

**LA FAUNA LOCAL DE PUNTA PELIGRO, PALEOCENO INFERIOR, DE LA
PROVINCIA DEL CHUBUT, ARGENTINA.**

J.F. Bonaparte, L.M. Van Valen y A. Kramartz

Abstract. The local fauna from Punta Peligro is the oldest known Cenozoic vertebrate fauna from Patagonia, probably coming from the first third of the Paleocene. It is made the type of a new land-mammal age, the Peligran. Most specimens are of three or more species of chelid turtles. Besides isolated fish vertebrae, there are a possible pipid and two species of leptodactylid frogs, one of them unusually large, and an alligatorid and a ?crocodylid. Among the mammals, the hypsodont multituberculate *Sudamerica* and the monotreme *Monotrematum* have previously been described but are reviewed here, with a revised interpretation of monotreme molar origin. A remarkable new ?condylarth, *Peligrotherium*, is referred to a monotypic family. Two new genera of mioclaenid condylarths, *Escribania* and *Raulvaccia*, belong to a new subfamily, Molinodinae, endemic to South America. The stratigraphy of Punta Peligro is discussed, as are several aspects of biogeography. Radiometric and magnetochronologic data related to the "Banco Negro Inferior" are critically reviewed, as is magnetochronologic practice. The maximum body size of mammals increased during the early Paleocene in South America, as it did elsewhere.

EVOLUTIONARY MONOGRAPHS 14

61 pp., 6 plates

\$12.00 to institutions, \$10.00 to individuals (plus \$3 for shipping, worldwide surface).

Order from same address as for EVOLUTIONARY THEORY (see back cover).