

## Lamini

Lamini (members are called lamines) is a tribe of the subfamily Camelinae. It contains one extant genus with four species, all exclusively from South America: llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos. The former two are domesticated species, while the latter two are only found in the wild. None display sexual dimorphism. The four species can interbreed and produce fertile offspring.[1] Additionally, there are several extinct genera.

## Lamini

Temporal range:

The digestive system of lamoids allows them to digest certain toxins.[2] Laminoids also lack a gallbladder.[3]

Llama

## Evolutionary history

Lamines originated during the Miocene in North America,[4] and migrated into South America during the Pliocene and Pleistocene as part of the Great American Interchange.[5] Most species of lamines, including the genera *Hemiauchenia* and *Palaeolama* and all North American species, became extinct at the end of the Pleistocene around 12,000 years ago as part of the Quaternary extinction event along with most other large mammals in the Americas.[5]

## Scientific classification

Domain:

Eukaryota

Kingdom:

Animalia

Phylum:

Chordata

Class:

Mammalia

Order:

Artiodactyla

Family:

Camelidae

Subfamily:

Camelinae

Tribe:

Lamini

Characteristics and distribution

The llama (*Lama glama*) is the largest of the extant laminoids and weighs 130–150 kilograms (290–330 lb) with a height of 109–119 cm (43–47 in) at the shoulder.[6] Llamas are not a natural species; rather, they were domesticated by the Peruvians and Bolivians of the highlands.[7] Commercial trade led to the llama's current abundance in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and northeast Argentina. There are bands of llamas in the United States, Europe, Japan, and New Zealand.

The color and length of the llama's wool is variable, depending on the race. The diameter of llama wool's fiber varies between 20 and 80 micrometers, depending on whether the llamas were

Webb, 1965

Genera

†Alforjas Harrison, 1979

Lama Cuvier, 1800

†Hemiauchenia Gervais &  
Ameghino, 1880

†Palaeolama Gervais, 1869

†Pleiolama

†Aepycamelus

†Miotylopus

†Eulamaops

raised for its wool or as a pack animal.

†Aguascalientia

†Australocamelus

The guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) is a wild camelid, standing at

†Protolabis

100–120 cm (39–47 in) at the shoulder[6] and 150–160 cm

(59–63 in) at the head. It can weigh up to 140 kilograms

†Blancocamelus

(310 lb).[8] Its pelage is longer than vicuña wool but shorter

†Cuyamacamelus

than that of the alpaca; it is considered to be of excellent quality and has a light brown, reddish, or brown-yellow color.[9] The diameter of its fleece's fibers varies between 16 and 18 micrometers.

90% of the world's guanacos are in Argentina,[9] distributed from the islands of the Beagle Channel and the southern extremity of Patagonia to the Puna grassland in northwestern Argentina. Guanacos can also be found in Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru.[10]

The alpaca (*Lama pacos*), a domestic camelid, weighs between 50 and 65 kg (110 and 143 lb), while its

height at the shoulder is 94–104 cm (37–41 in). It is slightly larger than the vicuña. Normally, the alpaca

is found in the Andes in Peru and Bolivia, though it also inhabits northern Chile and northwestern

Argentina.[6] There are about 3.5 million alpacas in the world. In the 1980s, alpacas started being

exported to other countries for farming purposes: they can be found in the United States, Australia, and

New Zealand, though the vast majority still reside in South America. [11]

The alpaca is mainly raised for its wool. Out of the domestic camelids, the alpaca produces wool with longer and finer fiber than the llama,[6] with a strand diameter of 18–25 micrometers.[12]

The vicuña (*Lama vicugna*) is the smallest camelid, with a shoulder height of 75–100 cm (30–39 in) and

a weight of 40–60 kg (88–132 lb). Its coat is mainly beige in color and is said to make "the best wool in

the world", with the average fiber diameter between 11 and 14 micrometers.[13] Like rodents, the vicuña

has continuously-growing incisors. It lives only in areas of high altitude – 3,200 m (10,500 ft) or greater –

in the highlands of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador.

See also

Ruminant

Ungulate

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