

A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE PLIO-PLEISTOCENE CAMELIDS FROM
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

Kesler A.Randall
Department of Paleontology
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Diego, California

Several genera of camelids are recognized to have lived in North America during the Pliocene and Pleistocene. These genera are broken down into two separate monophyletic clades or tribes: the Lamini and Camelini. Recognized genera for the tribe Lamini include: *Hemiauchenia*, *Blancocamelus*, *Camelops*, and *Paleolama*. Recognized genera for the tribe Camelini include: *Procamelus*, *Megatylopus*, *Megacamelus*, *Gigantocamelus* and *Titanotylopus*. In addition, Whister and Webb (2000) reported on a new stenomyline camel from the Blancan of California. Although most camelid genera can be distinguished by characters of the dentition, skull, and mandibles, certain features of the distal limbs may also be used for identification. Some previous workers have established that measurements of metapodials may be used in bivariate plots to group certain genera. The shape and relative size of the suspensory ligament scars, on the posterior surface of the proximal phalanges, can also be used for generic determination.

Numerous (1079) specimens of camelids have been collected from the Pliocene and Pleistocene terrestrial sediments in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP). This material, as appears in the specimen database, has been identified to either *Hemiauchenia*, *Camelops*, *Titanotylopus* or Camelidae indeterminate. Although most material collected in ABDSP consists of partial and isolated elements, the uniqueness of camelid postcrania has enabled generic level identification for some specimens. A re-examination of the camelid material indicates that, in addition to *Hemiauchenia*, *Camelops* and *Titanotylopus*; *Blancocamelus*, *Gigantocamelus* and *Paleolama* may have lived in ABDSP. This study has not only increased the geographic range of these later genera, but has improved the camelid diversity in ABDSP and allowed for new insights into the paleoecology of the region.