



New material and evaluation of the chronostratigraphic position of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* (Mammalia, Carnivora, Amphicyonidae), a cat-like carnivoran from the latest Eocene of northwestern Nebraska, USA

Grant S. Boardman and Robert M. Hunt, Jr.

ABSTRACT

One of the most enigmatic amphicyonid carnivorans, the cat-like *Daphoenictis tedfordi*, is now known from 12 cranio-dental specimens from North America. The most recently recovered specimen, a partial right hemimandible (UNSM 27015) described herein, adds considerably to our knowledge of this taxon, and in completeness rivals the holotype of the species. *Daphoenictis tedfordi* is distributed from Saskatchewan to Montana, continuing to Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming, with nearly 50% of the specimens coming from northwest Nebraska. The chronostratigraphy and geographic locus of the Nebraska hypodigm is the focus of this report. UNSM 27015 links the fragmentary fossils of the Nebraska hypodigm to the holotype (Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan). Chronologic evidence indicates this species is restricted to the Chadronian (late Eocene) age. Recent astronomical calibration applied to late Eocene-Oligocene tuffs places the species entirely in the middle Chadronian with a single individual found in the late early Chadronian biochron.

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INTRODUCTION

The rare, cat-like genus of amphicyonid carnivoran, *Daphoenictis* (Hunt, 1974), is currently known from 12 specimens of Chadronian (latest Eocene) age, from Saskatchewan, Montana, Wyo-

ning, Colorado, and Nebraska. A single species, *D. tedfordi*, consists primarily of partial lower jaws with dentition and a few isolated teeth but also includes a partial maxilla with P4–M1; a maxilla fragment with P3; and a braincase with preserved auditory region. The dentition is highly derived

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toward hypercarnivory relative to other amphicyonids of the time and is so cat-like that Hough and Alf (1956) initially identified their specimen as a felid (see Appendix).

Here we describe a recently identified and unusually complete hemimandible of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* from the Big Cottonwood Creek Member of the Chadron Formation. At present, the Toadstool Park area in northwest Nebraska is the only known locality with multiple individuals of this small amphicyonid. The collection site for the described specimen lies within a 3 to 4 km² area in Sioux County that has yielded 50% of the known specimens of this genus. The bio- and chronostratigraphy of this area establish the contextual relations of this rare carnivoran.

Abbreviations. **AMNH**, American Museum of Natural History, New York; **F:AM**, Frick Collection, American Museum of Natural History, New York; **NMC**, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa; **RAM**, Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, Claremont, California; **UCMP**, Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley; **UCR**, University of California, Riverside; **UNSM**, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln; **USNM**, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; **P**, upper premolar; **p**, lower premolar; **M**, upper molar; **m**, lower molar; **NALMA**, North American Land Mammal "Age"; **I.f.**, local fauna.

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Class MAMMALIA Linnaeus, 1758
Order CARNIVORA Bowdich, 1821
Family AMPHICYONIDAE Haeckel, 1866
Genus *DAPHOENICTIS* Hunt, 1974
DAPHOENICTIS TEDFORDI Hunt, 1974
(Figure 1)

Referred Specimen. UNSM 27015 (field no. 1523-62) (Figure 1). Partial right hemimandible with canine, root of p1, partial p2, p3–m2, root of m3.

Locality and Stratigraphic Context. Initially reported as approximately 2 miles west of Orella and 1 mile northwest of [UNSM collecting district] Sx-41, T34N, R53W, section 31, Sioux County, Nebraska [see Site of Collection], White River Group, Big Cottonwood Creek Member, Chadron Formation. Found 10 ft above base of an algal limestone in proximity to brontothere and equid remains.

Age. Middle Chadronian NALMA, latest Eocene.

Holotype. NMC 9205, left hemimandible with p2–p4, m2, and damaged m1, Locality 133, Chadronian deposits of the Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan, Canada (Russell, 1972, figure 13A, B; Hunt, 1974, p.1032).

Description. The partial hemimandible preserves the majority of the mandibular body, which contains the canine, roots of the p1 and m3, partial p2, and p3–m2, and a part of the ascending mandibular ramus. The canine is slender and recurved with a fine enamel ridge creating a cutting edge along the distal surface and a weaker ridge at the mesiolingual face. Preserved directly distal to the canine is the broken root of the p1, which was single-rooted. The double-rooted p2 is missing most of the crown, so cusp morphology cannot be described, but the general occlusal outline of this tooth matches that of other specimens described by Hunt (1974). Premolars, p3–p4, are blade-like, narrow teeth with accessory and cingulum cusps producing a leaf-like appearance in both lingual and buccal views. The p3 is taller, but mesiodistally shorter than the p4, opposite of that seen in *Daphoenus* and *Brachyrhynchocyon*. The distal accessory cusp is well developed on the p3 in contrast to other early amphicyonids (*Daphoenus*, *Daphoenodon*). Though not as tall and more robust, the p4 is morphologically similar to the p3, each with a distal accessory cusp, and mesial and distal cingular cusplets. The lower carnassial, m1, is highly diagnostic of the genus. The metaconid of the m1 is extremely reduced and the paraconid is advanced, placed nearly directly mesial to the protoconid. There is a marked notch between paraconid and protoconid. The m1 trigonid is much larger than the diminutive talonid; the talonid is reduced to a single centrally placed, knob-like hypoconid. The m2 is about half the length of the m1. The m2 trigonid is larger than the talonid and is dominated by a rather blunt protoconid, with a highly reduced paraconid. The metaconid is absent. The talonid of the m2 has a single centrally placed cusp, a hypoconid, similar to the m1. The m1 hypoconid, m2 protoconid, and m2 hypoconid form a mesiodistally aligned row of low blunt cusps useful for crushing. The mesiobuccal corner of the m2 is protuberant, as mentioned by Hunt (1974).

Measurements of UNSM 27015 (length x width in mm): canine, 7.2 x 4.8; p2, 7.6 x 3.0; p3, 9.9 x 4.0; p4, 10.4 x 4.5; m1, 15.2 x 7.0; m2, 7.2 x 4.8; p2–m2, length, 48.8.

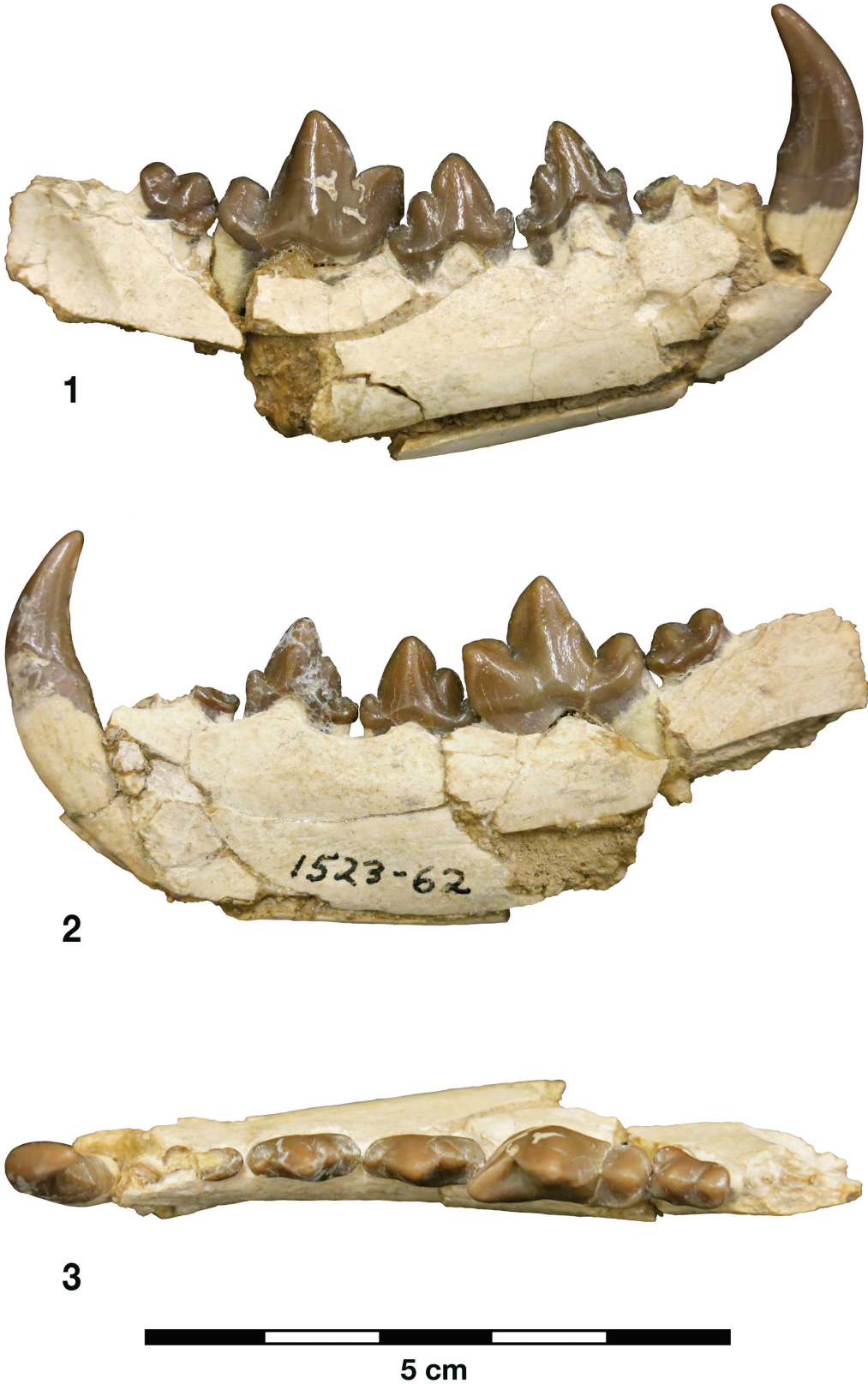


FIGURE 1. Right hemimandible of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* (UNSM 27015) with canine, p3-m2, and broken base of p2 and single-rooted p1, middle Chadronian, Chadron Formation, section 31, T34N, R53W, Orella 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, Sioux Co., Nebraska. **1**, buccal view; **2**, lingual view; **3**, occlusal view.

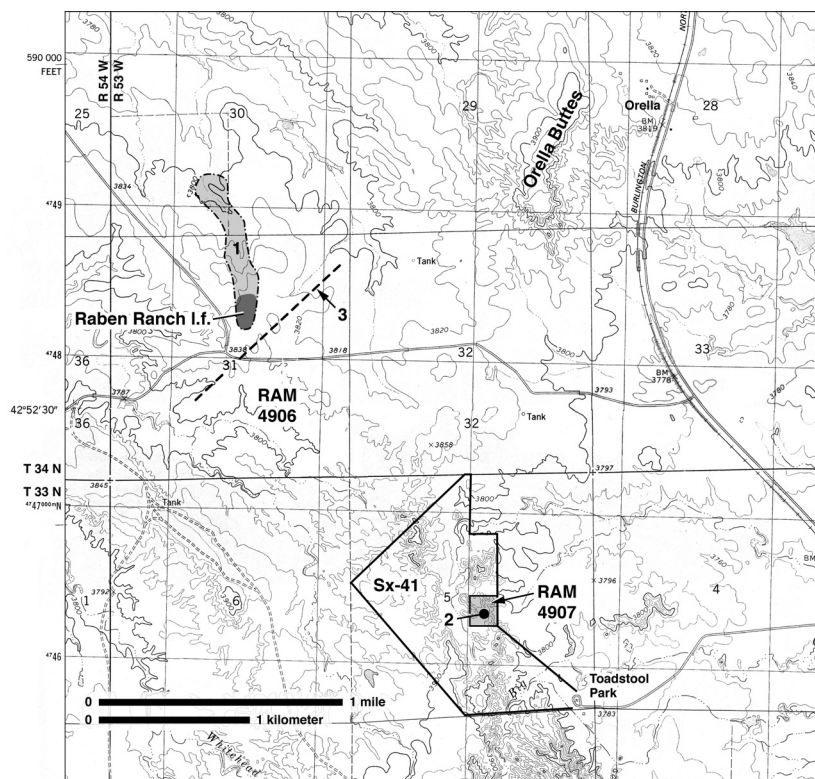


FIGURE 2. Topographic map of the Toadstool Park–Raben Ranch–Orella Buttes area, Sioux County, Nebraska. Chadron Formation outcrops here have yielded most fossils of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* in North America, including UNSM 27015 that closely compares with the Cypress Hills holotype, Saskatchewan. 1, ravine in sec. 31, T34N, R53W, site of the Raben Ranch local fauna and probable collecting locality of UNSM 27015; 2, stratotype of the Big Cottonwood Creek Member of the Chadron Formation (Terry and LaGarry, 1998); 3, approximate limit of the “1 mile northwest of UNSM collecting district Sx-41,” stated in the UNSM locality designation for UNSM 27015 (see Site of Collection); **RAM 4906** and **RAM 4907**, Ray Alf Museum sites where *D. tedfordi* was collected.

RESULTS

Lithostratigraphy

In the mid-twentieth century, investigators divided the Chadron Formation of northwest Nebraska into three sub-units (Schultz and Stout, 1955). “Chadron A” comprised the largely unfossiliferous basal conglomerate and coarse sandstones of the formation. “Chadron B” referred to the overlying, fine-textured, fossiliferous sediments capped by a prominent local chronostratigraphic marker tuff, the “Lower Purplish White” (LPW). Schultz and Stout (1955) reported the maximum thickness of Chadron B as ~35 m (114 ft). Greenish-gray mudstones of “Chadron C” sandwiched between the LPW and the UPW (“Upper Purplish White” tuff) measured 17 to 40 ft, were moderately fossiliferous, and overlain by the Brule Formation. This nomenclature was employed by University of Nebraska field parties in the 1950s. Fossils were typically assigned to the appropriate sub-unit and, if the LPW and/or UPW were locally present, to a

stratigraphic level above or below these white tuffaceous marker beds.

Remarkably, with the exception of the holotype, all known mandibular remains of *Daphoenictis* with intact teeth come from one locale — the Chadron Formation badlands near Toadstool Park in northwest Nebraska. We have determined that all of these fossils come from the Chadron B sub-unit. UNSM 27015, the new hemimandible of this report, provides the critical link between the Nebraska specimens and the holotype of *D. tedfordi* from the Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan. Here we establish the stratigraphic levels of the Toadstool Park *Daphoenictis* specimens, previously not precisely situated, and indicate their probable contemporaneity relative to UNSM 27015.

Two localities near the Toadstool Park campground, northwest of Crawford, Nebraska, produced the initial *Daphoenictis* material collected by Raymond Alf (Webb School, Claremont, California) and his students in 1950 (Figure 2). One site (RAM Locality 4907) was ~0.5 mile (0.8 km) northwest of

the Toadstool Park campground in the NW corner, SE1/4, sec. 5, T33N, R53W (Hough and Alf, 1956). UCMP 311018, a mandibular fragment with canine, p2-4, and an isolated m1 and m2, described by Hough and Alf (1956) as the felid “cf. *Pseudaelurus*” was collected here from Chadron B green claystones. The second site (RAM Locality 4906) was ~1.5 miles (2.4 km) northwest of Toadstool Park in the SE1/4, sec. 31, T34N, R53W. Richard Tedford of the American Museum of Natural History (then at the University of California, Riverside) revisited these sites with Alf in 1964, reviewing the fauna from each and sketching a defining stratigraphic section at the second locality (R.H. Tedford field notes, AMNH, July 20, 1964). Tedford learned that this second site had produced two unusual mandibular fragments, which were not recognized until 1974 as *Daphoenictis* (UCMP 311021, 311022). At RAM Locality 4906, his stratigraphic section (Figure 3) measures 26 m (85 ft) of the formation, divided into ~9 m (30 ft) of Chadron C below the UPW and ~15 m (48 ft) of Chadron B below the LPW. Tedford established that the Hough-Alf fauna here came from a ~5 m (15 ft) interval of Chadron B from ~10 to 15 m (33 to 48 ft) below the LPW. Tedford and Alf determined that the mammals found in place in 1950 at RAM Locs. 4906-4907 mostly came from the B3 unit, a subdivision of Chadron B occurring between the Third and Fourth Purplish White beds of Schultz and Stout (1955, figure 3, section 2), two additional local marker beds.

The lithostratigraphy of the Chadron Formation in the Toadstool Park area was revised by Terry (1998) and Terry and LaGarry (1998). These authors recognized the historic role of the Purplish White beds used as reference levels to stratigraphically assign fossils in the vicinity of Toadstool Park. They replaced Chadron C and the upper part of Chadron B with a more precisely defined lithologic unit, the Big Cottonwood Creek Member of the Chadron Formation. The lower part of Chadron B was assigned to the Peanut Peak Member, a blue-green, smectite-rich mudstone (Terry, 1998). All four principal Purplish White beds were reported to occur within the Big Cottonwood Creek Member. In the Toadstool Park area, the Fourth Purplish White bed is the Chadron B³/B² boundary and caps the Peanut Peak Member (Terry and LaGarry, 1998).

These authors placed the stratotype of the Big Cottonwood Creek Member (Figure 2.2) in the SE1/4, sec. 5, T33N, R53W, approximately 0.2 miles south of where *Daphoenictis* (UCMP 311018) had been collected. The Big Cottonwood Creek

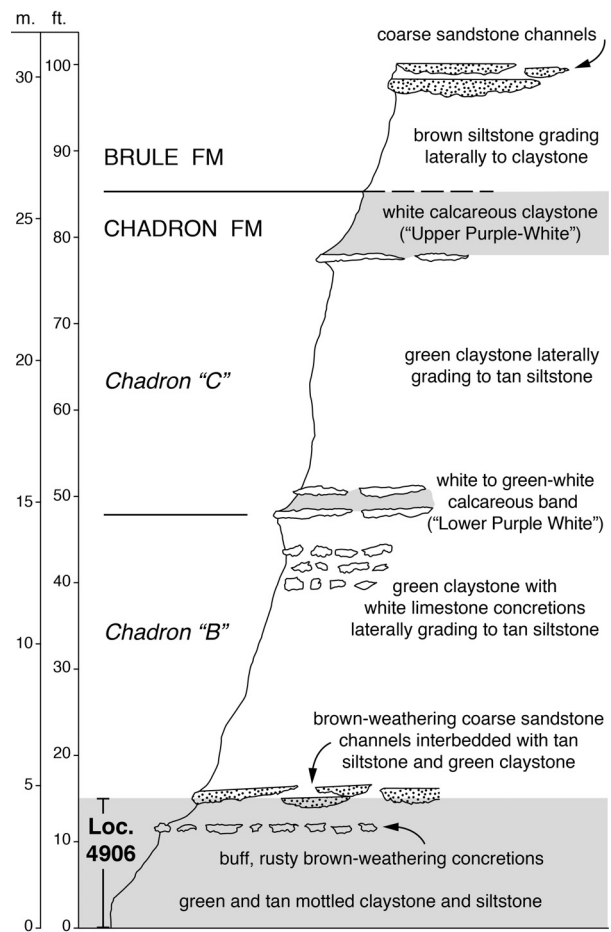


FIGURE 3. Stratigraphic section of the Chadron Formation including RAM Locality 4906, SE1/4, sec. 31, T34N, R53W, Sioux Co., Nebraska, measured by R.H. Tedford in 1964. Note the LPW (Lower Purple-White) and UPW (Upper Purple-White) ashes relative to the faunal horizon.

Member at its stratotype measures ~25 m and the Peanut Peak Member ~5 m for a total thickness of ~30 m (98 ft), whereas Hough and Alf (1956) described a ~24 m (80 ft) section there. Hough and Alf reported that most mammals collected in place were from an interval 9 m (~30 ft) below the LPW, which places them within the Big Cottonwood Creek Member and in Chadron B of Schultz and Stout (1955), mostly in their B³ subunit.

The Toadstool Park stratotype of the Big Cottonwood Creek Member (25 m) compares in thickness to Tedford’s combined Chadron B and C (26 m) measured in the SE1/4 of section 31. The occurrence of *Daphoenictis* (UCMP 311018) ~9 m below the LPW in the SE1/4, section 5, T33N,

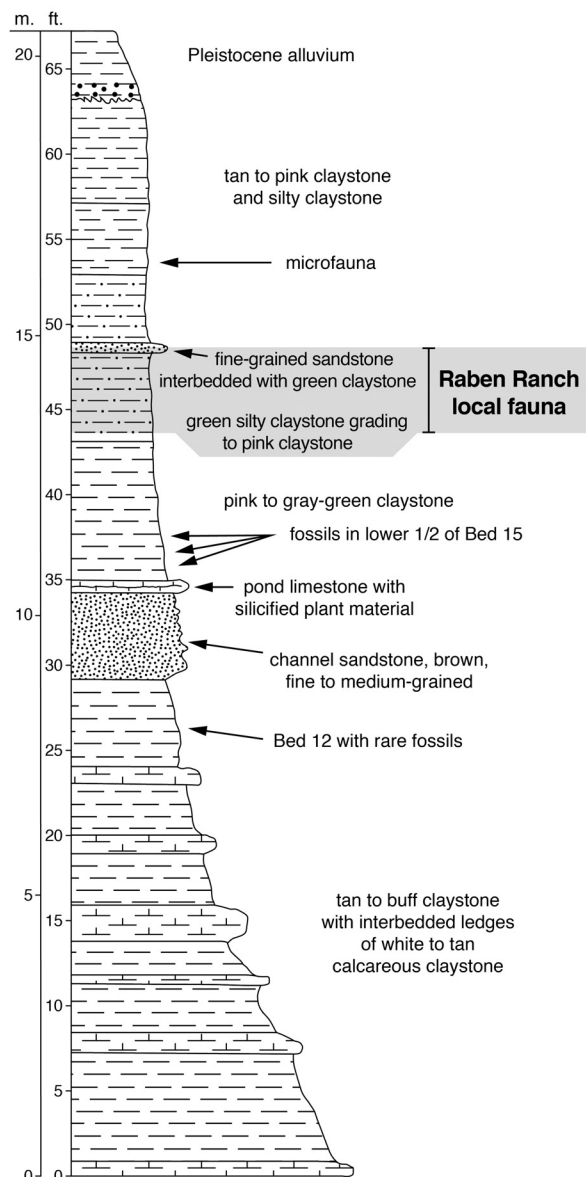


FIGURE 4. Stratigraphic section of the Chadron Formation from Ostrander (1985, fig. 5) in W1/2, NE1/4, sec. 31, T34N, R53W, with the Raben Ranch local fauna and the fossiliferous interval above and below the “pond limestone” that corresponds to the stratigraphic interval that produced the UNSM assemblage with *Daphoenictis*.

R53W is in stratigraphic proximity to the *Daphoenictis* specimens (UCMP 311021, 311022) from 10 to 15 m below the LPW in the SE1/4 of section 31. If the sedimentation rate is similar in the two sections, the fossils appear to share approximately the same stratigraphic level.

Site of Collection of *Daphoenictis* (UNSM 27015)

Records of the University of Nebraska’s Division of Vertebrate Paleontology report UNSM 27015 (field no. 1523-62) was collected in 1962 from the Chadron Formation, “10 feet above the base of an algal limestone,” in sec. 31, T34N, R53W, 1 mile northwest of UNSM collecting district Sx-41 and 2 miles west of Orella, Nebraska. The jaw was initially identified as a hemimandible of ?*Cynodictis*, then thought to be a canid. UNSM field data indicate that it was found with titanotheres and other fossils. However, “approximately 2 miles west of Orella and 1 mile northwest of Sx-41,” are incompatible locations. If “1 mile northwest of Sx-41” is correct, then the collection site cannot be 2 miles west of Orella, which is 2 miles northwest of Sx-41 where there are few Chadron outcrops. Prominent Chadron exposures are developed ~1.8 miles southwest of Orella on the Raben Ranch (Figure 2.1), which is approximately “1 mile northwest of Sx-41” (Figure 2.3) and would place the site of the UNSM collection at or near a ravine in the W1/2, NE1/4, sec. 31, T34N, R53W, the source of the Raben Ranch local fauna (Ostrander, 1983, 1984), a diverse and important Chadronian assemblage. Ostrander (1985, figure 5) published a measured section in which the local fauna occurred in his beds 16 and 17 with additional mammals from the lower part of bed 15 (Figure 4). Prothero (1996, figure 6) later published the magnetostratigraphy of this section.

Of significance is that Ostrander’s (1985) Raben Ranch section includes a “pond limestone” with silicified plant material; the Raben Ranch mammals were found from ~10 ft (3 m) below to ~14 ft (~4 m) above this “pond limestone”. In 1962 the UNSM assemblage with *Daphoenictis* was collected from 8 ft (2.4 m) below to 15 ft (4.5 m) above an “algal limestone” over a remarkably similar stratigraphic interval. This suggests that the UNSM assemblage with *Daphoenictis* (UNSM 27015) was collected from the ravine yielding the Raben Ranch mammals. Terry and LaGarry (1998) placed the Raben Ranch local fauna within the lower half of their Big Cottonwood Creek Member.

We conclude that the following Nebraska localities are approximately contemporaneous and of middle Chadronian age, based on the preceding stratigraphic analysis: 1) northern locality of Hough and Alf (RAM 4906) in the SE1/4 of section 31, T34N, R53W; 2) the southern locality of Hough and Alf (RAM 4907) in proximity to Terry and LaGarry’s (1998, figure 3) stratotype of the Big Cottonwood

Creek Member northwest of Toadstool Park; and 3) the Raben Ranch locality and UNSM assemblage with *Daphoenictis* (UNSM 27015). These localities appear to correlate with the fauna found between Ash B and Ash G at Flagstaff Rim, Wyoming.

DISCUSSION

Geochronology

Ashes B, G, and J at Flagstaff Rim in Wyoming, and the UPW ash in Nebraska are key to calibrating the first and last occurrences of North American *Daphoenictis tedfordi*; Ash G at Flagstaff Rim is less confidently dated relative to Ashes B and J but is reported to approximate the upper limit for the middle Chadronian (Prothero and Emry, 2004). The sanidine standard age (27.84 Ma) derived from the Fish Canyon Tuff used in calculating $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ages for the B and J ashes by Obradovich et al. (1995) has been recalibrated first to 28.02 ± 0.28 (Renne et al., 1998), then to 28.201 ± 0.046 based on recent astronomical calibration of the standard (Kuiper et al., 2008). Ash B or Ash J then may each range in age over as much as ~400,000 years (Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009).

Radioisotopic dating of North American late Eocene-Oligocene tuffs through ID-TIMS U/Pb dating of zircon and SCLF $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating of sanidine relative to astronomical calibration of the geomagnetic polarity time scale at present is a work in progress (Pälike et al., 2006; Kuiper et al., 2008; Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009; Sahy et al., 2013). A sanidine age of 35.41 Ma was reported by Obradovich et al. (1995) for **Ash B**, then recalibrated to 35.64 Ma (Renne et al., 1998), and later astronomically calibrated to 35.87 Ma (Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009). Ash B constrains the upper limit of the late early Chadronian at Flagstaff Rim, with the reference fauna extending to 15 m (50 ft) below the ash (Prothero and Emry, 2004). **Ash G** remains an unresolved age (Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009, figure 1), yet earlier placed in a correlation chart at ~35 Ma by Prothero and Emry (2004, figure 5.2). A sanidine age of 34.36 Ma for **Ash J** was determined by Obradovich et al. (1995), recalibrated to 34.58 Ma (Renne et al., 1998), then astronomically recalibrated to 34.81 Ma (Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009). Significantly, Ash J was correlated by phenocrysts to northwest Nebraska's **UPW ash** by Larsen and Evanoff (1998). All of the calibrations indicate ~1 million years between deposition of Ash B and Ash J. All place this interval within the late Eocene.

Biochronology

Daphoenictis tedfordi is restricted to the Chadronian NALMA. Prothero and Emry (2004) established temporal intervals for the earliest, late early, middle, and late Chadronian. They placed the first occurrence of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* in the late early Chadronian (35.7–36.5 Ma), with the species continuing through the middle Chadronian (34.7–35.7 Ma). Zanazzi et al. (2009) recently discussed the biostratigraphy of Chadronian age deposits at Toadstool Park, employing the stratigraphic occurrence of small leptomerycid artiodactyls relative to White River Group ashes. Their boundary ages separating the early Chadronian–middle Chadronian (35.7 Ma), middle Chadronian–late Chadronian (34.8 Ma), and late Chadronian–Orellan (33.9 Ma) are nearly identical to those of Prothero and Emry (2004). Zanazzi et al. (2009) recognized the Hilgen-Kuiper astronomic calibration that places the mid-late Chadronian boundary at ~34.8, the correlated age of the UPW ash.

First Occurrence. Dry Hole Quarry at Flagstaff Rim, Wyoming, a late early Chadronian locality, yielded the *Daphoenictis tedfordi* maxilla (USNM 214642) that is likely the oldest record of the species (Emry and Hunt, 1980). It was found 24 m (80 ft) above the base of the formation at Flagstaff Rim and 28 m (90 ft) below Ash B. Considering the range of the original and recalibrated ages for Ash B (35.41 to 35.87 Ma, Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009), *D. tedfordi* likely falls within the late early Chadronian and could be as old as ~36 Ma.

The Flagstaff Rim section below Ash B includes archaic taxa (*Hemiposalodon* sp., *Toxotherium hunteri*, *Parictis parvus*, *Pseudoprotoceras semicinctus*, *Yoderimys stewarti*). These are also present in the Calf Creek local fauna, Saskatchewan, the source of the Chadronian *Daphoenictis tedfordi* holotype. However, the maxilla of *D. tedfordi* is probably older than the Calf Creek holotype, given that the leptomerycids *Leptomeryx yoderi* and *L. speciosus* at Dry Hole Quarry register an earlier evolutionary stage than those (*L. speciosus* and *L. mammifer*) at Calf Creek (Heaton and Emry, 1996; Storer, 1996). Overall, the fossil record at Flagstaff Rim records the splitting of an ancestral *Leptomeryx yoderi* (from Low Pocket Quarry) into *L. yoderi* and *L. speciosus* (Dry Hole Quarry), which evolve to *L. speciosus* and *L. mammifer* that characterize the middle Chadronian Ash B to Ash G interval (Heaton and Emry, 1996).

The isolated *Daphoenictis* carnassial (m1) from the Pipestone Springs Main Locality, Montana, is of middle Chadronian age, correlated to

Flagstaff Rim between Ash B and Ash G (Prothero and Emry, 2004).

Last Occurrence. The youngest occurrence of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* is the mandibular fragment (F:AM 25242) collected by M.F. Skinner at Brecht Ranch in northwest Nebraska from a massive pink claystone in the upper Chadron Formation. The specimen came from the same location as Gustafson's (1986) measured section #2 (NW1/4, sec. 9, T32N, R49W), possibly from his bed 5, and collected ~12 feet (3.6 m) below the UPW. Gustafson (1986) indicated that most fossils of the Brecht Ranch local fauna are from the 3 m of section below this ash. He noted that *Daphoenictis* occurred in the fauna with *Hypertragulus calcaratus* and *Leptomeryx evansi*, these two species common in the Orellan, yet generally not considered to extend into the Chadronian. However, at Toadstool Park, *H. calcaratus* and *L. evansi* also occur 2–3 m below the UPW and continue into the Orella Member of the Brule Formation (Zannazi et al., 2009). Although the Chadron Formation records of *H. calcaratus* and *L. evansi* have been regarded as remanié washed down from higher stratigraphic levels, the reports of both species below the UPW at Brecht Ranch and at Toadstool Park merit consideration of their presence in the Chadronian.

Because the Brecht Ranch *Daphoenictis* occurs a few meters below the UPW, its age relies on the correlation established between the UPW at Toadstool and Ash J at Flagstaff Rim (Larsen and Evanoff, 1998). The last occurrence of *D. tedfordi* is then either near the end of the middle Chadronian or within the earlier part of the late Chadronian, given the 34.36 to 34.81 Ma recalibrated age range for Ash J (Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009, figure 1).

Thus, the age of fossils of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* from Nebraska and central Wyoming where the species is most common falls with confidence in the interval from ~34 Ma to ~36 Ma. Taking into consideration the most recent astronomical calibration of the Fish Canyon Tuff sanidine (Hilgen and Kuiper, 2009), the earliest occurrence of *Daphoenictis* occurs in the late early Chadronian with the remainder of the hypodigm confined to the middle Chadronian.

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APPENDIX

Chronologic history of the *Daphoenictis* hypodigm: 1937–1980

In 1950, paleontologist Raymond Alf and students from the Webb School, Claremont, California, explored Chadron Formation badlands northwest of Toadstool Park in the NW corner, SE1/4, sec. 5, T33N, R53W, Sioux County, Nebraska (Figure 2). Among the numerous Chadronian mammals collected was a partial hemimandible with cat-like dentition (UCMP 311018, previously UCR 11018), which at that time was referred to the felid “cf. *Pseudaelurus*” (Hough and Alf, 1956). Also, two mandibular fragments with dentition (UCMP 311021, 311022, previously UCR 11021, 11022), representing this same carnivoran, were collected from Chadron Formation outcrops ~1 mile northwest of the previous locality in the SE1/4, sec. 31, T34N, R53W, but these were neither identified nor described.

A few additional specimens of this enigmatic cat-like species accumulated in Chadronian collections of the Frick Laboratory (AMNH) in the 1950s but failed to attract notice. A mandibular fragment with m2 and damaged m1 (F:AM 25242) was found by M.F. Skinner in 1953 at Brecht Ranch, southwest of Chadron, Nebraska. In 1958, a second mandibular fragment with m1 trigonid and m2-m3 (F:AM 76205) and a posterior cranium were collected in Chadronian White River beds at Flagstaff Rim, in central Wyoming, by Skinner, T. Galusha, R. J. Emry, and C. Elfgren. The cranium and mandibular fragment, found together, were given a common field number (BH28-650) and considered to belong to the same individual.

Identification of this carnivoran came about through publication of a hemimandible with p3-m2 (NMC 9205) recovered in 1937 from Chadronian deposits of the Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan (Russell, 1972). Russell assigned the jaw to the “canid” *Daphoenus*. Importantly, the molars of the Flagstaff

Rim jaw and the teeth of the previously unrecognized jaw fragments from Nebraska were seen to match the intact teeth in Russell’s Cypress Hills jaw, and it was then discovered that the Flagstaff Rim cranium exhibited amphicyonid basicranial features (Hunt, 1974). As a result the fossils were assigned to a new genus and species, *Daphoenictis tedfordi*, and placed in the Amphicyonidae. The Cypress Hill jaw was designated the species holotype.

No upper teeth of this carnivoran were known until, in the early 1970s, a high-altitude outlier of the White River Group in northwest Wyoming produced a Chadronian fauna (McKenna, 1972) that included a partial maxilla with a tall dagger-like P3 (AMNH 56351). This distinctive P3 was later recognized in another maxilla that preserved P3-M1 (USNM 214642) from Chadronian sediments at Flagstaff Rim. Because its upper teeth evidenced the trenchant form suggested by the lower dentition, the maxilla was referred to *Daphoenictis* (Emry and Hunt, 1980). These authors also included in *Daphoenictis* an unrecognized isolated m1 from Chadronian beds at Pipestone Springs (Main Locality), Montana, collected in 1948 (USNM 215031).

The intact hemimandible of *Daphoenictis tedfordi* (UNSM 27015) described in this report was discovered in 1962 near the locations in northwestern Nebraska where Raymond Alf collected the specimens in 1950 later referred to *Daphoenictis*. With the addition of UNSM 27015, the Chadronian badlands of the White River Group northwest of Toadstool Park become the principal geographic area yielding fossils of *Daphoenictis*. This district includes the Chadronian Raben Ranch local fauna preserving one of the few North American occurrences of latest Eocene multituberculates and other relict early Paleogene taxa (Ostrander, 1983, 1984, 1985).