FOSSIL MAMMALS FROM THE LATE MIOCENE OF VIETNAM

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Very little is known about the evolutionary history of mammals in Southeast Asia, where Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand provide the vast majority of evidence for mammalian evolution in the region predating the late Pleistocene. Recent work in Eocene deposits in Thailand has yielded a range of mammalian remains including an early dermopteran (Ducrocq et al., 1992), anthracotheres (Ducrocq, 1994, 1997), suids (Ducrocq et al., 1998), and early anthropoid primates (Chaimanee et al., 1997; Ducrocq, 1998; Jaeger et al., 1998). This research team has also recovered a number of mammalian taxa from Miocene deposits in Thailand including a hominoid, a rodent, two suids, and a tragulid (Su-teethorn et al., 1990; Ducrocq et al., 1997). The Pondaung Formation of Burma includes a late Eocene mammalian fauna that has been recognized since early in the last century (Colbert, 1938). According to Savage and Russell (1983) the anthracotheres are among the most abundant and varied members of this fauna. These creatures are of interest because they have close relatives in the early Oligocene faunas of North Africa.

The University of Colorado, Kent State University, and the United States Geological Survey began a cooperative paleontological research program with the Geological Museum of Vietnam and the Department of Geology and Minerals of Vietnam in 1998. The goal of this collaborative research is to recover fossil mammals from Neogene and Paleo-

FIGURE 1. Map showing location of the Hangmon site in Vietnam (A) and a photo of the sediments exposed at the Hangmon site (B) indicating where fossils were found (arrows). The linear dimension of this photo is approximately 600 m.