North Dakota Stratigraphy ROCK **ROCK UNIT** COLUMN QUATERNARY Oahe Coleharboi Unnamed Arikaree Oligocene **Brule** 38-Chadron Camels Butte TERTIARY Sentinel Butte Bullion Slope Cannonball

Ludlow Hell Creek

Fox Hills

Niobrara Carlile

CRETACEOUS



Locations where fossils have been found

Hesperocyon

Common Name:

Mongoose-like mammal

Classification:

Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora Family: Canidae



Skull and lower jaw of the mongoose-like mammal *Hesperocyon*. Brule Formation. Stark County. Width 85 mm. North Dakota State Fossil Collection ND271.1.

Description:

Hesperocyon was one of the earliest members of the family Canidae or dog family. However, their appearance was more like a meerkat, a living mongoose. They were small and active and had long, slender bodies, about two and a half feet long, long tails, short, week legs, and five-toed feet. They were carnivores and had meat-cutting teeth similar to a dog. Hesperocyon lived in North Dakota about 30 million years ago in a savanna habitat.



Hesperocyon. Painting courtesy of Simon and Schuster Publishing Company.

ND State Fossil Collection

Prehistoric Life of ND Map