

Adalatherium: David Krause's "Crazy Beast"

Melissa Leasia May 3, 2020 :



Field Camp in
Madagascar. Image used
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Krause.

Evergreen Audubon members who attended David Krause's presentation at a the October Chapter meeting last fall were captivated by photos and tales of his adventures, research, and discoveries in Madagascar over the past 25 years. On May 6, David, Senior Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Department of Earth Sciences, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, will present a program on *Adalatherium*, the ancient mammal that David and his international team of scientists discovered. Originally scheduled to be held in the museum's IMAX theater, we have learned that his lecture will be on-line and accessible to anyone with a computer.

From the Museum's website: "In evolutionary terms, islands are the stuff of weirdness. It is on islands where animals evolve in isolation, often for millions of years, with different food sources, competitors, predators, and parasites...indeed, different **everything** compared to mainland species. As a result, they develop into different shapes and sizes and evolve into new species that, given enough time, spawn yet more new species. The new mammal, called *Adalatherium*, which is translated from the Malagasy and Greek languages and means "crazy beast," is based on a nearly complete skeleton that is astoundingly well preserved. The skeleton is the most complete for any Mesozoic mammal yet discovered in the southern hemisphere.

Krause said that "knowing what we know about the skeletal anatomy of all living and extinct mammals, it is difficult to imagine that a mammal-like *Adalatherium* could have evolved; it bends and even breaks a lot of rules."

For the complete article and instructions on how to attend this fascinating lecture via live stream or FaceBook, go to www.dmns.org/science/earth-sciences/projects/marooned-on-mesozoic-madagascar/

