

MAMMALIAN EVOLUTION HISTORY

300 MYA

Synapsid Divergence

Separation of the synapsid lineage from sauropsids (reptiles/birds).

275 MYA

Therapsids

Evolution of "mammal-like reptiles" with specialized teeth and upright posture.

210 MYA

First True Mammals

Appearance of Morganucodontids; small, nocturnal, and insectivorous.

160 MYA

Lineage Splitting

Divergence of Monotremes (egg-laying) from Theria (live-bearing).

125 MYA

Placentals & Marsupials

Eutherian and Metatherian lineages distinctify in the Early Cretaceous.

66 MYA

K-Pg Extinction

Demise of non-avian dinosaurs; rapid ecological diversification of mammals.

55 MYA

Eocene Radiation

Emergence of modern orders: Primates, Cetaceans, and Perissodactyls.

Present

Holocene

Dominance of Anthropocene influences on global mammalian biodiversity.