



EARLY EOCENE CHIROPTERANS FROM A NEW MAMMALIAN ASSEMBLAGE (VASTAN LIGNITE MINE, GUJARAT, WESTERN PENINSULAR MARGIN): OLDEST KNOWN BATS FROM ASIA

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ABSTRACT

Lower Eocene terrestrial biotas in a pre-collision India-Asia setting provide information about mammalian evolution and the degree of isolation in a drifting island subcontinent phase. Work carried out in the last few years has shown the presence of a moderately diversified lower Eocene (Ypresian) mammal assemblage from coals and lignites on the western peninsular margin of the Indian Plate. This paper highlights the occurrence of fossil bats from an early Eocene lignite in Gujarat, constituting the oldest record of Chiroptera from Asia.

Key words: Chiropterans, early Eocene, Vastan Lignite Mine, Western peninsular margin