

Brontops

Common Name:
Thunder beast

Classification:

Class: Mammalia
Order: Perissodactyla
Family: Brontotheriidae



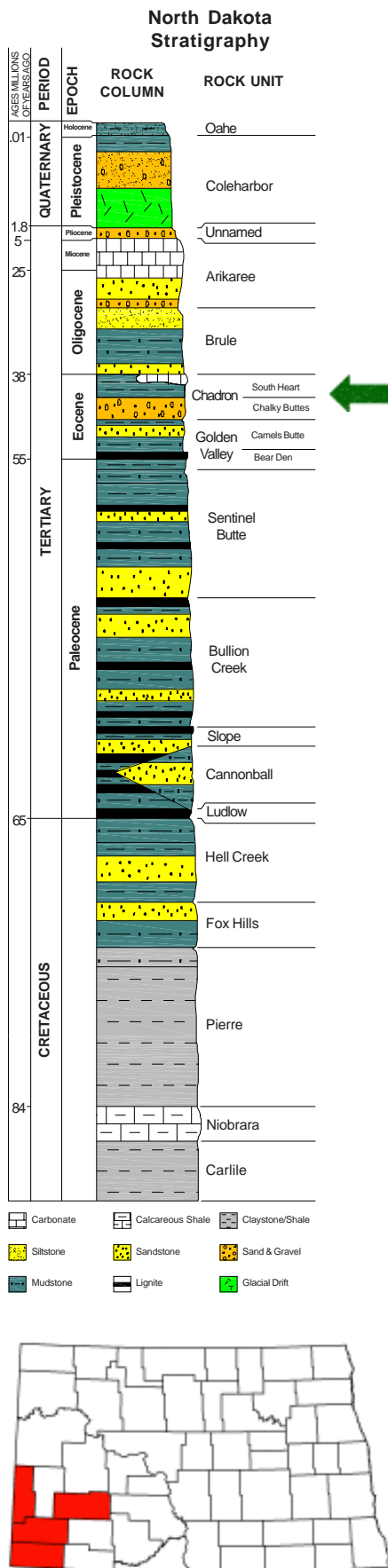
Lower jaws of the brontothere, ?*Brontops*. Chadron Formation. Bowman County. Width 410 mm. University of North Dakota Paleontology Collection.

Description:

Brontops was a member of the group of large rhinoceros-like mammals called brontotheres. They are also called titanotheres or “thunder beasts” because of their large size. The Eocene age *Brontops* was a massive, elephant size beast, about 8 feet tall at the shoulder. It had large bony knobs on its snout which were probably covered with skin as in modern-day giraffes. It is believed that these outgrowths of the skull were used for display or as weapons during fights among males to establish dominance. They were browsers on soft forest vegetation. *Brontops* was one of the largest mammals to ever live in North Dakota.



Brontops. Painting by, and courtesy of, Dan Varner.



Locations where fossils have been found

ND State Fossil Collection

[Prehistoric Life of ND Map](#)

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