

Beyond Heroes

Companion Rules BH55



Bestiary 6

The Role Playing Game for all Genres

The Beyond Heroes Roleplaying Game Book LIV/55: Bestiary 6, the Animals of the Pleistocene Era

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Foreword

The Beyond Heroes Role Playing Game is based on a heavily revised derivative version of the rules system from Advanced Dungeons and Dragons 2nd edition. It also makes extensive use of the optional point buying system as presented in the AD&D Player's Option Skills and Powers book. My primary goal was to make this system usable in any setting, from fantasy to pulp to superhero to science fiction.

The Pleistocene (/ˈplaɪstəˌsiːn, -stou-/ PLY-stə-seen, -stoh-; often referred to colloquially as the Ice Age) is the geological epoch that lasted from 2.58 million BC to 9677 BC, spanning the Earth's most recent period of repeated glaciations. Both marine and continental faunas were essentially modern but with many more large land mammals such as Mammoths, Mastodons, Diprotodon, Smilodon, tiger, lion, Aurochs, short-faced bears, giant sloths, Gigantopithecus and others. Isolated landmasses such as Australia, Madagascar, New Zealand and islands in the Pacific saw the evolution of large birds and even reptiles such as the Elephant bird, moa, Haast's eagle, Quinkana, Megalania and Meiolania.

The severe climatic changes during the Ice Age had major impacts on the fauna and flora. With each advance of the ice, large areas of the continents became totally depopulated, and plants and animals retreating southwards in front of the advancing glacier faced tremendous stress. The most severe stress resulted from drastic climatic changes, reduced living space, and curtailed food supply. A major extinction event of large mammals (megafauna), which included mammoths, mastodons, saber-toothed cats, glyptodons, the woolly rhinoceros, various giraffids, such as the Sivatherium; ground sloths, Irish elk, cave bears, Gomphotheres, dire wolves, and short-faced bears, began late in the Pleistocene and continued into the Holocene. Neanderthals also became extinct during this period. At the end of the last ice age, cold-blooded animals, smaller mammals like wood mice, migratory birds, and swifter animals like whitetail deer had replaced the megafauna and migrated north. Late Pleistocene bighorn sheep were more slender and had longer legs than their descendants today. Scientists believe that the change in predator fauna after the late Pleistocene extinctions resulted in a change of body shape as the species adapted for increased power rather than speed.

The extinctions hardly affected Africa but were especially severe in North America where native horses and camels were wiped out.

Cave Bear



First Appeared: 125,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: Red bears, or cave bears, were gigantic prehistoric bears that were up to a third bigger than the largest modern day brown bears. Their coat is redbrown. They are herbivores and they hibernate in caves. They live alone or with a partner.

Height: 7.5 metres

Weight: 460 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

INT: 8, **WIS:** 8, **STR:** 25, **DEX:** 12,
CON: 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 12, **HPs:** 100,
AC: 7, **Thac0:** 12

Abilities: 2 sets of claws which do 3D6 each, bite does 3D6 +2

Feeding Habits: Carnivore

Lifespan: 25 years

Dire Wolf



The dire wolf (*Aenocyon dirus* /i: 'nɒsai.ɒn 'daɪrəs/) is an extinct canine. It is one of the most famous prehistoric carnivores in North America, along with its extinct competitor *Smilodon*. The dire wolf lived in the Americas and eastern Asia during the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene epochs (125,000–9,500 years ago).

Its extinction occurred during the Quaternary extinction event along with its main prey species. Its reliance on megaherbivores has been proposed as the cause of its extinction, along with climatic change and competition with other species, or a combination of those factors. Dire wolves lived as recently as 9,500 years ago, according to dated remains.

First Appeared: 125,000 BC

Habitat: Plains, mountains

Physical Traits: The dire wolf is about the same size as the largest modern gray

wolves (*Canis lupus*): the Yukon wolf and the northwestern wolf. Its skull and dentition match those of *canis lupus*, but its teeth are larger with greater shearing ability, and its bite force at the canine tooth is stronger than any known *Canis* species. These characteristics are thought to be adaptations for preying on Late Pleistocene megaherbivores, and in North America, its prey is known to have included western horses, ground sloths, mastodons, ancient bison, and camels.

Height: 1 metre

Weight: 132 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

INT: 12, **WIS:** 8, **STR:** 17, **DEX:** 15, **CON:** 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 40, **HPs:** 50, **AC:** 6, **Thac0:** 12

Abilities: Its bite does 2D6 +3 piercing damage.

Feeding Habits: Carnivore

Lifespan: 15 years

Kolpochoerus



Abilities: Head butt does D6 blunt damage.

Feeding Habits: Herbivore

Lifespan: 25 years

First Appeared: 100,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: Kolpochoerus is an extinct genus of the pig family Suidae related to the modern-day genera Hylochoerus and Potamochoerus. It is believed that most of them inhabited African forests, as opposed to the bushpig and red river hog that inhabit open brush and savannas.

Height: 1.5 metres

Weight: 260 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

INT: 1, **WIS:** 1, **STR:** 8, **DEX:** 12,
CON: 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 30, **HPs:** 35,
AC: 8, **Thac0:** 15

Mastodon



These huge animals can adapt to live in many types of environments, from cold and temperate forests to jungles and tropical islands. Mastodons often organize themselves into small groups and herds of up to six.

First Appeared: 126,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: A mastodon is an ancient relative of the elephant and the mammoth that have a long pair of tusks. They are generally greater in length than those of modern elephants. Mastodons stand about 10 feet tall at the shoulder and weigh more than 4,000 pounds. Though their attributes differ based on their natural habitat, they are generally longer in length and hairier than elephants. Their tusks grow up to 12 to 15 feet (3.7 to 4.6 metres) long, almost as long as their bodies. In cold climates, mastodon species grow long, shaggy fur,

but those in snowy environments have shorter tusks.

Height: 3 metres

Weight: 4000 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

INT: 3, **WIS:** 3, **STR:** 20, **DEX:** 16, **CON:** 20, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 20, **HPs:** 145, **AC:** 6, **Thac0:** 9

Abilities: Mastodons usually charge their opponents in combat, throwing their weight behind their attacks. Their foes are also met with a long and powerful set of tusks, meaning they can attack opponents from range. They trample and gore their foes. The tusks do 4D6 peircing damage and trampling can do 3D6 blunt damage.

They are outstandingly strong, and if trained are able to carry up to 12,580 pounds (5,706 kilograms) and haul up to about 62,400 pounds (28,300 kilograms) worth of cargo.

These creatures are much more ferocious and aggressive than their elephant relatives.

Feeding Habits: Herbivore

Lifespan: 35 years

Megaloceros



First Appeared: 100,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: These creatures are roughly the same size as a moose, with their bodies standing up to 7 ft (2.1 mtrs) tall and being 10 feet (3 mtrs) in length. They have antlers that spread out to 10 to 12 feet (3 to 3.7 mtrs) in length and that weigh around 100 lb (45 kg). They have a hump on their shoulders from which two dark lines run along the body as well as a collar-shaped marking around the neck. The male's impressive antlers, which can reach four metres across, fall off each year in the spring, just like those of the modern day deer, and are used for mating displays as well as in combat.

Height: 2.1 metres

Weight: 460 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual. These creatures are typically non-aggressive, but can be dangerous to others in the early spring when mating season occurred. During that time males became extremely aggressive and territorial, while females around that same season became more defensive of their young.

INT: 3, **WIS:** 3, **STR:** 6, **DEX:** 12, **CON:** 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 12, **HPs:** 115, **AC:** 8, **Thac0:** 12

Abilities: The megaloceros charge at the most obvious and brightly coloured threat, defending itself by goring opponents with its huge antlers. These creatures can also scoop up opponents with their antlers, toss them around, and try to trample them. Its antlers do 3D6 peircing damage.

Feeding Habits: Herbivore

Lifespan: 35 years

They live alone as solitary males, in herds of D6 individuals, or with a herd of 3D6 does. In the wild they are often hunted by saber-toothed tigers.

Megatherium



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First Appeared: 110,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: The megatherium is a giant, ground-dwelling sloth about the size of a grizzly bear. An adult may stand 20 feet tall and weigh 6,000 pounds. It is covered in long, russet hair.

Height: 6 metres

Weight: 6000 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

INT: 3, **WIS:** 3, **STR:** 6, **DEX:** 12,
CON: 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 20, **HPs:** 80,
AC: 6, **Thac0:** 11

Abilities: The beast is slow moving but more powerful than most animals that

might otherwise prey on it. Because of its slow nature, the megatherium always strikes last in the round. Despite its awesome appearance, the megatherium is primarily a peaceful herbivore grazing the wooded plains.

Each forepaw has three foot-long claws. These are primarily used to tear apart trees and shrubs for food, but they can also be used as weapons. The megatherium rears on its hind legs, then attacks with swipes that cause 2D6 points of damage from each paw.

Feeding Habits: Herbivore

Lifespan: 32 years

Metridiochoerus

INT: 3, **WIS:** 3, **STR:** 15, **DEX:** 13,
CON: 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 30, **HPs:** 100,
AC: 7, **Thac0:** 13



Abilities: They attack by goring with their tusks for 2D6 points of piercing damage and biting for D.

Feeding Habits: Omnivore

Lifespan: 12 years

Metridiochoerus is an extinct genus in the pig family indigenous to the Pliocene and Pleistocene of Africa. It is also known as the giant warthog.

First Appeared: 100,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: Metridiochoerus was a large animal, 1.5 mtrd (4.9 ft) in length, resembling a giant warthog. It had two large pairs of tusks which were pointed sideways and curved upwards.

Height: 1.5 metres

Weight: 250 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

Phorusrhacid



Phorusrhacids, colloquially known as terror birds, are an extinct family of large carnivorous flightless birds that were among the largest apex predators in South America. Their closest modern-day relatives are believed to be the 80-centimetre-tall seriemas. *Titanis walleri*, one of the larger species, is known from Texas and Florida in North America. This makes the phorusrhacids the only known large South American predator to migrate north in the Great American Interchange that followed the formation of the Isthmus of Panama land bridge.

First Appeared: 53,000,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: Phorusrhacids are flightless, carnivorous birds that stand four feet tall at the shoulder. The immense head and long neck are covered in short white feathers. The body is covered in dense black feathers with a white underbelly and tail. The legs are covered in yellow scales. The

Phorusrhacids has a loud, honking voice that can be heard for ½ mile.

Height: 1.2 metres

Weight: 35 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Phorusrhacids make crude nests of stones atop rocky outcroppings. During wann weather, there is a 25% chance that eggs or chicks are nearby. The chicks are 10%-80% grown with a proportionate number of Hit Points. Immature Phorusrhacids do not initiate combat, although they can defend themselves by biting for D4 points of damage.

INT: 3, **WIS:** 3, **STR:** 6, **DEX:** 12, **CON:** 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 18, **HPs:** 25, **AC:** 8, **Thac0:** 17

Abilities: During mating time, the males make a thrumming sound like a bass violin. In combat, the bird hisses when not biting. They are fast runners and aggressive hunters that pursue prey until fed or killed. They attack by kicking for D3 points of damage for either foot and biting 2D4 points.

Feeding Habits: Omnivore

Lifespan: 15 years

Sabretoothed Tiger



Smilodon is one of the best known sabre-toothed predators and one of the most famous prehistoric mammals. Although commonly known as the sabre-toothed tiger, it was not closely related to the tiger or other modern cats.

First Appeared: 10,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: Smilodon is more robustly built than any extant cat, with particularly well-developed forelimbs and exceptionally long upper canine teeth. Its jaw has a bigger gape than that of modern cats, and its upper canines are slender and fragile, being adapted for precision killing. They can have either a plain coloured coat or one with spotted patterns.

Height: 1.3 metres

Weight: 220 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

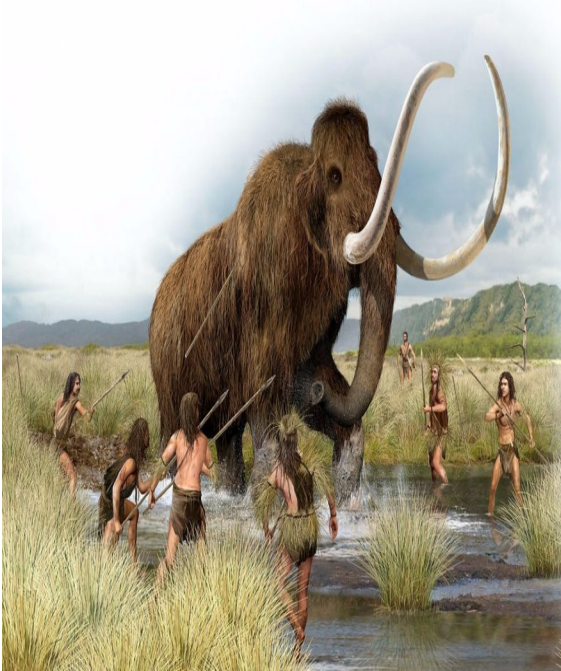
INT: 3, **WIS:** 12, **STR:** 18, **DEX:** 14, **CON:** 15, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 40, **HPs:** 85, **AC:** 8, **Thac0:** 10

Abilities: The tiger has a powerful sense of smell. Its bite does D10 +5, while its claws do 2D6 +5 each.

Feeding Habits: Carnivore

Lifespan: 25 years

Woolly Mammoth



First Appeared: 53,000,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: A mammoth is an elephantine creature with thick fur and long tusks. Stockier and fiercer than normal elephants, mammoths inhabit a wide range of climates, from subarctic to subtropical. Mammoths are enormously sized beasts, much larger than other elephants, standing as tall as 15 feet (4.6 meters) at the shoulder and weighing in at 9 to 11 tons (8,200 to 10,000 kilograms). Their tusks are extraordinarily long, sometimes as long as the creature is tall, and weighing on average 50% more than the tusks of a standard elephant. All mammoths are covered in thick, woolly hair that is brown and shaggy.

Height: 4.6 metres

Weight: 9 tons

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

INT: 10, **WIS:** 11, **STR:** 24, **DEX:** 9, **CON:** 21, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 15, **HPs:** 150, **AC:** 5, **Thac0:** 7

Abilities: The tusks can be used to gore with a reach of 10 ft to do 4D8 + 7 piercing damage. A stomp will do 4D10 + 7 bludgeoning damage.

An adult mammoth could easily carry 3 tons (2,700 kilograms) of weight and could be compelled to carry even as much as 8 tons (7,300 kilograms). A single beast is strong enough to drag 40 tons (36,000 kilograms).

Mammoths are surprisingly intelligent animals, even exhibiting some higher-level emotions and customs, such as paying special respect to the bones of their dead, returning often to visit sites where fellow herd members have died, sometimes repeating such a pattern for years in the case of a mate, sibling, or calf.

Mammoths are usually calm creatures but become extremely aggressive if threatened, far much more so than elephants. They defend their young and have exceptional memories of previous aggressors, attacking creatures that have tried to harm them or their offspring in the past.

Feeding Habits: Herbivore

Lifespan: 35 years

The largest mammoths live out in the open steppes, where they had little to fear, because of their massive size. They organize into large herds, led by the oldest female member, along with her sisters and daughters. The male mammoths are the fighters who defend the herd. They prefer to live in cold, subarctic climates, but could survive in many climates, even subtropical ones.

Woolly Rhino



First Appeared: 100,000 BC

Habitat: Plains

Physical Traits: The woolly rhinoceros is similar to the modern rhino except that it is covered by a shaggy, russet coat and roams cold, temperate, and subarctic regions. It is an aggressive, belligerent herbivore that is very defensive about its territory. The woolly rhino has poor eyesight but keen senses of hearing and smell. On its snout, a woolly rhinoceros has two horns. The front horn is larger than the other horn and averages 40 in. in length. Underneath its thick reddish-brown hair, its gray skin falls into the shoulder, back, and rump, giving it an armored appearance. Their thick fur hides their skin and insulates their bodies against cold temperatures. Grown male woolly rhinoceroses are larger than females, reaching 12 feet in length, 6 feet in height, and weighing up to 6,500 pounds. Females have a small knob, or

their horns are altogether absent. They reach 9 feet in length, 5 feet in height, and weigh up to 4,500 pounds.

Height: 4.5 metres

Weight: 480 lbs

Mobility: Legs

Sensory Organs: Visual

Communication: Vocal

Reproduction: Sexual

INT: 2, **WIS:** 6, **STR:** 23, **DEX:** 10,
CON: 18, **CHA:** 1, **MR:** 40, **HPs:** 90,
AC: 8, **Thac0:** 11

Abilities: When one detects an intruder, the wooly rhino charges. The horn inflicts 2D6 points of damage, double if it strikes while charging. Man-sized or smaller targets are also tossed 10-20 feet by the force of the blow. The wooly rhino can trample man-sized or smaller victims, each foreleg causing 2D4 points of damage. A wooly rhino will charge wagons or other vehicles, thinking them animals. Such charges deliver a crushing blow to the vehicle. An enraged wooly rhino can smash a wagon apart with little effort.

Feeding Habits: Herbivore

Lifespan: 60 years