

GRAND JUNCTION GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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NOVEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Joint meeting with the CMU Geology Students

7:30 PM

Room 104, Houston Hall

(Location 16 on the attached campus map)

Dr. Julia McHugh

**Paleontology Curator, Museum of the West and
Geology Faculty, Colorado Mesa University**

Will Speak On

**“Revealing a Hidden Ecology: the decomposers and
scavengers of Mygatt-Moore Quarry”**

Due to social distancing, seating is limited, mask required

The meeting will also be presented via Zoom

Zoom Instructions on Page After Abstract

Abstract on Next Page

Revealing a Hidden Ecology: the decomposers and scavengers of Mygatt-Moore Quarry

Julia McHugh, Ph.D., *Curator of Paleontology*
Museums of Western Colorado
Geology faculty, Colorado Mesa University



A survey of 2,368 vertebrate fossils from the Upper Jurassic Mygatt-Moore Quarry (Morrison Formation, Brushy Basin Member) in western Colorado revealed 2,161 bone surface modifications on 884 specimens. This is the largest, site-wide bone surface modification survey of any Jurassic locality. Traces made by invertebrate actors are found on 16.174% of the total surveyed material and comprise 20.148% of all identified traces. Six distinct invertebrate trace types were identified, including pits and furrows, rosettes, two types of bioglyph scrapes, bore holes, and chambers. A minimum of four trace makers are indicated by the types, sizes, and morphologies of the traces. Potential trace makers are inferred to be dermestid or clerid beetles, gastropods, an unknown necrophagous insect, and an unknown osteophagus insect. Of these, only gastropods are preserved at the site as body fossils. The remaining potential trace makers are part of the hidden paleodiversity from the North American Late Jurassic Period. These traces provide insight into the paleoecology, paleoclimate, and site formation of the Mygatt-Moore Quarry, especially with regards to residence times of the skeletal remains on the paleolandscape.

Andres Aslan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Grand Jct Geological Society

Time: Nov 18, 2020 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://coloradomesa.zoom.us/j/98467322396?pwd=S0VCb0Qvd0JsTTBuZ09tQ2FCUXZHdz09>

Meeting ID: 984 6732 2396

Passcode: 250935

If joining by phone:

One tap mobile

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

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Passcode: 250935

Find your local number: <https://coloradomesa.zoom.us/u/aswqfHFD7>