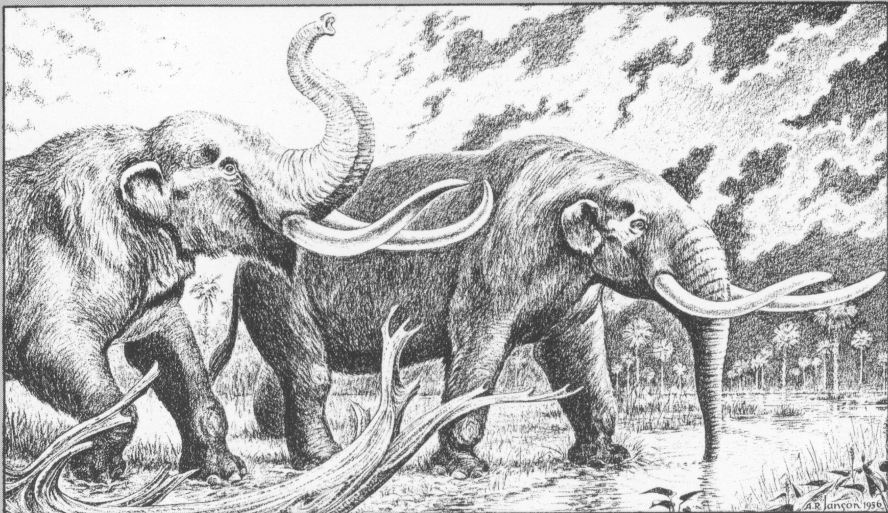
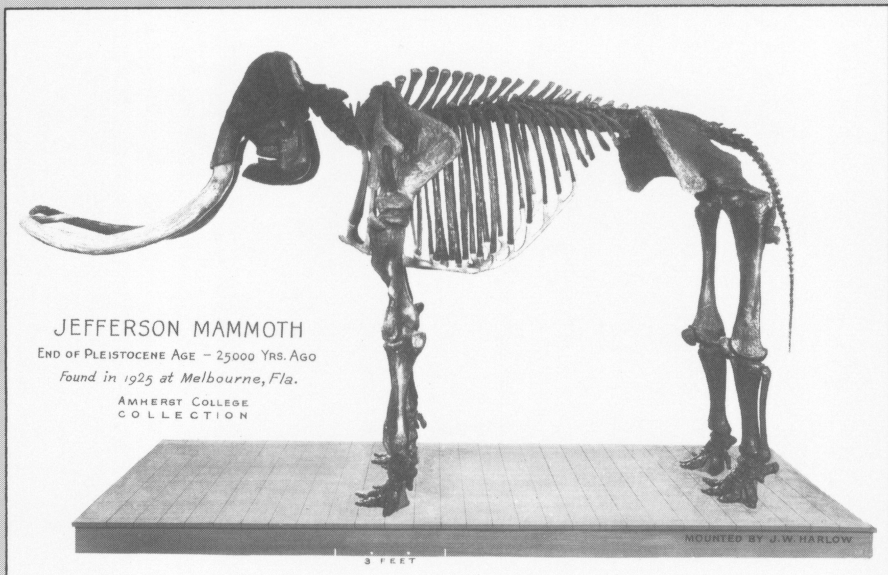


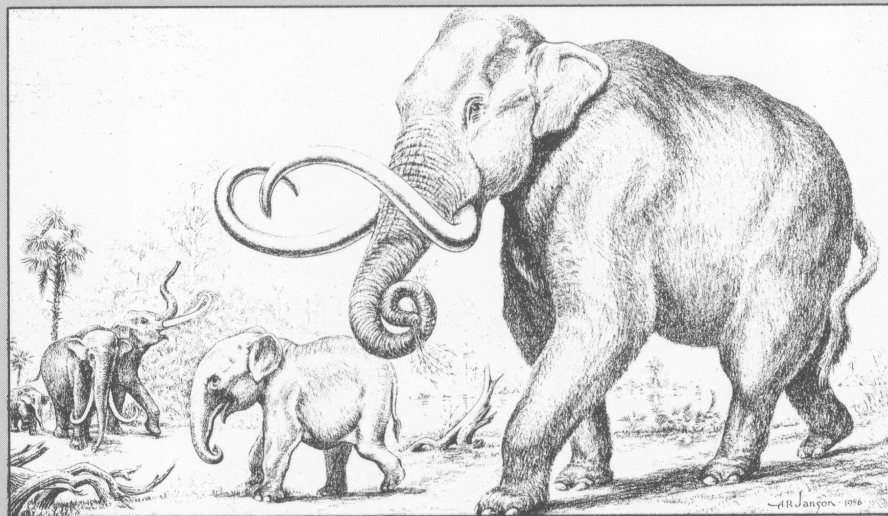
FLORIDA'S FOSSIL MAMMALS



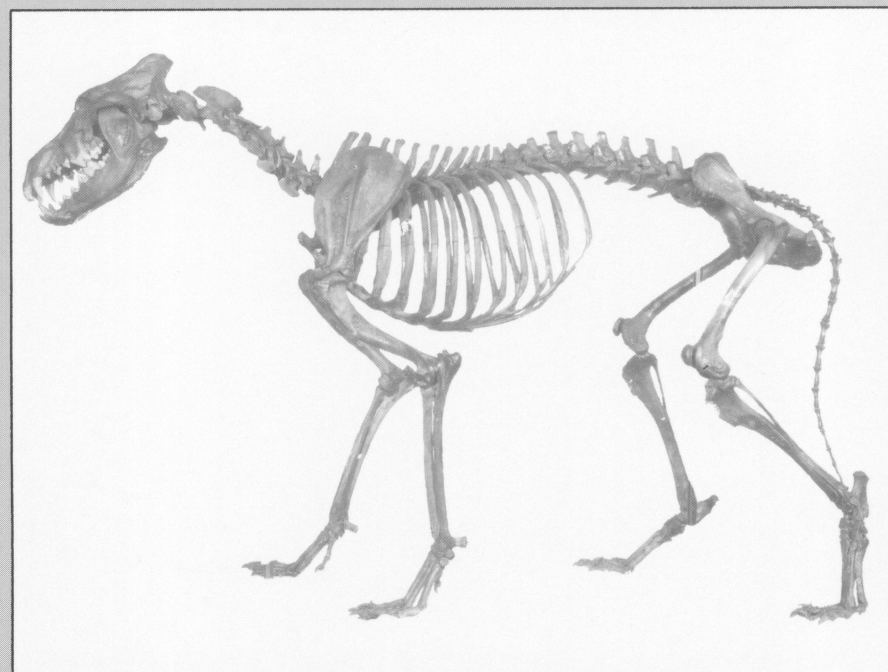
Pleistocene mastodons. These large herbivores browsed on leaves and grasses. All mastodons are now extinct. Drawing by Andrew Janson, FGS, 1956.



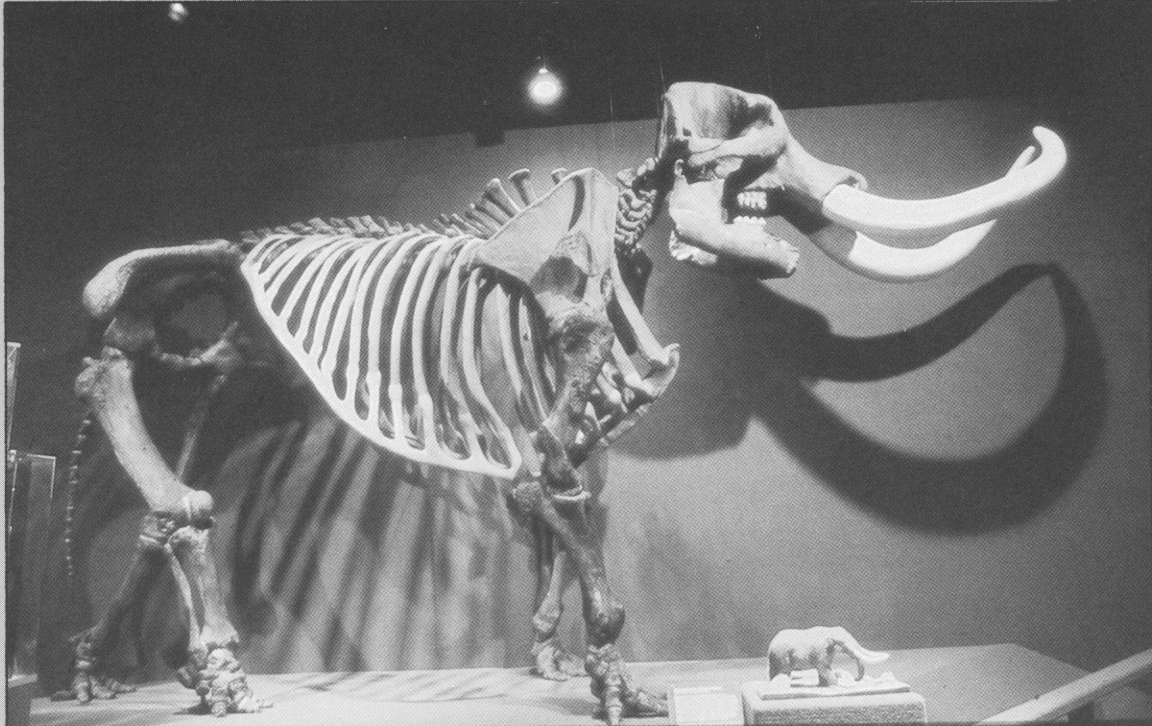
A Pleistocene mammoth, *Mammuthus columbi*. The pictured specimen was found in Melbourne, Brevard County, in 1925, by paleontologists from Amherst College in Massachusetts. It stands about thirteen feet tall. Today the specimen is housed at the Pratt Museum of Natural History, Amherst, Massachusetts. Photo by W.E. Corbin, from the FGS photo archives.



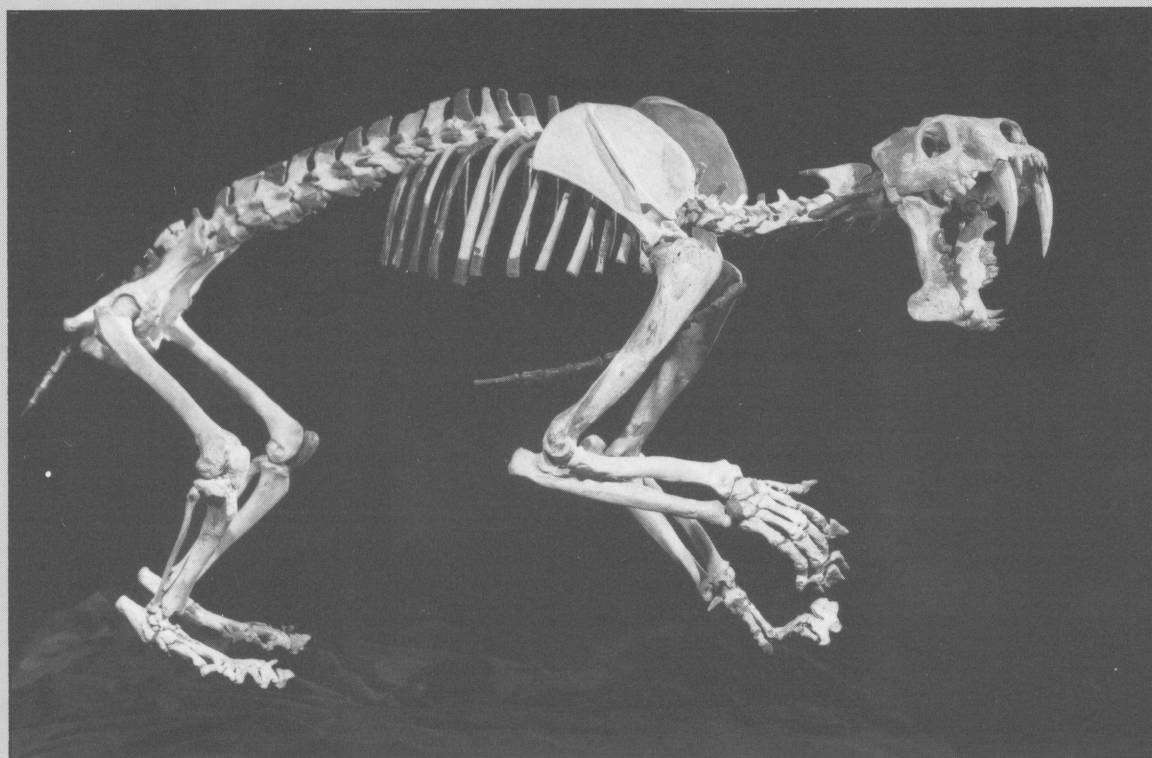
Pleistocene mammoth and young. Mammoths were grazers, feeding mainly on grasses. They were close relatives of the modern elephant. Drawing by Andrew Janson, FGS, 1956.



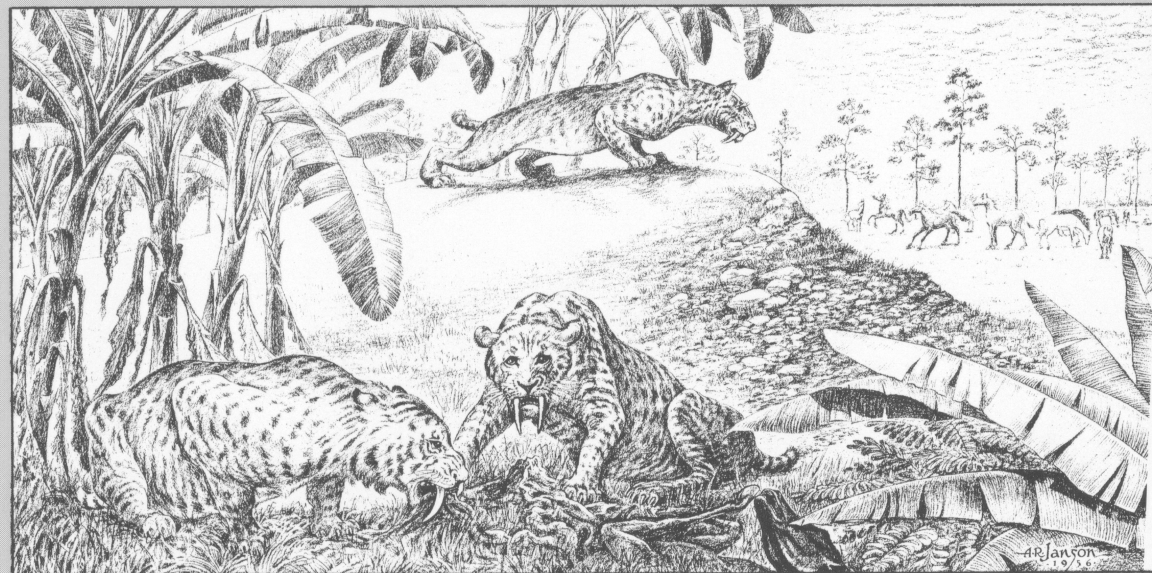
The dire wolf, *Canis dirus*, looked much like the modern wolf, but was larger and more heavily built. Dire wolves inhabited Florida in the Late Pleistocene. The pictured individual is about six feet long, and is from the LaBrea Tar Pits in California. Photo courtesy of the George C. Page Museum, Los Angeles, California.



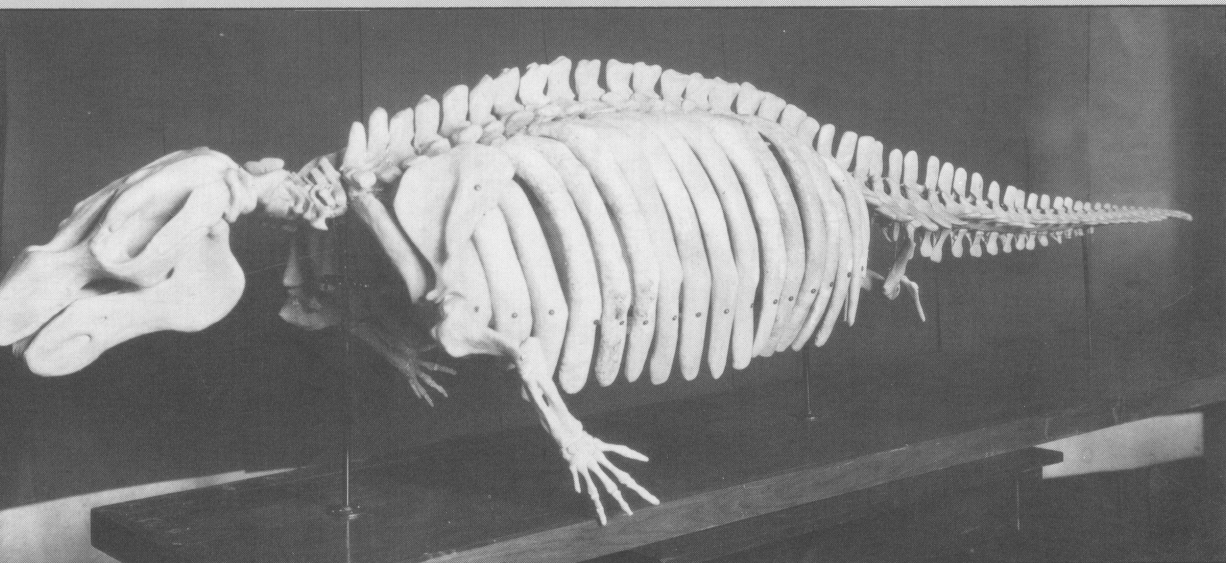
The American mastodon, *Mammot americanum*, became extinct in Florida only about 10,000 years ago. It was large, standing about 12 feet tall at the head. Like its cousin the woolly mammoth, this mastodon was covered with a coat of long shaggy hair. It browsed in herds, feeding on leaves. The pictured skeleton was recovered from Wakulla Springs, Wakulla County, in 1930. Photo courtesy of the Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee.



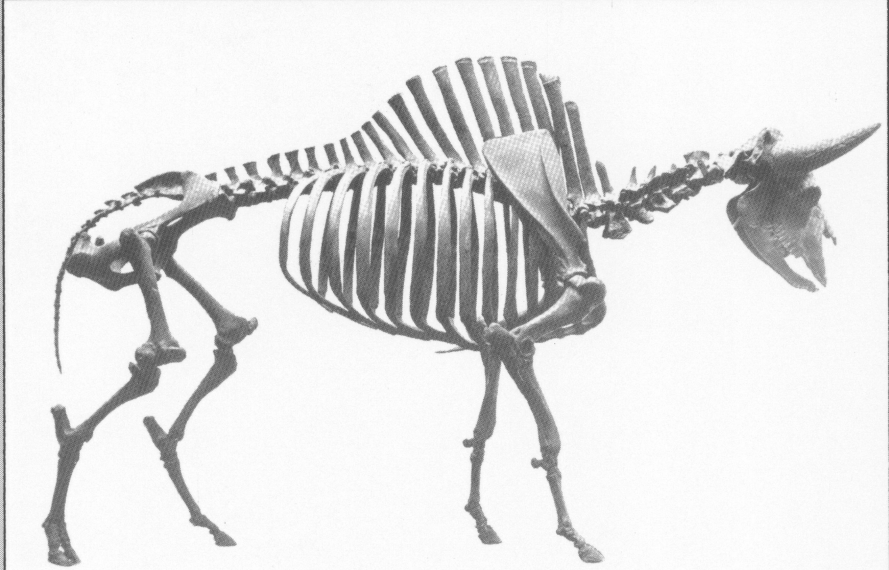
Barbourofelis lovei, the false saber cat, from the Love Site in Alachua County. This Miocene predator lived in Florida about nine million years ago. Like the true sabertooth cat *Smilodon* (below), to which it is unrelated, *Barbourofelis* killed its prey with its long canine teeth. Length of the pictured specimen is about 4 feet. Photo by Stan Blomeley and Rob Blount, and used courtesy of the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.



Smilodon, the sabertooth cat, watches a herd of Pleistocene horses while its companions dine in the foreground. Drawing by Andrew Janson, FGS, 1956.



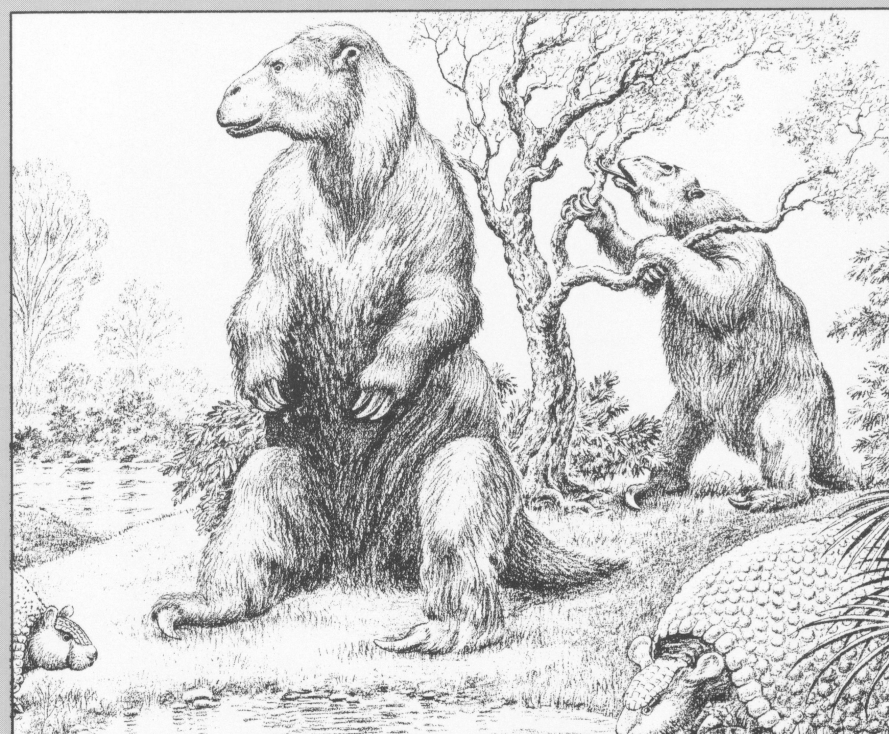
A Miocene dugong, *Hesperosiren cratagensis*, found in a fuller's earth mine in Midway, Gadsden County. This aquatic vegetarian inhabited the shallow bays and rivers of Florida 15 million years ago. It resembled the modern manatee in size and appearance. The pictured skeleton is about 10 feet long, and is on display at the Florida Geological Survey offices in Tallahassee.



The bison, *Bison antiquus*, roamed the Late Pleistocene grasslands of Florida. Bison skeletons have been found in Florida, but to date, none have been assembled. The pictured specimen is from the La Brea tar pits in California. Length of the individual shown is about 10.5 feet. Photo courtesy of the George C. Page Museum, Los Angeles, California.



The giant ground sloth, *Eremotherium mirabile* was a Pleistocene herbivore, and the longest land animal that ever lived in Florida. Reaching twenty feet in length, it often stood on its hind legs to eat leaves in trees. It may have also used its large claws to dig up roots and tubers. This pictured specimen, from the Daytona Beach bone bed, stands about fourteen feet tall. Photo by Sandra Lake Miller, and used courtesy of Dr. Robin Brown and the Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences.



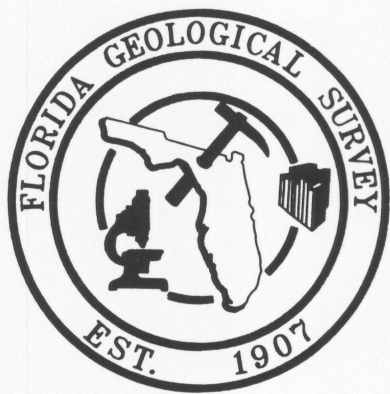
The giant ground sloth, *Eremotherium*. In the foreground is a glyptodont, *Glyptotherium*, a large armadillo-like mammal. Drawing by Andrew Janson, FGS, 1956.

FLORIDA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Florida has been home to a unique succession of mammals for much of the last 40 million years. Many species no longer live in the state, or have become extinct. Most have left behind only scattered bones, incomplete reminders of the interesting diversity of mammalian life here. This poster illustrates some of Florida's extinct fossil mammals for which complete skeletons have been reconstructed.

Poster compiled by Frank R. Rupert with the cooperation of:
The Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach, Florida
The Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida
The George C. Page Museum, Los Angeles, California
The Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, Florida

For further reading:
Brown, R.C., 1988, *Florida's Fossils*: Pineapple Press, 208 p.
Kurten, B., 1980, *Pleistocene mammals of North America*: Columbia University Press, 442 p.
Olsen, S.J., 1959, *Fossil mammals of Florida*: Florida Bureau of Geology Special Publication No. 6, 74 p.
Scott, W.B., 1962, *A history of land mammals in the western hemisphere*: Hafner Publishers, 600 p.
Webb, S.D., 1974, *Pleistocene mammals of Florida*: The University Presses of Florida, 259 p.



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