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INTRODUCTION

We present here the 3D digital models of seven isolated teeth or fragments of teeth (Fig. 1; Table 1) documenting a fossil representative of Cebinae: Neosaimiri cf. fieldsi, a small-sized squirrel monkey-like primate (Cebidae, Platyrhini). The fossils were recently discovered in Peruvian Amazonia (TAR-31, Tarapoto/Juan Guerra locus n°31, San Martin Department, Peru) from fluvial deposits documenting the lower member of the Ipu-ruro Formation (Sánchez Hernández et al., 1997; Hermoza et al., 2005). Biochronological evidence based on the TAR-31 mammal assemblage allows dating this new primate-bearing locality to the late Middle Miocene (ca. 13.1-12.6 Ma; i.e., Laventan South American Land Mammal Age [SALMA]; Marivaux et al., 2020). The dental specimens were recovered after wet-screening of about 550 kg of sediment at TAR-31 (August 2017 and 2018). Only three of the seven dental specimens attributed to this taxon are complete and well preserved. They consist of a third lower molar (m3; Fig. 1A), a deciduous second lower premolar (dp2; Fig. 1B), and a deciduous upper canine (DC1; Fig. 1C). The other fossil teeth are broken and the fragments document either halves or quarters of premolars (Fig. 1D-E) and molars (Fig. 1F-G). Although limited, this new fossil material of Neosaimiri is critical because this taxon was so far only documented in the well-known La Venta locality, Colombia (Laventan SALMA, late Middle Miocene), with the species N. fieldsi Stirton, 1951. The La Venta fauna is famous for having yielded a wide array of crown platyrrhines. The occurrence of N. cf. fieldsi in coeval deposits of Peruvian Amazonia thus represents a second and southernmost record of that low-latitude genus in the Neotropics, thereby demonstrating its wide distribution along the northwestern edge of the Pebas Mega-Wetland System, in tropical western South America (Marivaux et al., 2020).

METHODS

Each specimen was scanned with a resolution of 6 µm using a X-ray µCT EasyTom 150 / Rx Solutions (Montpellier Ressources Imagerie, ISE-M, Montpellier, France). AVIZO 7.1 (Visualization Sciences Group) software was used for visualization, segmentation, and 3D rendering. The isolated teeth and fragment of teeth were prepared within a “labelfield” module of AVIZO, using the segmentation threshold selection tool. The 3D models are provided in .ply format, and thus can be opened with a wide range of freeware. The .ply files were generated with MorphoDig 1.5.3., an open-source 3D freeware (Lebrun,
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The 3D data presented in this work were produced through the technical facilities of the Montpellier RIO Imaging (MRI) platform (ISE-M, Université de Montpellier) and of the LabEx CeMEB. We particularly thank R. Lebrun and A.-L. Charruault (ISE-M, Université de Montpellier) for micro-CT scan acquisitions, treatments, and reconstructions. The paleontological fieldwork (August 2017-2018) and laboratory analyses were financially supported by The Leakey Foundation (L. Marivaux) and the National Geographic Society (P.-O. Antoine). This work also benefited from an “Investissements d’Avenir” grant managed by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche, France (CEBA, ANR-10-LABX-25-01). ISE-M publication n° 2020-131 Sud.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Figure 1. Fossil dental specimens of *Neosaimiri cf. fieldsi* from the late Middle Miocene (Laventan SALMA) of Tarapoto/Juan Guerra locus n°31 (TAR-31), San Martín Department, Peruvian Amazonia. A) MUSM-3888, right m3; B) MUSM-3890, left dp2; C) MUSM-3895, right DC1; D) MUSM-3893, buccal part of a fragmentary right P3 or P4; E) MUSM-3894, lingual part of a fragmentary left P3 or P4 (reversed); F) MUSM-3891, lingual part of a fragmentary right M1 or M2; G) MUSM-3892, distobuccal part of a fragmentary right upper molar (metacone region). Teeth from A to G are in occlusal views. Scale bar = 1 mm.