

## The Late Miocene Elasmotheriini (Rhinocerotidae, Mammalia) from the Namurungule and Nakali Formations of northern Kenya

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The Japan-Kenya joint expedition team has discovered abundant large mammal fossils from the Late Miocene Namurungule and Nakali Formations, northern Kenya. We reported several rhinocerotid fossils from Namurungule and Nakali Formations.

The specimen from Namurungule Formation consists of a maxilla with upper M2 and M3, a mandibular fragment with lower P4 to M2 and isolated teeth of upper P4 and M3. This specimen was preliminary identified as *Iranotheriinae* sp. nov. (Nakaya et al., 1987). The specimen from Nakali Formation includes isolated teeth of upper M1 or M2 and M3.

These specimens share following characters of Elasmotheriini, crown cement, constricted protocone of upper molar and labiolingually elongated postfossette of upper P4. Therefore, the specimen from Namurungule and Nakali Formations is identified as Elasmotheriini.

We compared the specimen of Namurungule and Nakali Formation with ten genera of Elasmotheriini. As a result, these are similar to genus *Huaqingtherium* from Middle Miocene, China (Huang and Yan, 1983) in characters linguallally elongated protocone and metaloph, undeveloped enamel folding and small crochet. However, molar size of these specimens is smaller than that of *Huaqingtherium*. The specimen from the Namurungule and Nakali Formations has enamel plication in the mesiodistal sinus of the upper molars. This character is not seen in the upper molars of *Huaqingtherium*. Moreover, the specimen from the Namurungule and Nakali Formations was discovered from Late Miocene. In contrast, *Huaqingtherium* was discovered from the Middle Miocene. Therefore, the specimen of the Namurungule and Nakali Formations is identified as new taxon.

Keywords: Kenya, Rhinocerotidae, Late Miocene, mammal, teeth