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Multispecies leatherback turtle assemblage from the Oligocene Chandler Bridge and Ashley formations of South Carolina, USA

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Paleogene dermochelyid species richness far exceeded that of today. Leatherback sea turtles were most species rich in the Paleogene, but their richness declined sharply during the Neogene with only one species existing today, *Dermochelys coriacea*. We describe the fossil remains of three leatherback genera (*Natemys, Psephophorus,* and *Egyptemys*) from the upper Oligocene Chandler Bridge Formation and two (*Natemys* and *Psephophorus*) from the lower Oligocene Ashley Formation of South Carolina, USA. The fossils consist of isolated and some associated carapacial ossicles. Several ossicles are referred to *Natemys* sp. because their scalloped edges are indicative of the carapacial sunflower pattern specific to this genus. Additionally, two *Natemys* morphotypes (*Natemys* sp. 1 and 2) are distinguished based on differences in ossicle thickness and internal structure. We refer two ossicles to cf. *Psephophorus* because of their internal diploic structure and because one has a dorsal radial pattern while the other has a prominent ridge that exhibits strong visceral concavity. Finally, we refer one ossicle to cf. *Egyptemys* because it has a shallow keel that shows little expression on the visceral surface, although we also acknowledge the ossicle's similarity to some ridged ossicles of the genus *Psephophorus*. These ossicles represent the first multispecies assemblage of leatherback fossils reported worldwide. Furthermore, the specimens fill both temporal and geographic gaps for extinct leatherback genera and represent the first formally described dermochelyids from South Carolina and the Oligocene of the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

Key words: Chelonioidea, *Natemys, Egyptemys, Psephophorus,* Paleogene, Oligocene, North America.

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