



SHORT PAPERS

## A FOSSIL MAMMAL FROM MARINE EOCENE STRATA (JAINTIA GROUP) OF THE MIKIR HILLS, ASSAM, NORTHEASTERN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

We report the occurrence of a mammalian lumbar vertebra and several associated fish teeth from Dillai Parbat, in the southeastern part of the Mikir Hills of Assam, in northeastern India. The specimens were recovered from a shallow marine limestone unit of upper middle Eocene age (40-37 Ma). The vertebra is tentatively described as that of an archaeocete cetacean. This is the first report of Eocene vertebrates from the northeastern part of India, and it significantly expands the geographical distribution of Eocene marine mammals of India. Further fieldwork is required to assess the potential of this new locality.

**Keywords:** Mikir Hills, Eocene, vertebrates, mammals, Assam, Dillai Parbat