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26 Mar 19 · 27 tweets · [Mammals_Suck/status/1110366004981329920](#)



UP NEXT: 7th-seeded TIGER QUOLL versus 2nd-seed NIMRAVID [#2019MMM](#) (a collaborative narration w/ [@PKurnath](#))



The largest carnivore on Australia's mainland today (15lbs/7kg/32 stoats), the Tiger quoll hunts like cats, only moving when the prey's head is down (Jones et al., 2001) [#StoatsAsMeasurement](#) [#SneakyNotACat](#) [#2019MMM](#)



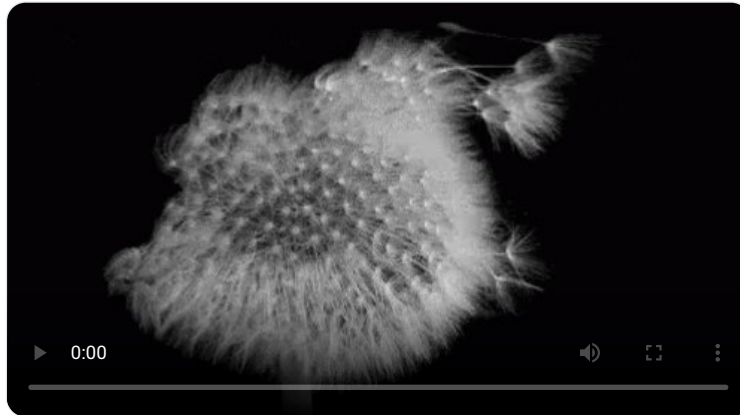
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FG6iF7fPzKU>

Which is how the Tiger quoll got through round 1, by making a meal out of the Cat-

bird [#YumYum](#) [#2019MMM](#)

Our second competitor is the Nimravid, *Hoplophoneus mentalis*, an ancient carnivore that was more like a saber-toothed badger & likely weighed 165lbs/75kg/341 stoats [#StoatsAsMeasurement](#) [#OnceThoughtACatButNotACat](#) [#2019MMM](#)

This Nimravid is coming off a win over the DandelION, sneezing & crushing the plant before an ancient grouse finished the plant off [#2019MMM](#)



Tonight, we find both [#AltFelids](#) back 35 million years ago among the shrubs & woodlands in what today is South Dakota [#BadLands](#) [#2019MMM](#)

Tiger quoll would prefer a denser forest but its compact stature allows it move with ease through the vegetation as it looks for medium-sized mammals to munch (11lbs/5kg; Glen & Dickman, 2006; Belcher et al., 2007) [#MesoPredator](#) [#2019MMM](#)

Nimravid is also hunting, but slightly less gracefully: "Stupid, slow, & awkward though it may have been in comparison with modern cats, it was nevertheless the most active flesh-eater of the time." (Hough, 1949) [#BrutallyHonest](#) [#2019MMM](#)
<https://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/0221h/report.pdf>

Nimravid is ragged. His left eye is puffy & swollen, his vision is obscured. As he breathes, a wheeze reveals an obstructed nasal passage. Scents rafting on the wind are now harder to detect & his wheezing betrays his ambush position... [#2019MMM](#)

...a single dandelion seed & it's wispy float, inhaled during the round one battle, have become embedded in nimravid's nasal cavity!! [#TheInnocentAssasins](#) [#2019MMM](#) <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1939-1676.2010.0580.x>

Close by, a struggle then a silence... and faintest scent of death... wheezing Nimravid goes to investigate [#2019MMM](#)

Tiger quoll has just taken down an ancient hare (*Palaeolagus*, Wood, 1957)! Ripping strips of fur & flesh, Tiger quoll spots the creeping Nimravid [#2019MMM](#)
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2406062.pdf>

While wheezing, Nimravid considers the gains of stealing a meal from Tiger quoll... [#Kleptoparasitism](#) [#2019MMM](#)

THWONCK!!! #2019MMM

Suddenly, another nimraavid ATTACKS our Nimraavid!! During the Oligocene, the main competitor that nimraavids faced were OTHER nimraavids (Hough 1949) as they fought & killed each other (Boyd et al., 2013) #2019MMM

This attacking OTHER nimraavid has #2019MMM Nimraavid by the head!!
#2019MMM



Saber-teeth puncture our #2019MMM Nimraavid's skull by the right eye!!!
#CARNAGE (photo by Mindy Householde)

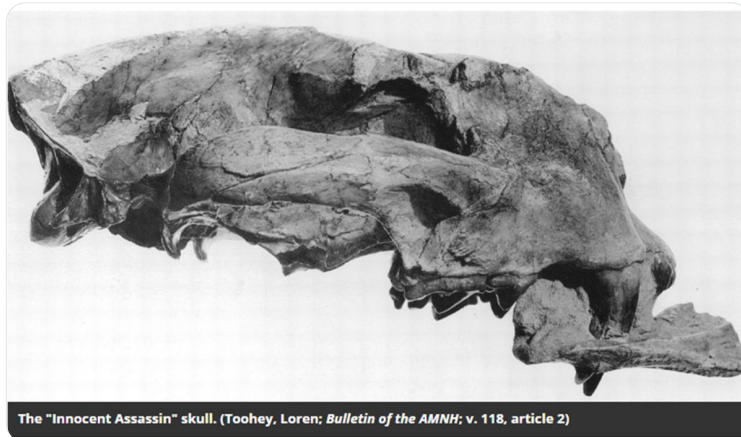


Twisting like a stout badger, #2019MMM Nimraavid breaks free from the OTHER Nimraavid, but with significant damage to what had been its ONE GOOD EYE!!!

#2019MMM Nimraavid leaps blindly, passing the OTHER nimraavid!

OTHER nimavid jump attacks [#2019MMM](#) Nimavid, sinking his saber-teeth into our [#2019MMM](#) Nimavid's back, piercing the scapula!!!

THE TWO NIMRAVIDS ARE STUCK TOGETHER!!!!!! [#FossilEvidence](#) from the [@AMNH](#)'s archives of the AMNH bulletin <http://digitalibrary.amnh.org/handle/2246/1972> [#TwistTheKnife](#) [#2019MMM](#)



Thrashing in the mud, [#2019MMM](#) Nimavid can not twist to counter-attack; OTHER Nimavid can't extract his sabertooth where it is embedded in bone [#2019MMM](#)



Bound in mutually assured destruction, the two nimravids slowly perish, locked

together for eternity. [#Infection](#) [#Starvation](#) [#Dehydration](#) [#Predation](#) [#2019MMM](#)

Only Loren Eiseley's poem, INSPIRED BY THE FOSSIL FIND, can do justice to a true battle so epic... excerpted below... THE INNOCENT ASSASSINS [#2019MMM](#)
<http://www.eiseley.org/Resources/reader/teachers/pdf/innocent-assassins-learning-supplement-lesson-05.pdf>

"This was no ordinary death, though forty million years
lay between us and that most gaping snarl.
Deep-driven to the root a fractured scapula
hung on the mighty saber undetached; two beasts
had died in mortal combat, for the bone
had never been released" -Eiseley [#2019MMM](#)

Near the doomed Nimraids, Tiger Quoll finishes his hare [#2019MMM](#)

TIGER QUOLL DEFEATS NIMRAVID!!! [#2019MMM](#)

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