

HYRACHYUS: TAPIROID NOT RHINOCEROTOID

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In a recent abstract, Schoch (1982, *Evol. Theory* 6:166), argued that Hyrachyus, a middle Eocene ceratomorph perissodactyl, should be transferred from the Tapiroidea to the Rhinoceroidea. Contrary to Schoch's assertion, Radinsky (1966, *J. Mammal.* 47:631-639) did not assign Hyrachyus to the Tapiroidea on the basis of primitive character states. He specifically noted (p. 632) that Hyrachyus lacked derived features characteristic of rhinocerotoids, and provided figures showing similarities between Hyrachyus and helaetid tapiroids. The shared derived features Schoch lists for Hyrachyus as arguments for allocation to the Rhinoceroidea are either not apparent from inspection of the teeth (e.g., crest-like molar metacones, parastyles slightly reduced), or evolved several times independently in various families of tapiroids (e.g., lingually depressed M<sup>3</sup> metacone, loss of M3 hypoconulid). Abstracts do not allow for figures or adequate presentation of data and arguments, and therefore are inappropriate places for publishing systematic revisions. One hopes that *Evol. Theory* will modify its policy of guaranteed publication of all abstracts to exclude systematic revisions.

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