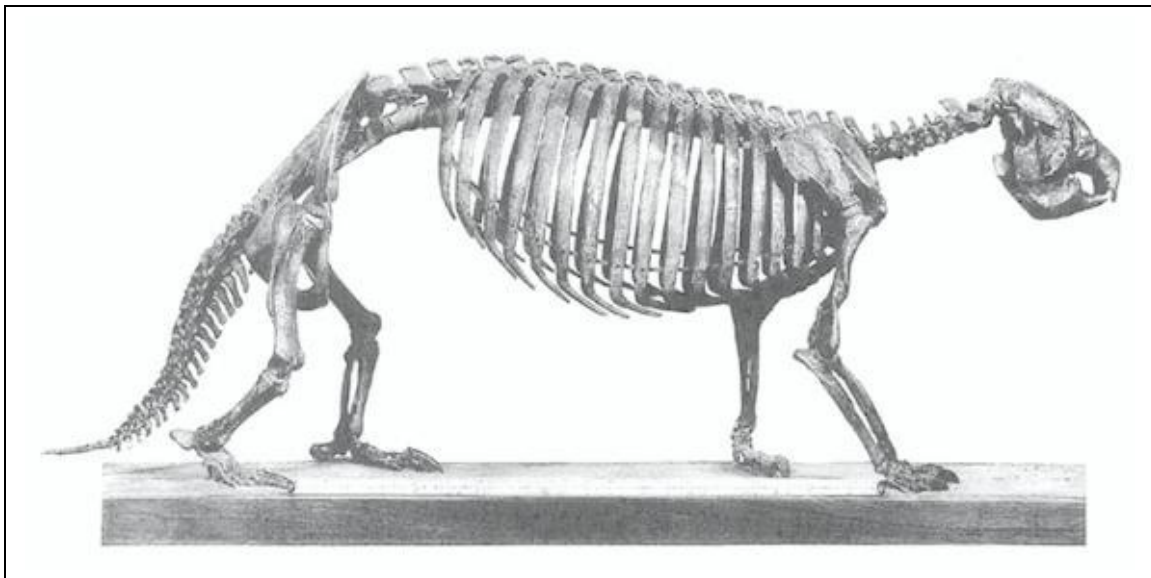


EXTINCT MAMMALS OF THE GREATER AND LESSER ANTILLES

The following endemic Antillean mammal species are known or suspected to have died out after first human arrival in the Caribbean region, as a result of human activities during recent prehistory or the European-era historical period. The Caribbean mammal fauna has experienced the highest level of recent species losses of any mammal fauna in the world, both for the recent historical period and since the end of the last Ice Age glaciation. Last occurrence dates for these extinct species are based either on radiocarbon dates, or on the association of extinct species with black rat bones in recent cave sediments, which indicates a post-AD 1500 extinction.

SLOTHS (ORDER PILOSA)



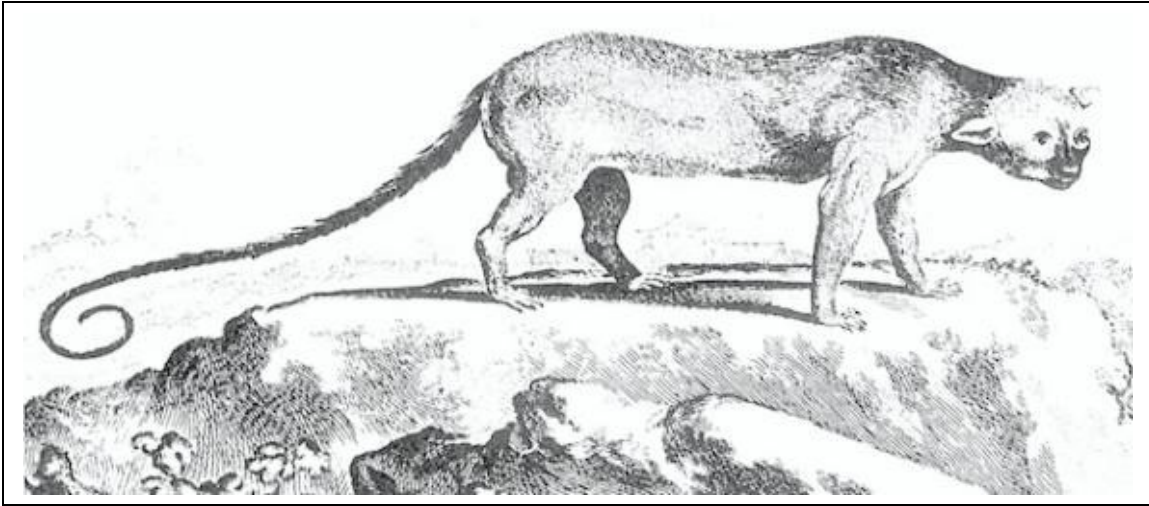
Skeleton of the Cuban ground sloth *Megalocnus rodens*, the largest land mammal from the West Indies, on display in the American Museum of Natural History (New York). This species died out around a millennium after first human arrival in the Caribbean region.

FAMILY MEGALONYCHIDAE

SPECIES	LAST OCCURRENCE DATE
<i>Acratocnus antillensis</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Acratocnus odontrionus</i> (Puerto Rico)	Unknown
<i>Acratocnus simorhynchus</i> (Hispaniola)	Unknown
<i>Acratocnus ye</i> (Hispaniola)	Unknown
<i>Paulocnus petrifactus</i> (Curaçao)	Unknown
<i>Neocnus comes</i> (Hispaniola)	4391±42 yr BP
<i>Neocnus dousman</i> (Hispaniola)	Unknown
<i>Neocnus gliriformis</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Neocnus major</i> (Cuba)	Unknown

<i>Neocnus toupiti</i> (Hispaniola)	Unknown
<i>Megalocnus rodens</i> (Cuba)	4190±40 yr BP
<i>Megalocnus zile</i> (Hispaniola)	Unknown
<i>Parocnus browni</i> (Cuba)	4960±280 yr BP
<i>Parocnus serus</i> (Hispaniola)	Unknown
<i>Galerocnus jaimezi</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Paramiocnus riveroi</i> (Cuba)	Unknown

MONKEYS (ORDER PRIMATES)

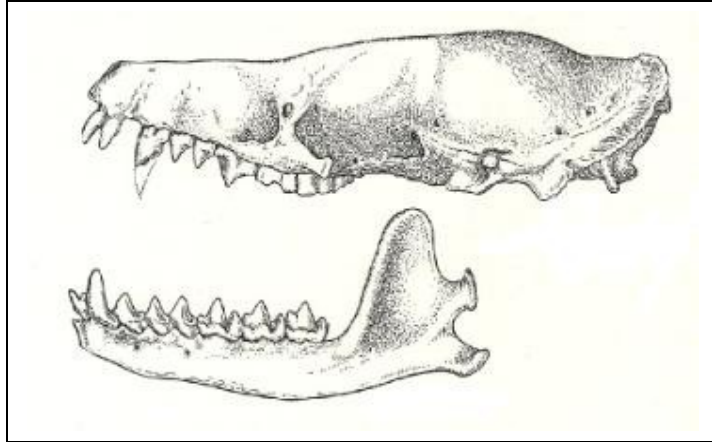


A “poto” from the “mountains of Jamaica”, which was exhibited in London in the 1860s. There are no native mammals in Jamaica today that resemble this mystery animal – could it in fact have been the weird Jamaican monkey *Xenothrix*?

FAMILY CEBIDAE

SPECIES	LAST OCCURRENCE DATE
<i>Antillothrix bernensis</i> (Hispaniola)	3850±135 yr BP
<i>Paralouatta varonai</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Xenothrix mcgregori</i> (Jamaica)	after AD 1500 (1700-1800s?)

INSECTIVORES (ORDER SORICOMORPHA)



Skull of *Nesophontes*, the endemic genus of West Indian “island-shrew” that was abundant on Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands until the arrival of Europeans and black rats in the Caribbean around 500 years ago.

FAMILY NESOPHONTIDAE

SPECIES

Nesophontes edithae (Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)
Nesophontes hypomicrus (Hispaniola)
Nesophontes major (Cuba)
Nesophontes micrus (Cuba)
Nesophontes paramicrus (Hispaniola)
Nesophontes zamicros (Hispaniola)
Nesophontes sp. A (undescribed) (Cayman Brac)
Nesophontes sp. B (undescribed) (Grand Cayman)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

AD 1000-1490
 after AD 1500
 after AD 1500?
 after AD 1500
 after AD 1500
 after AD 1500?
 after AD 1500
 after AD 1500

FAMILY SOLENODONTIDAE

SPECIES

Solenodon arredondoii (Cuba)
Solenodon marcanoii (Hispaniola)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

Unknown
 after AD 1500

BATS (ORDER CHIROPTERA)



Bat fossils are common in cave deposits across the Caribbean region. As well as representing species still living today in cave environments, these deposits also document the former existence of many recently extinct Caribbean bats.

FAMILY PHYLLOSTOMIDAE

SPECIES

Desmodus puntajudensis (Cuba)
Cubanycteris silvai (Cuba)
Phylloonycteris major (Puerto Rico, Antigua)
Artibeus anthonyi (Cuba)
Phyllops silvai (Cuba)
Phyllops vetus (Cuba)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

7864±96 yT BP
 Unknown
 3330±50 yT BP
 7864±96 yT BP
 Unknown
 Unknown

FAMILY MORMOOPIDAE

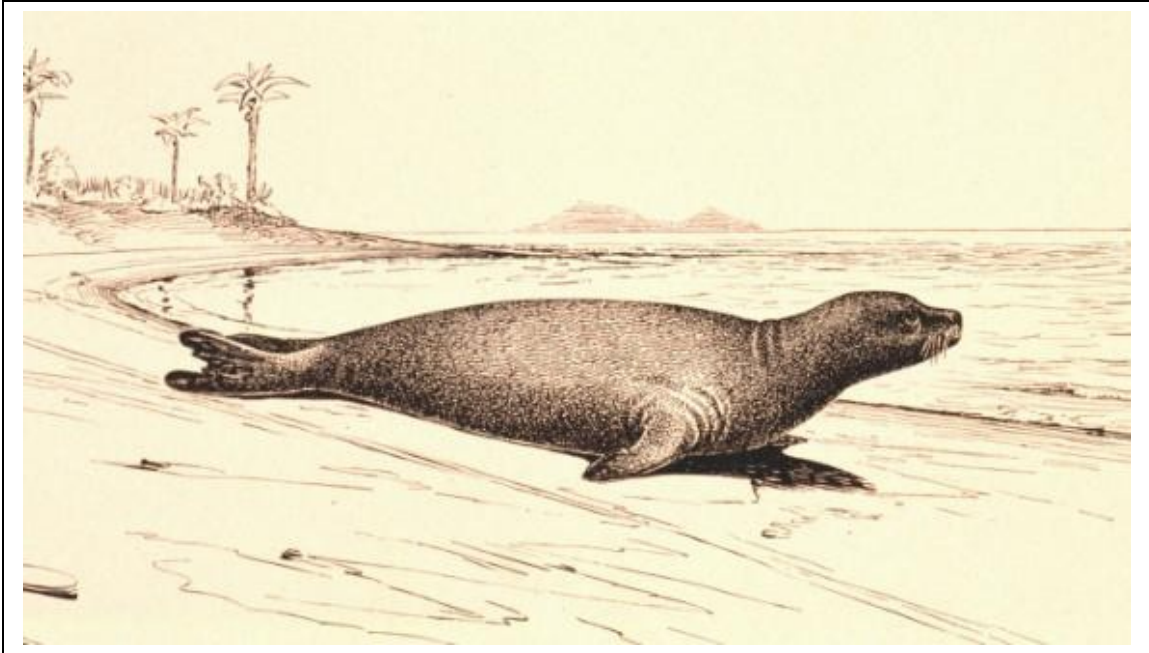
SPECIES

Mormoops magna (Cuba)
Pteronotus pristinus (Cuba)
Pteronotus sp. A (undescribed) (Cuba)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

7864±96 yT BP
 Unknown
 Unknown

CARNIVORES (ORDER CARNIVORA)



The Caribbean monk seal (*Monachus tropicalis*) is one of the few marine mammals ever to have been driven to extinction by humans. This endemic seal species, once common throughout the Caribbean region and first recorded by Columbus in 1494, was wiped out largely by overexploitation for seal oil.

FAMILY PHOCIDAE

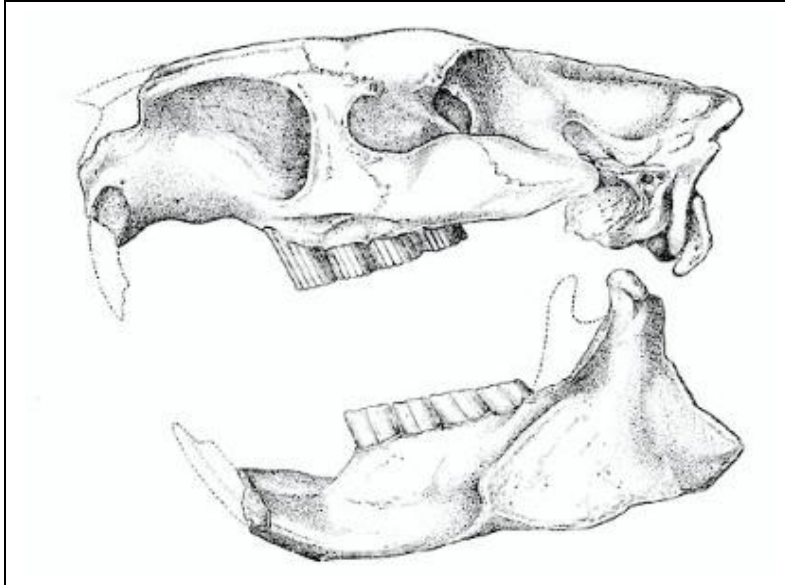
SPECIES

Monachus tropicalis (Caribbean region)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

AD 1952

RODENTS (ORDER RODENTIA)



Skull of *Elasmodontomys obliquus*, the giant (c. 13 kg) ‘Antillean plate-tooth’ or ‘giant hutia’ from Puerto Rico, which is common in Late Quaternary fossil deposits, and died out following prehistoric Amerindian arrival on the island.

FAMILY CRICETIDAE

SPECIES

Megalomys audreyae (Barbuda)

Megalomys desmarestii (Martinique)

Megalomys luciae (St. Lucia)

‘*Megalomys*’ *curazensis* (Curaçao)

Oligoryzomys victus (St. Vincent)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

after AD 1500

AD 1897 [approx.]

before AD 1881

Unknown

AD 1892

In addition to these species, a large number of undescribed rice rats are known from recent fossil deposits and archaeological middens on most of the islands of the Lesser Antilles, probably representing several additional recently extinct genera and species.

FAMILY ECHIMYIDAE

SPECIES

Boromys offella (Cuba)

Boromys torrei (Cuba)

Brotomys contractus (Hispaniola)

Brotomys voratus (Hispaniola)

Heteropsomys insulans (Puerto Rico)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

after AD 1500

after AD 1500

Unknown

430±60 yT BP

1219±26 yT BP

FAMILY CAPROMYIDAE

SPECIES

Capromys antiquus (Cuba)

LAST OCCURRENCE DATE

Unknown

<i>Capromys arredondo</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Capromys latus</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Capromys pappus</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Capromys robustus</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Capromys</i> sp. A (undescribed) (Cayman Islands)	AD 1586
<i>Geocapromys columbianus</i> (Cuba)	after AD 1500
<i>Geocapromys pleistocenicus</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Geocapromys thoracatus</i> (Little Swan Island)	AD 1950s
<i>Geocapromys</i> sp. A (undescribed) (Cayman Brac)	after AD 1500?
<i>Geocapromys</i> sp. B (undescribed) (Grand Cayman)	after AD 1500
<i>Mesocapromys barbouri</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Mesocapromys beatrizae</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Mesocapromys delicatus</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Mesocapromys gracilis</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Mesocapromys kraglievichi</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Mesocapromys minimus</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Mesocapromys sanfelipensis</i> (San Felipe Cays, Cuba)	AD 1978
<i>Mesocapromys silvai</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Mysateles jaumei</i> (Cuba)	Unknown
<i>Hexolobodon phenax</i> (Hispaniola)	after AD 1500?
Hexolobodontinae gen. and sp. nov. (Hispaniola)	3755±175 yr BP
<i>Plagiodontia araeum</i> (Hispaniola)	Unknown
<i>Plagiodontia ipnaeum</i> (Hispaniola)	AD 1536-1546?
<i>Rhizoplagiodontia lemkei</i> (Hispaniola)	after AD 1500
<i>Isolobodon montanus</i> (Hispaniola)	after AD 1500
<i>Isolobodon portoricensis</i> (Hispaniola [native range])	AD 1500s-1800s?

FAMILY HEPTAXODONTIDAE

SPECIES	LAST OCCURRENCE DATE
<i>Clidomys osborni</i> (Jamaica)	Unknown
<i>Elasmodontomys obliquus</i> (Puerto Rico)	3512±28 yr BP
<i>Quemisia gravis</i> (Hispaniola)	AD 1536-1546?
<i>Xaymaca fulvopulvis</i> (Jamaica)	Unknown

FAMILY UNKNOWN

SPECIES	LAST OCCURRENCE DATE
<i>Tainotherium valei</i> (Puerto Rico)	Unknown
Rodentia? gen. and sp. nov. (Jamaica)	Unknown