

# ENTELODONT: The Hellacious Pigs of the Cenozoic

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## Entelodont Overview:

From the family Entelodontidae, these omnivorous mammals had a wide geographic variety, as seen in image B. They first inhabited Mongolia then spread into Eurasia and North America, while in North America they preferred flood plains and woodlands. Entelodont were fairly aggressive and would fight with their own kind, using their strong jaws and large heads. They survived from the middle of Eocene to the middle of Miocene.

## Size and Diet:

Figure D shows one of the largest Entelodont, *Daedon*, compared to an 1.8 meter tall human, illustrating how immense they really were. Entelodont weighed from 150 kg on the small size, up to 900 kg (330 to 2,000 pounds) and 1 to 2 meters in height. They had teeth that made them capable of consuming meat, but the overall structure and wear on the teeth suggest the consumption of plant matter as well. Although these large animals might not look it, their limbs were fully terrestrial and adept for running.

## Skull Features:

As seen on Figure C, the skull of the Entelodont is massive. They all contained large Neural Spines, most likely to hold up their huge head, which in turn created a hump. Entelodont contained a pretty small brain, but large olfactory lobes, giving them an acute sense of smell. They held sturdy canines, long incisors, sharp serrated premolars, and blunt square molars (a sign of omnivory), all of which were covered in a very thick layer of enamel. This evidence suggests that they had a very wide range of diet.

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