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ARCHIDISKODON MAIBENI

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BY ERWIN H. BARBOUR

Archidiskodon maibeni was first described in Bulletin 10 of the Nebraska State Museum under the title " Skeletal Parts of the Columbian Mammoth, Elephas Maibeni." * Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn finds it expedient to found a new genus, Archidiskodon, to include the earlier and more primitive mammoths. Hence the change in the generic name.

Mammoths and modern elephants have long been grouped together under the genus Elephas. Subdividing the genus does not necessarily do away with this convenient and rather familiar old arrangement.

Dr. Osborn accompanied by Dr. Barnum Brown recently visited the Nebraska State Museum to study the proboscidean specimens in the collections of Mr. Charles H. Morrill and Mr. Hector Maiben. The fore limbs, certain ribs, and vertebrae of Archidiskodon maibeni had just been mounted as a palaeontological arch, as shown in the accompanying figure. At that time the skeletal parts were counted uncommonly large, if not the largest known, an opinion subsequently substantiated by careful measurements and comparisons.

On May 28, before sailing to Europe for a summer's vacation, Dr. Osborn wrote in a personal letter to the director, " Archidiskodon maibeni was certainly a giant! " and that " Archidiskodon imperator and Archidiskodon maibeni towered far above the largest living elephants."

The superior size of certain mammoths has long been apparent, but it still continues to be a subject of doubt and discussion. True, size is not the sole desideratum, but no one can fail to be impressed by the size of living elephants, still more so by some of their huge precursors, which were mountains of muscle.

* Barbour, E. H. Skeletal parts of the Columbian Mammoth, Elephas Maibeni. Bulletin 10, Volume 1, The Nebraska State Museum, August 1, 1925.

Dr. Osborn, who so generously furnished the writer with measurements and comparative drawings, gave permission for their use, and advised that they be published.

It will be noted that in height the Indian elephant stands 10 feet, 6 inches; the African, Jumbo, 11 feet, 4 inches; Archidiskodon imperator, 13 feet, 6 inches; and Maiben's mammoth, Archidiskodon maibeni, 14 feet. Most of the parts of this mammoth are at hand, and when the skeleton is mounted with the proper background and setting it will make one of the most majestic objects in the Gallery of Elephants, Morrill Hall, a gallery which is to be 50 feet wide, indefinitely long, and with a vaulted ceiling 26 feet high. The outstanding features of Archidiskodon maibeni are its great size, its large and remarkably curved tusks, and its shortened vertebrae. It should be noted that but one or two foot bones were found and that the manus in the temporary mount is altogether too small. It should be about one-third larger and will be modeled carefully and correctly when Archidiskodon maibeni is mounted in the new Museum, Morrill Hall.

In Fig. 88, A1 is drawn from a photograph in which the camera was set on a level with the middle of the fore arms. Hence there is a foreshortening especially noticeable in the scapulae.

MEASUREMENTS (quoted from Osborn)

	Skeletal height to summit of scapula	*Estimated or actual height of living animal*
A1. *Archidiskodon maibeni* (Neb. Mus. 5-9-22)	11 ft. 6 in. = 3506 mm.	14 ft.
B. *Archidiskodon imperator* Amer. Mus. 10598)	11 ft. 5 in. = 3482 mm.	13 ft. 6 in.
C. *Loxodonta africana* (Dept. Mam. 3283)	9 ft. 6 in. = 2899 mm.	11 ft. 4 in.
D. *Elephas indicus*	8 ft. 6¾in. = 2611 mm.	10 ft. 6 in.

"Observe A1 (right) is foreshortened, while A, B, C, D, represent orthogonal full length projections of each limb segment, with the actual measurement of each segment in millimeters. This affords an absolutely reliable comparison of the ascending height of these four animals."

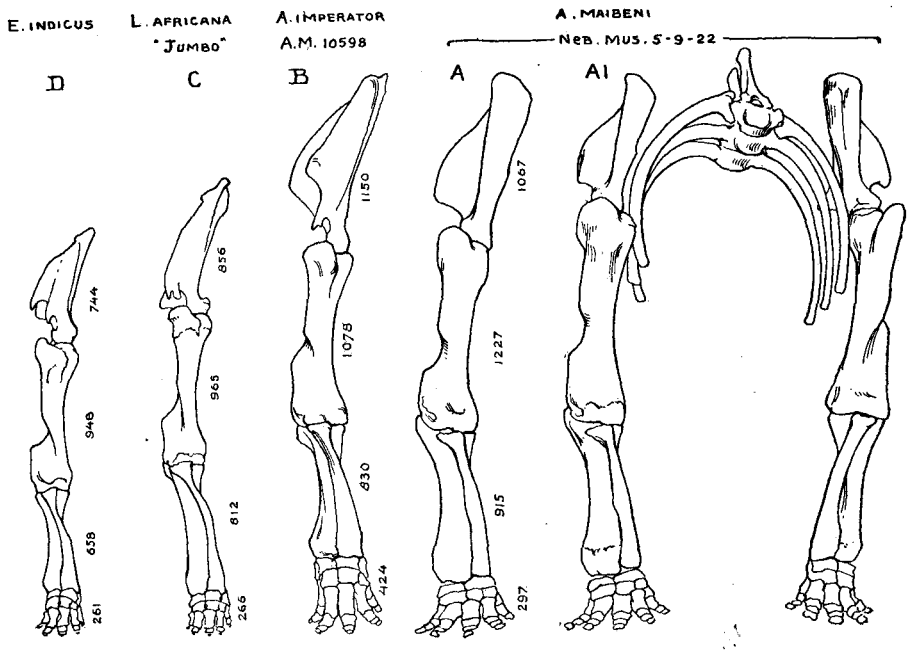

FIG. 88.— Fore limbs of the three genera of the Elephantidae seen from in front, drawn to uniform scale. Reduced to 1/48 natural size.

	Manus	*Forearm*	*Humerus*	*Scapula*
A. *Archidiskodon maibeni*	297 mm.	915 mm.	1227 mm.	1067+ mm.
B. *Archidiskodon imperator*	424 mm. (fully extended)	830 mm.	1078 mm.	1150 mm.
C. *Loxodonta africana*	266 mm. (fully extended)	812 mm.	965 mm.	856 mm.
D. *Elephas indicus*	261 mm. (fully extended)	658 mm.	948 mm.	744 mm.

"The above entirely consistent comparative measurements appear to demonstrate that *Archidiskodon imperator* and the more primitive giant species *Archidiskodon maibeni* towered in height far above the largest existing elephants."

On April 1, 1926, the writer accompanied by Mr. Philip Orr secured at Lingle, Wyoming, the skull, teeth, and tusks of a form apparently identical with A. maibeni and numbered 1-4-26. It shows the same type of teeth and the same size and curvature of tusk.

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