

3D models related to the publication: “Comparative masticatory myology in anteaters and its implications for interpreting morphological convergence in myrmecophagous placentals”

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Abstract

The present 3D Dataset contains the 3D models described in “Comparative masticatory myology in anteaters and its implications for interpreting morphological convergence in myrmecophagous placentals”.

Keywords: anteaters, comparative anatomy, convergence, masticatory apparatus, myology, myrmecophagy

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Inv nr	Model Id	Taxon
M1571_JAG	M3#522	<i>Cyclopes didactylus</i>
M3075_JAG	M3#524	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>
M3023_JAG	M3#523	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>

Table 1. 3D surface models of the masticatory, facial-masticatory, and intermandibular musculatures of the pygmy (*Cyclopes didactylus*), colared (*Tamandua tetradactyla*), and giant (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) anteaters. All specimens belong to the JAGUARS collection (Kwata NGO, Cayenne, French Guiana).

INTRODUCTION

South American anteaters (Vermilingua) are one of the mammalian clades that evolved strict myrmecophagy. All three genera present associated morphofunctional features such as tooth loss, reduced masticatory muscles, and the loss of mastication. In the associated manuscript, we perform a comparative description of all three extant anteater genera (Fig. 1 and Table 1), including the first detailed description of the masticatory and intermandibular muscles of the pygmy anteater (*Cyclopes didactylus*).

METHODS

The 3D surfaces were manually (muscles) and semi-automatically (skull and mandibles) extracted within AVIZO 9.3 (FEI) using the segmentation threshold and magic wand selection tools. Skull and muscle 3D surfaces were aligned with MeshLab (Cignoni *et al.*, 2008) using reference points. The 3D surface models were tagged and labelled with MorphoDig (Lebrun, 2018). The .ply 3D surfaces can be opened and visualized with a wide range of freeware.

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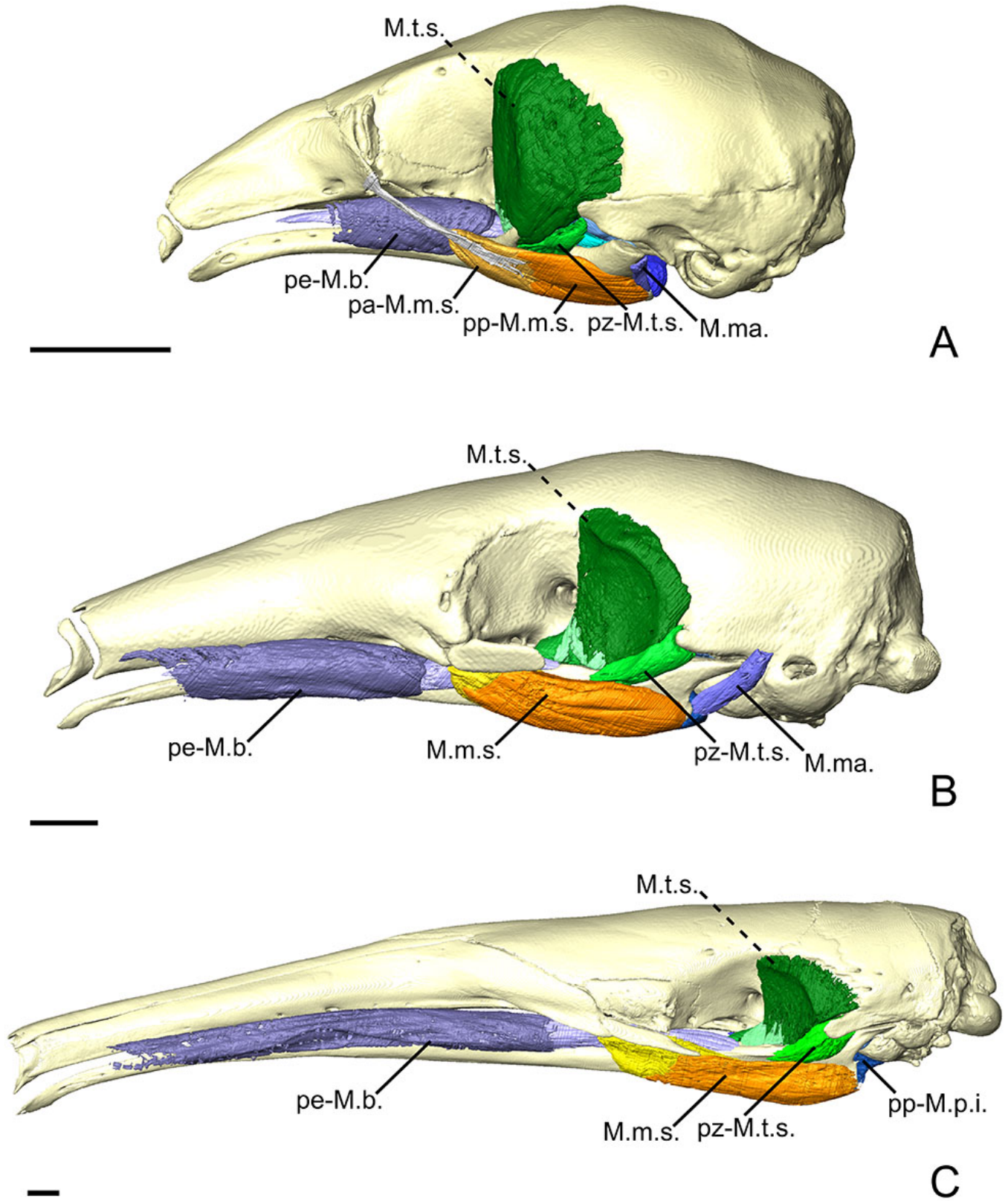


Figure 1. The masticatory and facial-masticatory musculature of *Cyclopes didactylus* (A), *Tamandua tetradactyla* (B), and *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* (C) in lateral view. Scale bar 10 mm. The tendon of the masseter is colored in white. Only the more superficial muscles are labelled. M.ma. – *M. mandibuloauricularis*; M.m.p. – *M. masseter superficialis*; pa-M.m.s. – *M. masseter superficialis pars anterior*; pe-M.b. – *M. buccinatorius pars externa*; pp-M.m.s. – *M. masseter superficialis pars posterior*; pp-M.p.i. – *M. pterygoideus internus pars posterior*; M.t.s. – *M. temporalis superficialis*; pz-M.t.s. – *M. temporalis superficialis pars zygomatica*.