

Table 8.2. Comparison of major features of the five New World land bridges through Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic time. Abbreviations: lK= late Cretaceous, mE= middle Eocene, mOligo= middle Oligocene; mPl= middle Pliocene.

Feature	BLB	NALB	ALB	CALB	MLB
Width (max)	expansive, 58°N- 75°N, 1100 mi ¹	extensive+, 48°N-78°N, 2100 mi	narrow, 4°, 275 mi	tapering to narrow, then expansive, 3°, 200 mi	tapering to narrow, then expansive, Magellan St. to Antarctic P., 3°, 200 mi
Continuity	continuous lK-Pl, discontinuous Pl-Recent	continuous lK-mE, discontinuous mE-Recent	discontinuous	discontinuous lK-mPl continuous mPl-Recent	continuous lK-mOligo, discontinuous mOligo-Recent
Temperature	warm temperate to temperate to cold temperate	warm temperate to temperate to cold temperate	warm temperate	warm temperate	warm temperate to temperate to frigid
Currents	cold Japan	warm Gulf Stream	warm Caribbean	warm Panama	cool (Oligo) to cold post-

					MMCO)
Filtering	moderate, strong after MPCO	moderate until PECO & disruption, strong afterwards	moderate	moderate until M-Pl slight afterwards	slight to MMCO, moderate, then complete
Ecosystems	temperate (IK), warm temperate (PECO), cold temperate (post MMCO)	temperate (IK), warm temperate (PECO), cold temperate post MMCO)	warm temperate	warm temperate	warm temperate, to cool temperate, absent higher plants (Antarctica sector)

¹At 38°N 1°= 69 mi.