

A new kentriodontid (Cetacea: Odontoceti) from the middle Miocene of the western North Pacific and a revision of kentriodontid phylogeny (#52427)

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I commend the authors for their extensive data set, compiled over many years of detailed fieldwork. In addition, the manuscript is clearly written in professional, unambiguous language. If there is a weakness, it is in the statistical analysis (as I have noted above) which should be improved upon before Acceptance.

A new kentriodontid (Cetacea: Odontoceti) from the middle Miocene of the western North Pacific and a revision of kentriodontid phylogeny

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Abstract

A new species of an extinct dolphin belonging to the kentriodontids, i.e., *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., is described from the lower Miocene Kadonosawa Formation in Ninohe City, Iwate Prefecture, northern Japan. The holotype of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., is consisted of a partial skull with ear bones, mandibular fragments, and some postcranial bones. The new species shares unique character with other species of the genus: the external auditory meatus is narrow. However, it differs from other species of the genus in having narrow width of the squamosal lateral to the exoccipital, dorsolateral edge of the internal opening of the infraorbital foramen is formed by the maxilla and the lacrimal or the jugal, and the anterior dorsal infraorbital foramina present three or more. Our phylogenetic analysis using an integrated data matrix from previous studies, based on 393 characters for 103 Odontoceti taxa, resulted in that the kentriodontids are a monophyletic group and recognized as a sister group to the crown Dephinoidea including the Delphinidae, Phocoenidae and Monodontidae. Our analysis also indicates that the dynamic renewal of the acoustic apparatus would have occurred in the Dephinoidea with the monophyletic Kentriodontidae during their evolution and diversification.

Introduction

The Dephinoidea has been thought to be emerged in the early Miocene (Gatesy et al., 2013) and are most diversified marine mammals in the world. However, their origin and adaptation are still in a puzzle. Proceeding in the emergence of the Dephinoidea, small coastally odontocetes known as kentriodontids (Barnes & Mitchell, 1984; Barnes, 1985; Muizon, 1988a), showed high diversity during early to late Miocene (Ichishima et al., 1994). The group has been considered to be stem delphinoids based on their primitive morphologies and still had retained several ancestral characters of odontocetes as a whole (Barnes, 1978). For instance, asymmetric nasal and premaxillary bones have commonly been observed in the modern odontocetes, but the symmetrical conditions of these bones still have retained in the kentriodontids. The interpretation for the evolutionary pattern of the Dephinoidea relies highly upon the process of morphological transformations in their stem group, while the relationships of such a stem group, the kentriodontids, have remained debated.

In the initial stage of the studies on the kentriodontids, they were considered to be a monophyletic family, the Kentriodontidae (e.g. Barnes, 1978; Barnes, 1985; Muizon, 1988a, 1988b; Ichishima et al., 1994). However, recent studies have advocated that the ‘kentriodontids’ are paraphyletic and are subdivided into several clades by different combination of taxa within the Dephinoidea as a broad sense (e.g. Lambert et al., 2017; Peredo, Uhen & Nelson, 2018; Kimura & Hasegawa, 2019). Because additional specimens of ‘kentriodontids’ have been accumulated, and molecular phylogeny of the cetaceans have recently established considerably (e.g. McGowen, Spaulding & Gatesy, 2009; McGowen et al., 2011; McGowen et al., 2020; Geisler et al., 2011), more comprehensive study for the phylogeny of this group is necessary. Recent studies have concentrated to investigate the phylogeny of this group (Lambert et al., 2017; Peredo, Uhen & Nelson, 2018; Kimura & Hasegawa, 2019) and show results that the

kentriodontids may not be monophyletic but polyphyletic. Particularly, Peredo, Uhen & Nelson (2018) rectify the family Kentriodontidae, assert only *Wimahl*, *Kampholophus* and *Kentriodon* assigned to the family. However, some other phylogenetic studies (e.g. Murakami et al., 2014; Tanaka and Fordyce, 2014, 2016; Tanaka et al., 2017; Lambert et al., 2018) using different character set and data matrix displayed some kentriodontid taxa with different topology. In other words, the relationship of the Delphinoidea is still in controversy.

Here, we describe a new species of the kentriodontid from the middle Miocene of Japan. The specimen includes a braincase of the skull with a well-preserved tympanoperiotics. We also reassess the phylogenetic relationships of the kentriodontids with molecular consensus and debate on the evolution of the Delphinoidea including the kentriodontids.

Materials & Methods

Nomenclatural acts

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Anatomical terminology

We follow Mead & Fordyce (2009) for the terminology of skull and ear bone elements.

Phylogenetic Methods

The phylogenetic position of the new specimen being described here was analyzed based on the characters and the character matrix combined from Tanaka et al. (2017) and Lambert et al. (2017). The character list and the data matrix by Tanaka et al. (2017) was originally formalized by Geisler et al. (2011) and modified with additional characters by Murakami et al. (2012) to understand intraspecific relationships of the Phocoenidae within the crown Delphinoidea, and then it was re-modified by Tanaka & Fordyce (2014). The Tanaka et al. (2017) data matrix included 87 taxa and 284 characters, but this data matrix included only 3 taxa of kentriodontids: i.e., *Kentriodon pernix* Kellogg 1927, *Atocetus iquensis* Muizon 1988b and *Hadrodelphis calvertense* Dawson 1996. By contrast, the Lambert et al. (2017) data matrix was also based on Geisler, Godfrey & Lambert (2012), but they included 112 taxa and 324 characters with 12 taxa of kentriodontids: i.e., *Delphinodon dividum* True 1912, *Kentriodon pernix* Kellogg 1927, *Rudicetus squalodontoides* Bianucci 2001, *Hadrodelphis calvertense* Dawson 1996,

Kampholophus serrulus Rensberger 1969, *Macrokentriodon morani* Dawson 1996, *Tagicetus joneti* Lambert, Estevens & Smith 2005, *Pithanodelphis cornutus* Abel 1905, *Atocetus nasalis* Muizon 1988a, *Atocetus iquensis* Muizon 1988b, *Lophocetus calvertensis* Cope 1867 and *Lophocetus repenningi* Barnes 1978. However, the character set used for their phylogenetic analysis was originally formularized for the taxa within much 'lower' clade of the Odontoceti (e.g., Geisler et al., 2011; Lambert et al., 2017; Peredo, Uhen & Nelson, 2018; Kimura & Hasegawa, 2019). Consequently, these two streams of studies on odontocete phylogeny including kentriodontids have not been comparative to each other, and the included taxa of kentriodontids and character combination to analyze their phylogenetic relationships were far different to each other, too. To resolve these problems, we performed a phylogenetic analysis based on the combined characters and kentriodontid taxa from previous studies such as Geisler, Godfrey & Lambert (2012), Murakami et al. (2012), Tanaka & Fordyce (2014), Tanaka et al. (2017), Lambert et al. (2017), Peredo, Uhen & Nelson (2018) and Kimura & Hasegawa (2019). The resultant data matrix of our study is based on 103 taxa including almost all the kentriodontids and 393 morphological characters (see Supplemental Information), with a tree constraint based on the molecular phylogenetics of the extant cetaceans by McGowen, Spaulding & Gatesy (2009), McGowen et al. (2011) and McGowen et al. (2020). In regard to the kentriodontids, we included the following 15 taxa of described kentriodontids into our data matrix (see also Supplemental Information): *Tagicetus joneti* Lambert, Estevens & Smith 2005 from the middle Miocene of Portugal (Lambert, Estevens & Smith, 2005), *Pithanodelphis cornutus* Abel 1905 from the upper Miocene of Belgium (Flower, 1872), *Liolithax pappus* Barnes 1978 from the middle Miocene of USA (Barnes, 1978), *Atocetus nasalis* Muizon 1988b from the upper Miocene of USA (Muizon, 1988b), *Rudicetus squalodontoides* Bianucci 2001 from the lower to upper Miocene of Italy (Bianucci, 2001), *Kampholophus serrulus* Rensberger 1969 from the lower Miocene of USA (Rensberger, 1969), *Macrokentriodon morani* Dawson 1996 from the lower Miocene of USA (Dawson, 1996), *Lophocetus calvertensis* Cope 1867 from the upper Miocene of USA (Cope, 1867), *Lophocetus repenningi* Barnes 1978 from the middle Miocene of USA (Barnes, 1978), *Delphinodon dividum* True 1912 from the lower Miocene of USA (True, 1912), *Wimahl chinookensis* Peredo, Uhen & Nelson 2018 from the lower Miocene of USA (Peredo, Uhen & Nelson, 2018), *Kentriodon nakajimai* Kimura & Hasegawa 2019 from the middle to late Miocene of Japan (Kimura & Hasegawa, 2019), *Kentriodon diusinus* Salinas-Márquez et al. 2014 from the middle Miocene of USA (Salinas-Márquez et al., 2014), *Kentriodon schneideri* Whitmore & Kaltenbach 2008 from the middle Miocene of USA (Whitmore & Kaltenbach, 2008), *Kentriodon obscurus* Kellogg 1931 from the middle Miocene of USA (Kellogg, 1931).

Although more than half of the kentriodontid taxa had not been coded to complete our integrated data matrix to locate their phylogenetic positions, our observations and codings for the rest of taxa were in agreement with at least the coding traits for taxa already coded by previous studies. Therefore, it could be safe to code character states for the taxa of the above-mentioned

kentriodontids that were not coded before based on our own observations and integrate all the codings into our new data matrix.

The phylogenetic analysis was performed with TNT 1.5 (Goloboff, Farris & Nixon, 2008; Goloboff & Catalano, 2016). All characters were treated as unweighted and unordered, using the “New Technology Search” tasked to find minimum length trees 1,000 times, under the tree constraint based on the molecular evidence from the extant taxa (McGowen, Spaulding & Gatesy, 2009; McGowen et al., 2011; McGowen et al., 2020).

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

CETACEA Brisson, 1762

ODONTOCETI Flower, 1867

DELPHINIDA Muizon, 1988a

KENTRIODONTIDAE Slijper, 1936

Emended Diagnosis of Family: Differing from other families in having the following derived

characters: premaxillae are compressed mediolaterally at anterior of the rostrum (Chr. 3), the mesorostral groove constricted posteriorly, anterior to the nares and behind the level of the antorbital notch, then rapidly diverging anteriorly (Chr. 7), anterior edge of the supraorbital process is oriented anterolaterally, forms an angle between 35° and 60° (Chr. 50), the dorsolateral edge of internal opening of the infraorbital foramen is formed by the lacrimal or the jugal (Chr. 58), the infratemporal crest forms well-defined curved ridge on the posterior edge of sulcus for the optic nerve (Chr. 64), the premaxillary foramen is located medially (Chr. 72), the alisphenoid is broadly exposed laterally in the temporal fossa (Chr. 160), suture between both the palatines and both the maxillae is straight transversely or bowed anteriorly (Chr. 179), the external auditory meatus is wide (Chr. 225), angle formed by basioccipital crests as ca. 15–40° in ventral view (Chr. 229), the hypoglossal foramen is separated from the jugular foramen or the jugular notch by thick bone (Chr. 231), most convex part of the pars cochlearis is on the ventrolateral surface (Chr. 283).

Kentriodon Kellogg, 1927

Emended Diagnosis of Genus: The genus *Kentriodon* differing from other genera of the kentriodontids (incl. ‘*Kentriodon*’ *diusinus*) by having narrow external auditory meatus (Chr. 225).

Kentriodon sugawarai, sp. nov.

LSID: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0D209916-B472-44A7-B7AB-29682FA945C4

Holotype: NHFM-F 001, incomplete skull including the braincase, right tympanoperiotics, fragments of left and right mandibles, partial atlas, and one tooth, lacking most of the rostrum.

Diagnosis of Species: Differing from *K. schneideri* by the convexed occipital (Chr. 176). Differing from *K. pernix*, *K. nakajimai* and *K. obscurus* by the following characters: the dorsolateral edge of the internal opening of the infraorbital foramen is formed by the maxilla and the lacrimal or the jugal (Chr. 58), the anterior dorsal infraorbital foramina present three or more (Chr. 65), anterolateral corner of the nasal lacks a distinct process (Chr. 136), width of the squamosal lateral to the exoccipital is narrow (Chr. 170), anterior level of the pterygoid sinus fossa is interrupted posterior to, or the level of, the antorbital notch (Chr. 193) and the ventral edge of the anterior process of the periotic is clearly concave in lateral view (Chr. 245). Differing further from *K. nakajimai*, *K. diusinus* and *K. schneideri* by having deep emargination of posterior edge of zygomatic process by the neck muscle fossa. Differing from *K. hobetsu*, *K. schneideri* and *K. pernix* by having narrow exoccipital in width. Differing from *K. obscurus* and *K. pernix* by having the aperture for cochlear aqueduct smaller than the aperture for vestibular aqueduct. Differing further from *K. pernix* by having the shallow lateral furrow of the tympanic bulla.

Etymology: The species is named in honor of Mr. Kohei Sugawara, the director of the Ninohe Museum of History and Folklore, for his longstanding contributions to geology and paleontology as well as local history of Ninohe district, and in gratitude for his encouragement and assistance to both of us throughout this study.

Type Locality: The holotype was collected in 1940s from the place close to Mabechi River, Ninohe City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan. Approximate geographical coordinates: 40°31'N, 141°31'E; (Fig. 1).

Formation and Age: Although the precise locality of NHFM-F 001 is presently uncertain, and therefore, the exact horizon from which NHFM-F 001 was collected is not clear, the siltstone matrix adhering NHFM-F 001 has produced the diatom flora including *Denticulopsis praelauta* (Oishi et al., 1999). Accordingly, NHFM-F 001 came from the middle to upper Kadonosawa Formation, because the Shikonai Siltstone Member of the Formation is dominated by silt to very fine sandstone. The Shikonai Siltstone Member of the Kadonosawa Formation is widely distributed in Ninohe City, including the locality area of NHFM-F 001. The siltstone layers of the Shirikonai Siltstone Member of the Kadonosawa Formation have produced rich diatom flora, and these are identified as those of the *Denticulopsis praelauta* Zone (Tuzino & Yanagisawa, 2017; Tuzino et al., 2018). The range in age of this zone spans between 16.3 and 15.9 Ma (Yanagisawa & Akiba, 1998). The main part of the Kadonosawa Formation has yielded abundant molluscan fossils (Chinzei, 1966), and has been reported a tooth of *Desmosrylus* (Oishi & Kawakami, 1984). Further, based on ostracods (Irizuki & Matsubara, 1994) and benthic foraminifera (Kamemaru, Matsubara & Irizuki, 1995), suggested environment of the Shikonai Siltstone Member of the Kadonosawa Formation is sublittoral to bathyal in depth.

DESCRIPTION

Cranium

The cranium lacks most of the rostrum anterior to the antorbital notch (Fig. 2), and the left orbit and parts of the left squamosal are also missing away. In ventral view, the choanae is cracked, not connected with the bony nares and depressed by secondary deformation (Fig. 3). In dorsal view, the nasal and the premaxilla are almost symmetrical at the sagittal plane, while the midline of the occipital condyle is slightly skewed to the right rather than the midline of the nasal and premaxilla. In posterior view, the right temporal fossa slightly faces dorsolaterally while the left temporal fossa faces laterally, the dorsal part of the cranium might fall left by secondary deformation. In lateral view, the temporal fossa is long anteroposteriorly and deep dorsoventrally. The vertex is low and flat, formed by the frontals and the nasals.

Premaxilla

Most of the rostral portion of premaxillae are broken away. Broken section is just anterior at the portion anterior to the antorbital notch. The premaxillary foramen is just posterior to the broken section, and on the same level of the antorbital notch. Anteromedial to the premaxillary foramen, the anteromedial sulcus and the prenasal triangle cannot be visible posterior to the broken section. The posteromedial sulcus of the premaxilla is absent. The lateral margin of each side of the premaxilla is also broken, and the posterolateral sulcus cannot be recognized, and only remaining a recognizable premaxillary surface on right side of the maxilla. Anterior to the bony nares, the premaxillae are thin and flat, the premaxillary sac fossa on the premaxilla is weakly depressed. In lateral view, premaxillae form a low angle of about 20° along the anteroposterior axis of the cranium (Fig. 4). The premaxillae are symmetrical, the knob-like posterior end of the premaxilla contacts the anterolateral corner of the nasal at the level slightly lower to the vertex.

Maxilla

The left maxilla is broken laterally, but the right antorbital notch is preserved. The maxillary-palatine suture and the cross-section of the infraorbital foramen is observed in the broken section (Fig. 5). The maxilla is generally flat transversely at the antorbital region, and there is no indication of the maxillary crest. The lateral margin of the maxilla is flat at its orbital area, but it is slightly concave posteriorly to the orbital. There are three anterior and one posterior dorsal infraorbital foramina on the right maxilla (Fig. 2). The anterior-most one of these is located just beside the maxillary-premaxillary suture, anteromedial to the antorbital notch. Other two small anterior dorsal infraorbital foramina are located at the level of the premaxillary sac fossa. The posterior dorsal infraorbital foramen is the largest, and its opening is located on the ascending process at the level of the nasals. In transition plate, the maxilla rises towards to the vertex gently at the ascending process but sharply at the vertex. Although the vertex is low, the maxilla faces laterally just lateral to the nasal and makes a pair of deep fossae intently lateral by the nasal and anteriorly by the nuchal crest. The posterior and lateral margins of the right maxilla are semicircular, and the posteromedial margin connects the supraoccipital posteriorly on the right maxilla. In lateral view, the maxilla overlaps on the frontal dorsally, and form a thin plate

posteriorly from the supraorbital margin of the frontal. It gradually thickens anteriorly by the antorbital process. In ventral view, the right ventral infraorbital foramen is preserved, while the lateral edge of the left ventral infraorbital foramen is broken away. The sutures of the maxilla to other bones are not clear since the lacrimal and palatine do not show distinct sutures.

Palatine and Pterygoid

The posterior half of the palatine is preserved. The palatine-maxilla suture is visible from the anterior side through the transverse section (Fig. 5). The palatine connects to the maxilla dorsally and thinner than the maxilla. The left and right palatines are not separated medially at the level of the transverse section just anterior to the antorbital notch. The left side of the palatine-ptyergoid is broken laterally, but the parasagittal section of the left infraorbital foramen is observed (Fig. 3). Since the palatine-maxilla suture is not clear in the parasagittal section, the ventromedial edge of the infraorbital foramen is uncertain.

The pterygoids are well-preserved. Both the lateral and ventral laminae of the pterygoid and the pterygoid hamulus are also well-preserved. The anterior most of the pterygoid is located slightly posterior to the level of the antorbital notch. The pterygoid sinus is covered by the pterygoid. The anterior edge of the pterygoid sinus is slightly extended anteriorly to the level of the antorbital notch. The palatal surface is flat and convex ventrally. The sagittal portion of the palatal surface is slightly separated posteriorly. The hamular crest of the pterygoid is present but blunt, and it is diverged posteriorly in ventral view. The pterygoid hamulus is short, and it tapers posterolaterally by the hamular crest. It locates the posterolateral most of the lateral and ventral laminae of the pterygoid, just posterior to the infratemporal crest of the frontal. The medial lamina forms the anterolateral wall of the internal nares. The posterior lamina overlaps the basioccipital crest. It forms the pharyngeal crest and covers the alisphenoid ventrally.

Vomer

The vomer is visible dorsally, but it is covered by the pterygoid ventrally. In view from the anterior transverse section (Fig. 5), the premaxilla does not make a roof that covers the vomer dorsally. The mesorostal canal is opened widely as a U-shape groove, started from 11 mm anterior to the anterior edge of the bony nares. In ventral view, the vomer is covered by the pterygoid ventrally at the choanae, and it is posteriorly overhung beneath the basioccipital.

Mesethmoid

The ectethmoid appears on the nasal septum. The nasal septum is narrow transversely and straight dorsally. It is as high as the level of the nasal process of the premaxilla and connects with the nasals. Because of this, the cribriform plate and the mesethmoid cannot be distinguishable in dorsal view.

Nasal

The shape of the nasal is subtriangular, and its transverse width is wider than its anteroposterior length. The left and right nasals are symmetrical. The nasal is slightly wider than the widest part of the bony nares, and its anterior margin is slightly narrower than its posterior margin. The lateral margin contacts with the posterior end of the premaxilla anterolaterally and contact with the maxilla laterally. The nasals also contact with the frontals posteromedially. The dorsal surface of the nasal is flat, and it is only slightly concave anterolaterally. There is no indication of the internasal fossa and has only the shallow internasal suture medially. The internasal suture is almost situated on the midline of the cranium. In anterior view, the anterior border of the nasal is slightly retracted posteriorly by the bony nares.

Frontal

The frontal is only exposed at the vertex. In dorsal view, the frontal is separated from the maxilla by the nasal. The frontal is elliptical, and it connects anterolaterally the nasal and posteriorly the supraoccipital. The frontal at the vertex is slightly higher than the nasal, and it becomes the highest point of the cranium. In lateral view, the orbital fossa is slightly concave and low, in line with the edge of the posterior rostrum (Fig. 4). In ventral view, the preorbital process is thick anteriorly. While the anterior most of the frontal is broken, the frontal-lacrimonal suture is not clear. The postorbital process, though the ventral apex is broken, is somewhat narrow and triangular at the base, its apex is directed posteroventrally or ventrally. Both the preorbital and postorbital lobes of the pterygoid sinus are shallow or absent. The frontal groove is deep medially, extant anteriorly to the level of the posterior most of the infraorbital foramen. The infratemporal crest is curved just anterior to the optic canal.

Lacrimojugal Complex

The left antorbital process is broken away, and the right antorbital process is also broken anteriorly and laterally, so the shape and the composition of the anterior most of the antorbital process is not clear. Although the lacrimal-maxilla suture and lacrimal-jugal suture are not clear in dorsal view, there may be a lacrimal-maxilla suture in anterior view at the broken section of the antorbital process. The lacrimal is thicker than the maxilla at the broken section of the antorbital process. The right jugal connects the lacrimal exactly at the posterior most of the antorbital notch. The main part of the jugal is broken away, but its base is narrow and only preserved as a short pedicle.

Squamosal

The right glenoid process of the squamosal is missing away, while the anterior part of the left glenoid process is preserved as a short base, but it is also broken at the squamosal fossa. The glenoid process seems to be long because the postorbital process is relatively far from the base of the glenoid process. The squamosal fossa is incomplete anteriorly, but it is shallow and somehow longer anteroposteriorly, and it faces dorsally. The lateral margin of the fossa is visible in dorsal view. The mandibular fossa is not preserved, while the tympanosquamosal recess can be

observed medially. The tympanosquamosal recess is flat and wide, and its ventral surface is wrinkled. The falciform process is not preserved well, and the retroarticular or postglenoid process is also not clear because of the insufficient preservation. The posttympanic or retrotympanic process cannot be distinct.

Supraoccipital

In dorsal view, the supraoccipital is large. The nuchal crest is trapezoidal in outline, while it is medially concave at the level of the temporal fossa. It expands laterally toward to the exoccipital. In posterior view, the supraoccipital is inclined anteriorly, and thus, it is low. The supraoccipital shield is concave anterodorsally and convex posteroventrally. Anteriorly, just posterior to the nuchal crest, the supraoccipital forms a fossa medially that the anterior most surface directs posteriorly. Posteriorly, the supraoccipital shield bulges medially (Fig. 6). This bulge has a suture with supraoccipital, and it is collapsed in the right margin, though it may be a result of deformation. The supraoccipital is fused with the exoccipital with an undefined suture. There is no indication of the external occipital crest.

Exoccipital

The exoccipital is wide. It extends laterally from the temporal crest, and it is fused with basioccipital ventrally. The temporal crest is overhung the exoccipital posterolaterally, extant nearly to the posterior most of the cranium without condyles. The occipital condyle is prominent, and the condylar neck is developed, while there is no indication of dorsal condyloid fossa. The foramen magnum is almost circular with only slightly ellipse that narrows mediolaterally. In ventral view, the jugular notch is deep and narrow. The paroccipital process is wide. The hypoglossal foramen is opened at the jugular notch. The paroccipital concavity is deep and wide, and it is separated from the jugular notch.

Basioccipital

The basioccipital is strongly concave laterally, and the basioccipital crests face ventromedially at their margins. The basioccipital basin ~~in between the basioccipital crests~~ is broad. The basioccipital crest is transversely and anteriorly narrow and expands anteroposteriorly. It connects with the posterior lamina of the pterygoid. Its posterior margin is rounded. Medial to the crest, the ventral surface is flat. The muscular tubercle on the basioccipital basin is not developed.

Periotic

The right periotic is preserved (Figs. 7 and 8). In dorsal and ventral view, the apex of the anterior process is mediolaterally flattened. Its anteroventral and anterodorsal angles are respectively tapered and directed anteriorly, with same level by the anterior keel. The anteroposterior length of the anterior process is nearly the same as that of the pars cochlearis. The anterior incisure is deep, and it separates the anterior process from the pars cochlearis. In lateral view, the

parabullary ridge is concave. There is a flat surface anterior to the fovea epitubaria, which is circular and 2 mm in length, might be the anterior bullar facet but very shallow. The fovea epitubaria is broad, and it receives but not fuses with the accessory ossicle of the tympanic bulla. There is a fossa posteromedial to the accessory ossicle and anteromedial to the malleolar fossa. It receives the tubercle of the malleus. The malleolar fossa is rounded and faces ventrally rather than medially. The lateral tuberosity is bulbous laterally to the malleolar fossa. The epitympanic hiatus is concave just posterior to the lateral tuberosity. The hiatus accommodates the facial canal posteromedially. The vestibular window is rounded and slightly larger than the facial canal.

The medial outline of the pars cochlearis is rounded and compressed dorsoventrally. The cochlear window opens on the posterior wall of the pars cochlearis. The aperture for the cochlear aqueduct opens dorsally and is located close to the vestibular aqueduct with the same transverse level as the medial edge of the internal acoustic meatus. The aperture for the vestibular aqueduct is two times larger than the aperture for the cochlear aqueduct and located slightly posteriorly to the aperture for the cochlear aqueduct at the anteroposterior level. The internal acoustic meatus is large and funnel-like, with an anterolateral–posteromedial axis. The anterior most of the internal acoustic meatus is continued with the anterior incisure. The foramen singulare is located closer to the proximal opening of the facial canal rather than the spiral cribriform tract, separated by partitions from the proximal opening of the facial canal and the spiral cribriform tract. The proximal opening of the facial canal is slightly anteriorly to the spiral cribriform tract. The area cribrosa media have almost the same size with the spiral cribriform tract. The posterior process is short anteroventrally, while its posterior edge is directed ventrally. In lateral view, the posterior process forms a blunt right angle at the dorsoventral most. The posterior bullar facet is smooth and faces anteroventrally.

Tympanic bulla

The right tympanic bulla only lacks the anterodorsal crest, the sigmoid process and the posterior process (Figs. 9 and 10). The accessory ossicle is preserved but disarticulated with the tympanic bulla. The tympanic bulla is narrow and long, and its ventral margin is slightly concave in lateral view. The lateral furrow is absent or very shallow. The disarticulated accessory ossicle is rounded and moderate in size. It occupies the fovea epitubaria of the petrotic. In ventral view, there is an antero-posterior linear fracture surface on the accessory ossicle. The involucrum tapers anteriorly, and the anterior spine is absent or very short. The dorsal and ventral margins of the involucrum are parallel and the dorsal margin is excavated just anterior to the posterior process. The ventromedial keel on the involucrum is unclear. The interprominential notch is shallow and continues to the median furrow. The median furrow is shallow. It widens anteriorly and directly laterally. The sigmoid process is large and rounded, and it fully covers the conical process in dorsal view. The posterior edge of the sigmoid process is thick. The conical process is dorsally high. The inner and outer posterior prominences extend posteriorly as same level, and they are almost equal in size. The posterior process, which is broken at its base, is rounded and thick. The

facet for the posterior process of the periotic is smooth. The elliptical foramen can be observed between the outer and inner posterior pedicles.

Malleus

The malleus is isolated from the periotic (Fig. 11 A–F). The head is high anteromedially. The ventral margin of the tubercle is concaved. The manubrium of malleus forms a hook-like process at the medial margin, which directs anteriorly. The insertion for the tendon of the m. tensor tympani opens ventrally. The processus muscularis is small.

Mandible

Both left and right mandibles are preserved (Fig. 11 K–N), but the right mandible only preserves its posterior part, while the left mandible preserves its posteroventral part including the angular process and the ventral half of the mandibular condyle. Both mandibles are flat and thin, the mandibular foramen is shallow mediolaterally. In left mandible, the mylohyoid groove is shallow anterior to the angular process. It preserves a crest ventrally to the mylohyoid groove, while the mandibular canal is not started at the anterior most of the fragment. The posterior margin of the angular process is rounded, and it concaves on the buccal surface. The mandibular condyle is located more posteriorly than the angular process and has an anteriorly inward, deep, rounded curve between the angular process and the mandibular condyle. The condyle is concave on the buccal surface. The apex of the condyle is faced dorsomedially. The condylar articular surface is not preserved.

Tooth

One isolated tooth is preserved (Fig. 11 G–J). It is small and conical, at least 27 mm in length and 6.3 mm in maximum diameter at the portion of the root. The surface of the crown is smooth, and its apex is hooked. The tooth root is also smooth and conical, and it is 1.5 times longer than the crown. The cementum of the root is just slightly thicker than the crown, and the proximal end of the tooth root also slightly turn to right angle to the deflection of the distal end.

Vertebra

A fragment of the atlas is only the vertebra (Fig. 11 O, P). The ventral part of the are without transverse process is preserved. In posterior view, the posterior articular surface is not well preserved, but it is at least not fused with the axis. In dorsal view, the anterior tubercle is short anteroposteriorly and relatively high ventrally. It also has a V-shape crest on its anterior surface. It starts from the ventral most of the anterior articular facet to the ventral most of the anterior tubercle. The anterior articular facet is concave ventrally, and thin at the middle part.

Results of Phylogenetic Analyses

Our phylogenetic analyses found 256 most parsimonious trees with 3424 steps in total branch length. Each tree has a consistency index of 0.197 and a retention index of 0.564. The 50%

majority rule consensus of those trees is shown in Figure 12. The strict consensus tree is also shown in the Supplemental Information. The majority rule consensus tree shows that all the species previously identified as kentriodontids were nested in the monophyletic clade and positioned as the sister group to the crown Delphinoidea (i.e., Delphiidae, Phocoenidae and Monodontidae), and therefore, The kentriodontids were not ancestral to the crown delphinoids. The monophyly of the Kentriodontidae was supported by 14 synapomorphies as follows: premaxillae are compressed mediolaterally at anterior of the rostrum (Chr. 3), the mesorostral groove constricted posteriorly, anterior to the nares and behind the level of the antorbital notch, then rapidly diverging anteriorly (Chr. 7), anterior edge of the supraorbital process is oriented anterolaterally, forms an angle between 35° and 60° (Chr. 50), the dorsolateral edge of internal opening of the infraorbital foramen is formed by the lacrimal or the jugal (Chr. 58), the infratemporal crest forms well-defined curved ridge on the posterior edge of sulcus for the optic nerve (Chr. 64), the premaxillary foramen is located medially (Chr. 72), the alisphenoid is broadly exposed laterally in the temporal fossa (Chr. 160), suture between both the palatines and both the maxillae is straight transversely or bowed anteriorly (Chr. 179), the external auditory meatus is wide (Chr. 225), angle formed by basioccipital crests as ca. 15–40° in ventral view (Chr. 229), the hypoglossal foramen is separated from the jugular foramen or the jugular notch by thick bone (Chr. 231), most convex part of the pars cochlearis is on the ventrolateral surface (Chr. 283), the basihyal and the thyrohyal are fused (Chr. 332) and the lateral edge of transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae angled anteromedially 45° or more, relative to a parasagittal plane (Chr. 334). However, last two characters (i.e., Chrs. 332 and 334) are not preserved on most kentriodontid taxa.

Among the monophyletic Delphinoidea, NHFM-F 001 was nested in the kentriodontid clade and recognized as a sister taxon of *K. pernix*, *K. nakajimai* and *K. obscurus* (Fig. 12). In addition, the monophyly of *K. schneideri*, NHFM-F 001, *K. pernix*, *K. nakajimai* and *K. obscurus*, except for *K. diusinus*, was recognized. Thus, NHFM-F 001 is considered as belonging in the genus *Kentriodon*. However, NHFM-F 001 has quite a few autapomorphic characters among other *Kentriodon* species, and accordingly, a formal definition for NHFM-F 001 as a new species of the genus *Kentriodon* is warranted. Thus, we propose a new species within the genus, i.e., *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov.

Discussion and Conclusions

Phylogenetic Position of the Kentriodontids

The result of our phylogenetic analysis is apparently similar with that of Tanaka et al. (2017), but the interrelationship of the Delphinida (Inioidae + our concept of Kentriodontidae + crown Delphinoidea) is different from their result. In the Delphinida, the interrelationship of the crown Delphinoidea (Delphinidae + Monodontidae + Phocoenidae) is also similar with Tanaka et al. (2017), but the sister group relationships among the Delphinida (Inioidae + our Kentriodontidae) are different. Tanaka et al. (2017) included only three kentriodontids and suggested that they were paraphyletic. These three kentriodontids were located at the basal position for the crown

Delphinoidea. In recent studies on the relationships of the delphinidans, Lambert et al. (2017) and Peredo, Uhen & Nelson (2018) advocated that the 'kentriodontids' were also considered to be paraphyletic, and these studies subdivided the so called 'kentriodontids' into 5 paraphyletic or polyphyletic groups. Particularly, there unconstrained analysis suggested that the Lipotidae was recognized as a sister group to the paraphyletic 'kentriodontid' species, i.e., *Liolithax*, meaning that it was more closely related to some 'kentriodontids' than Iniidae + Pontoporiidae, which was also different from the results of the molecular phylogenetics (e.g., McGowen, Spaulding & Gatesy, 2009; McGowen et al., 2011; McGowen et al., 2020).

By contrast, our analysis suggested the monophyletic grouping of all the species of the kentriodontids as discussed above. Although the monophyly of the kentriodontids has been proposed by some early studies (e.g., Barnes, 1978, 1985; Muizon, 1988a), intergeneric and specific relationships among the family are both different from our result. Our result suggests that the kentriodontids are divided into two monophyletic subgroups (fig. 12). One subgroup includes *Kampholophus*, *Wimahl*, *Rudicetus* and *Kentriodon*, while the other subgroup includes *Delphinodon*, *Tagicetus*, *Macrokentriodon*, *Liolithax*, *Hadrodelfhis*, *Pithanodelphis*, *Lophocetus* and *Atocetus*. The diagram shows agreements with Peredo, Uhen & Nelson (2018) and Kimura & Hsagawa (2019) at least in the former subgroup. On the other hand, they have suggested the taxa in the latter subgroup that are divided into four polyphyletic subgroups.

As mentioned above, we adopted our phylogenetic analysis with a tree constraint based on the molecular evidence by McGowen, Spaulding & Gatesy (2009), McGowen et al. (2011) and McGowen et al. (2020) as was also the case for Tanaka et al. (2017). Lambert et al. (2017) performed their phylogenetic analyses both with a tree constraint based on the molecular evidence and without such a tree constraint, and they preferred their unconstrained tree as a result from their multiple analyses. The study by Lambert et al. (2017) was so comprehensive that it might be the reason why the molecular evidence had not been used in later studies on the phylogeny of the Delphinida including the kentriodontids (e.g., Peredo, Uhen & Nelson, 2018; Kimura & Hsagawa, 2019, 2020). The molecular phylogenetics is now widely accepted to reconstruct the phylogenetic relationships of organisms, but its results are sometimes or often different from morphological data. Although those studies mentioned above chose the total evidence approach (parsimony analysis based both on molecular and morphological evidence) for their analyses, the resultant relationships they suggested are different from that of the analyses by molecular only (McGowen, Spaulding & Gatesy, 2009; McGowen et al., 2011; McGowen et al., 2020; Geisler et al., 2011; Lambert et al., 2020).

Interestingly, the phylogenetic relationships of the basal taxa within the Odontoceti as are suggested by some previous researches (e.g., Tanaka and Fordyce, 2016; Tanaka et al., 2017) are little different from our result. Particularly, the topology of our diagram shows that the clade including *Waipatia*, *Otekaikea* and *Awamokoa* is located more basal within the Odontoceti than previously thought. It may also be the potential effect that these differences may occurred since our integrated characters that are focused on the relationships of the Delphinida like Tanaka & Fordyce (2016) and Tanaka et al. (2017) rather than focusing on more basal taxa within the

Odontoceti like Geisler et al. (2011). In this regard, the characters incorporated from Lambert et al. (2017) and Tanaka et al. (2017) could be better to resolve the relationships of both earlier and later diverging taxa of dolphins in the Delphinida within the Odontoceti.

Potentially Independent Diversifications of Kentriodontids Based on Ear Bones

At the time of the evolution and diversification of the delphinidans including the monophyletic kentriodontids, seven out of 18 synapomorphies are considered to be evolutionary changes of periotic and tympanic bulla features. These changes could be interpreted to be the result of their evolutionary innovation such as the potential specialization of their echolocation abilities among the odontocetes (Gutstein et al., 2014; Churchill et al., 2016). Such characters are the following: the processus muscularis of the malleus is sub-equal or longer than the manubrium (Chr. 237), the articulation of the anterior process with the squamosal is absent (Chr. 253), the anterior bullar facet is absent (Chr. 254), the dorsal surface of the periotic is nearly flat (Chr. 260), the foramen singulare is in common recess with the spiral cribiform tract, the transverse crest that separates it from the proximal opening of the facial nerve canal is low, and the proximal opening of the facial nerve canal within the internal acoustic meatus (Chr. 269), the aperture for the cochlear aqueduct is smaller than the aperture for the vestibular aqueduct (Chr. 272) and the dorsal margin of the involucrum of the tympanic bulla is excavated just anterior to the posterior process (Chr. 317). Also, the node uniting the kentriodontids and the crown delphinoids is highlighted by additional six auditory characters out of 11 synapomorphies for the node: the apex of the anterior process of the periotic is thickened by the prominent dorsal tubercle giving its apex rectangular section on the plane of its body (Chr. 239), the contact of the anterior process of the petrosal with a portion of the ectotympanic bulla anterior to the accessory ossicle is absent (Chr. 249), the periotic articulates with squamosal along hiatus epitympanicus and adjacent regions on the posterior process (Chr. 286), mastoid exposure of the posterior process of the periotic on outside of skull is exposed externally (Chr. 292), lateral furrow of the tympanic bulla present a shallow groove (Chr. 303) and the ventral margin of the tympanic bulla in lateral view is concave (Chr. 307). Compared with other odontocetes, the ear bones of the delphinidans are highly specialized rather than other groups (e.g. Fraser & Purves, 1960; Gutstein et al., 2014), and the ear bones of the kentriodontids are much similar to the crown delphinoids rather than the inioids (see also Gutstein et al., 2014). These peculiarities of the periotic and tympanic bulla of the delphinidans are thought to have been emphasized by their diversification or specialization of functional relationships among the periotic, tympanic bulla and related portion of the skull during the process of the acquisition of much higher frequency (i.e., ultrasonic) sound hearing abilities (e.g. Cranford, Krysl & Amundin, 2010; Gutstein et al., 2014; Ary, 2017). It will also be related to the inner cochlear features and hearing capabilities like high-frequency sound hearing. These changes might also have given chance to diversify their abilities of echolocation (e.g. Churchill et al., 2016; Mourlam & Orliac, 2017; Costeur et al., 2018). In this regard, the kentriodontids was an independent group not so as a stem group to the crown delphinoids within the delphinidans, and they were a unique group by the diversification of their hearing abilities within

the odontocetes. Specializations of hearing apparatus in the kentriodontids probably resulted in their high diversification during the period between the late early and early late Miocene, which might have been similar to the later diversification of the crown delphinoids after late Miocene.

Institutional abbreviations

- NHFM-F** Fossil collections of the Ninohe Museum of History and Folklore, Ninohe City, Iwate, Japan.
- NMNS-PV** Fossil vertebrate collections at the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, Japan.
- NSMT-M** Marine mammal collections at the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, Japan.

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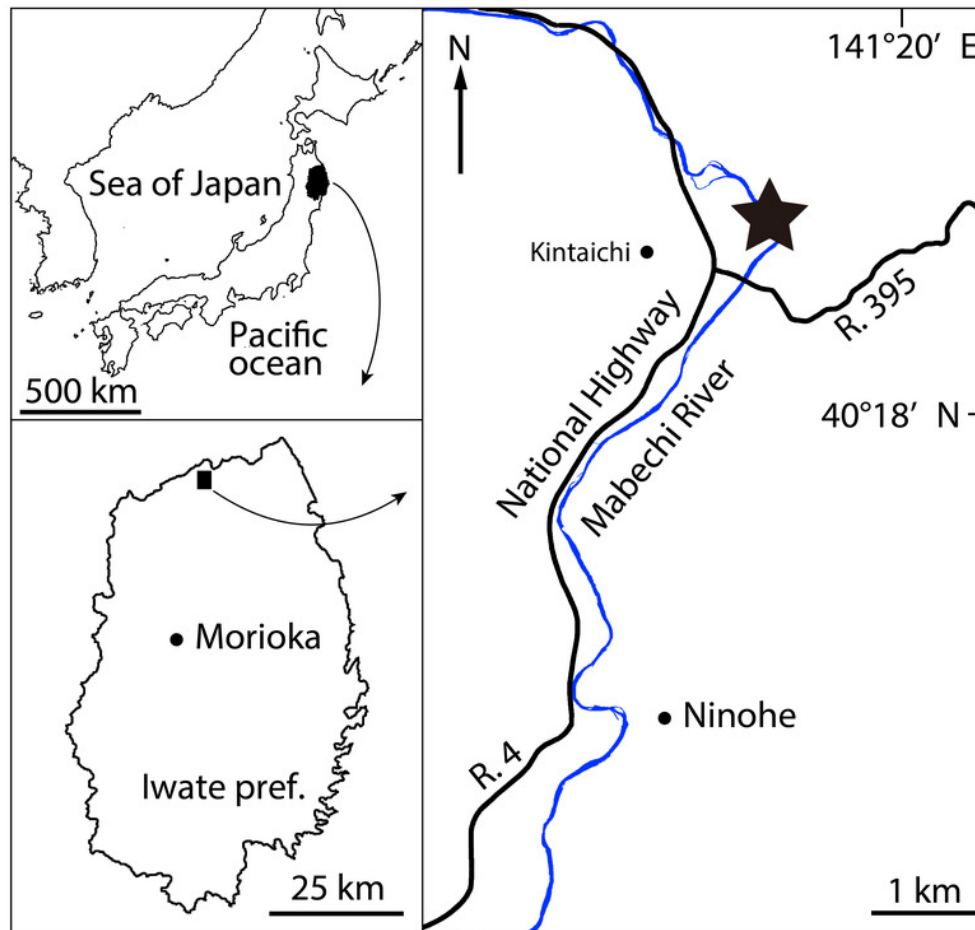
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Figure 1

Geographic and geologic context of *Kentriodon sugawarai* localities.

(A) the type locality of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001. (B) left, diatom zone and stratigraphic diagram, modified from Tuzino & Yanagisawa (2017). right, stratigraphic column of the Mabechi River, Ninohe City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan.

A



B

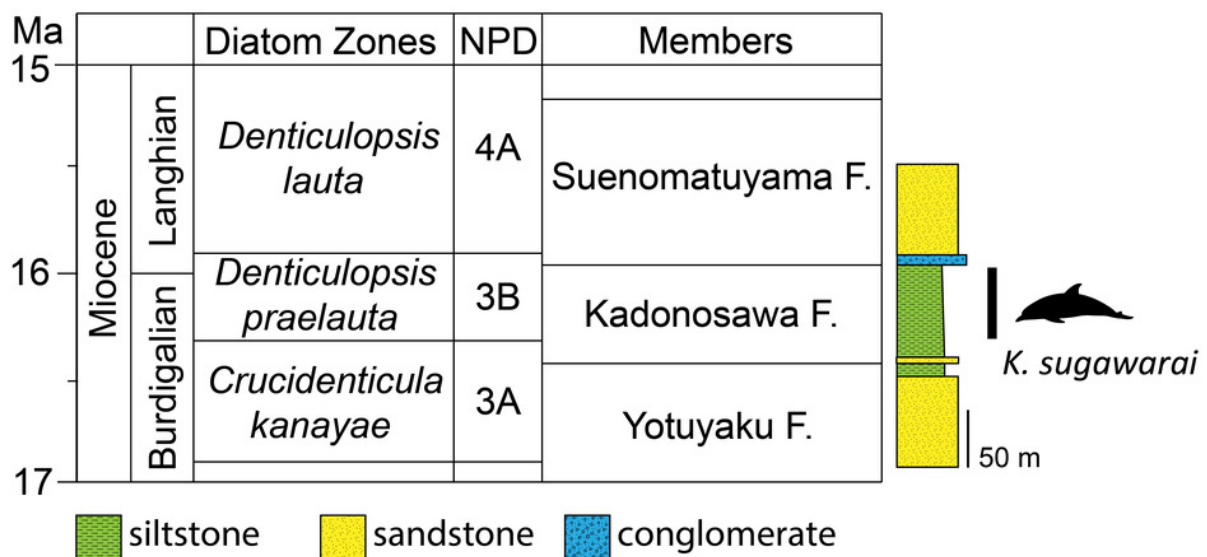


Figure 2

Dorsal views of the skull of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001.

(A) photo. (B) corresponding line drawing with anatomical interpretations. Scale bar equals 100 mm.

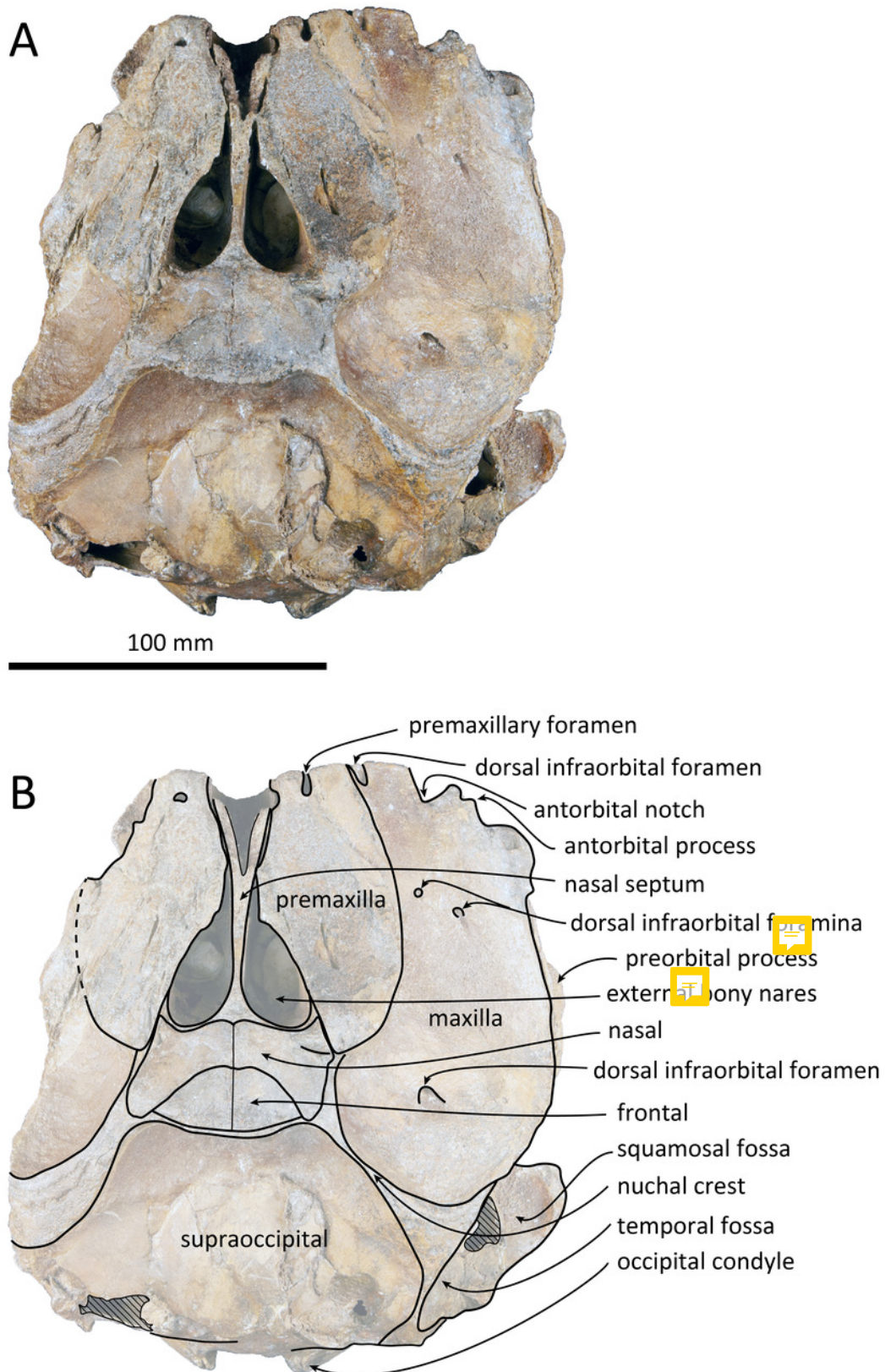


Figure 3

Ventral views of the skull of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001.

(A) photo. (B) corresponding line drawing with anatomical interpretations. Scale bar equals 100 mm.

Figure 4

Right lateral views of the skull of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001.

(A) photo. (B) corresponding line drawing with anatomical interpretations. Scale bar equals 100 mm.

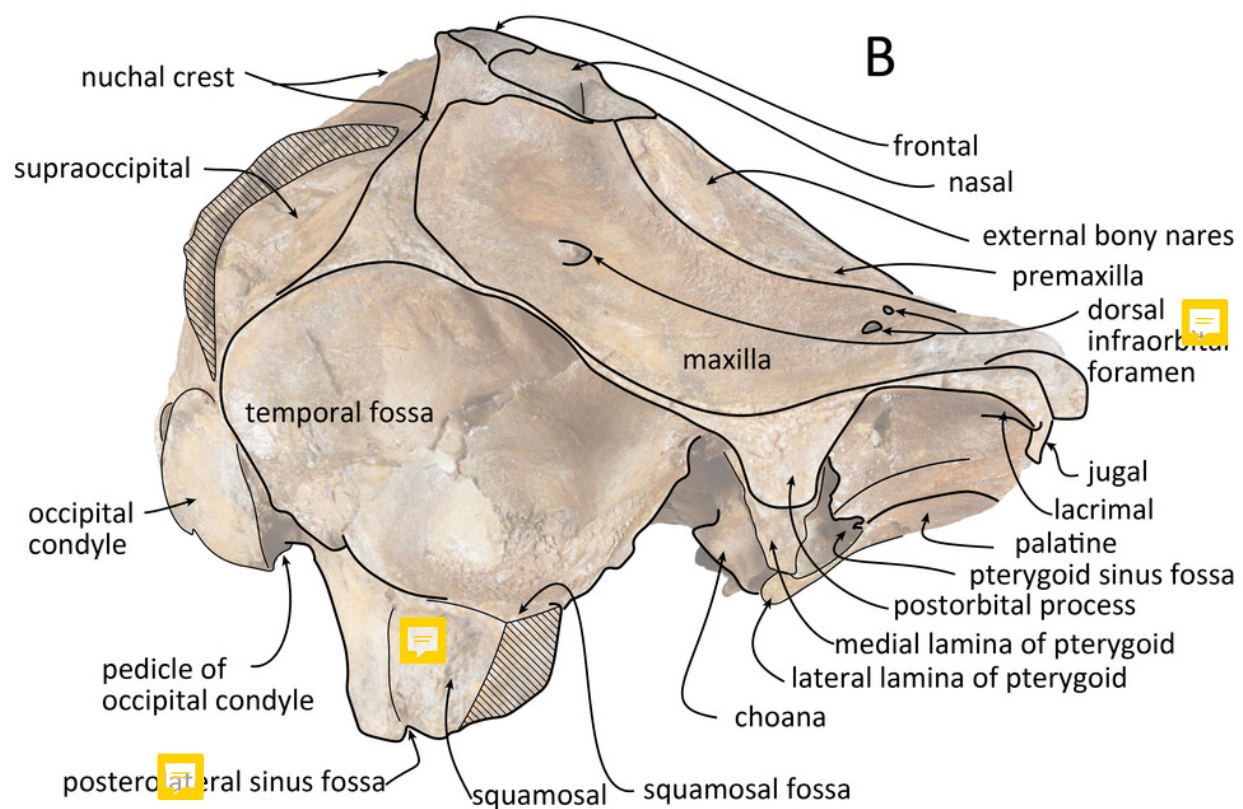
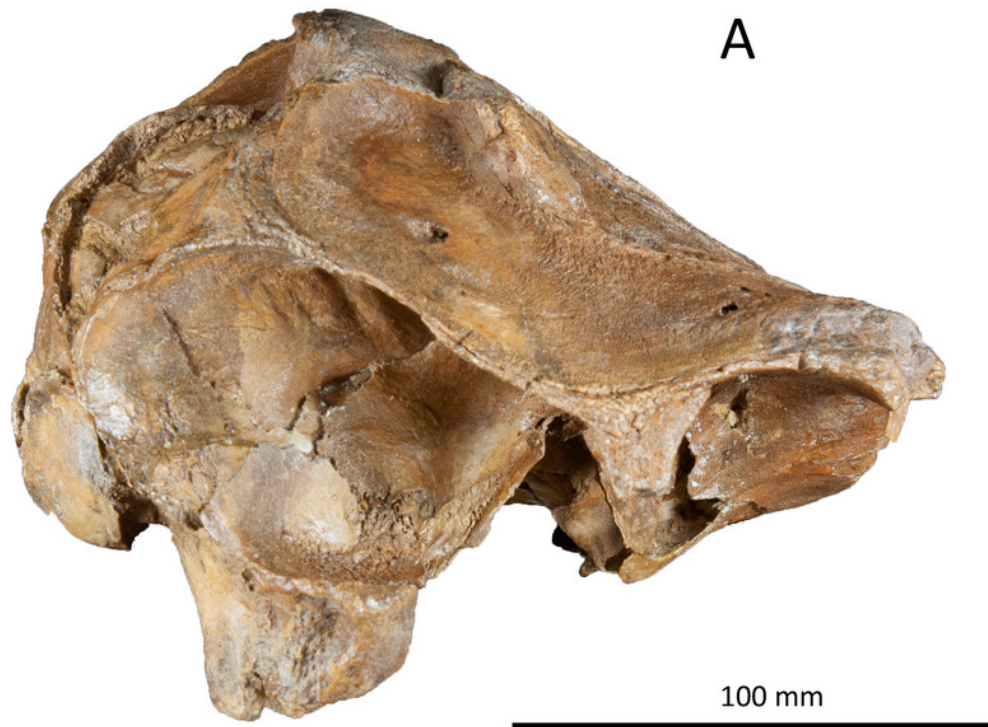


Figure 5

Anterior views of the skull of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001.

(A) photo. (B) corresponding line drawing with anatomical interpretations. Scale bar equals 100 mm.

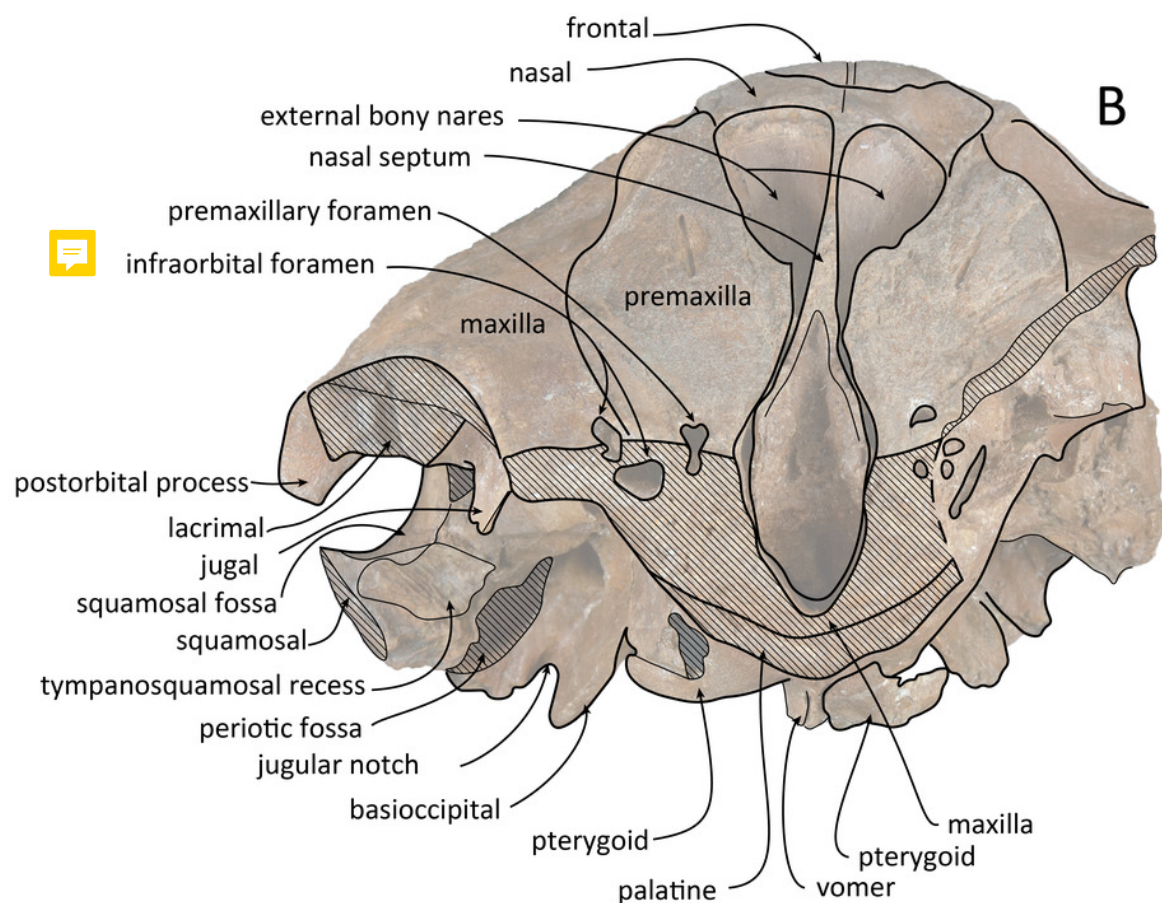


Figure 6

Posterior views of the skull of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001.

(A) photo. (B) corresponding line drawing with anatomical interpretations. Scale bar equals 100 mm.

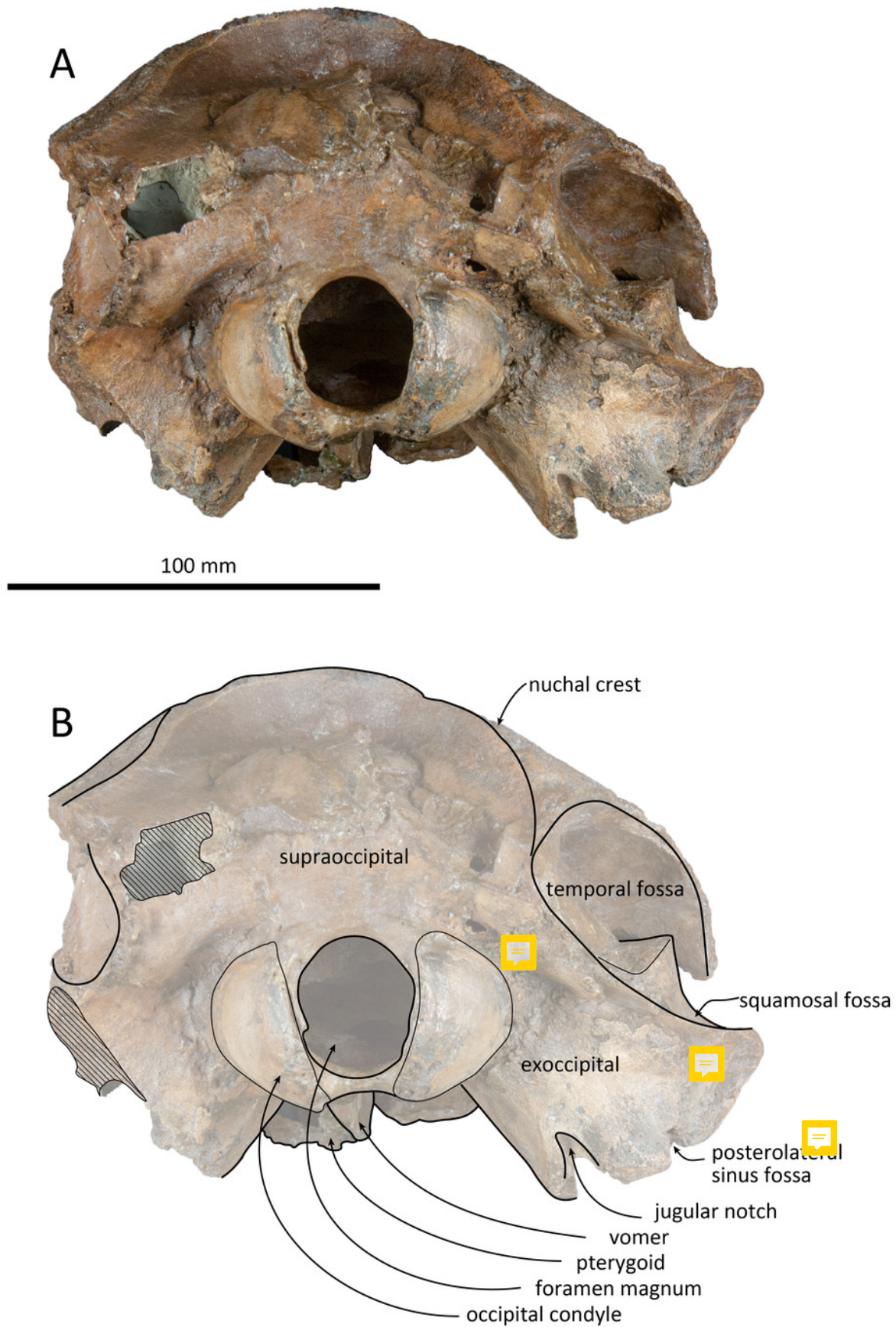


Figure 7

Right periotic of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001. (A) ventral view. (B) dorsal view. (C) medial view. (D) lateral view. (E) anterior view. (F) posterior view. Scale bar equals 20 mm.



20 mm

Figure 8

Line drawings of the right periotic of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001, with anatomical interpretations.

(A) ventral view. (B) dorsal view. (C) medial view. (D) lateral view. (E) anterior view. (F) posterior view. Scale bar equals 20 mm.

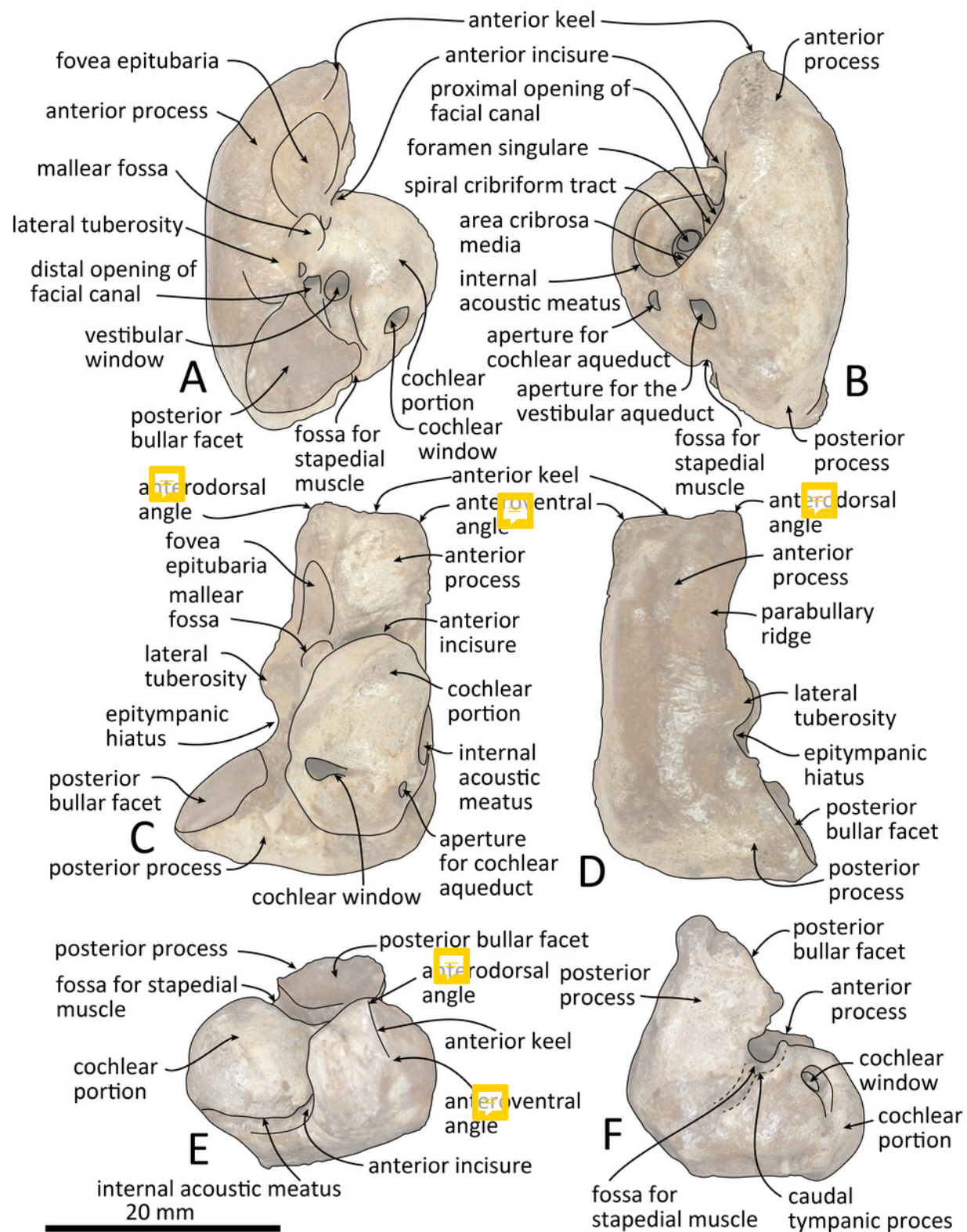


Figure 9

Right tympanic bulla of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001.

(A) dorsal view of the posterior process of the tympanic bulla. (B-C) accessory ossicle. (B) dorsal view. (C) ventral view. (D-I), left tympanic bulla. (D) dorsal view. (E) ventral view. (F) lateral view. (G) medial view. (H) anterior view. (I) posterior view. Scale bar equals 20 mm.

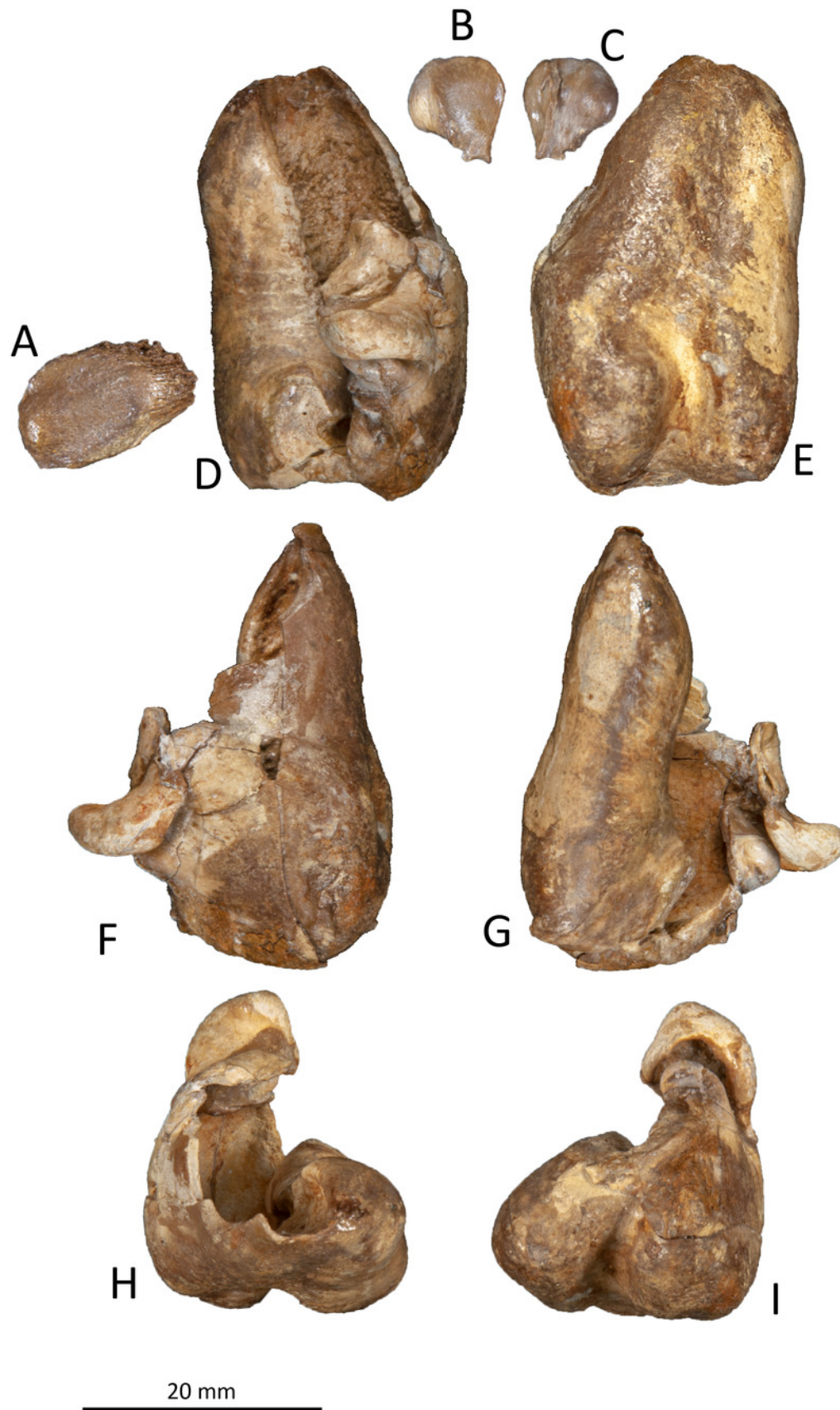


Figure 10

Line drawings of the right tympanic bulla of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotypes, NHFM-F 001.

(A) dorsal view of the posterior process of the tympanic bulla. (B-C) accessory ossicle. (B) dorsal view. (C) ventral view. (D-I) left tympanic bulla. (D) dorsal view. (E) ventral view. (F) lateral view. (G) medial view. (H) anterior view. (I) posterior view. Scale bar equals 20 mm.

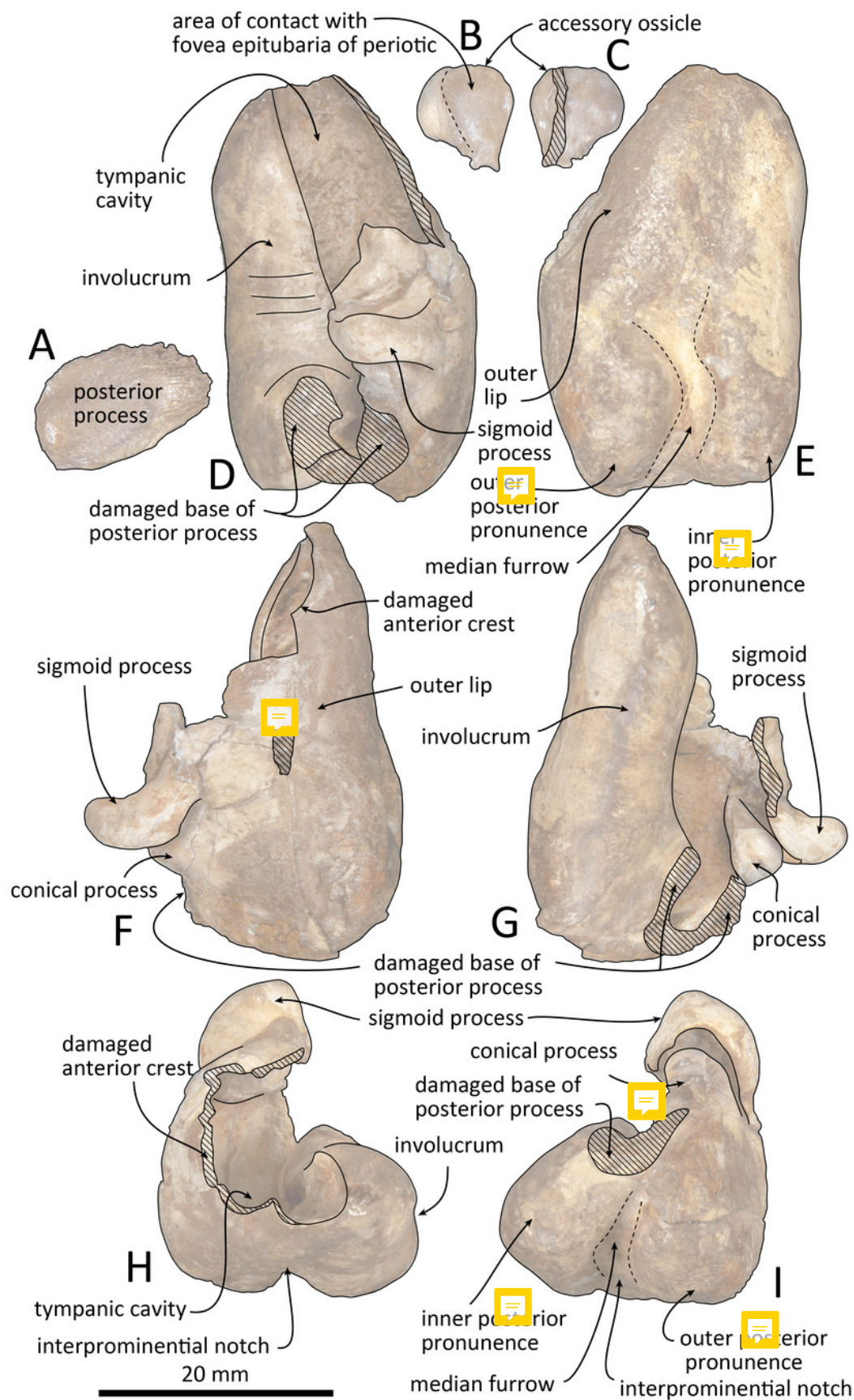


Figure 11

~~Middle ear ossicle~~, tooth, mandible and vertebra of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov., holotypes, NHFM-F 001, with anatomical interpretations.

(A-F) right malleus. (A) ventral view. (B) dorsal view. (C) medial view. (D) lateral view. (E) anterior view. (F) posterior view. (G-J) probable upper tooth. (G) distal view. (H) mesial view. (I) lingual view. (J) labial view. (K-L) ascending ramus of the left mandible. (K) lingual view. (L) labial view. (M-N) horizontal ramus of the right mandible. (M) lingual view. (N) labial view. (O-P) ventral half of the atlas. (O) cranial view. (P) caudal view. Scale bar equals 20 mm.

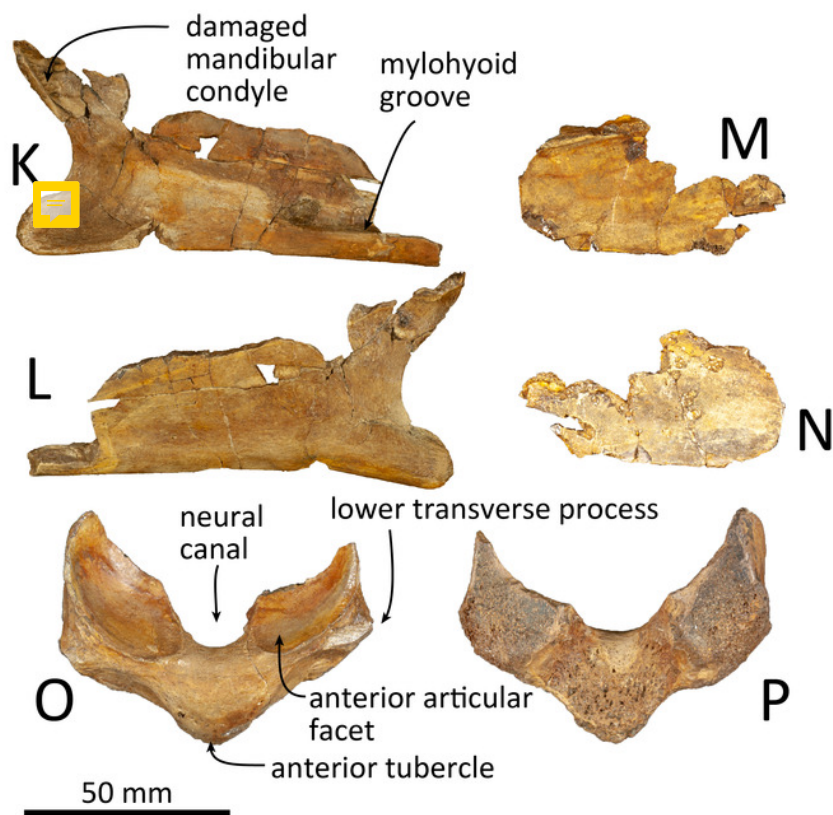
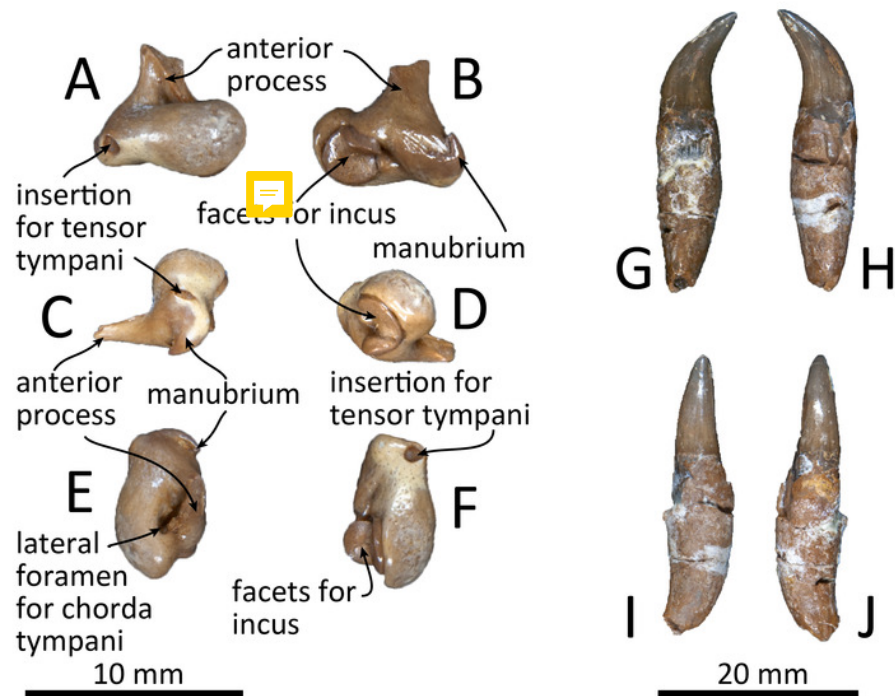


Figure 12

Phylogenetic relationships of *Kentriodon sugawarai*, sp. nov.

50% majority consensus tree resulting from 256 most parsimonious trees with tree constraint by the molecular “consensus” tree from McGowen, Spaulding & Gatesy (2009), McGowen et al. (2011) and McGowen et al. (2020), 3424 steps long, with the consistency index = 0.197 and the retention index = 0.564. Numbers below nodes indicate bootstrap values (1,000 replicated). The values less than 50% were omitted. The interspecific relationships of clades Physeteroidea, Ziphiidae, Delphinidae, Phocoenidae and Monodontidae were omitted and represented by superfamilial and familial ranks.

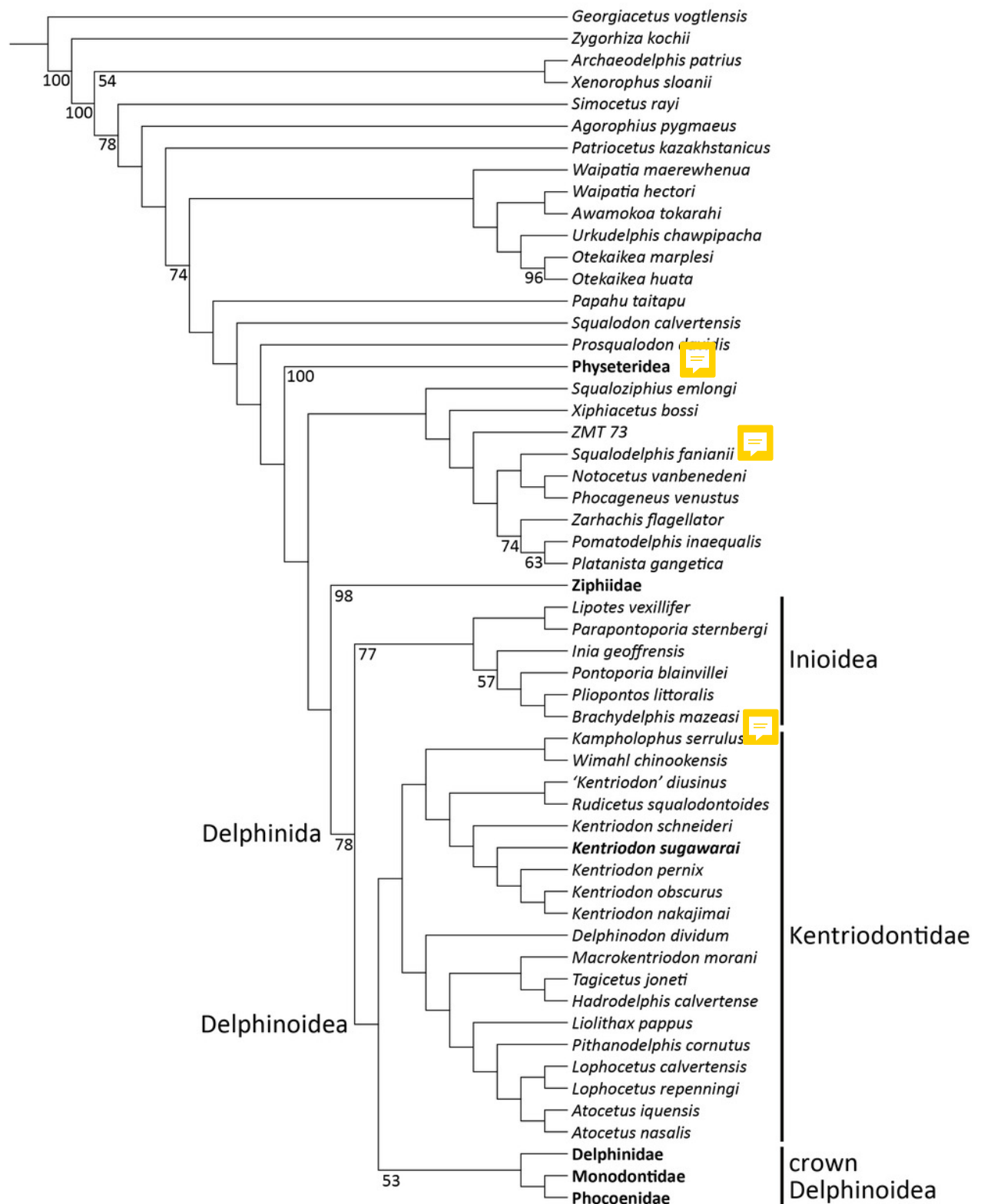


Table 1(on next page)

Measurements (in mm) for the skull and tympanoperiotic of *Kentriodon sugawarai* sp. nov., holotype, NHFM-F 001.

Abbreviations: e, estimate; +, not complete.

Dimension	Measurement
Skull	
Condylobasal length - from tip of rostrum to hindmost margin of occipital condyles.	186.2+
Length of rostrum - from tip to line across hindmost limits of antorbital notches.	15.1+
Width of rostrum at base - along line across hindmost limits of antorbital notches.	107.2e
Maximum length of frontal at the vertex	19.3
Width of the foramen magnum	21.8
Width of premaxillae at posterior extremity	61.4
Width of nasal bones	53.4
Distance from tip of rostrum to external nares (to mesial end of anterior transverse margin of right naris).	56.0+
Distance from tip of rostrum to internal nares (to mesial end of posterior margin of right pterygoid).	56.8+
Greatest preorbital width.	181.2e
Greatest postorbital width.	215.0e
Least supraorbital width.	179.2e
Greatest width of external nares.	41.8
Greatest width across zygomatic processes of squamosal.	161.0+
Greatest width of premaxillaries .	101.4e
Greatest parietal width.	138.0+
Greatest length of left posttemporal fossa , measured to external margin of raised suture .	110
Greatest width of left posttemporal fossa at right angles to greatest length.	54.5
Major diameter of left temporal fossa proper.	41.6
Minor diameter of left temporal fossa proper.	48.1+
Distance from foremost end of junction between nasals to hindmost point of margin of supraoccipital crest .	34.6
Length of left orbit-from apex of preorbital process of frontal to apex of postorbital process.	52.4
Length of antorbital process of left lacrimal.	18+
Greatest width of internal nares.	71.4e
Greatest length of left pterygoid.	47.6
Width across occipital condyles	70.5
Width of atlas	69.1
Length of atlas	62.9+
Periotic	
Total length	31.7
Length of anterior process	17.8
Width at pars cochlearis	13.2
Length of posterior bullar facet	10.5
Width of posterior bullar facet	9.9
Length of pars cochlearis	17.2
Tympanic Bulla	

Total length as preserved	37.4
Total width as preserved	21.8
Width of inner posterior prominence	9.5

1