

3D models related to the publication: *Djebelemur*, a tiny pre-tooth-combed primate from the Eocene of Tunisia: a glimpse into the origin of crown strepsirhines

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Abstract

This contribution contains the 3D models of the fossil remains (maxilla, dentary, and talus) attributed to *Djebelemur martinezi*, a ca. 50 Ma primate from Tunisia (Djebel Chambi), described and figured in the following publication: Marivaux et al. (2013), *Djebelemur*, a tiny pre-tooth-combed primate from the Eocene of Tunisia: a glimpse into the origin of crown strepsirhines. PLoS ONE. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0080778>

Keywords: Africa, Djebelemuridae, Paleogene, Primates, Strepsirhini

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INTRODUCTION

We present here the 3D digital models of several fossil specimens (Figs 1 and 2; Table 1) documenting a small-bodied primate: *Djebelemur martinezi* Hartenberger and Marandat, 1992. The fossils were discovered in the western part of central Tunisia (Kassérine region, Djebel Chambi; 2008 and 2009 field campaigns) from lacustrine deposits (CBI-1) dating from the late Early Eocene (Hartenberger and Marandat, 1992; Hartenberger et al., 1997, 2001; Tabuce et al., 2011; Marivaux et al., 2015). They were recovered after several rounds of acid processing and wet screening of the indurated calcareous matrix. In Marivaux et al. (2013), the new published material documenting *Djebelemur* consisted of a facial fragment (left maxilla) preserving P3-M3 and alveoli for P2 and C (CBI-1-544; Fig. 1A-B), a fragmentary lower jaw preserving m1-3, p3 and alveoli for p4, p2 and canine (CBI-1-565; Fig. 1D), few isolated teeth among which a right p4 (CBI-1-577; Fig. 1E-F), a left p2 (CBI-1-587; Fig. 1E-F), a left lower canine (CBI-1-580; Fig. 1E-F) and a left P4 (CBI-1-567; Fig. 1C), and finally an isolated talus (CBI-1-545; Fig. 2A-F). Cranial, dental and postcranial remains indicate that this diminutive primate was likely nocturnal, predatory (primarily insectivorous), and engaged in a form of generalized arboreal quadrupedalism with frequent horizontal leaping (Marivaux et al., 2013). These fossils provide additional morphological evidence for demonstrating the “advanced” stem strepsirhine status of *Djebelemur*, which is clearly more closely related to tooth-combed primates (crown Strepsirhini *sensu stricto*; i.e., lorises, galagos, and lemurs) than any adapiforms (Strepsirhini *sensu lato*). *Djebelemur* did not have an anterior lower dentition as specialized as that characterizing most crown strepsirhines (i.e., tooth-comb), but it clearly exhibited a transformed antemolar pattern representing an early stage to-

Model IDs	Description
CBI-1-544	Left maxilla preserving P3-M3 and alveoli for P2 and C1
CBI-1-567	CBI-1-567, left upper P4
CBI-1-565-577-587-580	Composite mandible reconstruction
CBI-1-545	Right Talus

Table 1. List of specimens and associated models of *Djebelemur martinezi*. All fossils referenced and figured in this paper are housed in the paleontological collections of the museum of the “Office National des Mines” (MONM) of Tunis, Tunisia.

ward a crown strepsirhine-like adaptation (“pre-tooth-comb”). These new fossil data suggest that the differentiation of the tooth-comb must postdate the djebelemurid divergence, a view which hence constrains the timing of crown strepsirhine origins to the Middle Eocene, and then precludes the existence of unrecorded lineage extinctions of tooth-combed primates during the earliest Tertiary.

METHODS

AVIZO 7.1 (Visualization Sciences Group) software was used for visualization, segmentation and 3D rendering. The teeth were prepared within a “labelfield” module of AVIZO, using the segmentation threshold selection tool. The 3D models are provided in .ply format, and then can be opened with a wide range of freeware. The .ply files were generated with MorphoDig, an open-source 3D freeware (Lebrun, 2018).

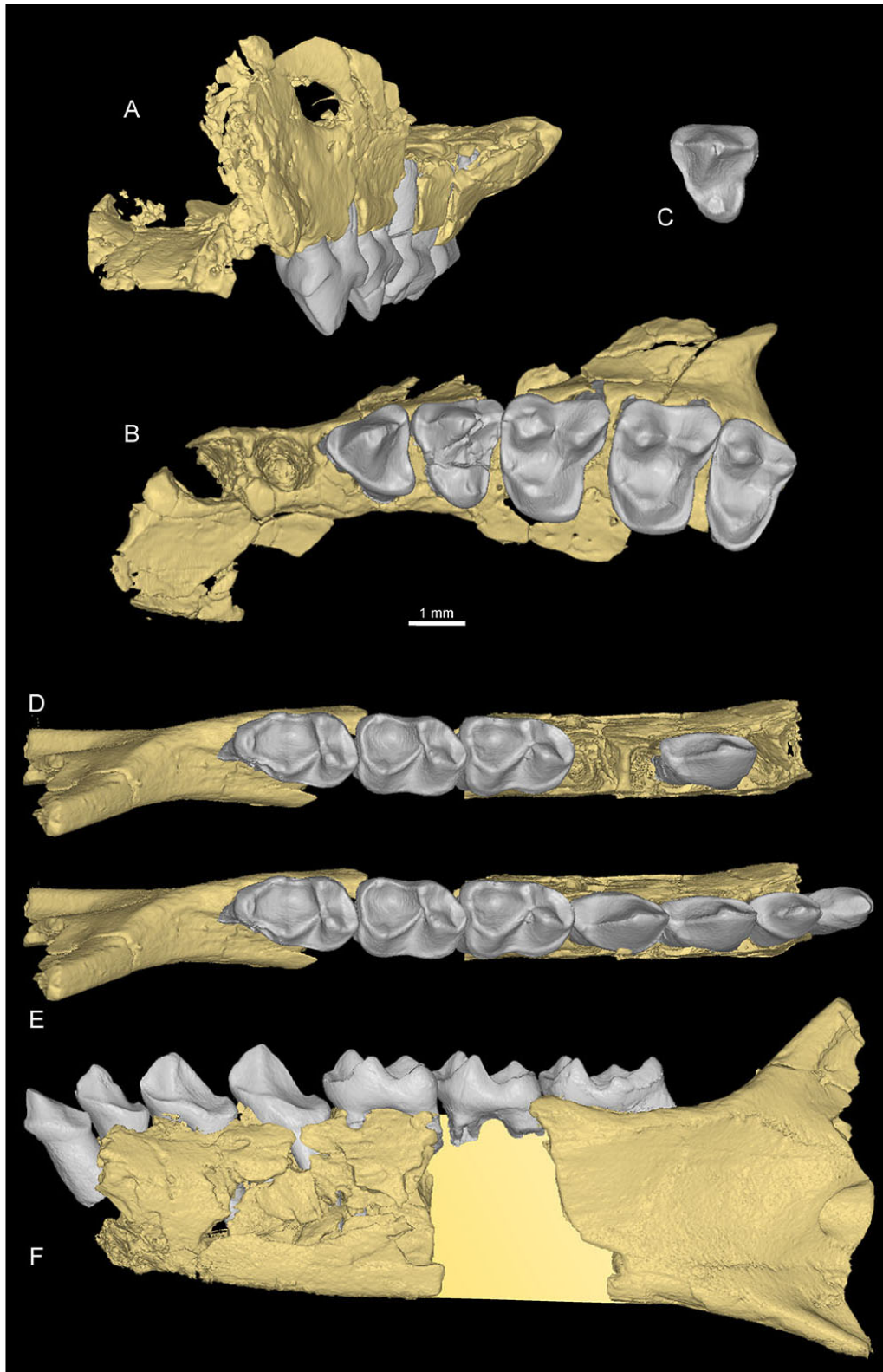


Figure 1. Fossil specimens of *Djebelemur martinezi* from the late Early Eocene of Djebel Chambi locus n°1 (CBI-1), western part of central Tunisia. A-B) CBI-1-544, left maxilla preserving P3-M3 and alveoli for P2 and C1, in frontal (A) and palatal (B) views. C) CBI-1-567, left P4 in occlusal view. D) CBI-1-565, a damaged right mandible, which consists of three isolated pieces found together and reassembled here: the anterior part of the dentary bears the p3 and m1, and alveoli for p4, p2 and c, while the posterior part preserves m3 and a portion of the ascending ramus; the m2 was found isolated but in the same small calcareous block treated by acid processing. E-F) composite lower tooththrow including the fragmentary CBI-1-565 right mandible, the CBI-1-580 left lower canine (reversed), the CBI-1-587 left p2 (reversed) and the CBI-1-577 right p4, in occlusal (E) and lingual (F) views.

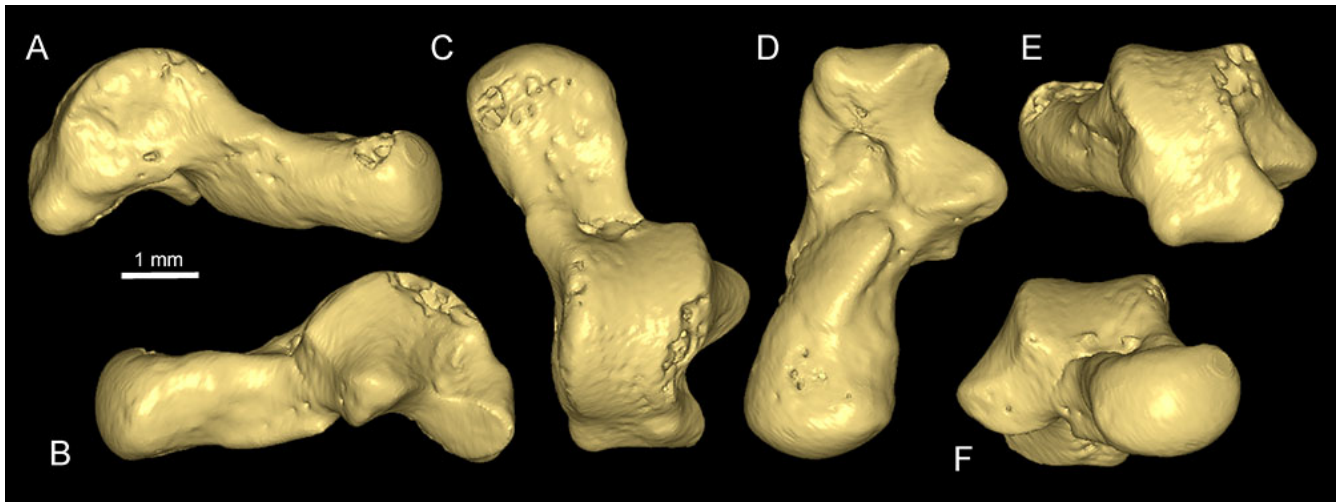


Figure 2. Ankle bone (or talus) of primate from the Djebel Chambi CBI-1 locality, attributed to *Djebelemur martinezi*. A-F) CBI-1-545, right talus in medial (A), lateral (B), dorsal (C), plantar (D), proximal (E) and distal (F) views.

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