myodes</i> <sup>3</sup>		<i>Notharctus tenebrosus</i> <sup>18, 25</sup>
	<i>Omomys carteri</i> <sup>11</sup>		<i>Microparamys minutus</i> <sup>8</sup>
	<i>Washakius insignis</i> <sup>11</sup>		<i>Thisbemys plicatus</i> <sup>8</sup>
	<i>Scenopagus priscus</i> <sup>6</sup>		<i>Thisbemys plicatus</i> <sup>8</sup>
	<i>Scenopagus curticens</i> <sup>3, 6</sup>		<i>Hyopsodus paulus</i> <sup>18</sup>
	<i>Centetodon bemicophagus</i> <sup>15</sup>		<i>Hyrachyus?</i> sp., cf. <i>H. modestus</i> <sup>17</sup>
	<i>Centetodon pulcher</i> <sup>15</sup>		<i>Helohyus</i> sp. <sup>18</sup>
	<i>Nyctitherium velox</i> <sup>9, 14</sup>		<i>Hyrachyus?</i> sp., cf. <i>H. modestus</i> <sup>17</sup>
	<i>Pontifactor bestiola</i> <sup>12</sup>		
	unnamed apternodontid sp. <sup>24</sup>		
	<i>Viverravus gracilis</i> <sup>2, 3</sup>		
	<i>Paramys</i> sp., cf. <i>P. delicatior</i> <sup>16</sup>		
	<i>Microparamys minutus</i> <sup>5</sup>		
	<i>Thisbemys corrugatus</i> <sup>7</sup>		
	<i>Sciuravus nitidus</i> <sup>4</sup>		
	<i>Tillomys senex</i> <sup>4</sup>		
	<i>Tillomys?</i> <i>parvidens</i> <sup>4</sup>		
	<i>Taxymys lucaris</i> <sup>4</sup>		
	<i>Hyopsodus lepidus</i> <sup>33</sup>		
	<i>Uintatherium anceps</i> <sup>33</sup>		
	<i>Homacodon</i> sp., cf. <i>H. vagans</i> <sup>33</sup>		
Species range through to Ui1b or later	<i>Peradectes californicus</i> <sup>34</sup>	11	<i>Microsypops annectans</i> <sup>20</sup>
	<i>Herpetotherium knighti</i> <sup>34</sup>		<i>Omomys carteri</i> <sup>23, 27</sup>
	<i>Herpetotherium marsupium</i> <sup>34</sup>		<i>Ourayia uintensis</i> <sup>18, 28</sup>
	<i>Uintasorex parvulus</i> <sup>28</sup>		<i>Macrotarsius</i> sp. <sup>18, 26</sup>
	<i>Microsypops annectans</i> <sup>31</sup>		<i>Microparamys minutus</i> <sup>31</sup>
	<i>Notharctus robustior</i> <sup>22</sup>		<i>Thisbemys plicatus</i> <sup>8, 28</sup>
	<i>Omomys carteri</i> <sup>23</sup>		<i>Prolapsus junctionalis</i> <sup>8, 28</sup>
	<i>Scenopagus priscus</i> <sup>28</sup>		<i>Pareumys boskeyi</i> <sup>8, 28</sup>
	<i>Scenopagus curticens</i> <sup>28</sup>		<i>Triplopus implicatus</i> <sup>17, 28</sup>
	<i>Tillomys senex</i> <sup>28</sup>		<i>Helohyus</i> sp. <sup>28</sup>
	<i>Uintatherium anceps</i> <sup>25</sup>		<i>Leptoreodon pusillus</i> <sup>19</sup>
	<i>Wickia brevihinus</i> <sup>29</sup>		
	<i>Epihippus gracilis</i> <sup>28</sup>		
	<i>Triplopus obliquidens</i> <sup>28</sup>		

section for the earliest Uintan, biochron Ui1a, of the Uintan North American Land Mammal age (Gunnell et al., 2009). With this third report along with those of Kelly and Murphey (2016a) and Murphey and Kelly (2017), detailed systematic accounts of all known taxa comprising the Ui1a TBM Fauna are now complete, and their stratigraphic distributions

within the TBM are well defined (Figure 20). These studies provide a much greater understanding of the faunal transition between the Bridgerian and Uintan North American Land Mammal ages. The Ui1a TBM Fauna is characterized by the following (Table 4): 1) the occurrence of at least five index species, and probably more; 2) the first appear-

**TABLE 5.** Faunal Characterization of the Ui1b (revised after Gunnell et al., 2009, table 7). Sand Wash Basin taxa records were removed because the relative stratigraphic positions of localities are undetermined and the taxa need to be reevaluated with a detailed systematic analysis, except for the Bridgerian locality 20 of West and Dawson (1975) from below Robin's Blue Egg Marker bed. HRD, highest range datum (= last occurrence). LRD, lowest range datum (= first appearance). Index species, taxa restricted to Ui1b. AT, Adobe Town middle member, Washakie Formation. BB, Blacks Fork Member, Bridger Formation. FS, Friars Formation. FTT, "Foggy Day beds," Tepee Trail Formation. HTT, "Holy City beds," Tepee Trail Formation. TB, Twin Buttes Member, Bridger Formation.

Designation		Taxa
Index species	<i>Achaenodon insolens</i> (AT)	<i>Patriolestes novaceki</i> (F)
	<i>Achaenodon robustus</i> (AT, F, FTT)	<i>Protoreodon</i> sp. nov. Walsh, 1996b (F)
	<i>Aethomylos venustus</i> (F)	<i>Pseudotomas californicus</i> (F)
	<i>Antiacodon venustus</i> (F)	<i>Pseudotomas littoralis</i> (F)
	<i>Apatemys downsi</i> (F)	<i>Sciuravus powayensis</i> (F)
	<i>Centetodon aztecus</i> (F)	<i>Stockia powayensis</i> (F)
	<i>Crypholestes vaughni</i> (F)	<i>Triplopus cubitalis</i> (AT)
	<i>Hesperolemur actius</i> (F)	<i>Washakius woodringi</i> (F)
	<i>Leptoreodon major</i> (F)	<i>Uintaceras</i> sp. (HTT)
	<i>Merycobunodon littoralis</i> (F)	<i>Uintaparamys caryophilus</i> (F)
	<i>Metarhinus pater</i> (F)	<i>Uintasorex montezumicus</i> (F)
	<i>Microsyops kratos</i> (F)	<i>Uriscus californicus</i> (F)
Genus LRD	<i>Achaenodon</i> (AT, F)	<i>Parahyus</i> (F)
	<i>Aethomylos</i> (F)	<i>Protoptychus</i> (AT)
	<i>Amynodon</i> (F, AT)	<i>Protoreodon</i> (F)
	<i>Batodonoides</i> (F)	<i>Protylopus</i> (AT)
	<i>Crypholestes</i> (F)	<i>Oligoryctes</i> (F)
	<i>Eobasileus</i> (AT, F)	<i>Ourayia</i> (F)
	<i>Eomoropus</i> (AT)	<i>Sphenocoelus</i> (AT)
	<i>Hesperolemur</i> (F)	<i>Stockia</i> (F)
	<i>Metarhinus</i> (F, AT)	<i>Tapocyon</i> (F)
	<i>Patriolestes</i> (F)	<i>Uintaceras</i> (AT, HTT)
<i>Poebrodon</i> (AT)	<i>Uriscus</i> (F)	
Genus HRD	<i>Antiacodon</i> (F)	<i>Patriolestes</i> (F)
	<i>Crypholestes</i> (F)	<i>Pauromys</i> (F)
	<i>Helohyus</i> (F)	<i>Parahyus</i> (F)
	<i>Hesperolemur</i> (F)	<i>Stockia</i> (F)
	<i>Merycobunodon</i> (F)	<i>Uintasorex</i> (F)
	<i>Microsyops</i> (F)	<i>Uriscus</i> (F)
	<i>Omomys</i> (F)	<i>Washakius</i> (F)
<i>Palaeictops</i> (F)		
Species LRD and that range through to Ui2 or later	<i>Amynodon reedi</i> (F)	<i>Uintaceras radinskyi</i> (AT)
	<i>Batodonoides powayensis</i> (F)	<i>Ourayia</i> sp. nov. Walsh, 1996b (F)
	<i>Eobasileus cornutus</i> (AT)	<i>Parahyus</i> sp. (F)
	<i>Eomoropus amarorum</i> (AT)	<i>Pareumys grangeri</i> (F)
	<i>Limnocyon potens</i> (AT)	<i>Protoptychus hatcheri</i> (AT)
	<i>Metarhinus fluviatilis</i> (F)	<i>Protylopus petersoni</i> (AT)

TABLE 5 (continued).

Designation	Taxa	
Species also known from Br2 and/or Br3	<i>Apatemys bellus</i> (TB, BB)	<i>Notharctus robustior</i> (TB)
	<i>Centetodon bemicophagus</i> (TB, BB)	<i>Omomys carteri</i> (TB, BB)
	<i>Herpetotherium knighti</i> (TB, BB)	<i>Peradectes chesteri</i> (TB, BB)
	<i>Herpetotherium marsupium</i> (TB, BB)	<i>Scenopagus priscus</i> (TB, BB)
	<i>Microparamys minutus</i> (TB, BB)	<i>Uintatherium anceps</i> (TB)
	<i>Microsyops annectens</i> (TB, BB)	

ances of at least 16 species; 3) the first appearances of at least five genera (the rodent *Metanoiamys*, the brontothere *Wickia*, the hyracodont *Triplopus*, the equid *Ephippus*, and the oromyrid *Merycobunodon*) and 4) the occurrence of 29 Bridgerian (Br2 and/or Br3) hold over taxa. With the exception of *Hemiacodon engardae*, all other Primates from the TBM are Bridgerian hold over taxa, whereas a moderate diversification occurred in the rodents and lipotyphlans from the TBM (Kelly and Murphey, 2016a; Murphey and Kelly, 2017). Of the four marsupials documented here from the TBM, three are also known from the Bridgerian, but one (*Peradectes californicus*), whose previous LRD was in the Ui1b Poway Fauna from the Friars Formation of the greater San Diego area, has a new record for its LRD at Locality SDSNH 5844 in the TBM. Based on our reevaluation and revised characterizations of Ui1a and Ui1b faunas, currently only two Ui1a faunas can be confidently recognized from North America, the TBM Fauna and the Basal Tertiary Local Fauna from the Devil's Graveyard Formation of Texas. Because of the prior confusion in the literature regarding the term "earliest Uintan," we propose that it only be applied to faunas that can be defined faunally as Ui1a in age. We also propose that the informal age qualifiers of early Uintan, medial Uintan, and late Uintan be applied to biochrons Ui1b, Ui2, and Ui3, respectively.

The new  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  dates from the TBM,  $47.31 \pm 0.06$  Ma from the tuffaceous white sandstone and  $46.94 \pm 0.14$  Ma from the Roll the Bones locality (Locality SDSNH 5844), provide precise age constraints for the TBM Fauna and, along with the new paleomagnetic data, further support the

proposal of Tsukui (2016) that the Uintan-Bridgerian boundary occurs in the lower part of Chron C21n of the GPTS.

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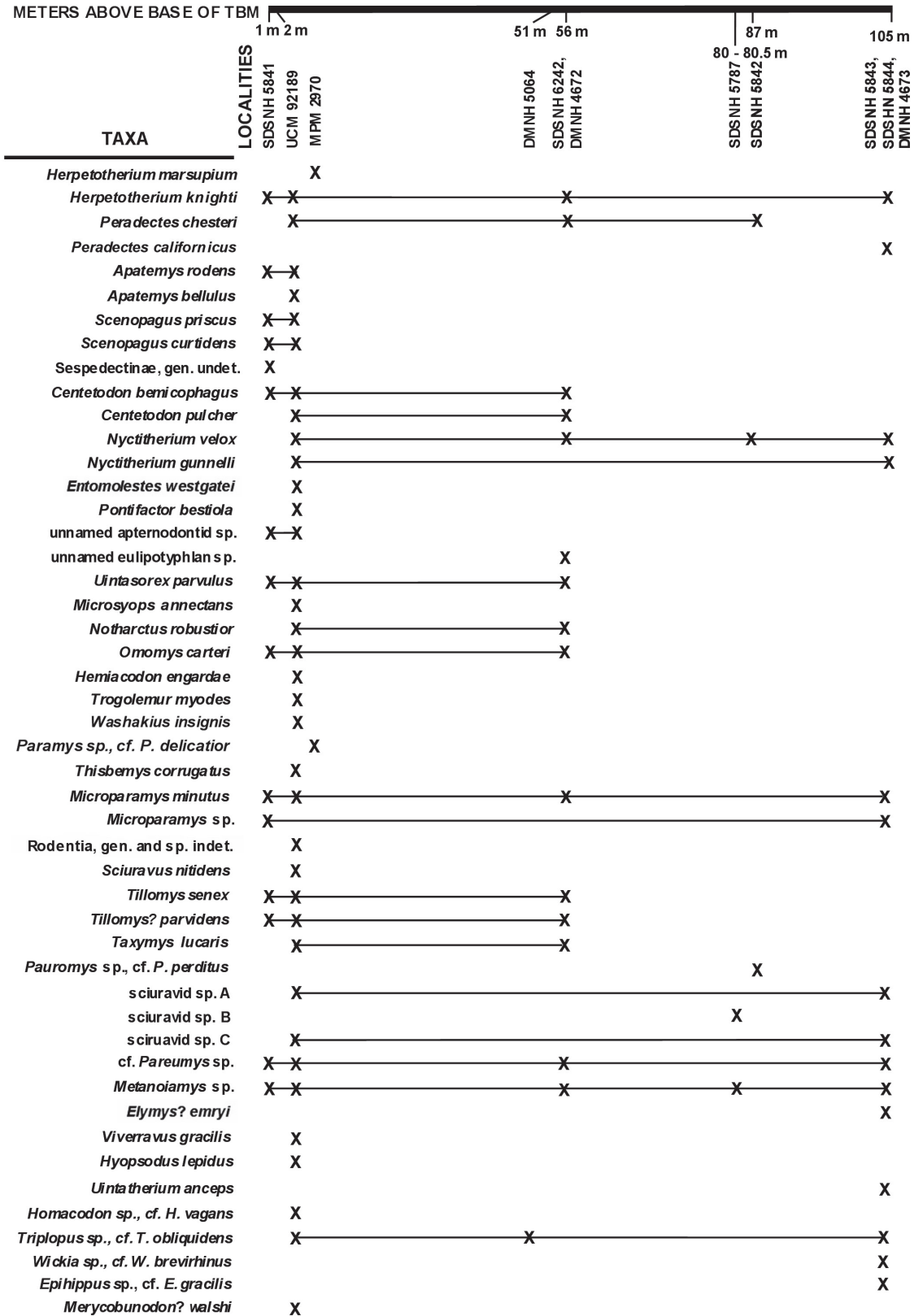


Figure 20. Stratigraphic distributions of mammal taxa comprising the TBM Fauna from the Turtle Bluff Member, Bridger Formation, southeastern Wyoming.



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## APPENDIX

Supplemental data and figures of paleomagnetic analyses of samples PCM6Sept15-02 and PCM6Sept15-03 from base of white tuffaceous sandstone in TBM type section on southwest flank of Cedar Mountain, and PCM7Sept15-01 from uppermost Twin Buttes Member tuff (Bridger D) on west flank of Sage Creek Mountain. Three subsamples (A, B, C) were measured for each sample to check for consistency. (Available as PDF at <https://palaeo-electronica.org/content/2018/2240-tbm-mammals-pmag-geochron>)