

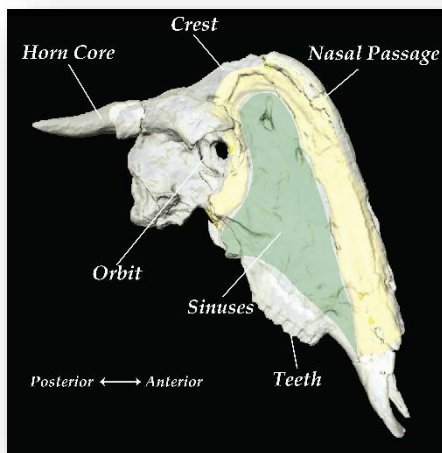
# Pleistocene Cacophony: Crested Wildebeest of the East African Rift

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GEAR 102 5:00 pm



Pleistocene faunas in the East African Rift Valley are thought to have been nearly identical to the present day; however, continued work is beginning to uncover striking differences. *Rusingoryx atopocranium*, an extinct relative of wildebeests whose skulls have large, bony crests and elongate, s-shaped airways, is a remarkable example of just how different Pleistocene Rift Valley faunas could be. Dr. O'Brien will discuss her work on the evolution and function of these crests, which reveals a vocalization function and broad convergence with hadrosaur dinosaurs, and she will discuss the implications of this species for human evolution in East Africa.