

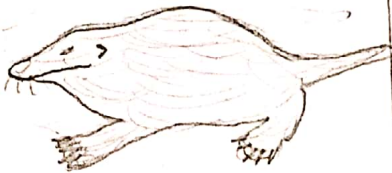
Topic: Early Mammals: what they were, when they lived, and what later creatures
are related to them.
how they lived,



- Megazostrodon: This is an early shrew-like mammal that appeared near the end of the Triassic approximately 200 million years ago. Being around 10-12cm, it likely ate insects and small lizards. It is thought to have been nocturnal and to have laid eggs for reproduction. Discovered in South Africa, Megazostrodon is a member of the Megazostrodonidae family, whose members include Indozostrodon, Dinetherium, Warcolestes, and Brachyzostrodon.



- Hadrocodium: This is a mouse-like mammal that lived during the early Jurassic approximately 195 million years ago. It was only 3.2cm long and had a mass of 2g, making it one of the smallest mammals ever to have existed. It was likely an insectivore and nocturnal, indicating that it may also have been warm-blooded. It also laid eggs for reproduction. Having a relatively large brain, it likely spent most of its time eating to maintain energy levels. It is related to true mammal species by features like middle ear bones separated from the lower jaw.



- Haldanodon: This potentially semi-aquatic insectivore lived during the Upper Jurassic approximately 145 million years ago. It was the first Mesozoic mammal discovered to have turbinal plates, a mammalian nasal cavity feature. It likely had strong muscles used either for swimming or digging. These habits indicate a relation to modern desmans and the platypus.