

## **MULTITUBERCULATE FOSSILS FROM THE EARLY CRETACEOUS OF LA CANTALERA (TERUEL, SPAIN)**

The Early Cretaceous is an essential period for the early evolution of multituberculates and of mammals in general. When Pangea broke up at the end of Jurassic significant separation of Laurasia and Gondwana occurred and their respective faunas became more distinct than they had been earlier. However, little is known about the evolutionary history and palaeobiogeographic scenario of the multituberculate fauna over the course of this long epoch. The most abundant and diverse Early Cretaceous multituberculate fossils are recorded in Western Europe, from the Berriasian of Portugal and England; to the Barremian of Spain. Nevertheless, little is known about the Valanginian of England and yet any Hauterivian specimen is to be described. Here, the multituberculate fossils from the upper Hauterivian-lowermost Barremian of La Cantalera, a site in the Iberian Range in Teruel, Spain, are presented. The study of the vertebrate fauna of this site, which consists of fishes, frogs, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, dinosaurs, pterosaurs and mammals, is still in progress. The multituberculate fossils have been assigned to Paulchoffatioidea (tentatively assigned to Pinheirodontidae) and Plagiaulacoidea (Eobaataridae and ?Plagiaulacidae) on the basis of the P4/5, P5 and p4, respectively. The i1 and I2 are described as Plagiaulacida indet. Some multituberculate fossils of La Cantalera (Pinheirodontidae and probably Plagiaulacidae) are only present in what is now Europe, which was made up of one or several islands in the Early Cretaceous, whereas others (Eobaataridae) are described also in Barremian and Aptian/Albian deposits of Asia, indicating that some interchange was possible between two areas at these times.

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