An Australian multituberculate and its palaeobiogeographic implications

Thomas H. Rich, Patricia Vickers–Rich, Timothy F. Flannery, Benjamin P. Kear, David J. Cantrill, Patricia Komarower, Lesley Kool, David Pickering, Peter Trusler, Steven Morton, Nicholas van Klaveren, and Erich M.G. Fitzgerald

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A dentary fragment containing a tiny left plagiaulacoid fourth lower premolar from the Early Cretaceous (Aptian) of Victoria provides the first evidence of the Multituberculata from Australia. This unique specimen represents a new genus and species, *Corriebaatar marywaltersae*, and is placed in a new family, Corriebaataridae. The Australian fossil, together with meagre records of multituberculates from South America, Africa, and Madagascar, reinforces the view that Multituberculata had a cosmopolitan distribution during the Mesozoic, with dispersal into eastern Gondwana probably occurring prior to enforcement of climatic barriers (indicated by marked differentiation in regional floras) in the Early Cretaceous.

Key words: Mammalia, Multituberculata, Cimolodonta, Cretaceous, Gondwana, Australia.

Thomas H. Rich [trich@museum.vic.gov.au], David Pickering [dpick@museum.vic.gov.au], Peter Trusler [ptart@optusnet.com.au], Nicholas van Klaveren [Nicholas.VanKlaveren@goldfields.com.au], and Erich M.G. Fitzgerald [efitzgerald@museum.vic.gov.au], Museum Victoria, PO Box 666, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia; Patricia Vickers–Rich [pat.rich@sci.monash.edu.au], Patricia Komarower [Patricia.Komarower@sci.monash.edu.au], and Lesley Kool [koolasuchas@bigpond.com], School of Geosciences, Monash University, Victoria 3800, Australia; Steven Morton [Steven.Morton@sci.monash.edu.au], School of Physics, Monash University, Victoria 3800, Australia; Timothy F. Flannery [tim.flannery@textpublishing.com.au], Macquarie University, New South Wales 2109, Australia; Benjamin P. Kear [b.kear@latrobe.edu.au], Department of Genetics, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, Australia; David J. Cantrill [david.cantrill@rbg.vic.gov.au], Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, South Yarra, Victoria 3141, Australia.

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