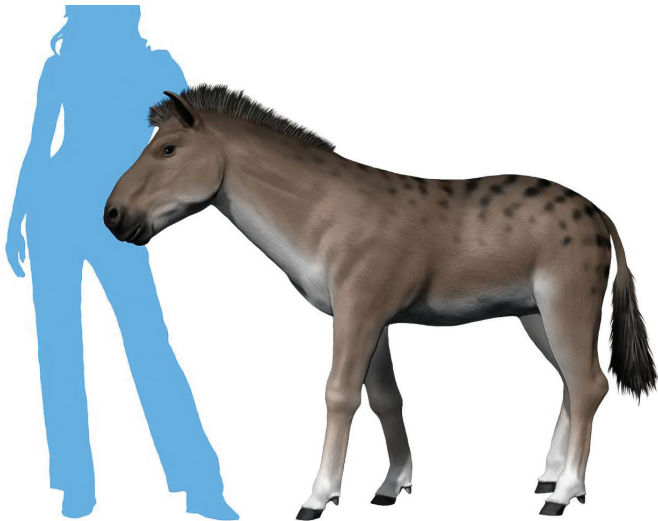


Stasis in Fossils Questions Deep Time

Living species change in a few generations in response to large environmental changes. A fossil species would be expected to show the same pattern, especially if exposed to long periods of environmental changes. Yet fossil mammal species remain morphologically stable through an average stratigraphic interval of a supposed 3.2 million years. Stability of a species over such long supposed time spans challenges the macro-evolutionary scenario. In a short chronology model, these individuals were buried in different layers over a much shorter interval of time.



Artist's portrayal of *Merychippus insignis*, an example of morphological stability

Image: Nobu Tamura, CC by SA 4.0; background has been removed