

PALEONTOLOGICAL NOTE

A MISTAKEN REPORT OF A PECCARY FROM THE PLEISTOCENE OF LOUISIANA

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West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, is one of the few areas of the state from which Pleistocene vertebrate fossils are commonly reported. Hay (1924) listed the occurrence of mastodon, mammoth and horse from this area. Proboscidean remains are often found in the area but seldom receive notice other than an occasional comment in a local paper. In a study of Pleistocene plant fossils of this area, Brown (1938) reported proboscidean, tapir and peccary (genus indetermined). The proboscidean and tapir were found associated with a flora containing distinctly northern elements (white spruce, larch, and white cedar) assigned to the Peorian interglacial stage of the Pleistocene. Brown (*op. cit.*) noted that the lower jaw referred to as peccary was found "loose in the gravel of the steam bed." The locality was given as approximately 20 miles northeast of St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish, T. 1 S., R. 4 W., between sections 87-88 and 89-90. The site is on a high stream bank known as Percy Bluff, on Little Bayou Sara, approximately 3 miles south (on state highway 66) of the Post Office at Retreat, Louisiana. The stratigraphy is discussed by Brown (*op. cit.*).

The lower jaw in question is that of a domestic pig (*Sus*) not a peccary (Figure 1). This element is uncataloged: however, the locality is written on the ramus, and the collector (Clair A. Brown) assured me of its authenticity.

Reported fossil material from this parish of Louisiana should be suspect as the gravels of the streams bear a mixture of fossil and modern forms. In the streams of this area I have found the slightly mineralized bones of modern horses, cows and pigs along with Pleistocene horses and proboscideans. I have collected a representative late Pleistocene vertebrate fauna (which will be reported in the near future) at a number of sites in West Feliciana Parish but have found no

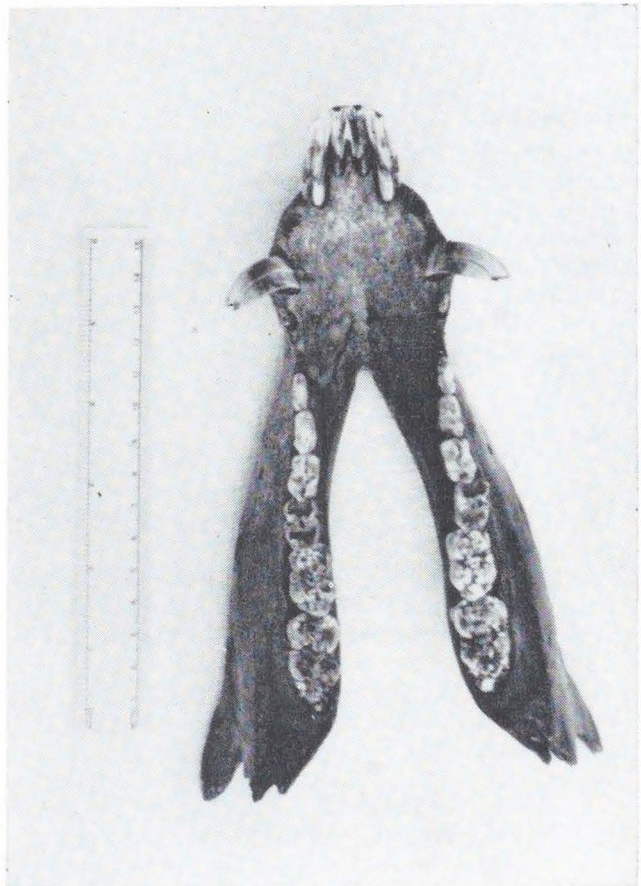


Figure 1. Lower jaw of pig (*Sus*) reported as peccary from the Pleistocene of Louisiana.

peccary remains. Although peccaries are known from the Pleistocene of Texas, Arkansas and Florida, and may well have occurred in Louisiana, no material to substantiate their presence has been reported to date.

LITERATURE CITED

- BROWN, CLAIR A., 1938, The flora of Pleistocene deposits in the western Florida parishes, West Feliciana Parish, and East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana: Louisiana Geol. Survey, Geol. Bull. 12: 59-96.
HAY, O. P., 1924, The Pleistocene of the middle region of North America and its vertebrated animals: Carnegie Inst. Wash., Publ. 322a: 385 pp.