Today only one species exists in the family Antilocapridae, but the group has a fossil record going back to the Miocene, about 20 million years ago. During its history, the Antilocapridae has included a variety of species, some of which had multiple and bizarre horns.

Modern pronghorns are found in the deserts and dry grasslands of western North America. Pronghorns are medium sized animals, between 3 and 4.5 feet in length and weigh up to 100 pounds. Their body is stocky and they have long, thin legs. Their coat is pale brown with a whitish belly and rump, and they have distinctive black and white markings on their heads and necks. The hair is dense and provides excellent insulation against both heat and cold. Their most distinctive feature is their horns, which are like those of bovids in that they consist of a keratinous sheath over a bony core, but differ because the keratinous sheath is shed periodically (annually in males, irregularly in females). These horns are erect and consist of two branches or prongs, a short branch extending forward and located around halfway up the horn, and a longer, backwardly directed tip.

The skull of pronghorns is also distinctive. The orbits are large and placed far back on the skull, behind the level of the last molar. Pronghorns have excellent vision, and it has been suggested that the position of their eyes, high up on their skulls, is an adaptation that allows them to watch for predators while they continue to eat. Pronghorn have very tall (hypsodont) teeth, because of the amount of silica in their diet. As in deer and bovids, the upper incisors are replaced by a horny pad, and the lower canine is incisor-like. The dental formula is 0/3, 0/1, 3/3, 3/3 = 32.

The skeleton of the antelope is that of a long-distance runner. The legs are long and the 3rd and 4th metapodials are fused to form “cannon bones”. Pronghorns antelope are among the fastest long-distance runners, achieving bursts of speed of up to 60 miles per hour, and are able to maintain speeds in excess of 30 mph for distances of several miles.

Pronghorns are found in small herds or bands during the summer, but in larger aggregations of up to around 100 individuals in the winter. Their herds have a well-developed social hierarchy. Finding large numbers of pronghorns as fossils in several caves suggest they may have sheltered there.