

CORRECTION: MISIDENTIFICATION OF “*MONOSAULAX*”*VALENTINENSIS*

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Korth (2005) described the anterior half of a skull of a small castorid from the middle Barstovian Valentine Formation of Keya Paha County, Nebraska, and referred two mandibles to the same species, “*Monosaulax*” *valentinensis* Evander (1999). This allocation was based mainly on size (dental measurements). However, it appears that the tables cited by Korth (2005) indicate that these specimens are referable to *Eucastor tortus* Leidy (1858) instead.

There are three castoroidine beavers known from the lower part of the Valentine Formation in northcentral Nebraska, *Monosaulax skinneri* Evander (1999; = “*Monosaulax*” sp. of Voorhies, 1990), *Monosaulax valentinensis* (Evander, 1999; = “*Monosaulax*” cf. *curtus* of Voorhies, 1990), and *Eucastor tortus*. Previously published measurements of these three species demonstrate that the alveolar length of the lower cheek teeth is distinct for each of these species with virtually no overlap in size (Table 1). The alveolar length of the referred specimens described and figured by Korth (2005:table 1, fig. 3) are clearly within the size range of *Eucastor tortus*, distinctly larger than the published specimens of *M. valentinensis*. Similarly, Voorhies (1990:table A-6) lists the length of P⁴-M³ for four specimens of *Eucastor tortus* (including the holotype) with a range of 13.0 to 13.1 mm. The specimen described by Korth (2005:table 1) has the length of P⁴-M³ as 12.91 mm, very close to the sample cite by Voorhies.

Korth (2005) concluded that the morphology of the skull of “*M.*” *valentinensis* suggested that it had adaptations for tooth-digging and was likely related to the later (Clarendonian) genus *Nothodipoides* (Korth, 2002). These conclusions are valid, however, it is to *Eucastor tortus* that these conclusions apply. The skull of *Monosaulax valentinensis* has not yet been described.

LITERATURE CITED

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Table 1. Comparative dental measurements of P₄-M₃ (alveolar length) of Barstovian castorids from the Valentine Formation of northcentral Nebraska. Measurements in mm.

| | mean | range | reference |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>M. valentinensis</i> | 12.9 | 12.1-13.7 | Evander, 1999 |
| <i>M. skinneri</i> | 19.10 19.7 | 18.90-19.25 17.9-21.5 | Voorhies, 1990 Evander, 1999 |
| <i>E. tortus</i> | 15.17 16.1 15.41 | 14.50-15.75 14.7-18.8 -- | Voorhies, 1990 Evander, 1999 Stirton, 1935 |
| “ <i>M. valentinensis</i> ” | 15.08 | 14.81-15.34 | Korth, 2005 |