

Accepted Manuscript



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PII: S0895-9811(16)30222-X

DOI: [10.1016/j.jsames.2016.11.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsames.2016.11.003)

Reference: SAMES 1625

To appear in: *Journal of South American Earth Sciences*

Received Date: 2 October 2016

Accepted Date: 12 November 2016

Please cite this article as: Stinnesbeck, S.R., Frey, E., Stinnesbeck, W., Avíles Olgúin, J., Zell, P., Terrazas Mata, A., Benavente Sanvicente, M., González González, A., Acevez Nuñez, E., A new fossil peccary from the Pleistocene-Holocene boundary of the eastern Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico, *Journal of South American Earth Sciences* (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.jsames.2016.11.003.

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A new fossil peccary from the Pleistocene-Holocene boundary of the eastern Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

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ABSTRACT

Here we describe the left mandibular ramus of a fossil peccary from the submerged karst cave system in the southeastern Mexican state of Quintana Roo. The specimen, which was discovered in the Muknal cave northwest of Tulum, is a new genus and species of peccary termed *Muknalia minima*. The taxon likely dates from the latest Pleistocene and differs significantly from all extant peccaries and their Pleistocene relatives by a concave notch at the caudal edge of the mandibular ramus and prominent ventrally directed angular process. These diagnostic osteological differences suggest that the masticatory apparatus differed from all other peccaries and may hint to an ecological isolation on the late Pleistocene Yucatán Peninsula.

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