

Rise of the Giants

Diabloceratops eatoni

Order Ornithischia

Suborder Ceratopsia

Family Ceratopsidae

Sub-family Centrosaurinae

Size 12–15 ft (3.7–4.6m), 1–2 tons

Size comparison large horse or small rhinoceros

Diet plants

Age Late Cretaceous, 81 million years ago

Distribution of Fossil

Wahweap Formation, Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument

Cool Fact

• *Diabloceratops* (“dee-OB-loh-ser-uh-tops”) means “devil horned face.” It was the first new horned dinosaur named from the Monument (early 2010). The species name “*eatoni*” honors paleontologist Dr. Jeff Eaton for his pioneering work in the monument region.

Paleontologists discovered *Diabloceratops eatoni* in 2002 in Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument and excavated the skull between 2003 and 2005.

In the warm, lush Laramidian landscape of Utah almost 81 million years ago, *Diabloceratops* was a dominant herbivore (plant-eater), a niche similar to that of the present-day rhinoceros. Scientists have found the fossilized remains of *Diabloceratops*-like animals in

both Utah and Canada, suggesting that early on, similar centrosaurines ranged widely. Their large heads, complex dental arrangements, and highly ornamented skulls (**fig. d**) are traits shared with all true ceratopsid dinosaurs. Scientists identify two main sub-groups within the ceratopsid family.

Centrosaurines have short faces and short frills. All early true ceratopsids appear to be centrosaurines. Take a close look at the *Diabloceratops* skull before you. Its short face and short, ornamented frill place it squarely in the centrosaurine group. The second sub-group, **chasmosaurines**, sport long frills and long faces.

Take a close look at the skulls to the right of *Diabloceratops*. Are they centrosaurines, or chasmosaurines?

At 80.5 million years old, the Monument's *Diabloceratops eatoni* is the oldest true ceratopsid yet named.

