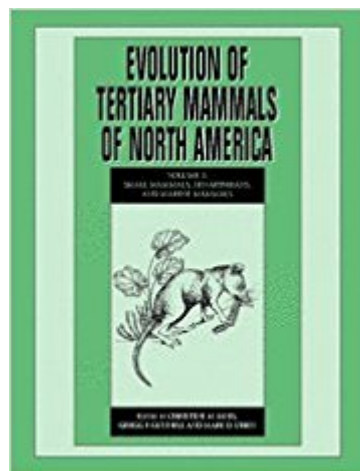




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# Evolution Of Tertiary Mammals Of North America: Volume 2, Small Mammals, Xenarthrans, And Marine Mammals



## Synopsis

This is a hands-on guide for graduate students and young researchers wishing to perfect the practical skills needed for a successful research career. By teaching junior scientists to develop effective research habits, the book helps to make the experience of graduate study a more efficient and rewarding one. The authors have taught a graduate course on the topics covered for many years, and provide a sample curriculum for instructors in graduate schools wanting to teach a similar course. Topics covered include: choosing a research topic, department, and advisor; making workplans; the ethics of research; using scientific literature; perfecting oral and written communication; publishing papers; writing proposals; managing time effectively; and planning a scientific career and applying for jobs in research and industry. The wealth of advice is invaluable to students, junior researchers and mentors in all fields of science, engineering, and the humanities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Volume 1: 'This book is amazing, and an absolute must for anyone with a serious interest in fossil mammals. It will prove invaluable to those who study fossil mammals, trends and events in Tertiary biogeography and extinction, or are simply fascinated by mammalian diversity and ecology. Volume 2 will make coverage complete by bringing together the marine mammals and all those small-bodied taxa that are not ungulates or carnivores, or superficially reminiscent of them.' The Palaeontological Association Newsletter

The breadth and depth of knowledge in Volume 1 of a planned two-volume set is truly impressive. Anyone [similarly] fascinated with fossils, evolution, and

the history of continent-scale ecosystems should find this volume an inspiring and valuable resource.' *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*'The book is richly illustrated, both with classic restorations and skeletal and dental renderings that unite the work of early and present authors. Also, numerous new restorations, often in whimsical poses, of taxa not previously depicted populate pages of the book making it a visual as well as a scientific treat. I look forward to later volumes in the series and anticipate that these books will elevate the standards of our understanding of Tertiary mammals.' *Journal of Mammalogy*'Janis' editorial capacities are to be commended for achieving a large degree of organisational consistency. The editors deserve credit for forcing taxonomic studies to this degree of standardization and these tables will provide prime input data for the study of patterns of faunal evolution.' *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*'... very useful ...' *National d'Histoire Naturelle*'... a truly masterful compilation of North America's non-Pleistocene Cenozoic mammals. ... an essential research tool ... The book is well illustrated throughout with cladograms, diagrams of bones and teeth, and life restorations.' *Geological Magazine*

With over thirty chapters, each written by leading authorities, this second volume completes the survey of mammalian diversity in North America begun in Volume 1. It evaluates the effect of biogeography and climatic change on evolutionary patterns and faunal transitions, and will be a valuable reference for paleontologists and zoologists.

A must have volume to complement Volume I. Although this volume is rather expensive, it is worth the money in terms of the amount of information given, illustrations of skeletal material, and illustrative restorations.

In the editorial review - all stated is very true and extremely useful for any researcher studying the biostratigraphy and evolutionary trends of the mammalian groups within this volume (hopefully volume 2 is coming...someday!). HOWEVER, it is imperative that one double check references, statements, timelines, etc., with collaborating information on the group studied in detail as I have found some errors. Also, please note that each chapter is written by the "specialist" of that group...but not all mammalian paleontologists will agree to their overview. Ahh...the wonders and joys of academia! I am extremely pleased that each chapter on the groups of mammals discussed are organized the same way, thus allowing for consistency and aid in reference localities that may be applicable to several groups of mammals. Another pertinent point to remember is that this type of

study is never stagnant as new information regarding fossil finds in new strata and/or localities can constrict or expand the timelines for particular genera, as I have found with the Oligocene fossils found within the White River Badlands, particularly within the Orellan and Whitneyan "NALMAs." Other researchers focused on particular groups would state the same. Nevertheless, this is an excellent starting point for graduate students and other researchers - a must have reference book. Publication references for each chapter appear thorough, it has an excellent index and a decent locality database for each state. Additional information within this tome is also very useful, particularly background data for the various geological times during the Cenozoic. For me, price is definitely not an issue in regards to the information garnered from this book (in addition to the quality of the paper and binding) and now that a paperback is available, it is definitely more affordable for the poor graduate student. I am sure that this book will be updated in the future as new information is published in reputable journals over the years. Janis, Scott and Jacobs have done an excellent job as editors with the enormous task compiling information from the authors in a timely manner so as to get this volume published. If you are a mammalian paleontologist or one that studies the Cenozoic, this is definitely a book to have in your library. Volume Two is out! It is every bit as good as Volume 1 and covers many of the smaller mammalian taxa that are better used for climatic conditions over time. Nevertheless having both volumes will aid vertebrate paleontologists in finding references, understanding taxon relationships, and immigration/extinction/other events worthy in the field of mammalian paleontology. Again the quality of the book itself (binding, pages) is worth its price...it is a definite plus in my library!

A very useful book for essentially all the genera of mammals in the groups listed in the title. The two things that kept me from giving it 5 stars are; it is VERY overpriced, aside from libraries, few can afford it, also the listings of localities are done a bit awkwardly. Overall a very useful resource.

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