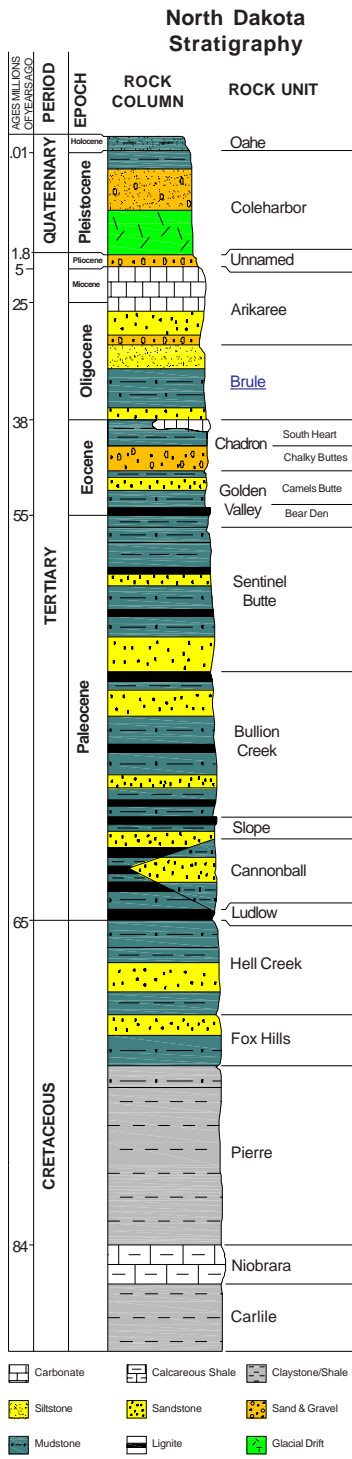


Ischyromys



Common Name:
Squirrel-like mammal

Classification:
Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Family: Ischyromyidae



Lower jaw of the squirrel-like mammal, *Ischyromys*. 30 mm wide. Oligocene Brule Formation. Stark County. North Dakota State Fossil Collection.

Description:
Ischyromys was one of the earliest of the true rodents. It was very similar in appearance to modern rodents and had a characteristic pair of upper incisors and other rodent head features. *Ischyromys* grew to lengths of 2 feet. It also possessed strong hind limbs with claws on each five toes of its hind feet, like modern rodents. It is believed that *Ischyromys* was an efficient tree climber like squirrels today.



Ischyromys. Painting courtesy of Simon and Schuster Publishing Company.



Locations where fossils have been found