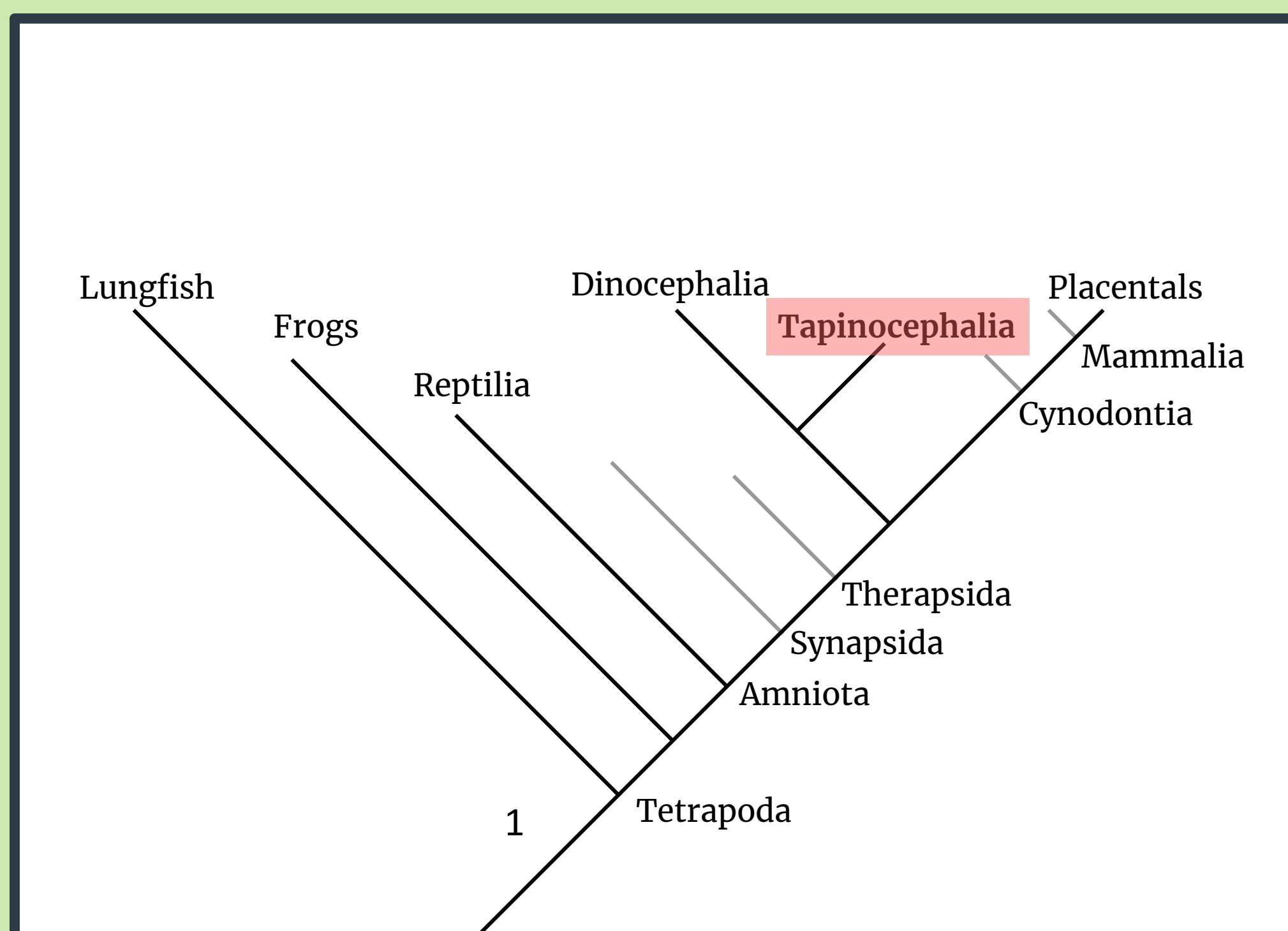


# Tapinocephalia:

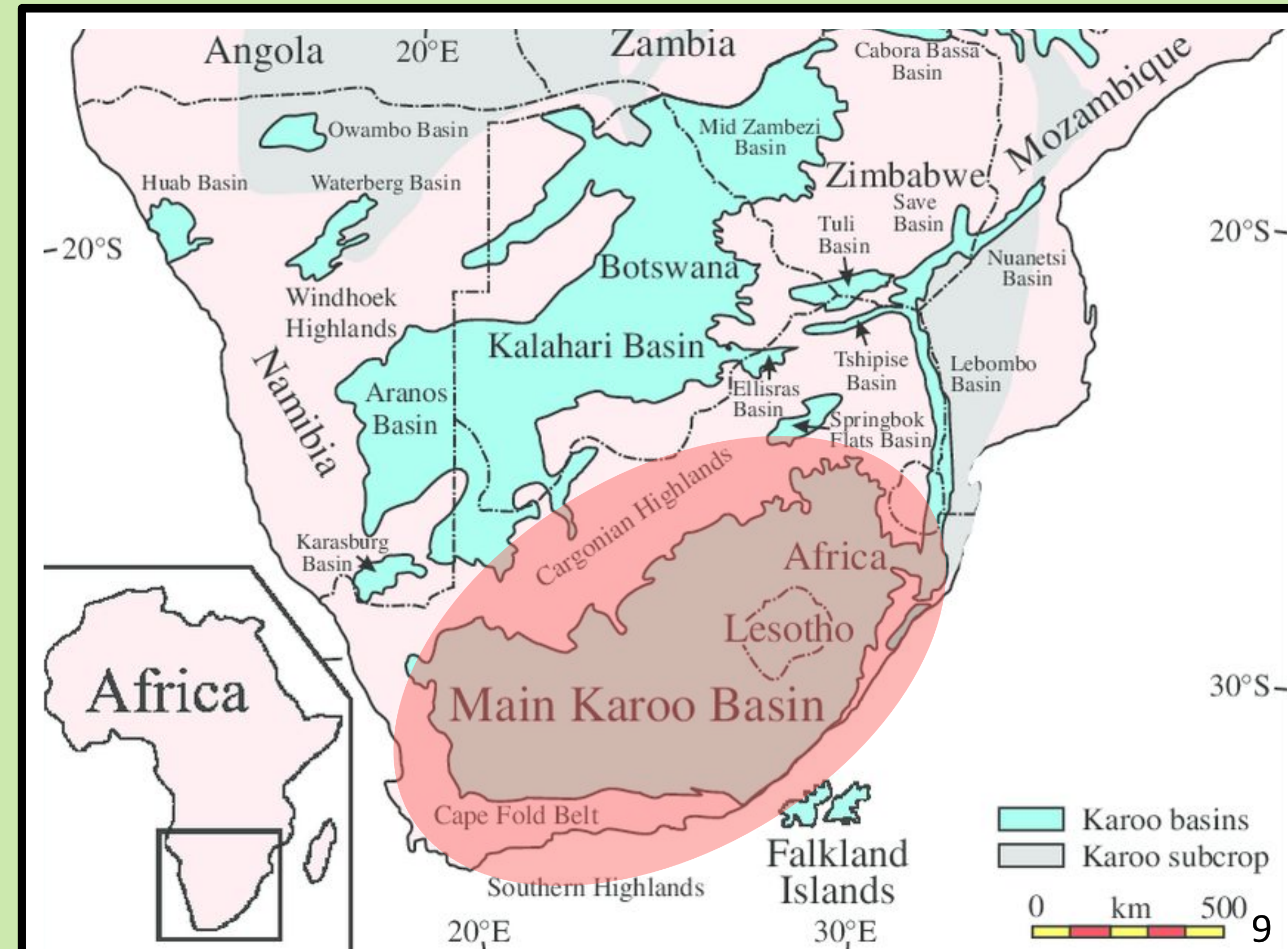
## A group of Herbivorous Therapsids



**Introduction:** Tapinocephalia is one of the major groups of herbivores of the therapsids. There are three sub groups: Tapinocephalidae, Titanosuchidae, Styracocephalus.

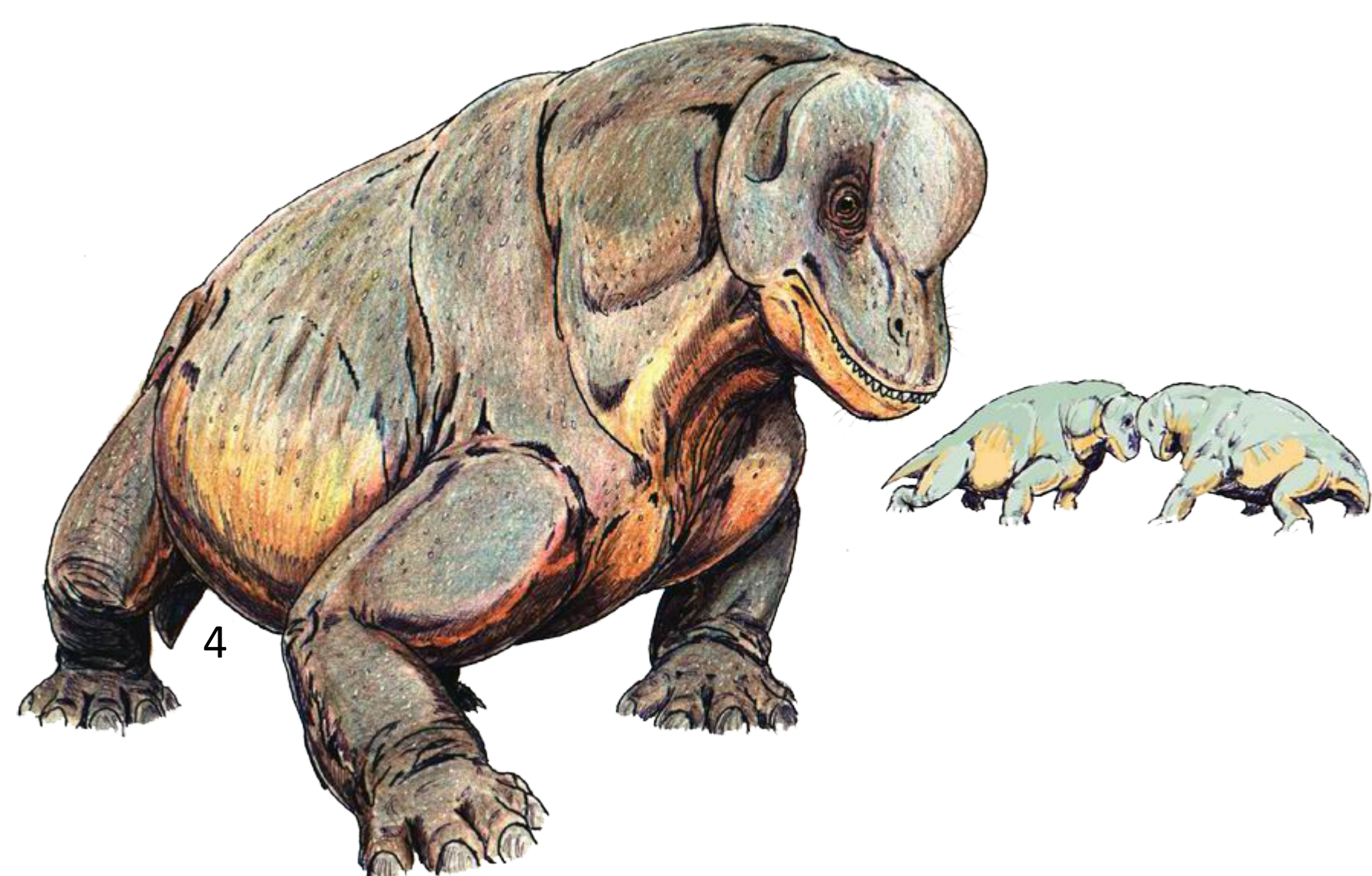
Ma	ICC 2014/10			NZGT 2015/1		
	Period	Epoch	Age	Series	Stage	Code
250	Triassic	Early	Olenekian 251.2	Gore	Nelsonian 251.5	Gn
			Induan 252.17		"Makarewan" 253.2	YDm
			Changhsingian 254.14	D'Urville	"Waijitan" 254.2	YDw
255	Lopingian		Wuchiapingian		"Puruhaian"	YDp
260	Guadalupian		259.8	Aparima	Flettian	YAf
265			Capitanian			
			Wordian 265.1			
			Roadian 268.8		Barrettian	YAr
270			272.3			
275	Permian		Kungurian			16

**Geologic Range** of Tapinocephalians was the Middle Permian to Late Permian period (Guadalupian Epoch)<sup>7</sup>



Most species in the group of Tapinocephalia can **geographically** be found mostly in the Karoo Basin<sup>15</sup>, but some have been found in various locations around the world.<sup>12</sup>

### Tapinocephalidae



**Distinctive Traits:**

- Giant Herbivores (4-5m) with barrel shaped bodies
- Some species were the largest terrestrial animals during the Permian<sup>5</sup>
- 500-1000kg<sup>13</sup>
- Top of the skull was elevated in a dome like fashion, extensive cranial pachyostosis<sup>6</sup>
- Moschops, a species of Tapinocephalidae, are known for head-butting<sup>2</sup>
- Found also in: Southern Tanzania<sup>19</sup>, Southern Zambia<sup>18</sup>, Russia (Tarstan)<sup>13</sup>, South America<sup>11</sup>, and Brazil<sup>6</sup>

### Titanosuchidae



**Distinctive Traits:**

- Opportunistic omnivore
- Fed on mainly vegetation<sup>14</sup>
- 3-5m long
- Stout legs
- Sharp incisors and large canines
- Many small postcanine teeth<sup>5</sup>
- Elongated, spoon-shaped snout
- Found also in: South America<sup>11</sup>, South Africa

### Styracocephalus



**Distinctive Traits:**

- Only contains *Styracocephalus platyrhynchus*<sup>17</sup>
- Cranial Ornaments
  - Frontal and Supraorbital bosses
  - Squamosal Flanges
  - Backward-pointing horns
- Found only in the Tapinocephalus Assemblage Zone of South Africa