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ON TWO OLIGOCENE HYAENODONTIDAE FROM ERGHILYIN-DZO
(MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC)

Abstract. — The paper gives descriptions of two representatives of the Hyaenodontidae: *Megalopterodon mongoliensis* n. gen., n. sp. and *Hyaenodon eminus* Matthew & Granger from the upper horizons of the Erghilyin-Dzo outcrops (Lower Oligocene) in the Eastern Gobi Desert.

INTRODUCTION

In 1962, some Oligocene mammal remains have been found by the author in Erghilyin-Dzo¹ (eastern part of the Mongolian People's Republic). The material collected represents two lower jaws, belonging to two representatives of the family Hyaenodontidae Leidy. These remains were found in the upper horizon of the outcrops from which only fragmentary bone materials were described thus far. The descriptions of these two carnivores, given here, contribute to the better knowledge of the Palaeogene hyaenodonts, as yet little-investigated in Mongolia.

The present paper has been started in the Biology Department of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in Ulan Bator and concluded in the Palaeozoological Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. I would like to express my warmest thanks to Professor Roman Kozłowski and Professor Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska, Director of the Palaeozoological Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, for their great aid, forbearance and good will, shown to me during my investigation of the bone materials. My gratitude is also due to Dr. A. Sulimski for his assistance in the elaboration of the materials and in editing the present paper. I am also indebted to Miss M. Czarnocka for taking photographs, and to Mr. W. Siciński for helping me to prepare the bone materials described.

¹ Erghilyin-Dzo (Erghil-Ovo, known in the American literature as Ardyn-Obo which is an incorrect transcription).

DESCRIPTIONS

Family **Hyaenodontidae** Leidy, 1869
 Subfamily **Hyaenodontinae** Trouessart, 1885
 Genus *Megalopterodon* n.gen.

Type species: Megalopterodon mongoliensis n. sp.

Derivation of name: Megalopterodon — Gr. *megas* = great, *Pterodon* = the name of the well-known genus of the Hyaenodontinae.

Diagnosis. — Dental formula: $I_2-CP_{1234}M_{123}$. Large, relatively highly specialized genus of the subfamily Hyaenodontinae. Lower jaw long, solid, with a very long and narrow symphysis. I_1 and I_3 lacking. Canine very large and solid. P_2-P_4 distinctly asymmetrical. The P_3 and P_4 crowns strongly cutting in character. The premolar crown length 1.5 times as large as their width. The posterior accessory cusp (talonid?) in premolars very large. P_4 much larger and higher than M_1 . The diastemes clearly distinguishable between premolars. M_1 and M_2 with a small talonid. The para- and protoconid on molars almost equal in size. The metaconid lacking.

Comparisons of the genera *Megalopterodon* n.gen., *Pterodon* De Blainville, *Apterodon* Fischer and *Hyaenodon* Laizer & Parieu are presented in Table 1.

Table 1
 Comparisons of the genera *Megalopterodon* n. gen., *Pterodon* De Blainville,
Apterodon Fisher and *Hyaenodon* Laizer & Parieu

Features	<i>Megalopterodon</i> n. gen.	<i>Pterodon</i> De Blainville (= <i>Hemipsalodon</i> Cope)	<i>Apterodon</i> Fisher (= <i>Dasyurodon</i> Andreae)	<i>Hyaenodon</i> Laizer & Parieu
Lower jaw	long, thick	short, thick	thick	long, thick
Symphysis	very long, narrow	long	relatively long	long
Posterior edge of symphysis	reaches the anterior edge of P_4	reaches the middle of P_2	on the level of posterior edge of P_3	usually on the level of posterior edge of P_3
Mental foramens	two	three	three ?	two
Number of incisors	one (I_2)	two (I_2)	three ? (I_1 I_2 ?)	three (I_1 I_2 I_3)
Protoconid and paraconid on molars	almost equal in size	on M_1 paraconid shorter than protoconid and equal in size	paraconid low, protoconid high, massive	paraconid on M_3 distinctly shorter, sometimes lower than protoconid

Table 1 (continued)

Features	<i>Megalopterodon</i> n. gen.	<i>Pterodon</i> De Blainville (= <i>Hemipsalodon</i> Cope)	<i>Apterodon</i> Fisher (= <i>Dasyurodon</i> Andreae)	<i>Hyaenodon</i> Laizer & Parieu
Talonid on molars	relatively low	relatively large	large (length equal to 1/3 of the tooth length)	on M ₁₋₂ very small, on M ₃ rudimentary, or lacking
Metaconid on molars	lacking	rudimentary	?	lacking

Besides, *Megalopterodon* n.gen. differs from *Apterodon* Fisher in a strongly shown cutting character of the posterior molars, from *Pterodon* De Blainville in the presence of P₁ (in *Pterodon* De Blainville this tooth often disappears altogether), and from *Hyaenodon* Laizer & Parieu in larger and relatively well-developed canines. It also differs from *Propterodon* Martin, 1906 (unmentioned in Table 1, known only from fragmentary remains) in greater dimensions, stronger prognatism and weakly developed talonid on molars. On account of the differences in the available material, our new genus cannot be compared with *Metapterodon* Stromer, 1926, known from the Lower Miocene of Africa.

And finally, due to the scarcity of material, it is still difficult to settle phylogenetic relations between *Megalopterodon* n.gen. and other known genera of the subfamily Hyaenodontinae Trouessart. The reduction of lower incisors is its most important distinguishing character, proving an advanced specialization of this carnivore among the pterodonts of the Old World, while, on the other hand, the presence of P₁ and the cutting character of premolars, testify to its primitiveness.

Megalopterodon mongoliensis n.sp.

(Plate I, fig. 1 a-b)

Holotype: An incomplete lower jaw with well preserved and averagely worn teeth. On this jaw, the left I₂, as well as P₁ and M₃ on both sides, are missing. P₃ slightly damaged. Biology Department of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Cat. No. 21 (Pl. I, fig. 1 a-b).

Derivation of name: Lat. *mongoliensis* — Mongolian.

Finding place: Erghilyin-Dzo, Khetsoo Tsav, 50 km north-west of the Eastern Erghil-Ovo escarpment.

Type horizon and locality: The main bone bearing² horizon of the Erghilyin-Dzo outcrops, probably corresponding to the upper horizons of the Lower Oligocene.

Material. — One lower jaw (cf. holotype).

Diagnosis. — As for the genus.

² According to Roždžestvenskij, 1949.

Description. — The lower jaw solid, low, with convex lower edge. The posterior part of the jaw not preserved. The symphysis long and narrow. The posterior end of the symphysis reaching the level of the anterior edge of P₄. The horizontal ramus of the jaw relatively low, its height and thickness slightly varying antero-posteriorly. The halves of the jaw are firmly coalescent. Two mental foramens are present: anterior below the anterior edge of P₂, posterior below the middle of P₃. Molars elongated and relatively narrow. Diastemes present between premolars. I₁ and I₃ lacking. I₂ chisel-like in shape and oval in cross section. C big and solid, slightly deflected posteriorly, with transverse cross section oval. P₁ lacking but, judging from the alveole, small; P₂ two-rooted, asymmetrical, the length of its anterior half almost two times smaller than the posterior half. The crown height to length ratio 0.66 (see Table 2). Its protoconid slightly deflected posteriorly, its anterior slope steep, the posterior long and inclined towards the horizontal axis of the tooth.

Table 2

Megalopterodon mongoliensis n. sp.

Measurements of the lower jaw and dentition (in mm)

Length of P ₁ —P ₄	93	Length I ₂	8 *	— **
Length of diasteme between P ₁ and C	14	Width I ₂	6	—
Length of diasteme between P ₁ and P ₂	2	Length C	25	24
Length of diasteme between P ₂ and P ₃	5	Width C	18	18
Height below P ₄	41	Length P ₁	12	—
Height between P ₃ and P ₄	48	Width P ₁	9	—
Thickness below P ₄	26	Length P ₂	25	24
Thickness below M ₂	22	Width P ₂	10	10
Length of symphysis	105	Height P ₂	17	16
Width minimum in the symphysis region	41	Length P ₃	25	27
Width in the region of P ₂	49	Width P ₃	15	15
		Height P ₃	20	21.6
		Length P ₄	26	27
		Width P ₄	16	15
		Height P ₄	26	26
		Length M ₁	15.5	14
		Width M ₁	10	11
		Length M ₂	21	21
		Width M ₂	13	12

* Right teeth. ** Left teeth.

P₃ with a high protoconid, slightly inclined internally. The posterior accessory cusp (talonid?) large, with its height exceeding a half of the height of the main cusp. The length of the tooth somewhat smaller than a half of the length of the crown base. The crown height to length ratio 0.8. A small diasteme is developed between P₂ and P₃. P₄ similar to P₃, but much more solid. The protoconid high, the crown height to length ratio amounting to 1.0. A large accessory cusp (talonid?), larger than in P₃, occurs behind the protoconid. M₁ with a strongly worn crown; this tooth is pronouncedly smaller than M₂. M₂ with a sharp para- and protoconid, the latter being somewhat higher. Both of them form an elongated cutting edge. The talonid small. M₃ (carnassial tooth) not preserved on either half of the jaw.

Measurements of the lower jaw and dentition are given in Table 2.

STRATIGRAPHICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PTERODONTS

The pterodonts of the Old World are little-known. It is clear from the list in Table 3 that, in the Palaeogene, pterodonts were considerably spread geographically and, at the same time, they were distinctly differentiated. Their remains are found in the Eocene and Oligocene sediments of Western Europe and North Africa. *Pterodon africanus* Andrews, *P. leptognathus* Osborn, and *P. phiomensis* Osborn, whose remains were found in the Fajum beds together with *Metasinopa fraasi* Osborn and *Hyaenodon brachycephalus* Osborn (Andrews, 1906; Osborn, 1909), are known in the Lower Oligocene of Egypt. *Metapterodon kaizeri* Stromer, also described from Africa (Stromer, 1926) deserve mentioning among the Miocene pterodonts.

Only two representatives of pterodonts have thus far been described from Asia. They are: *Pterodon iridinensis* Matthew & Granger from the Upper Eocene sediments of Irdyn Manha (Matthew & Granger, 1925c) and *P. hyaenoides* Matthew & Granger from the Shara Murun formation in Inner Mongolia, Chinese People's Republic (Matthew & Granger, 1925b). The discovery of the remains of the new representative of pterodonts — *Megalopterodon mongoliensis* n.gen., n.sp. — at Erghilyin-Dzo indicates that the group of these carnivores was in Asia more extensively spread geographically.

Stratigraphical and geographical distribution of pterodonts in the Old and New World is given in Table 3.

Table 3
Stratigraphical and geographical distribution of pterodonts in the Old
and New World

Periods	Horizons	Asia	Western Europe	Africa	North America
MIOCENE	Lower			<i>Mesapterodon kaizeri</i> Stro-mer	
OLIGOCENE	Upper				
	Middle		<i>Apterodon flonheimiensis</i> (Andreae)		
	Lower	<i>Megaloptero- don mongo- liensis</i> n. gen., n. sp.	<i>Pterodon da- syuroides</i> Fil- hol	<i>Pterodon afri- canus</i> And- rews, <i>Pterodon leptognathus</i> Osborn, <i>Pte- rondon phio- mensis</i> Osborn, <i>Apterodon ma- crognathus</i> Andrews	<i>Pterodon grandis</i> Cope
EOCENE	Upper	<i>Pterodon hyaenoides</i> Matthew & Granger, <i>Pterodon irdi- nensis</i> Matthew & Granger, <i>Pterodon</i> sp.			

Genus *Hyaenodon* Laizer & Parieu, 1839
Hyaenodon eminus Matthew & Granger, 1925
(Plate I, fig. 2)

1925a. *Hyaenodon eminus* n.sp.; W. D. Matthew & W. Granger, New creodonts..., p. 1-7, fig. 1-3.

Finding place: Erghilyin-Dzo, Khetsoo Tsav, 50 km north-west of the Eastern Erghil-Ovo escarpment.

Age: Lower Oligocene. The middle bone horizon.

Material. — An incomplete lower jaw with P₃ — M₃. The posterior part with the masseteric fossa, C and P₁ lacking. Biology Department of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Cat. No. 31 (Pl. I, fig. 2).

Description. — The jaw is relatively small, low, thin and with slightly convex lower edge. The symphysis long, its posterior end reaching half-way the P_3 . The anterior mental foramen is situated below P_1 and posterior — 8 mm below P_3 . The masseteric fossa is narrow and deep, reaching, with its anterior edge, the level of the posterior edge of the last molar. The degree of the wear insignificant, indicates that the jaw belongs to an adult but relatively still young individual. The diastemes occur between C and P_1 , P_1 and P_2 , P_2 and P_3 . Premolars are longer than molars. The alveole of P_1 single. The P_2 crown shaped like an inclined cone. The posterior crown slope broken off. The tooth is diagonally embedded in jaw, the crown being slightly anteriorly and the root posteriorly inclined. P_3 somewhat larger than P_2 and situated 2 mm behind it. The crown is a sharp and straight cone in shape. The external surface of the crown is slightly convex and the internal — concave. The tooth is asymmetrical. A fairly large accessory cusp, reaching half-way the height of the main cusp, occurs posteriorly at the base. The entire tooth is high and narrow. P_4 , completely adhering to M_1 , is identical in structure with P_3 but slightly larger. The proto- and paraconid well-developed, the posterior cusp being markedly larger and higher than the anterior one. M_1 with two relatively small cusps on its crown which, in contradistinction to M_2 and M_3 , is somewhat shorter and lower, the latter character being typical of the representatives of *Hyaenodon*. The talonid small, much lower than the P_4 talonid. M_2 with the crown of an identical structure with M_1 . The paraconid smaller and shorter than the protoconid. The posterior edge of the protoconid and the anterior edge of the posterior cusp form together a sharp cutting plane. The talonid is small. M_3 with the crown larger than that in M_2 . The cutting character is much more distinct than in the former tooth. The angle, contained between the proto- and paraconid, is obtuse. A small protuberance is situated at the base of the posterior edge of the tooth.

Measurements of the lower jaw and dentition, as well as the comparisons are given in Table 4.

Table 4

Hyaenodon eminus Matthew & Granger

A. Measurements of the lower jaw and their dentition (in mm)

Length of M_1-M_3	25.0	Thickness below P_3	9.0
Height between P_1 and P_2	12.5	Thickness below P_4	9.0
Height between P_2 and P_3	14.0	Thickness below M_1	7.5
Height between P_3 and P_4	16.0	Thickness between M_2 and M_3	7.0
Height between P_2 and M_3	18.0	Length of P_3-P_4	1.5
		Length of P_1-P_3	6.3

B. Comparisons of specimens

Teeth (in mm)	<i>Hyaenodon eminus</i> Matthew & Granger, 1925		
	No. 31, Biology Dept. of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences	After Matthew & Granger, 1925	
		No. 20362**	No. 20363**
Length C	10.0*	—	—
Width C	8.0*	—	—
Length P ₁	7.0	2.5	—
Width P ₁	5.0	—	—
Width/length ratio	0.71	—	—
Length P ₂	8.5	9.0	—
Width P ₂	3.5	4.5	—
Width/length ratio	0.41	—	—
Length P ₃	10.0	11.0	10.0
Width P ₃	4.5	5.5	5.0
Height P ₃	7.0	—	—
Width/length ratio	0.45	0.5	0.5
Height/length ratio	0.7	—	—
Length P ₄	9.5	12.0	9.5
Width P ₄	5.0	6.0	5.0
Height P ₄	9.0	—	7.0
Width/length ratio	0.52	0.5	0.52
Height/length ratio	0.94	—	—
Length M ₁	6.0	6.0	6.5
Width M ₁	4.0	4.0	4.0
Width/length ratio	0.66	0.66	0.66
Length M ₂	7.5	8.5	7.5
Width M ₂	4.5	5.0	4.0
Width/length ratio	0.6	0.58	0.6
Length M ₃	11.0	11.0	—
Width M ₃	4.5	5.0	—
Width/length ratio	0.41	—	—
Length of diasteme between C and P ₁	1.5	—	—
Length of diasteme between P ₁ and P ₂	2.0	2.0	—
Length of diasteme between P ₂ and P ₃	2.0	1.5	—

* Measured along the alveoles.

**Measurements taken by the author are based on the figures 1 and 2 of Matthew & Granger (1925a).

Comparisons and remarks. — *Hyaenodon eminus* Matthew & Granger was first described on the basis of fragmentary materials from the Ardyn Obo by Matthew & Granger (1925a). According to these American authors' views, this species would be related, in its dimensions and structure of teeth, to the shorter-jawed, European *H. minor* Gerb. The jaw, described in the present paper, does not differ from specimens described by Matthew & Granger but, in the present author's opinion, it should be assigned to the longer-jawed type of hyenodonts.

The Mongolian species *H. eminus* Matthew & Granger differs from *H. aymardi* Filhol, *H. heberti* Filhol, *H. dubius* Filhol, *H. horridus* Leidy and *H. cruentus* Leidy, known from the Oligocene sediments of Western Europe and North Africa (Martin, 1906; Matthew, 1909; Scott & Jepsen, 1936) in its smaller dimensions. The insufficient characteristics of the remains (drawings and measurements unavailable) does not allow one for the comparison of the species described with *H. pervagus* Matthew & Granger from the Khsanda Gol formation, Mongolia (Matthew & Granger, 1924).

REMARKS ON THE HYENODONTS OF MONGOLIA

Within the boundaries of the Mongolian People's Republic there are known in principle three localities of the Oligocene hyenodonts. These are: Erghilyin-Dzo, Tatal Gol and Khsanda Gol. *Hyaenodon eminus* Matthew & Granger and *H. dubius* Filhol were described from the first locality, and *H. aymardi* Filhol, *H. ambiguus* Schlosser, *H. compressus* Filhol and *H. pervagus* Matthew & Granger — from the second and third. In addition to carnivores, the remains of various species of rodents occur in Mongolia in the same beds in large quantities. During the Oligocene epoch, the latter probably constituted a food of the former.

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 DEMBERELIJN DASZZEWEG

 O DWÓCH OLIGOCENSKICH PRZEDSTAWICIELACH HYAENODONTIDAE
 Z ERGILIJN-DZO (MONGOLSKA REPUBLIKA LUDOWA)

Streszczenie

Na terytorium wschodniej części Mongolskiej Republiki Ludowej, w odsłonięciu Ergilijn-Dzo, Checuu Caw (około 50 km na pln.-zachód od wschodniego urwiska Ergil Owo), zostały odkryte w 1962 roku przez autora szczątki oligoceńskich ssaków. W zebranej kolekcji znajdowały się dwie dolne szczęki, należące do dwóch przedstawicieli Hyaenodontidae Leidy. Szczątki te były wydobyte z górnych poziomów odsłonięcia skąd opisano dotychczas tylko fragmentaryczne materiały kostne prymitywnych mięsożernych. Podczas badań stwierdzono, że wymienione szczęki, różniące się między sobą wielkością, należą do dwóch odrębnych rodzajów. Większa z nich została tu opisana jako nowy rodzaj i gatunek *Megalopteronodon mongoliensis* n.gen., n.sp., a druga zaliczona do małego hyenodonta *Hyaenodon eminus* Matthew & Granger. Materiały te przynoszą nowe dane do znajomości mało jeszcze zbadanych paleogeńskich mięsożernych Mongolskiej Republiki Ludowej.

Poniżej podana jest diagnoza nowego przedstawiciela pterodontów.

Megalopterodon n.gen.

Diagnoza. — Formuła zębowa: I_2 — $CP_{1,2,3,4}$ $M_{1,2,3}$. Duży, stosunkowo wysoko wyspecjalizowany rodzaj podrodziny Hyaenodontinae. Dolna szczęka długa, masywna, z bardzo długim i wąskim spojeniem (symphysis). I_1 i I_3 nie występują. Kieł duży, masywny. P_2 — P_4 wyraźnie asymetryczne. P_3 i P_4 z dobrze wyrażonym tnącym charakterem koron. Długość koron przedtrzonowców półtora raza większa od ich szerokości. Tylne pięta (talonid?) przedtrzonowców bardzo duża. P_4 znacznie większy i wyższy od M_1 . Diastemy między przedtrzonowcami wyraźnie widoczne. M_1 i M_2 z niewielkim talonidem. Parakonid i protokonid trzonowców niemal jednakowej wielkości. Metakonid na trzonowcach zupełnie zredukowany. Rodzaj monotypowy: *Megalopterodon mongoliensis* n.sp.

Uwaga. — Najważniejszą cechą nowego rodzaju, odróżniającą go od innych znanych przedstawicieli podrodziny Hyaenodontinae Trouessart jest redukcja dolnych siekaczy i stosunkowo niewielki talonid na trzonowcach. Omawiana cecha charakteryzuje ten rodzaj jako dość wysoko wyspecjalizowanego przedstawiciela wśród pterodontów Starego Świata.

ДЭМБЭРЭЛИЙН ДАШЗЭВЭГ

О ДВУХ ОЛИГОЦЕНОВЫХ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЯХ HYAENODONTIDAE
ИЗ ЭРГИЛИЙН-ДЗО (МОНГОЛЬСКАЯ НАРОДНАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА)

Резюме

На территории восточной части М. Н. Р., в местонахождении Эргилийн-Дзо, Хэцуу Цаб (= Эргиль-Обо), были обнаружены автором в 1962 г. остатки олигоценовых млекопитающих. Среди указанной коллекции находились две нижние челюсти принадлежащие представителям Hyaenodontidae Leidy. Челюсти происходят из верхнего горизонта Эргилийн-Дзо, откуда остатки примитивных хищников были известны исключительно по фрагментарным материалам.

В настоящей статье приводится описание *Megalopterodon mongoliensis* n. gen., n. sp. и *Hyaenodon eminus* Matthew & Granger, дополняющее наши сведения о еще малоизвестных палеогеновых хищниках Монгольской Народной Республики.

Ниже приводится диагноз нового представителя птеродонтов.

Megalopterodon n. gen.

Диагноз. — Зубная формула: I_2 — $CP_{1,2,3,4}$ $M_{1,2,3}$. Нижняя челюсть длинная, массивная, с очень длинным и узким симфизом. I_1 и I_3 отсутствуют. С очень крупный, массивный. P_2 и P_3 резко асимметричны. Задний выступ у основания коронки переднекоренных зубов очень большой. Длина коронки пе-

реднекоренных зубов более чем в полтора раза превосходит ее ширину. У P_3 и P_4 хорошо выраженный режущий характер. P_4 значительно выше чем M_1 . Диастемы имеются между премолярами. Параконид и протоконид почти одинаковой величины на M_1 и M_2 . Метаконид отсутствует на коренных зубах. M_1 и M_2 с небольшим талонидом. Крупный и сравнительно высоко специализированный род подсемейства. Род монотипный: *Megalopterodon mongoliensis* n. sp. Измерение и сравнение — в английском тексте (см. стр. 266).

Замечание. — Необходимо отметить, что один из наиболее важных отличительных признаков нового рода от всех известных родов подсемейства *Hyaenodontinae* Trouessart — это отсутствие резцов I_1 и I_2 нижней челюсти и сравнительно небольшой талонид на коренных зубах.

PLATES

Plate I

- Fig. 1. *Megalopterodon mongoliensis* n.gen., n.sp. Holotype (specimen No. 26); Erghilyin-Dzo, Lower Oligocene. *a* lower jaw, tooth-row view, *b* same specimen (right half of jaw), labial view.
- Fig. 2. *Hyaenodon minus* Matthew & Granger (specimen No. 31); Erghilyin-Dzo, Lower Oligocene. Left half of jaw, labial view.

