

Hesperocyon

Common Name:
Mongoose-like mammal

Classification:
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Canidae



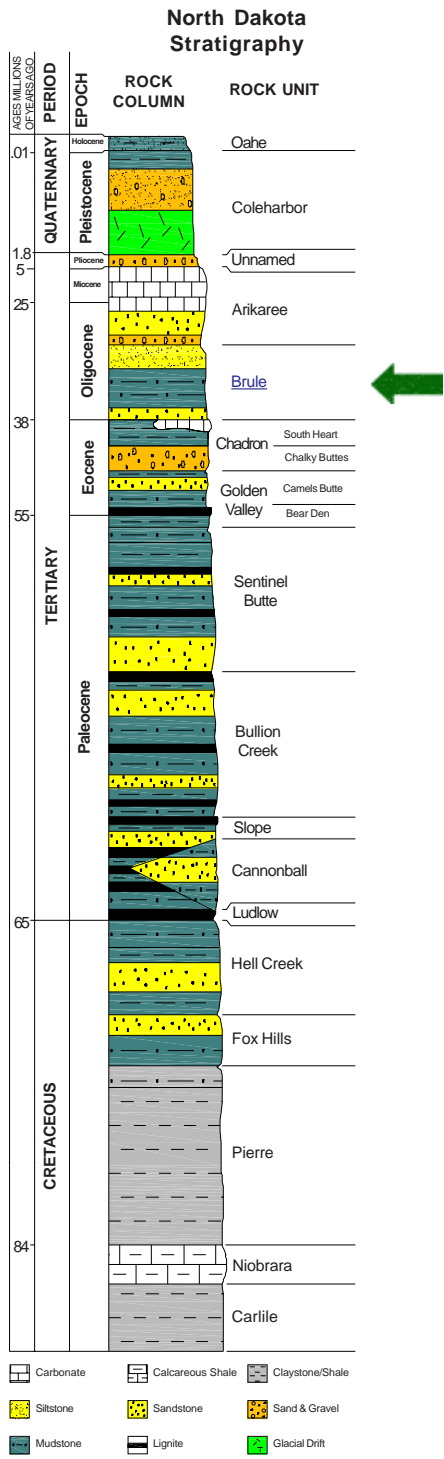
Skull and lower jaw of the mongoose-like mammal *Hesperocyon*. [Brule](#) Formation. Stark County. Width 85 mm. North Dakota State Fossil Collection ND271.1.

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, weak 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.



Locations where fossils have been found