

When one compares *Cryptopterus webbi* with other species of that genus, the closest resemblance is to those from the very Late Pliocene. In view of the Blancan age of the Florida species, this is what one might expect. The youngest European species of *Cryptopterus* is *C. tobieni* from the lignites of Wolfersheim-Wetterau, West Germany (late Perpignan equivalent). The slightly older species, *C. thaleri*, resembles *C. tobieni* in size and many other features but is not presently represented by any lower molars. Special features shared by lower third molars of *C. tobieni* and *C. webbi* are the broad anterolabial cingulum, the weak, anteriorly-directed anteroconid, the short protolophid, the metastylid little distinct from the metaconid ridge, the distinct entoconid, and the weakly developed hypolophid. *C. webbi* is slightly smaller than *C. tobieni* and perhaps *C. thaleri*, and it differs from all other known *Cryptopterus* specimens in the presence of a vestigial hypoconulid. Lower third molars of the Miocene species of *Cryptopterus* differ from those of *C. webbi* and *C. tobieni* in having a narrow anterolabial cingulum, a strong labially directed anteroconid, a complete protolophid, a more distinct metastylid, and the entoconid attached both to the posterolophid and to a strong hypolophid. An exception to this is the presence of a distinct entoconid and a weak hypolophid in Gaillard's (1899) original figured specimen from La Grive, which is now referred to *C. gaillardi* (Mein, 1970). Evidently this late Miocene variant embodied some of the progressive features that were developed more definitely during the Pliocene in *C. tobieni* and *C. webbi*. *Cryptopterus mathewsi* from Late Miocene deposits in the Cuyama Valley of California also differs in some of these same features from *C. webbi* and *C. tobieni*; however, the lower third molar is poorly known (James 1963). No lower dentition has been recovered in *C. uphami* material from the same area. The anteroconid is essentially absent, as is the anterior cingulum. I am not yet convinced, in fact, that the Cuyama species are referable to *Cryptopterus*.

The itinerary by which *Cryptopterus* reached Florida in the Blancan must remain in doubt, but the general pattern of distribution may be deduced. Since the nearest affinities of *C. webbi* are with *C. tobieni* (Late Pliocene of Europe), it seems probable that the genus reached North America from the Old World during that epoch. We may safely say that the date of arrival in North America was within late Hemphillian or Blancan time. Furthermore, the only likely dispersal route was via the Bering Land Bridge between Asia and North America. Flying squirrels do not truly "fly," and their present distribution patterns do not indicate great vagility. This New World occurrence of *Cryptopterus* indicates continuity of subtropical rain forest from Eurasia into eastern North America during the Late Pliocene.