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Tapirs from the Pleistocene of Venezuela

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The living tapir *Tapirus terrestris* is widely distributed in Venezuela, occurring mainly south of the Orinoco, while being absent from arid, high Andean and insular areas. Here, we describe new material of fossil tapirs from two Pleistocene localities of Venezuela: Zumbador Cave and El Breal de Orocual. Based on its size and morphology, the material from Zumbador Cave (skull, mandible and postcrania) is assigned to the extant *T. terrestris*, and represents the most northwestern fossil record of this species in South America. By contrast, the remains from the tar seep of El Breal de Orocual are more gracile, and differ from *T. terrestris* and other fossil and living species from South America in the presence of a metastylid on the lower cheek teeth. We tentatively assign the latter remains to *Tapirus* sp., based on juvenile and isolated dentary material. However, the possibility that these specimens may represent a new species or an immigrant from North America cannot be completely excluded.

Key words: Mammalia, Perissodactyla, *Tapirus*, Pleistocene, El Breal de Orocual, Zumbador Cave, Venezuela.

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