

cervical vertebrae; UF 10891: 3 left humeri; UF 10893: right humerus; UF 17479: 3 metacarpals (2 left, 1 right); UF 10887: metatarsal; UF 17480: left astragalus; UF 10886: 3 podials; UF 10888: 15 phalanges.

The genus *Odocoileus* is recognized in many of the Blancan faunas of North America. In most cases, however, the material has been scarce and species allocation has not been possible.

The definitions of closely related species (and genera) of deer are very similar, and the taxonomic problem is compounded by the large amount of individual variation in these forms. The nature of the antlers and the fourth lower premolars are considered important in cervid taxonomy at the generic and subgeneric levels; unfortunately, these features are also extremely variable. In Simpson's (1928) discussion of *Blastocerus extraneus*, he pointed out that specimens of *Odocoileus* studied approached *Blastocerus* in character, and some Recent *Blastocerus* material diverged from his specimen toward *Odocoileus*. The subgenus *Procoileus* (Frick 1937) is based primarily on the characters of the P₄.

Examination of a large sample of Blancan *Odocoileus* teeth from the Santa Fe I fauna showed individual variation that approached the characters of *Blastocerus*, *Procoileus*, and even *Craniocerus*. Similar, though less pronounced, examples of individual variation may be observed in samples of *Odocoileus* teeth from several later Pleistocene and Recent sites in Florida. It appears that tooth morphology by itself is too variable to permit taxonomic assignments at the species level.

Size also has been a criterion for species determination of fossil deer. Although the Haile XV A deer are relatively small, this is not considered taxonomically significant, inasmuch as a size comparison of postcranial elements from later stages of the Pleistocene (Table 20) shows wide size variation that encompasses the Haile XV A samples. Harlow and Jones (1965) also showed that in Florida the size of Recent deer fluctuates significantly from habitat to habitat.

An element by element comparison of the Haile XV A deer material with specimens of *O. virginianus* from other Florida Pleistocene sites, and with Recent specimens, shows no consistent differences. Consequently, it is considered safest to refer the Haile XV A cervid to *Odocoileus virginianus*.

AGE AND CORRELATION

North American vertebrate paleontologists, including Schultz (1938), Wilson (1938), and McGrew (1944), have long recognized the Blancan age on the basis of the presence and absence of certain mammalian genera. McGrew (1944) summarized the criteria as follows: