

Paleontology; Study Findings from University of Texas at Austin Provide New Insights into Paleontology (The Lapara Creek Fauna: Early Clarendonian of South Texas, Usa)

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2019 JUN 14 (NewsRx) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Science Letter -- Researchers detail new data in Paleontology. According to news reporting originating in Austin, United States, by NewsRx editors, the research stated, "The Lapara Creek Fauna includes a large collection of fossil vertebrates obtained by the State-Wide Paleontologic-Mineralogic Survey in Texas (1939-1941) under the direction of the **Bureau of Economic Geology** and the Texas Memorial Museum. Of the 50 species of fossil vertebrates, five species are fish, seven are reptiles, two are birds and 36 are mammals."

Financial supporters for this research include University of Texas students B. Chapman, Geology Foundation.

The news reporters obtained a quote from the research from the University of Texas at Austin, "The 36 species of mammals represent 31 genera of which four are rodents, five are carnivores, two are proboscideans, 10 are artiodactyls and 10 are perissodactyls. These taxa are known from four separate local faunas distributed within the lower to middle parts of the Goliad Formation and are Clarendonian in age. The Ten Mile Waterhole Creek and Bridge Ranch local faunas compare well with CI1 faunas in North America, while the Farish Ranch and Buckner Ranch local faunas compare well with early CI2 faunas. The fauna includes the first occurrence, or at least very early occurrences, of cf. *Trachemys* sp., *Apalone* sp., Alligator cf. *mississippiensis* and cf. *Eucyon* sp. Identification of *Ceratogaulus* cf. *rhinoceros* extends the known geographic range of this taxon and represents the oldest occurrence of a mylagaulid from the Texas coastal plain. *Blancotherium buckneri* is a new generic name assigned to a longirostrine gomphothere that is represented by numerous specimens from the Buckner Ranch Local Fauna. The diverse horse fauna includes 12 species representing nine genera, all but one of which are hypsodont."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "The composition of the fauna is consistent with the widespread Clarendonian Chronofauna and with a mixed woodland-grassland environment on a broad floodplain associated with low-gradient rivers."

For more information on this research see: The Lapara Creek Fauna: Early Clarendonian of South Texas, Usa. *Palaeontologia Electronica*, 2019;22(1):. *Palaeontologia Electronica* can be contacted at: Coquina Press, C, O Whitey Hagadorn, Executive Editor, Amherst College, Dept Geology, Amherst, MA 01002, USA.

Our news correspondents report that additional information may be obtained by contacting S.R. May, University of Texas - Austin, Texas Vertebrate Paleontol Collect, Austin, TX 78758, United States.

Keywords for this news article include: Austin, United States, North and Central America, Paleontology, University of Texas at Austin.

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