Cataloging Animal Names with Python

Jelle Zijlstra
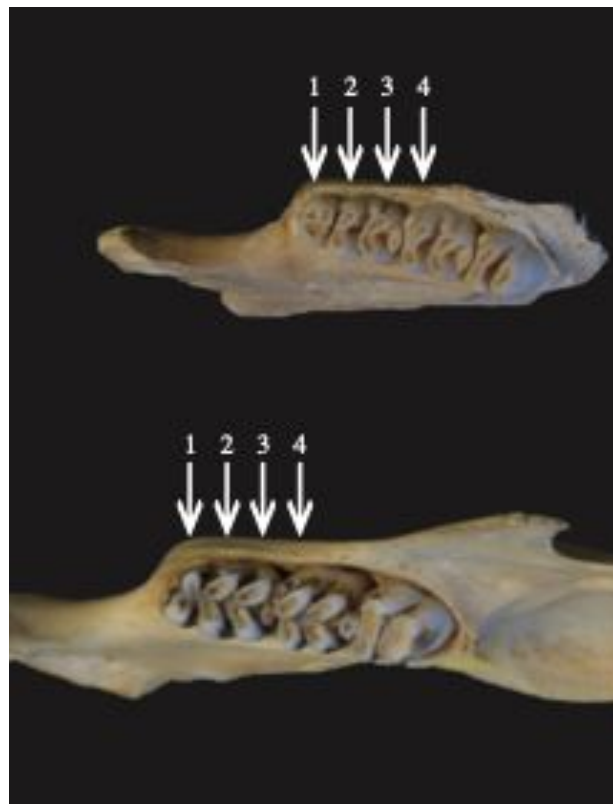
Me

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- Jelle Zijlstra
- Software Engineer at Quora
  - We're hiring!
- Maintainer of typeshed and Black
- Biologist when I get the chance
  - Spent college staring at fossil teeth

My database

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- Mammals (and some other animals)
- Every species, every published name
  - 80616 names
- Every original description
  - 64% progress
- Every type specimen
  - 59% progress
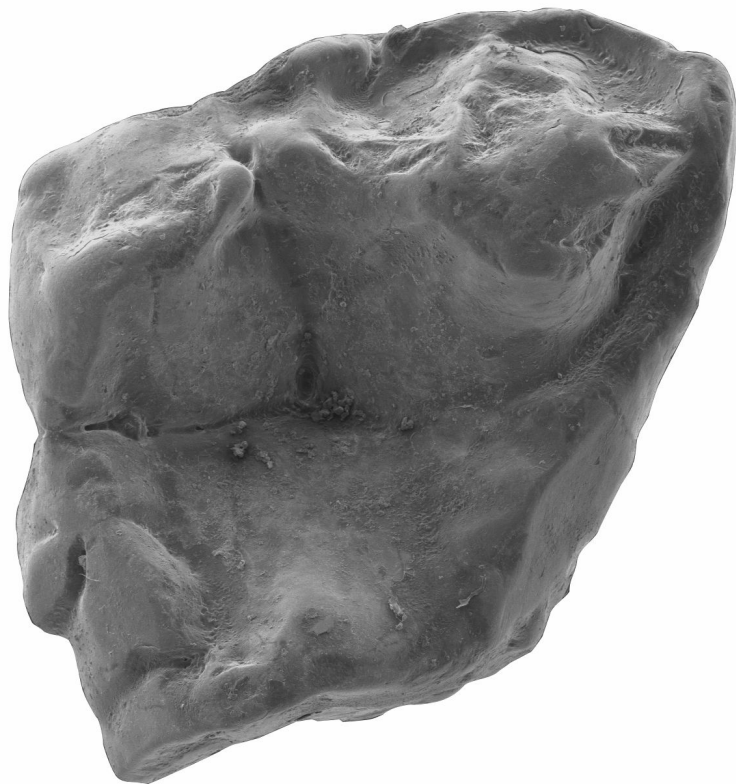- Every locality
  - 99% progress

Why?

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- I enjoy it
- Document biodiversity
- Free up real scientists to do science, not literature research
- Understand the history of science
  - Like "Who was the worst taxonomist in history?"

What's next?

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- A website
  - Because it's rude to keep it all to myself
- More automation
  - Catch nomenclature problems automatically
- Expand scope
  - Fossil reptiles? Salamanders? Sea squirts?

Want to know more?

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- Jelle Zijlstra
- https://github.com/JelleZijlstra/taxonomy
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- Extra points if you can ID the fossils shown in these slides