The Trionychid Turtle *axestemys Montinsana* From the Paleocene Nacimiento Formation, San Juan Basin, New Mexico

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*Axestemys montinsana* is a trionychid turtle that was originally named and described from the Scarritt Quarry of the early Tiffanian interval of the Melville Formation in the Crazy Mountains Basin of Montana. We report the discovery of a skull attributable to this taxon from the Torrejonian interval of the Nacimiento Formation in Kutz Canyon, San Juan Basin, New Mexico. This identification of the first San Juan Basin record of *Axestemys* is based on comparison to the holotype skull, which compares closely with the New Mexican specimen. Thus, it is identified as an *Axestemys* based on its large (length) and triangular-shaped skull as well as the presence of a wide, smooth, unsculptured border of the carapacial callosity in an associated carapace fragment. The San Juan Basin and holotype specimens differ from other *Axestemys* in the extent of the parietals, with the frontal and postorbital broadly separating the parietals from the orbits. Furthermore, the anterior elongation of the cavum tympani in the New Mexican specimen is similar to the holotype of *A. montinsana*. This first New Mexican record of *Axestemys montinsana* extends the known range of *A. montinsana* south from Colorado, resulting in a range covering the Rocky Mountain region from Montana to New Mexico. It also fits with models of little or no provinciality of vertebrates in the western USA during the Paleocene.

![Referred specimen of Axistemys montinsana from the Nacimiento Formation in the San Juan Basin. Scale bar = 3 cm.](https://doi.org/10.56577/SM-2018.736)

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