



Lecture 5:

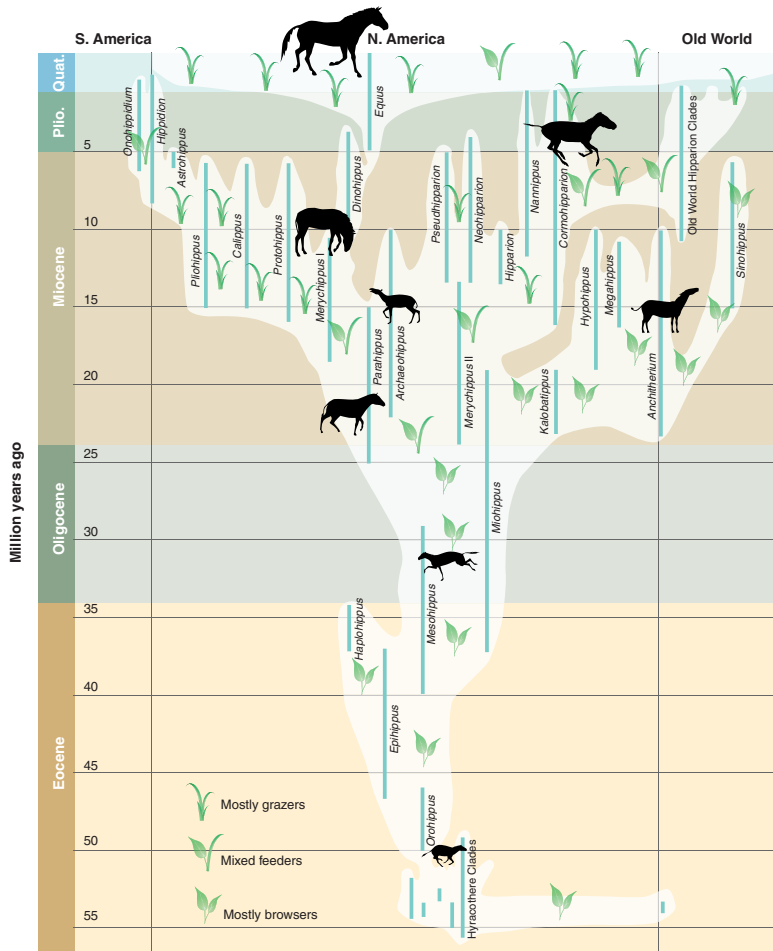
Evidence of evolution:
The fossils in and within

Course 410
Molecular Evolution



Evidence of evolution

2. Changes of species over time

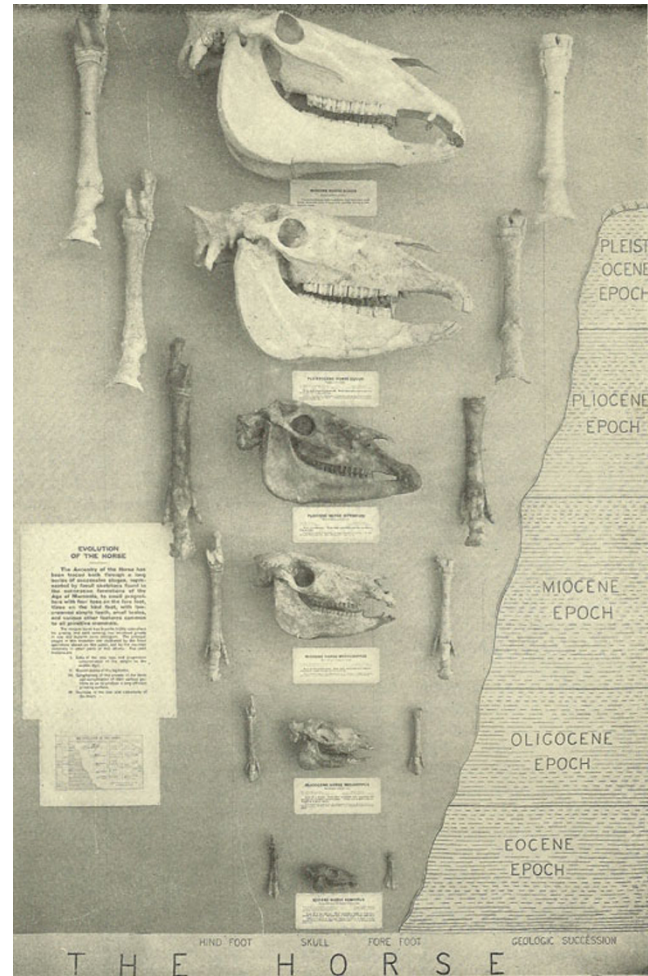


Fossil Horses— Evidence for Evolution

Bruce J. MacFadden

Fossil Horses, Orthogenesis, and Communicating Evolution in Museums

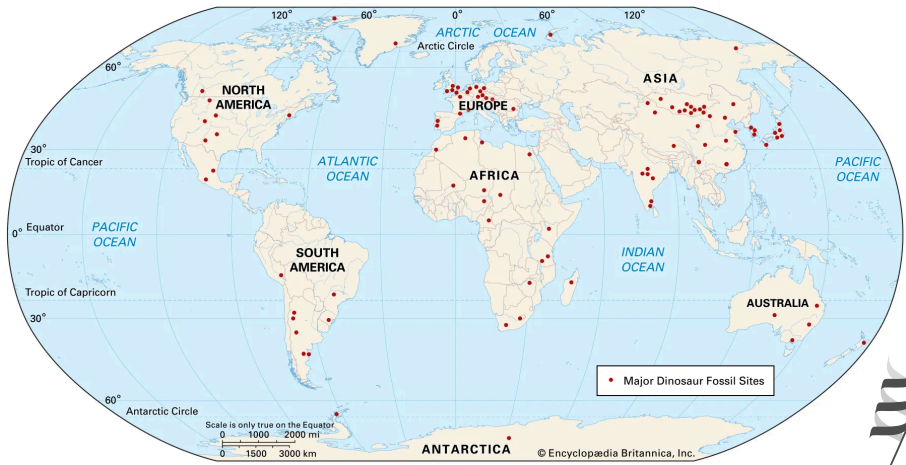
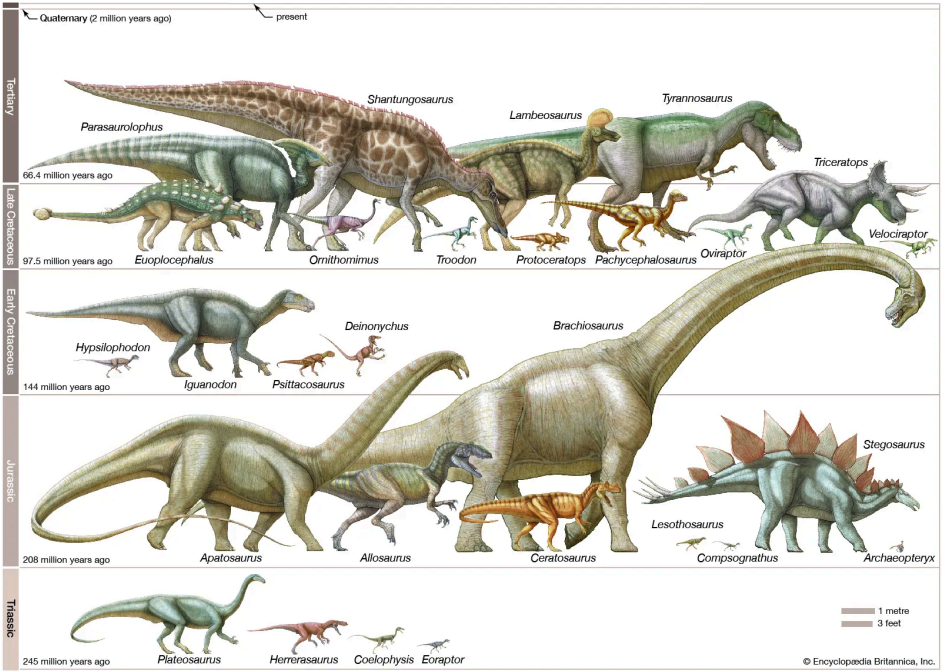
Bruce J. MacFadden • Luz Helena Oviedo •
Grace M. Seymour • Shari Ellis



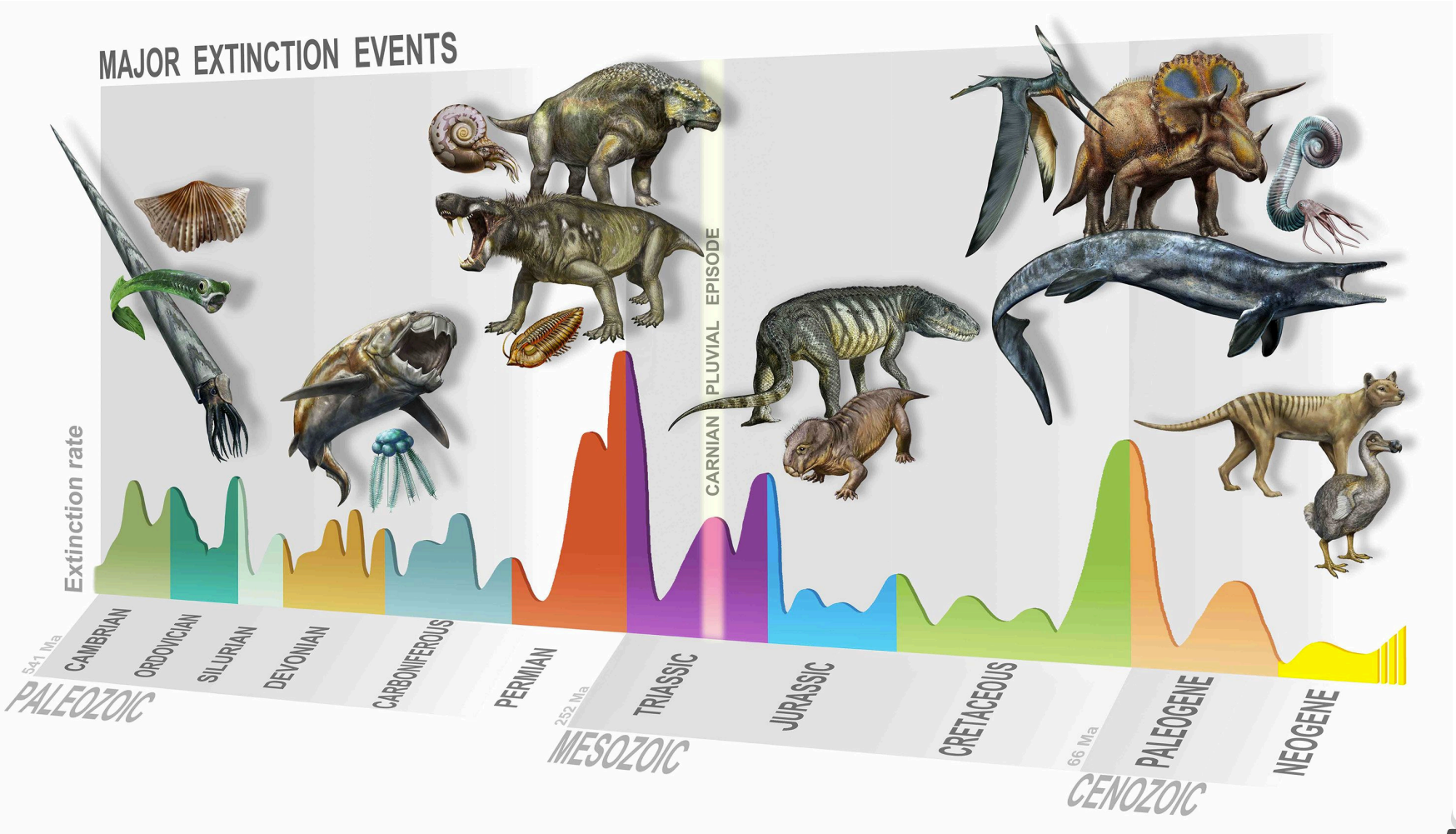


Evidence of evolution
3. Fossil record

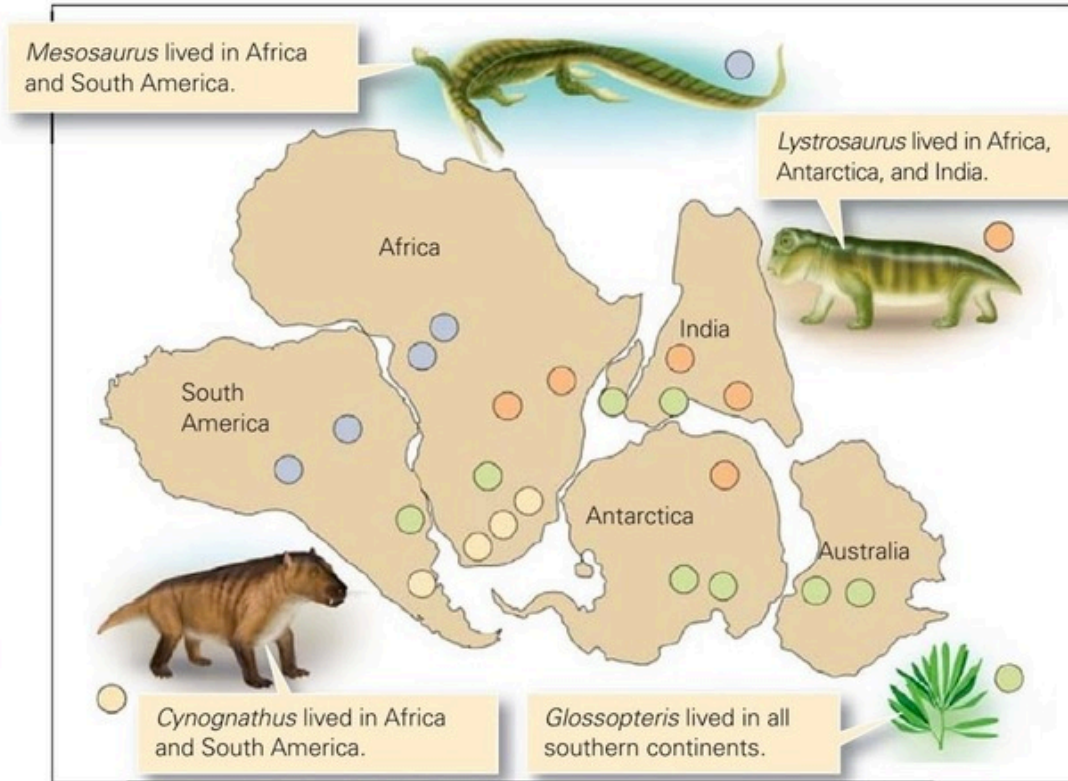
Organisms of the past



Extinction



Continental drift & species



Law of succession

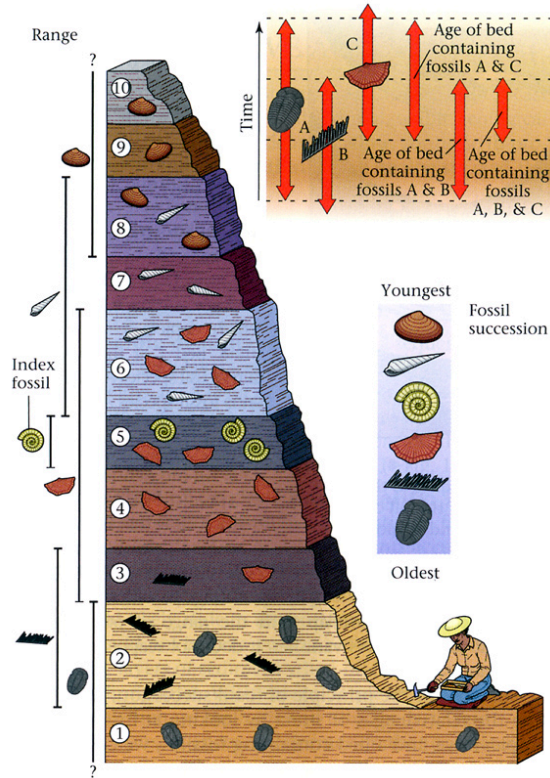
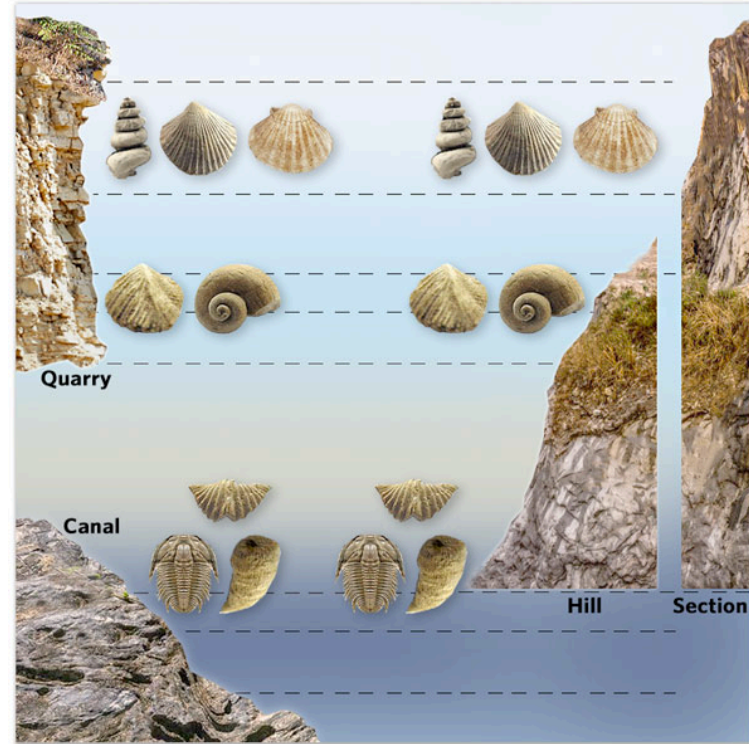


FIGURE 12.7 The principle of fossil succession. Note that each species has only a limited range in a succession of strata, and ranges of different fossils may overlap. Widespread fossils with a short range are index fossils. The inset illustrates how overlapping fossil ranges can be used to limit the age range of a given bed.



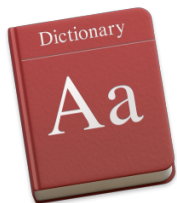
suc·ces·sion | sək'seSH(ə)n |

noun

- 1 a number of people or things sharing a specified characteristic and following one after the other: *she had been secretary to a succession of board directors.*
 - *Geology* a group of strata representing a single chronological sequence: *the Cretaceous succession.*

- 2 the action or process of inheriting a title, office, property, etc.: *the new king was already elderly at the time of his succession.*

- the right or sequence of inheriting a position, title, etc.: *the **succession** to the Crown was disputed.*
- *Ecology* the process by which a plant or animal community successively gives way to another until a stable climax is reached. Compare with [sere](#)².



Tracking Marsupial Evolution Using Archaic Genomic Retroposon Insertions

Maria A. Nilsson*, Gennady Churakov, Mirjam Sommer, Ngoc Van Tran, Anja Zemann, Jürgen Brosius, Jürgen Schmitz*

Institute of Experimental Pathology (ZMBE), University of Münster, Münster, Germany

Marsupials

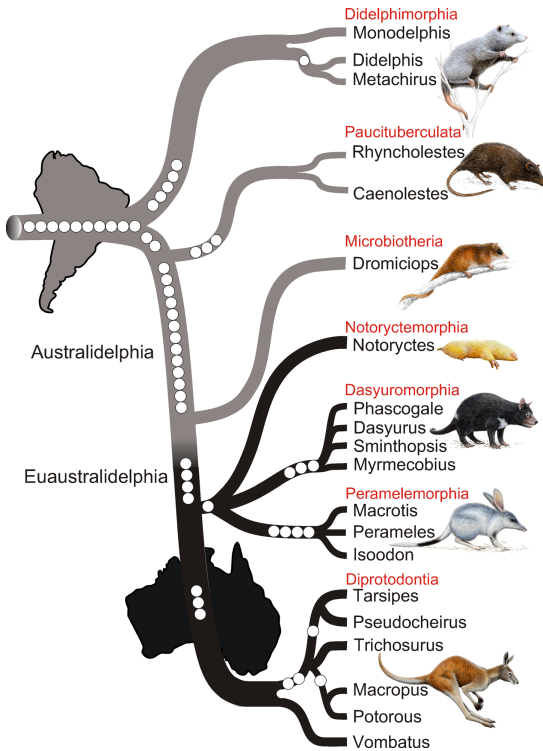
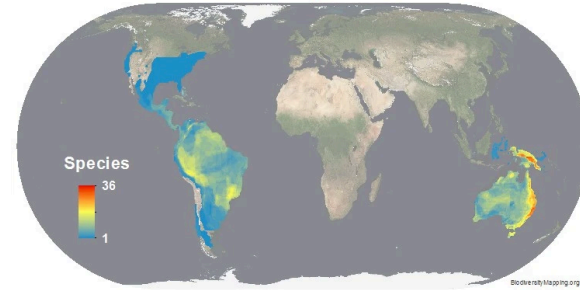


Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of marsupials derived from retroposon data. The tree topology is based on a presence/absence retroposon matrix (Table 1) implemented in a heuristic parsimony analysis (Figure S3). The names of the seven marsupial orders are shown in red, and the icons are representative of each of the orders: Didelphimorphia, Virginia opossum; Paucituberculata, shrew opossum; Microbiotheria, monito del monte; Notoryctemorphia, marsupial mole; Dasyuromorphia, Tasmanian devil; Peramelemorphia, bilby; Diprotodontia, kangaroo. Phylogenetically informative retroposon insertions are shown as circles. Gray lines denote South American species distribution, and black lines Australasian marsupials. The cohort Australidelphia is indicated as well as the new name proposed for the four "true" Australasian orders (Eaustralidelphia). doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000436.g002

Marsupials: origin and current diversity

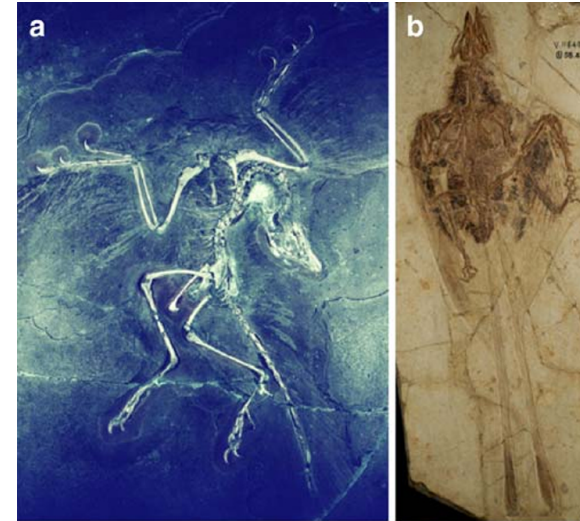
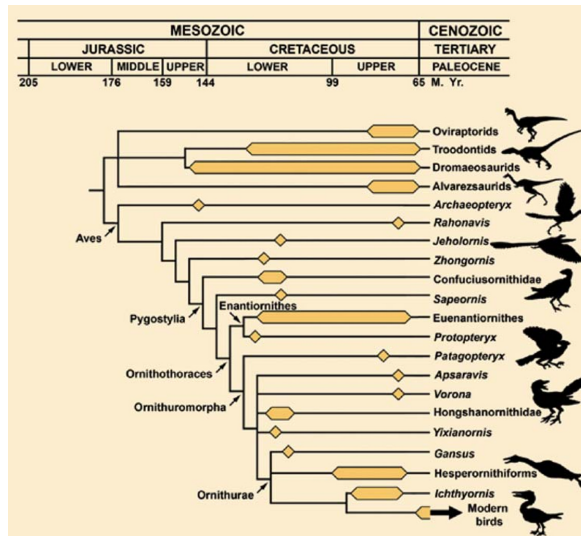
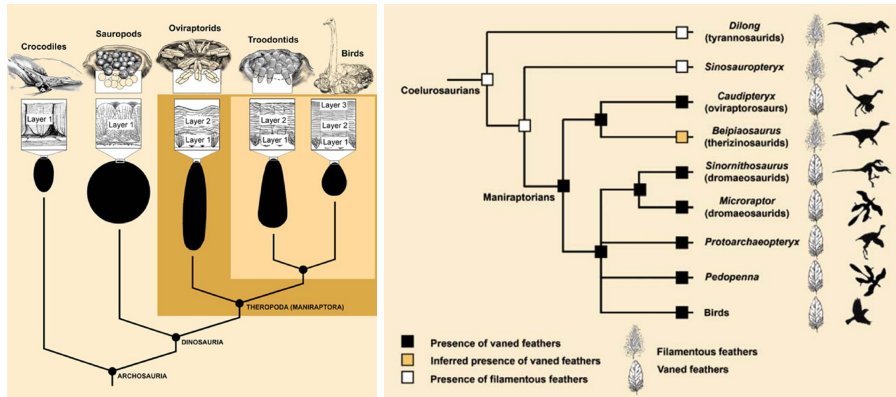
Transitional forms

Evo Edu Outreach (2009) 2:248–256
 DOI 10.1007/s12052-009-0133-4

ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE

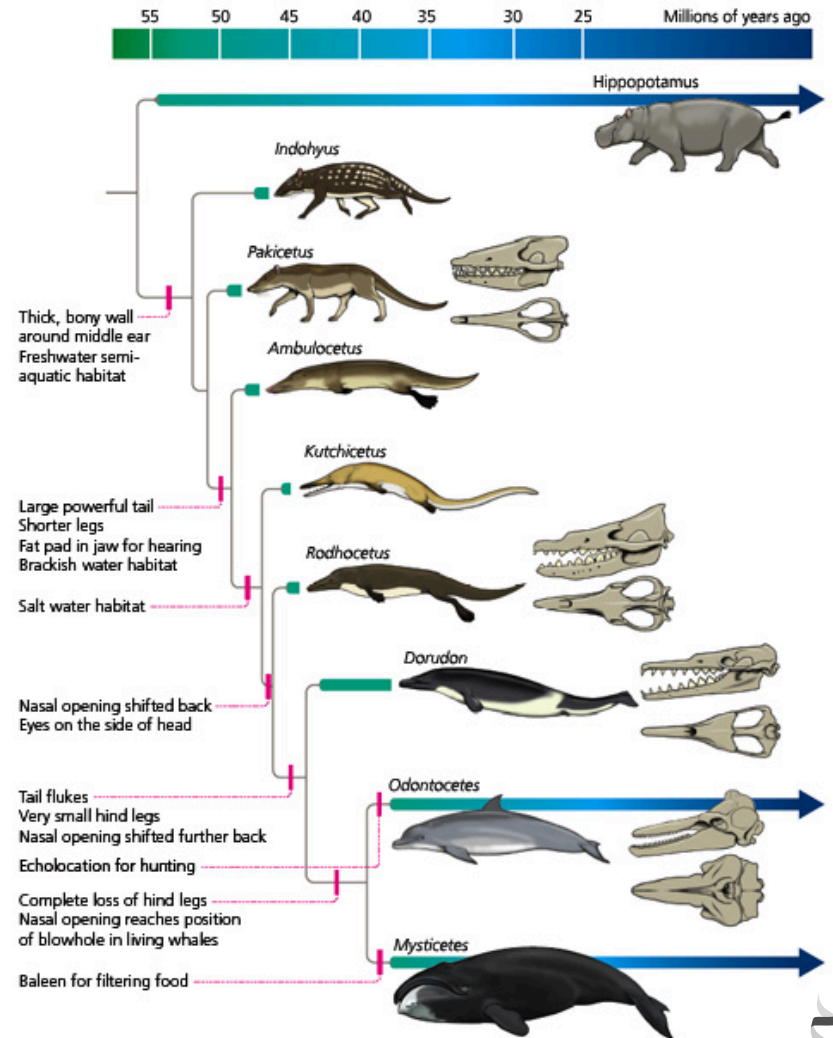
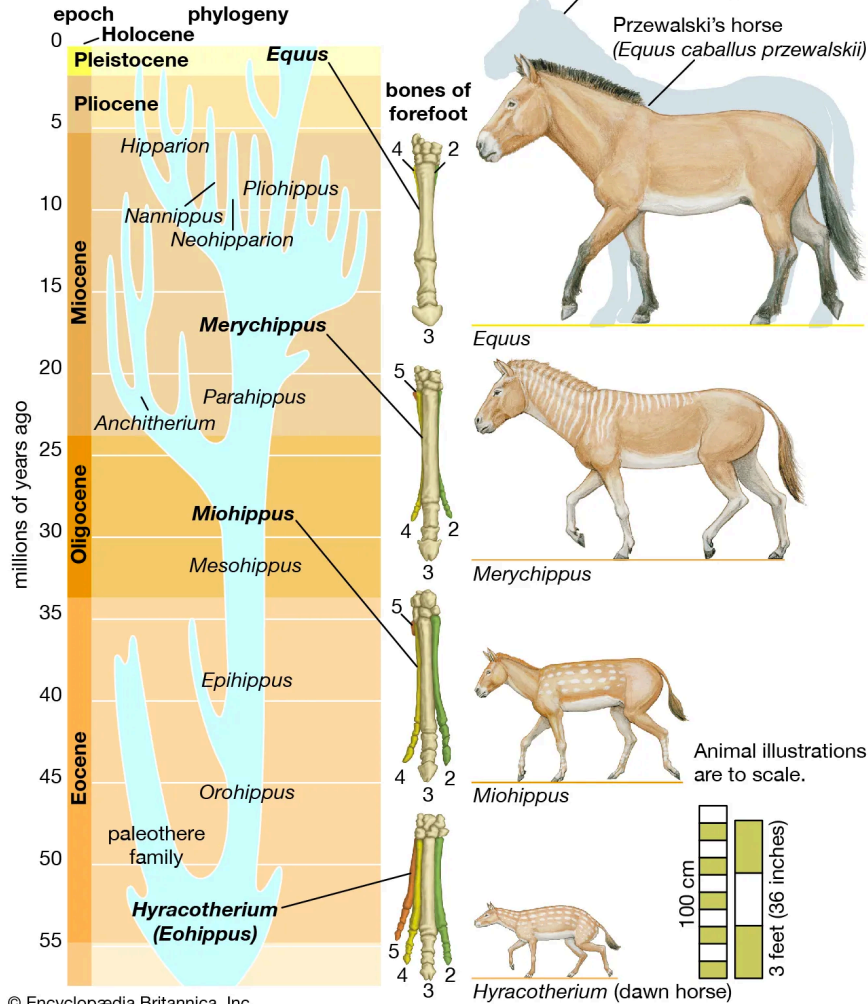
Downsized Dinosaurs: The Evolutionary Transition to Modern Birds

Luis M. Chiappe



Transitional forms

Evolution of the horse





Evidence of evolution
4. Vestigial structures

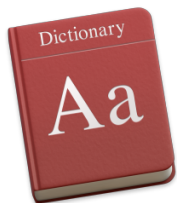
Definition

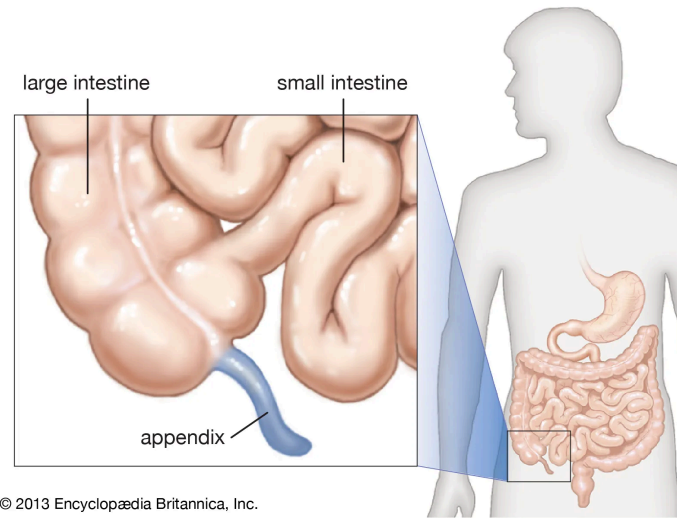
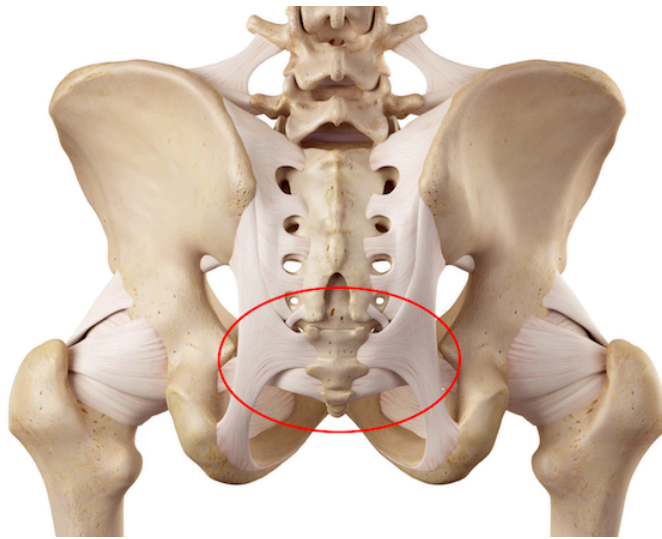
ves·tig·i·al | ve'stij(ē)əl |

adjective

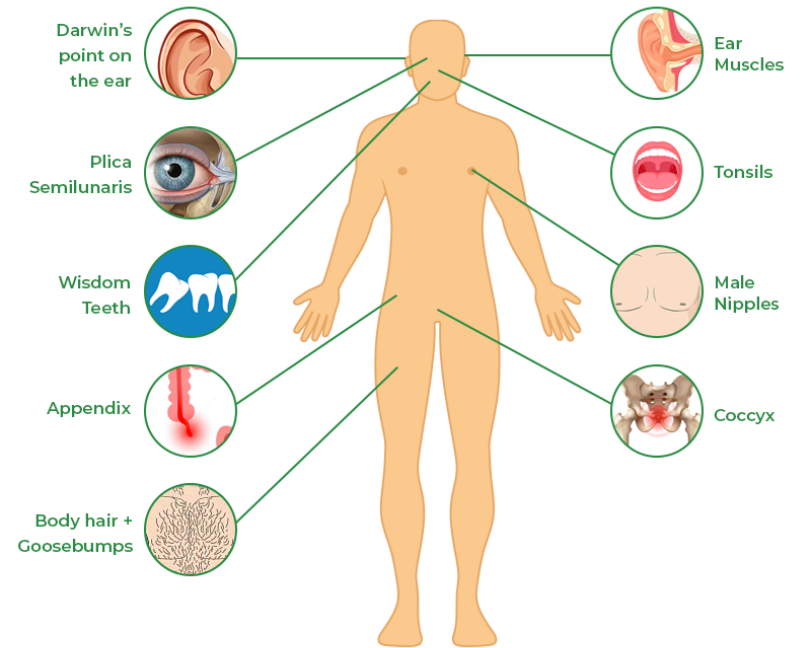
forming a very small remnant of something that was once much larger or more noticeable: *he felt a vestigial flicker of anger from last night.*

- *Biology* (of an organ or part of the body) degenerate, rudimentary, or atrophied, having become functionless in the course of evolution: *the vestigial wings of kiwis are entirely hidden.*





Tailbone, Appendix, ... Humans



Cavefish and the basis for eye loss

Jaya Krishnan¹ and Nicolas Rohner^{1,2}

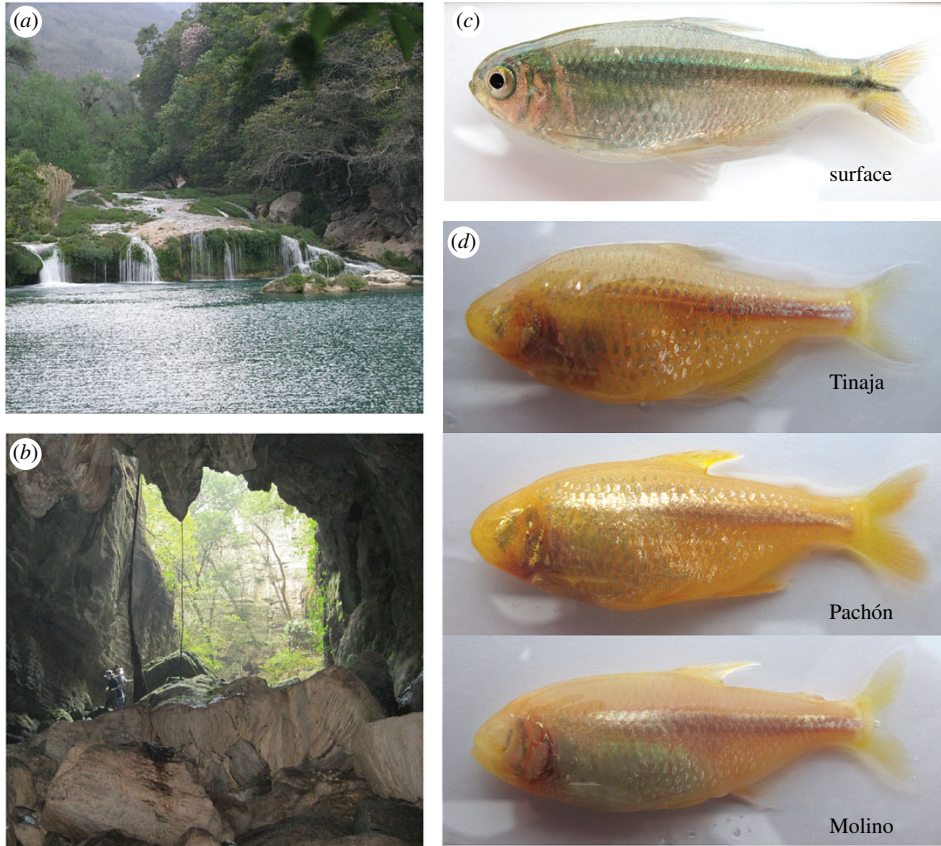


Figure 1. Surface and cave populations of *Astyanax mexicanus*. Panel (a) depicts an example of the river habitat of the surface populations of *Astyanax mexicanus*. Panel (b) shows the entrance to the Tinaja cave. Panels (c,d) depict the obvious morphological differences between surface fish and three independently derived cave populations (Tinaja, Pachón and Molino). While the surface fish are pigmented and have eyes (c), the cave forms have converged on the loss of eyes and strongly reduced their pigmentation (d).

**Vacant eye sockets
cave fish**



**Pelvis
whale**

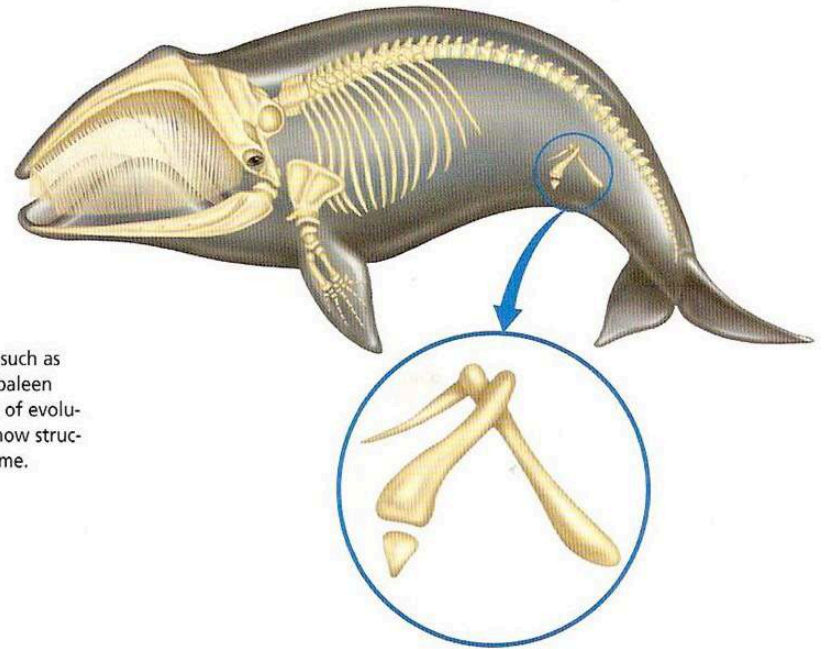
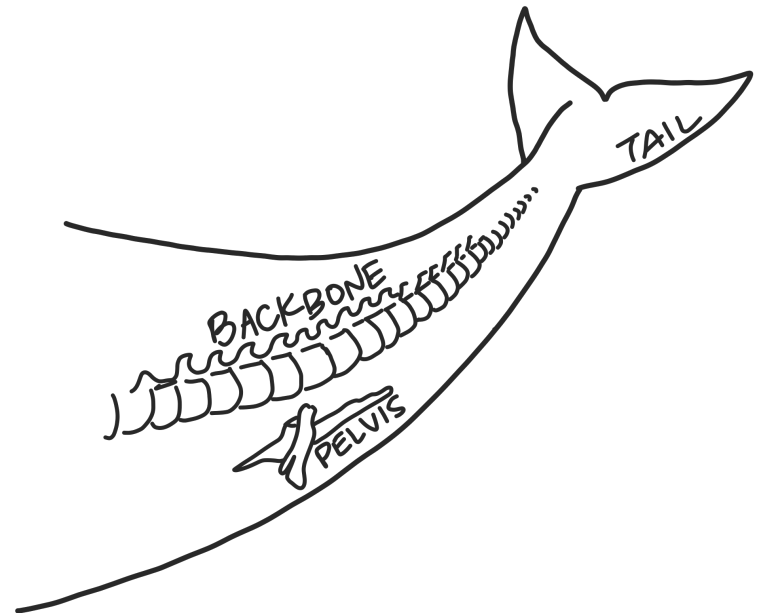


Figure 15.8
Vestigial structures, such as pelvic bones in the baleen whale, are evidence of evolution because they show structural change over time.



Progressive Loss of Function in a Limb Enhancer during Snake Evolution

Evgeny Z. Kvon,¹ Olga K. Kamneva,² Uirá S. Melo,¹ Iros Barozzi,¹ Marco Osterwalder,¹ Brandon J. Mannion,¹ Virginie Tissières,³ Catherine S. Pickle,¹ Ingrid Plajzer-Frick,¹ Elizabeth A. Lee,¹ Momoe Kato,¹ Tyler H. Garvin,¹ Jennifer A. Akiyama,¹ Veena Afzal,¹ Javier Lopez-Rios,³ Edward M. Rubin,^{1,4} Diane E. Dickel,^{1,4} Len A. Pennacchio,^{1,4,*} and Axel Visel^{1,4,5,6,*}

¹MS 84-171, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

²Department of Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

³Department of Biomedicine, University of Basel, 4058 Basel, Switzerland

⁴U.S. Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, USA

⁵School of Natural Sciences, University of California, Merced, CA 95343, USA

⁶Lead Contact

*Correspondence: lapennacchio@lbl.gov (L.A.P.), avisel@lbl.gov (A.V.)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2016.09.028>

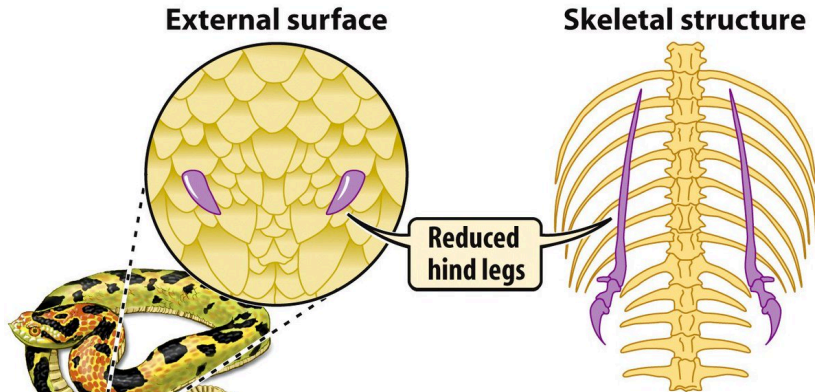
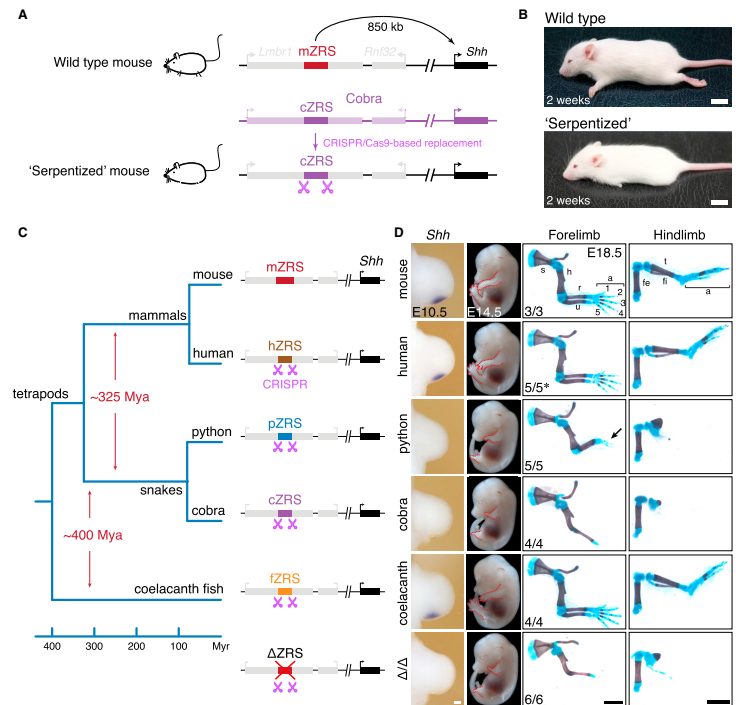


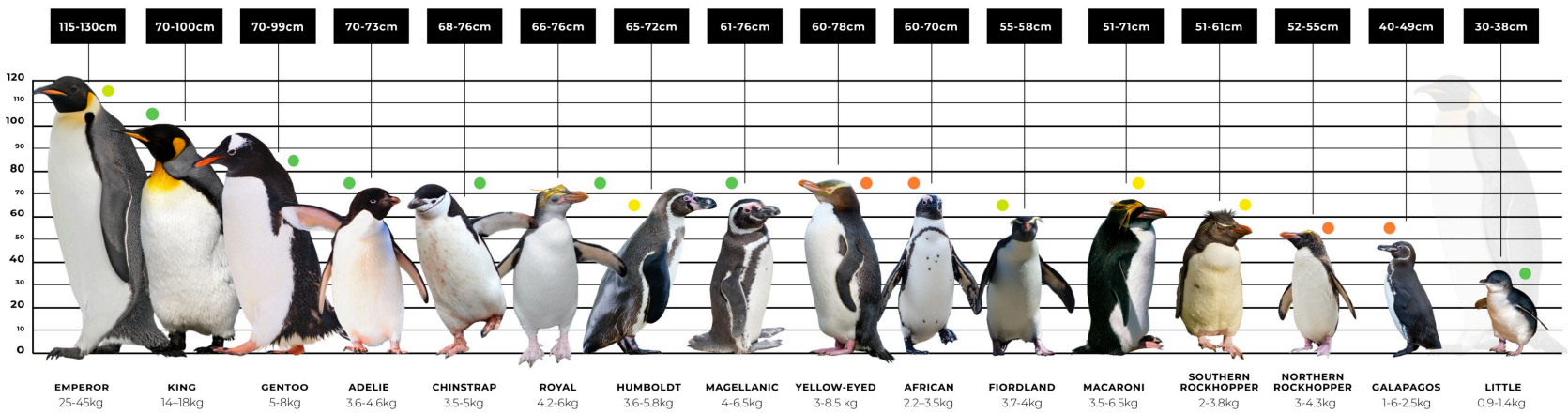
Figure 16-4b Discover Biology 3/e © 2006 W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Remnant hind legs Snakes





Reduced wings flightless birds



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hhalhaddad@gmail.com