

# Elephant tooth fossil found in Brazil: report

July 20 2010

---

Scientists in Brazil say a fossil of an elephant's tooth found in the Amazon jungle proves the presence of pachyderms in South America some 45,000 years ago, a report said on Tuesday.

"Only elephants and capybaras (large rodents) have teeth with this kind of laminate structure, but those of capybaras are no longer than five centimeters (two inches)," while the fossil measured 12 centimeters, said [paleontologist](#) Mario Cozzuol in the daily Folha de Sao Paulo.

Previous evidence showed that [elephants](#) had reached Costa Rica, in Central America, but no further south, said the expert from the Federal University of Minas Gerais.

The [fossil](#) was discovered at the start of the 1990s by a precious metals researcher, but a university student only noticed its laminate structure years later.

(c) 2010 AFP

Citation: Elephant tooth fossil found in Brazil: report (2010, July 20) retrieved 29 February 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-07-elephant-tooth-fossil-brazil.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------