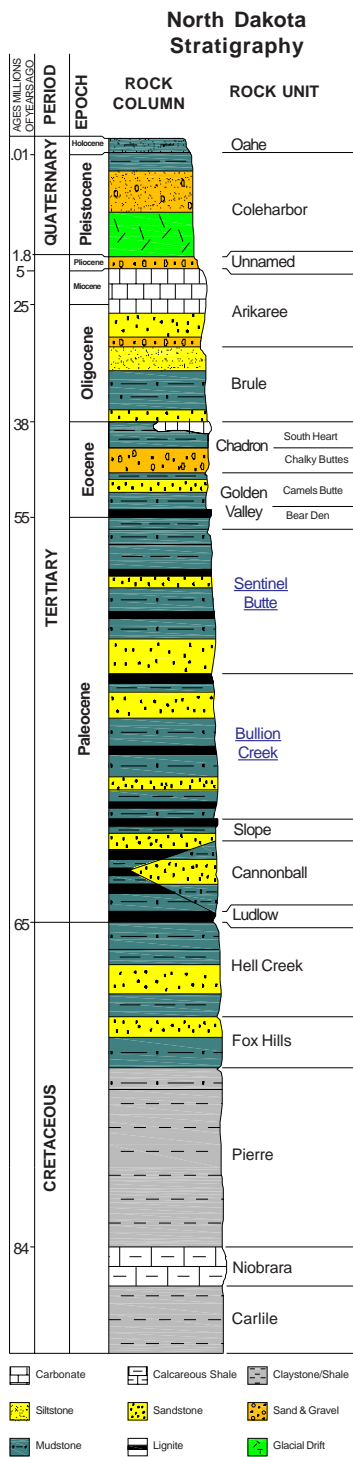


Ptilodus



Common Name:

Classification:

Class: Mammalia

Order: Multituberculata

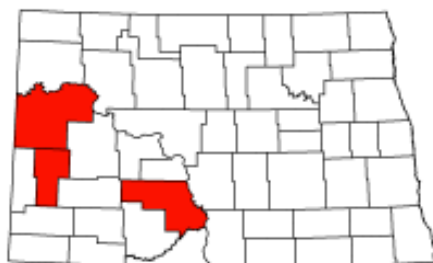
Family: Ptilodontidae

Description:

Ptilodus is a member of the primitive mammalian group called multituberculates, the earliest of the plant-eating mammals. They were rodent like in appearance but not closely related to them. *Ptilodus* grew to lengths of about 20 inches. Like rodents, they had gnawing incisors and grinding premolar and molar teeth. *Ptilodus* had a prehensile tail that could be used for grasping branches. Its feet were also adapted for climbing, like a squirrel. They probably therefore lived in trees. Their large, bladlike lower premolar teeth suggest that they were able to remove the husks from nuts and seeds.



Ptilodus. Painting courtesy of Simon and Schuster Publishing Company.



Locations where fossils have been found