

## New material of amynodontids (Mammalia, Perissodactyla) from Romania

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Amyndontidae is a peculiar family of perissodactyls (“odd-toed ungulates”), known from the middle Eocene to early Miocene of North America and Eurasia. They are generally considered as derived from rhinocerotoids, although some authors have proposed a relationship with tapiroids (e.g. Radinsky 1969). The monophyly of the family is well-accepted and it is clearly diagnosed by having a preorbital fossa, four digits on the manus, several dental characteristics such as a quadratic M3, the absence of first premolars and developed canines, and by being hornless. Some of the species might have developed a proboscis, similar to that of tapirs as suggested by several skull characteristics (e.g. expansion of nasal incision). In addition they were long thought to have hippo-like amphibious lifestyle, but it may be an erroneous generalisation (Wall 1989).

Here, we present new material of amynodontids from Romania. It comprises a cranial fragment from Morlaca (Valea Nadășului Formation) of Priabonian age with complete right M1-M3 (Fig. 1), as well as a new incomplete skull from Dobârca (Transylvania; Priabonian-Rupelian age) bearing a left M3 associated to the already published mandible of “*Cadurcodon zimborensis*” (Codrea & Șuraru 1989). The specimens of Morlaca and Dobârca differ by the angle of the zygomatic arch and the slightly different shape of the M3.

A parsimony analysis of Amyndontidae based on morphological characters showed that the referred specimens from Dobârca could be closer to *Sianodon* than *Cadurcodon* by having a reduction of the lower premolars (only p3-p4 are

present), low teeth crowns, wide zygomatic arches compared to frontals as well as a sharp angle of the *processus zygomaticus*. Nevertheless, they may belong to a new genus of amynodontidae, characterized by the presence of a strongly developed posterolateral “collar”, unknown until now among amynodontids. The Morlaca specimen on the other hand, is very similar to the type of *Amyndon reedi*, but both are too incomplete to undoubtedly validate this affinity.

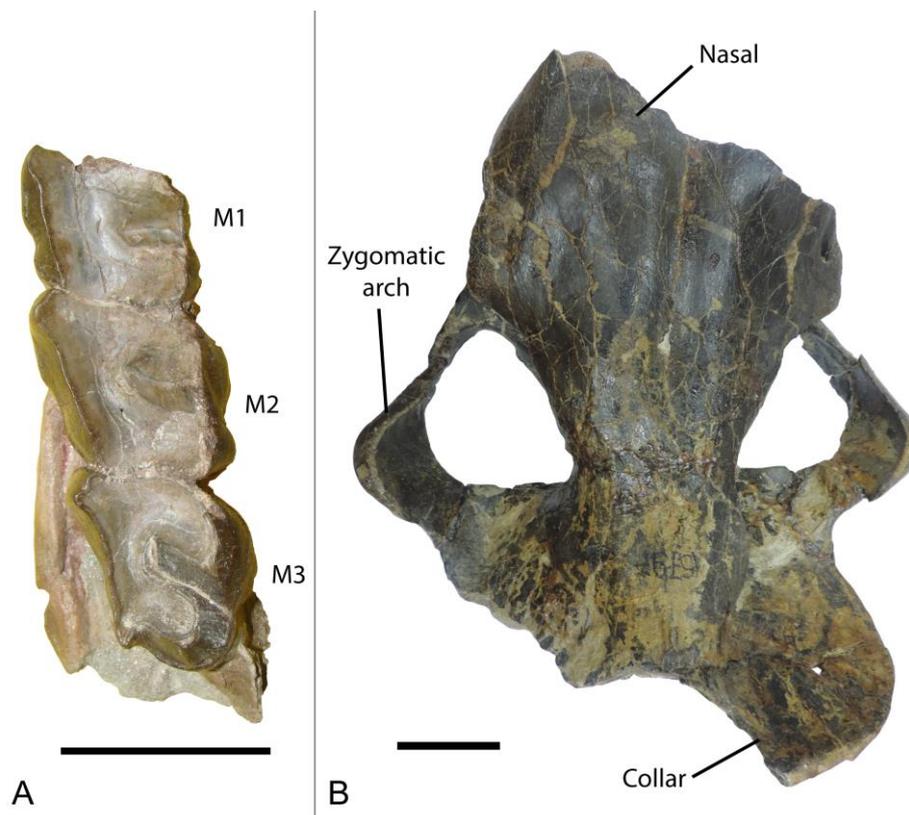


Figure 1. Amynodontidae from Romania. A) Cranial fragment from Morlaca (Priabonian) with right M1-M3 in ventral view. B = Incomplete skull from Dobârca (Priabonian-Rupelian) in dorsal view. Scale bars = 5cm.

#### REFERENCES

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