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Exceptional preservation of tracheal rings in a glyptodont mammal from the Late Pleistocene of Argentina

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Exceptionally well-preserved material from a fossil mammal is presented. For the first time, several fragments of tracheal rings and cricoid cartilage assigned to *Panochthus* sp. (Xenarthra; Glyptodontidae) from the Late Pleistocene of Argentina are described in detail and figured. In this contribution, in addition to a meticulous description, a tracheal ring was reconstructed and compared to tracheal rings of domestic and wild mammals. As a result, among domestic mammals it is similar to those of *Sus scrofa domestica* (domestic pig), and among wild mammals to those of *Zalophus californianus* (California sea lion). Tracheal rings of fossil vertebrates have been recognized in birds (Cariamiformes and Anseriformes) and other dinosaurs (Theropoda). This is likely the first report of tracheal rings in a fossil mammal; future comparisons with extant xenarthrans could provide information on the paleobiological implications of this structure in glyptodonts, and allow making inferences about other fossil mammals.

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