

A new tribe of castoroidine beavers from the late Arikareean to Hemphillian (Oligocene–Miocene) of western North America

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Two genera of Miocene beavers (Castoridae), *Hystricops* and *Priusaulax* are referred to a new tribe Hystricopini of the subfamily of giant beavers, Castoroidinae based on cranial and dental morphologies. Previously undescribed and more complete specimens of *Hystricops* demonstrate that it is referable to the Castoroidinae rather than the Castorinae. Along with *Priusaulax*, it is believed to represent a group of basal castoroidines, distinct from later Castoroidinae by the retention of the primitive morphology of the contact of the lacrimal bone with the jugal on the cranium, as well as more primitive dental morphologies (lower crown-height and simple occlusal pattern of cheek teeth). A partial cranium and several isolated teeth from the Hemingfordian of Colorado, originally referred to *Anchitheriomys?*, are referred here to a new species, *Priusaulax wilsoni* sp. nov. *Monosaulax senrudi* from the Barstovian of Montana is also referred to *Priusaulax*. *Hystricops* is limited to the type species *H. venustus* from the Clarendonian and Barstovian North American Land Mammal Age (NALMA), and *H. browni* from the Hemphillian NALMA.

Key words: Mammalia, Rodentia, Castoridae, Castoroidinae, cranial anatomy, dental terminology, North American Land Mammal Ages, Colorado.

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