

Alphadon

Common Name:

Classification:

Class: Mammalia

Order: Marsupialia

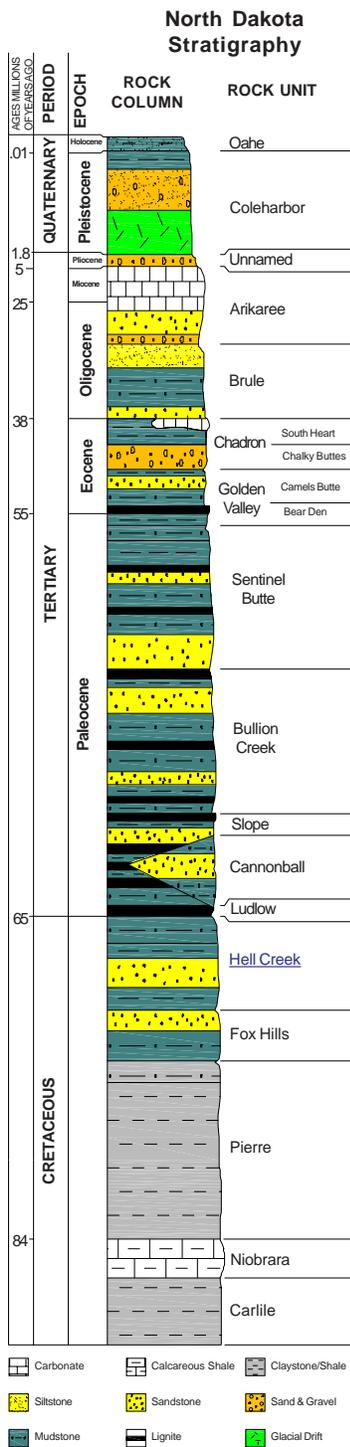
Family: Didelphidae

Description:

Alphadon is a primitive marsupial, the pouched mammals. Marsupials are among the most ancient of mammalian groups and evolved during the Cretaceous. They are distinguished from other mammals by their method of reproduction. Marsupials give birth to very small young which are nourished usually in a pouch on the belly until they mature. *Alphadon* was one of the Cretaceous marsupials that grew to lengths of about 12 inches and looked very much like an opossum. They had a prehensile tail and feet adapted for climbing trees and probably were tree-dwellers. They were omnivores and ate fruit, insects, and probably even other small vertebrates. *Alphadon* coexisted with the dinosaurs.



Alphadon. Painting courtesy of Simon and Schuster Publishing Company.



Locations where fossils have been found