

Saving the World with Phylogenetics

36-149 The Tree of Life

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Plan

- Review and finish last time
- Data activity
- Phylogenetic stories

Cladistics Intro Review

- The Problem
- The Representation
 - Trees and tree parts
 - Clades
- The Terminology
 - Types of characters
 - Taxa and how to define them (part I, groups)

Cladistics (cont'd)

In practice – because we do not observe the organisms (or their remains) at most of the nodes in the tree – there is some flexibility in the definition of a taxon.

Three basic methods are used to define taxonomic groups in practice:

- **Node-based taxon:** as above, all the organisms descended from and including some basal node.

Example: Aves (birds) are defined as *Archaeopteryx*, the Neornithes (modern birds), their common ancestor, and all its descendants.

- **Stem-based taxon:** all descendants from a particular splitting (cladogenesis) event.

Example: *Ornithischia* (a dinosaur group) is defined as all dinosaurs more closely related to *Triceratops* than to *Tyrannosaurus*.

Cladistics (cont'd)

- Apomorphy-based taxon: defined by the presence of one or more specified characters.

Example: Aves (birds) consists of all archosaurs with feathered wings.

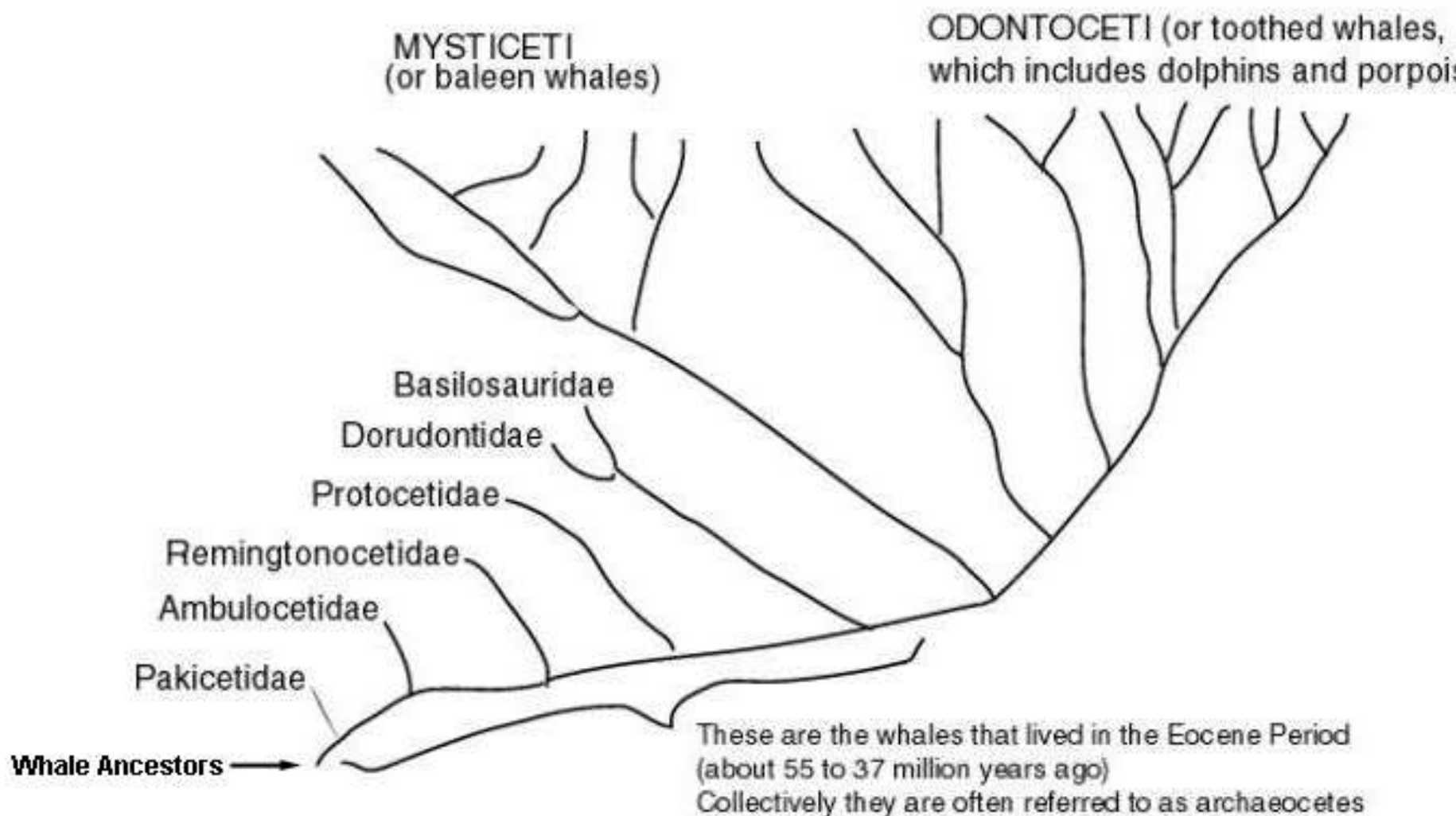
In addition, a clade defined in terms of living organisms is called a **crown group**.

Example: The clade defined by living birds (Neornithes) is a crown-group taxon that does not include *Archaeopteryx*. (Compare above.)

Phylogenetic Stories

- The Whippo
- The Venom Doctor
- Beetles (Again, and briefly)
- Acoelomorphs

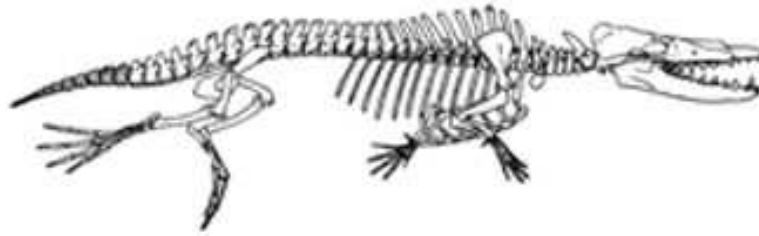
A family tree of Whales (CETACEA in Latin)



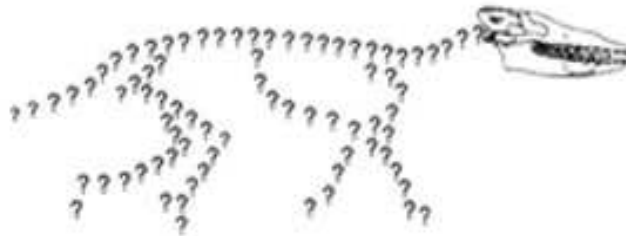




D. *Dorudon* (Basilosauridae) from the middle to late Eocene of Egypt



C. *Rodhocetus* (Protocetidae) from the early middle Eocene of Pakistan



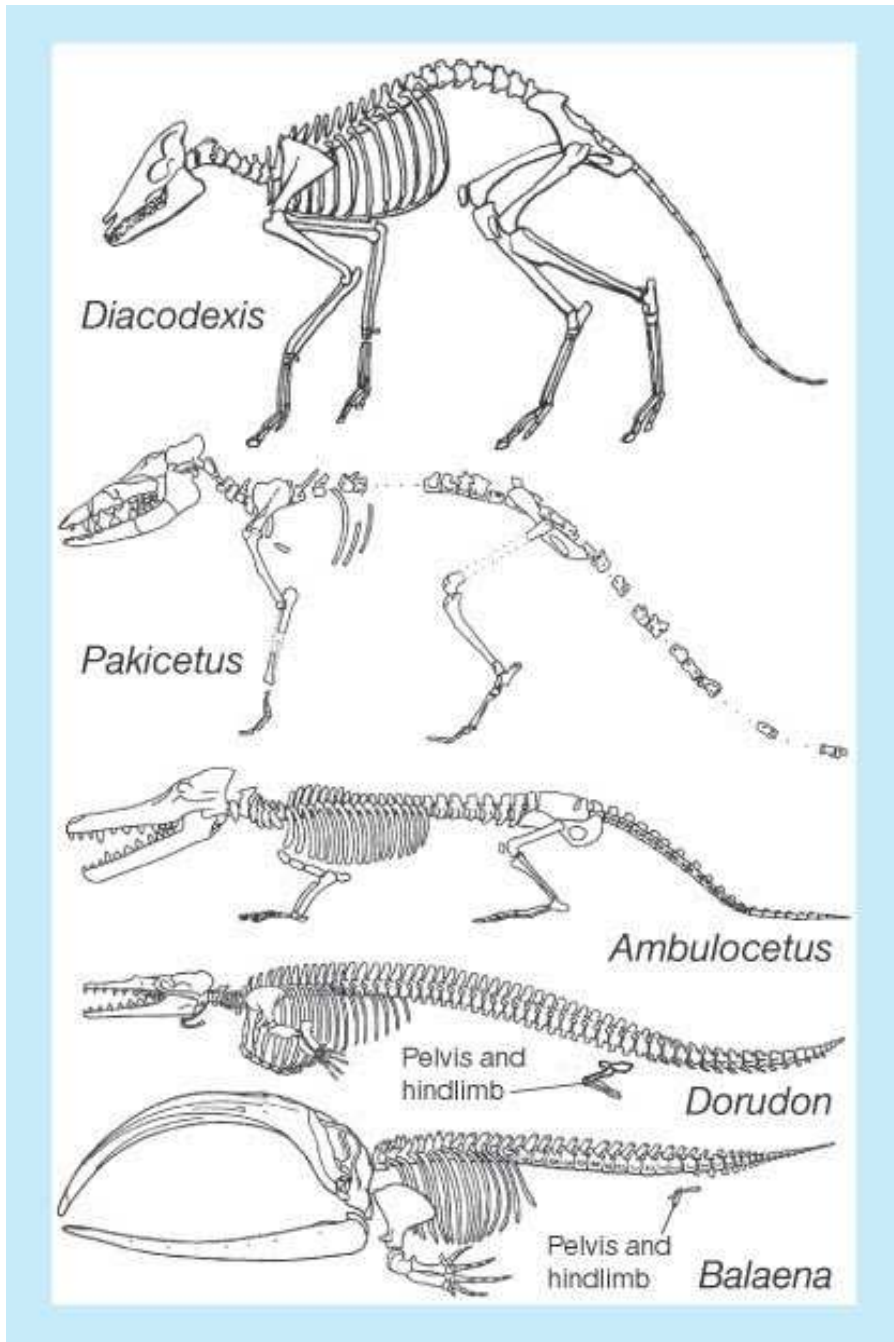
B. *Pakicetus* (Pakicetidae) from the earliest middle Eocene of Pakistan



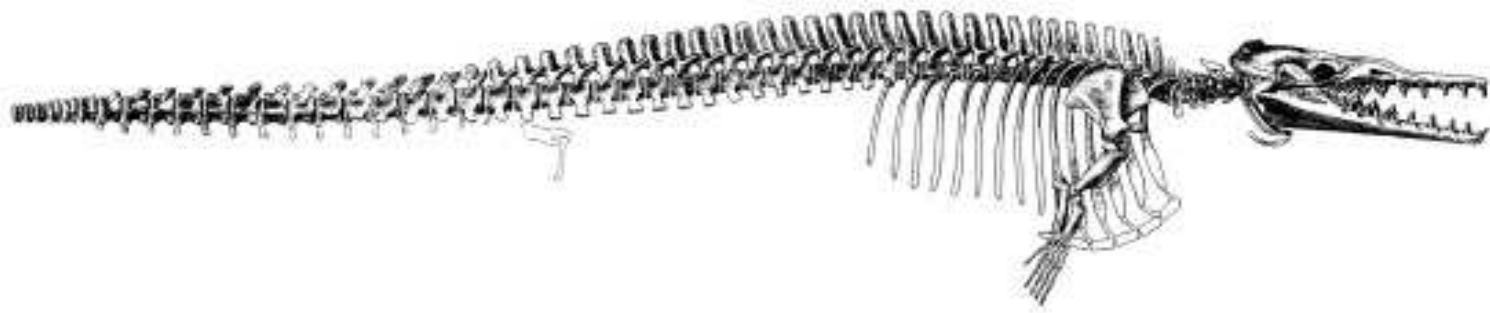
A. *Elomeryx* (Anthracotheriidae) from the Oligocene of Europe, North America, Asia



The Mesonychid View of Whale Ancestors



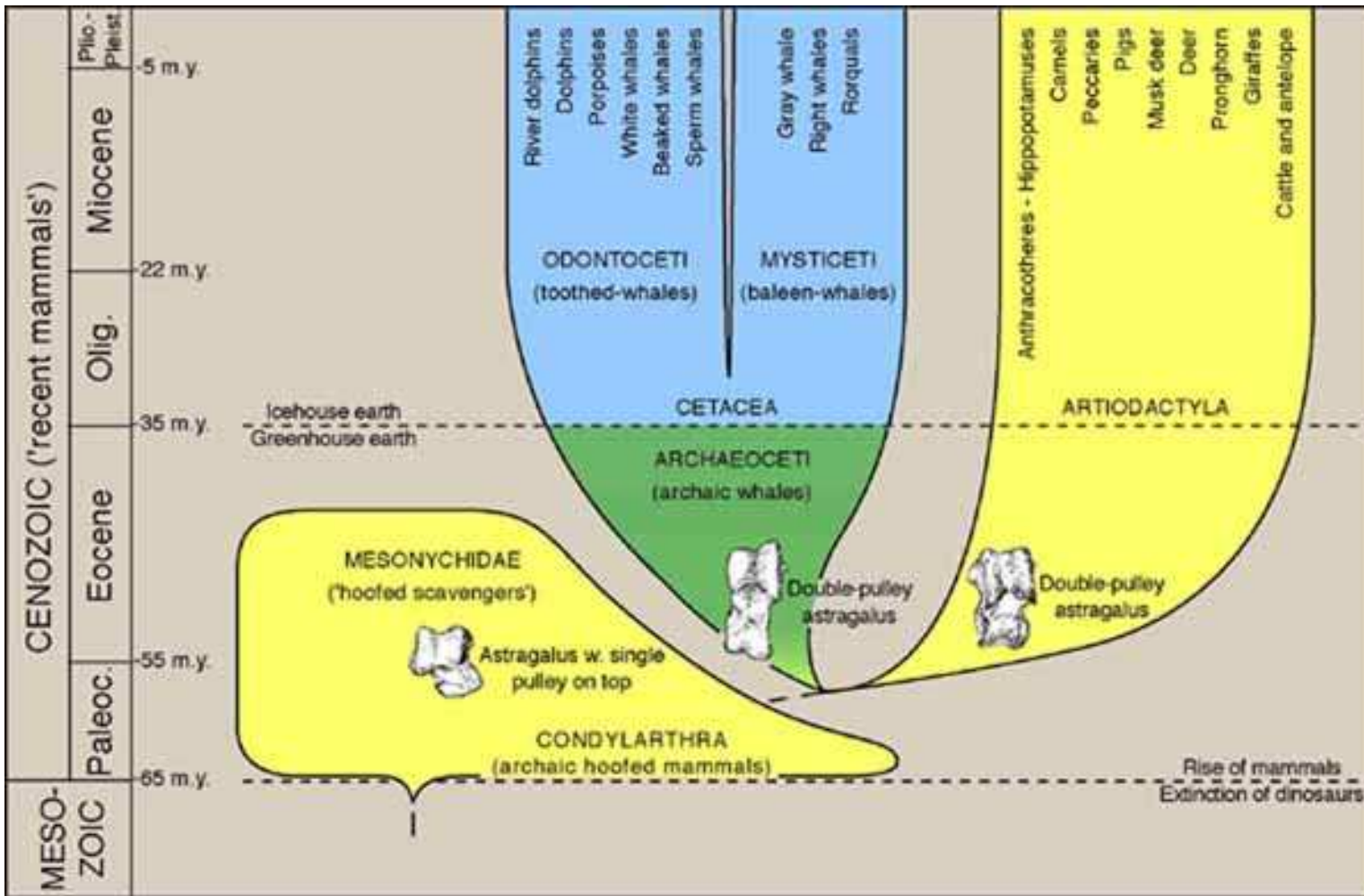
Diacodexis was a primitive even-toed ungulate (hoofed mammal); Pakicetus is one of the terrestrial cetaceans described by Thewissen et al.; Ambulocetus was amphibious; Dorudon was a fully aquatic archaeocete (early cetacean), but retained an articulated elbow and vestigial hindlimbs; and Balaena is a recent whale. Skeletons are not drawn to scale.

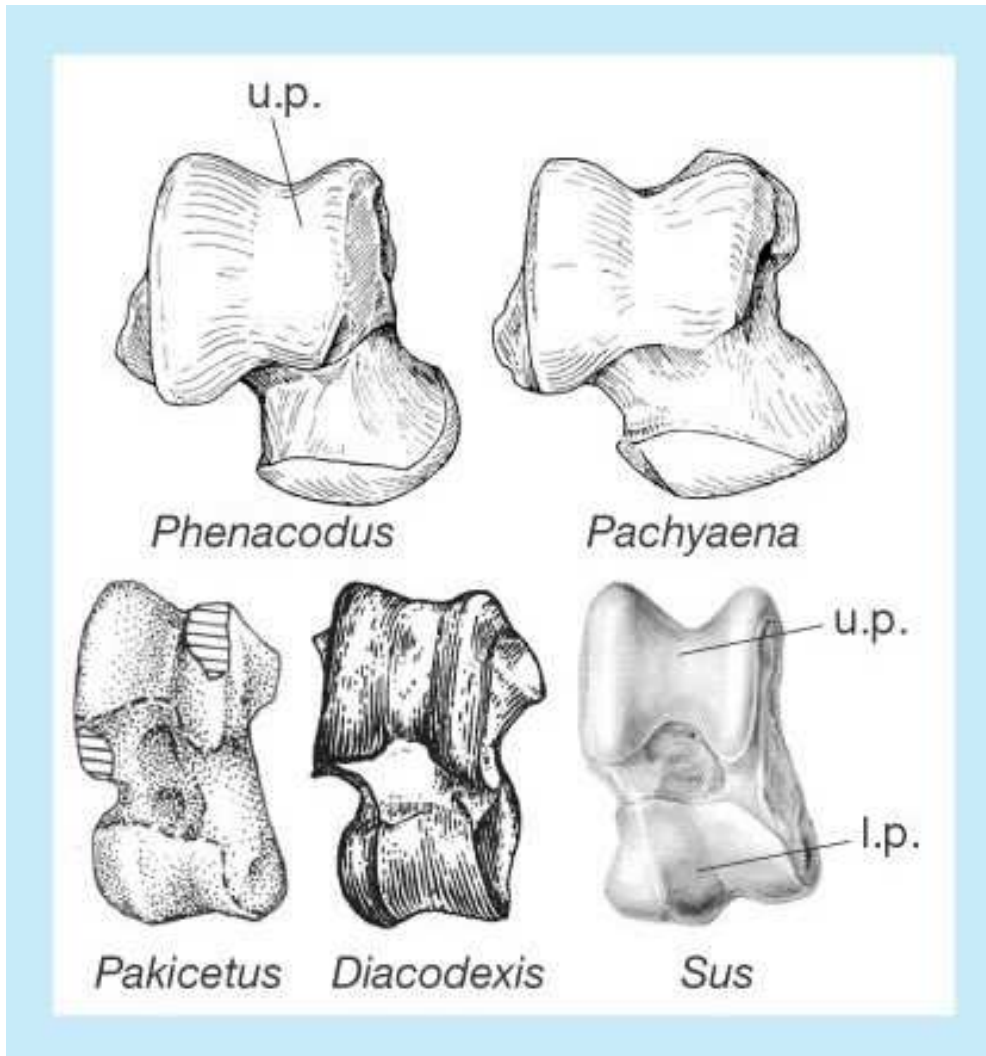


Basilosaurus



Dorudon





Phenacodus, a primitive ungulate, had an unspecialized ankle bone that resembles that of Pachyaena, a mesonychian ungulate from 50 million years ago. The double-pulleyed astragali of Pakicetus (one of the fossil cetaceans described by Thewissen et al.1), Diacodexis (the oldest known even-toed ungulate), and Sus (the pig) indicate a close relationship between these species. Bones are not shown to scale. u.p., upper pulley, articulates with tibia. l.p., lower pulley, articulates with distal ankle bones.



