

FOSSILS



Gomphos elkema is an ancient relative of modern rabbits.

Early Hopper What jumped like a rabbit but chewed like a squirrel? *Gomphos elkema*, a 55-million-year-old relative of the rabbit, a fossil of which was found in the Nemegt basin, Mongolia. The discovery supports the long-held theory that rodents and lagomorphs—the group that includes rabbits, pikas, and hares—shared a common ancestor that lived around the time dinosaurs became extinct.

Like today's familiar jackrabbits and cottontails, *Gomphos elkema* had long hind limbs for hopping. And the front incisors found in the fossil's jaw resemble those of modern rabbits' open-rooted teeth, which grow continuously and are worn down by rabbits' nearly constant gnawing.

The extinct animal's cheek teeth (left, at bottom), however, were quite different from rabbits', says Robert Asher, curator of mammals at the



Top view of *Gomphos elkema*'s skull and side view of its jaw

Berlin Museum of Natural History. "They had cusps and roots like molars in a human or a squirrel." Its relatively large tail was also more like a squirrel's than a rabbit's. Another difference between *Gomphos elkema* and its modern kin: The fossil's skull suggests that the animal had a bony ear structure similar to that of rodents. —Angela Botzer

Fresh Dirt

Woolly mammoths stuck by their mothers. By examining calves' tusks, which contain chemical information about what the extinct mammals ate, researchers have determined that woolly mammoths nursed for at least five years.

It wasn't just the extinction of the dinosaurs that helped boost mammals to dominance on Earth; it was also oxygen. About 200 million years ago the amount of oxygen in Earth's atmosphere hovered at 10 to 13 percent. Deep-sea core samples show the oxygen level rose to 18 percent 50 million years ago and climbed to 23 percent over the next 10 million years. This corresponds with a rise in huge mammals, culminating in *Indricotherium*, eight times bigger than its modern relative, the rhinoceros.

Bring this certificate

1. ASK YOUR DOCTOR FOR A 7-DAY PRESCRIPTION
2. PRESENT THIS CERTIFICATE TO YOUR LOCAL PHARMACY

• GOOD FOR 7 TABLETS (ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE) OR 12.5-MG

• EXPIRATION DATE: MAY 2006

• BIN #: 610500 • GPO

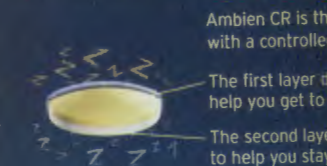
• ID #: BRK128879

©2006 sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC
USA.ACR.06.01.71 January 2006



There's more than one reason

It has the two things you



So now getting to sleep fast and staying asleep is easy. "Ambien CR is the first and only prescription sleep aid with a controlled-release formulation." Visit www.AMBIENCR.com.

Please see important patient information on the inside of this box.

*Not actual pill size.
†Effective for up to 7 hours in clinical studies.
‡Individual results may vary.