

# Eocene archaeohyracids (Mammalia: Notoungulata: Hegetotheria) from the Puna, northwest Argentina

Marcelo A. Reguero<sup>a, b, c, d</sup>, Darin C. Croft<sup>c</sup>, Guillermo M. López<sup>a</sup> and Ricardo N. Alonso<sup>b, d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>División Paleontología de Vertebrados, Museo de La Plata, Paseo del Bosque s/n, B1900FWA, La Plata, Argentina <sup>b</sup>Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Rivadavia 1917, C1033AAJ, Buenos Aires, Argentina <sup>c</sup>Department of Anatomy, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA <sup>d</sup>Universidad Nacional de Salta, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires 177, 4400 Salta, Argentina  
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## Abstract

A new genus and species of basal hegetothere mammal, *Punahyrax bondesioi*, is described from the middle-late Eocene Geste Formation of northwestern (Catamarca and Salta provinces) Argentina. The new species is based on isolated teeth and mandibles and represents the first well-identified archaeohyracid from northwestern Argentina, and the earliest extra-Patagonian record of the family. It is characterized by its small-size and a short talonid on the molars. Though still poorly documented, this new taxon may provide key-data for the problem of the origin and basal of hegetotheres phylogeny. These fossils show the importance of northwestern Argentina (Puna area) in the early evolution of the extinct order Notoungulata and the poor state of our knowledge there.

**Keywords:** Geste Formation; NW Argentina; Eocene; Notoungulata; Archaeohyracidae