SHORT COMMUNICATION

DUEROTHERIUM SUDREI GEN. ET SP. NOV., A NEW ANOPLOTHERIINE ARTIODACTYL FROM THE MIDDLE EOCENE OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

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Anoplotheriines were endemic artiodactyl faunas in Europe during the Eocene. Europe was made up of several large and small islands from the late Early Eocene to the earliest Oligocene (e.g., Meulenkamp et al., 2000), and was inhabited by an endemic mammalian fauna that was clearly different from contemporary faunae in North America and Asia. Anoplotheriines were medium- to large-sized ungulates with brachydont and bunoseledont dentition and likely used terrestrial locomotion (Sudre, 1988). Hooker (2007) recognized a bipedal browsing adaptation for the large Anoplotherium species, which would have been able to browse 2-3 m above the ground with no competition from other contemporaneous European terrestrial mammals. Anoplotheriines are regarded as members of the immigrant taxa that appeared on the Central European Island around the Middle-Late Eocene transition. They seem to have originated within Europe, but their area of origin and the dispersal directions that they took through the different areas of the Eocene European archipelago are still poorly characterized.

Here we describe a new anoplotheriine that is assigned to a new genus on the basis of a left maxilla fragment with the P3-M3 series (see preliminary account in Cuesta and Badiola, 2007). This fossil material comes from the late Middle Eocene bed located near the village of Mazaterón, about 40 km southeast of Soria (Castilla y León, central Spain). The new anoplotheriine fossil at Mazaterón site is an important finding because representatives of the first anoplotheriines are still scarce. This discovery is crucial for comparing the composition of the Middle Eocene artiodactyl faunas of western and northeastern Iberia (see next section) and for studying the origin and dispersal of anoplotheriines. The material we described here is deposited at the "Sala de las Tortugas" of the University of Salamanca (STUS), in Salamanca city (Castilla y León, Spain).

Remarks—The biochronological scale used in this paper is that of the MP Mammal Paleogene reference levels (Schmidt-Kittler, 1987, updated by Aguilar et al., 1997). The levels are calibrated to the most recent International Stratigraphic Chart and the Eocene European Land Mammal Ages (ELMA: Neustrian, Grauvian, Geiseltalian, Robiacian, and Headonian) (Gradstein et al., 2004). We follow recent phylogenetic analyses of artiodactyls in placing anoplotheres more closely to Tylopoda (Gentry and Hooker, 1988, Hooker and Weidmann, 2000, Theodor et al., 2005) than to Suiformes (Simpson, 1945, McKenna and Bell, 1997). We use the systematic classification of Gentry and Hooker (1988) and Hooker and Thomas (2001), recognizing Anoplotherioidea which includes Anoplotheriidae (with Anoplotheriinae and Dacrytheriinae) and Xiphodontidae. For details about the dental nomenclature of artiodactyl cheek teeth, see Hooker (1986:377).

GEOLOGICAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The fossiliferous beds that contain the vertebrate fossils of the Mazaterón site are included within the Mazaterón Formation, which outcrops in the northern part of the Almazán Basin and belongs to the first depositional sequence of the Paleogene succession of this basin (Huerta and Armenteros, 2004). The Almazán Basin is connected with the eastern sector of the larger Duero Basin by the Neogene deposits (Fig. 1A, B). The filling of the Almazán Basin started in the Middle Eocene as the Iberian chain was being uplifted during the Alpine compression (Huerta, 2007). The Mazaterón Formation is composed mainly by limestones, dolostones and marls and it represents the installation of a low-gradient lake system, with the central areas permanently inundated (Fig. 1C). The seasonal lake-level oscillations allowed the deposition of a fringe of palustrine facies, which were connected with an external calcrete fringe that separated the lake system from the alluvial deposits. The grey marls that contain the vertebrate fossils correspond to lacustrine sediments formed in the central anoxic bottom. These marls pass laterally and upwards to palustrine limestones, which record the seasonally exposed areas (Fig. 1C). Further details about the geology and the stratigraphy are available in Alonso-Gavilán et al. (2004) for the Duero Basin, and in Armenteros (1994), Huerta (2007), and Huerta and Armenteros (2004, 2006) for the Almazán Basin and the Mazaterón Formation.

The Mazaterón site has yielded the richest Eocene continental vertebrate fossil assemblage of the Duero Basin. To date, twentyseven vertebrate taxa have been identified, including chelonians, crocodilians, and mammals (e.g., Cuesta and Jiménez, 1994). The mammal fossil assemblage, which includes rodents, primates, creodonts, artiodactyls, and perissodactyls (Cuesta, 2003 and references therein, and Badiola and Cuesta, 2008), is late Robiacian in age, corresponding to the MP 15-16 paleogene reference level (Cuesta, 1991, 1999; Cuesta and Jiménez, 1994). The primate, rodent, and perissodactyl faunas of the Mazaterón site and other Middle and Late Eocene localities of central and western Iberian basins (Duero, Almazán, Oviedo, and Miranda-Trebiño Basins) were clearly different from those of the Southern Pyrenean Basins (see Fig. 1A) and the rest of Europe. On the basis of this faunal differentiation, the existence of a Western Iberian Bioprovince has been hypothesized (Cuesta, 1991, Badiola, 2004). In contrast, the Middle and Late Eocene mammalian faunas of the Southern Pyrenees were similar to those of the southern part of the Central European Island — present-day southern France and Switzerland — where the typical western Iberian endemic taxa were absent (see Badiola et al., 2009 for a bibliography). However, relatively little is still known about the Middle Eocene artiodactyl fossil assemblages from the Western Iberian Bioprovince. The discovery of a new Middle Eocene artiodactyl fossil at Mazaterón is crucial for comparing the Middle Eocene artiodactyl faunal composition in both areas of Iberia.

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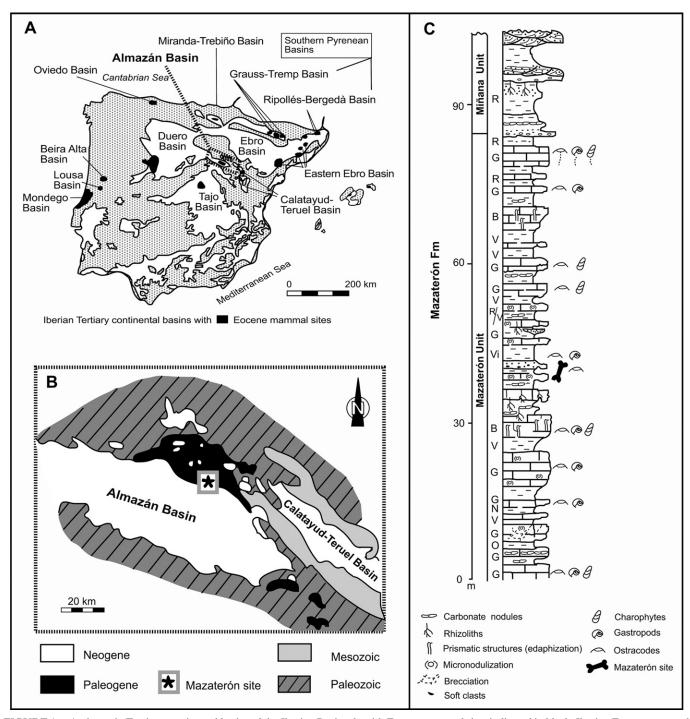


FIGURE 1. **A**, the main Tertiary continental basins of the Iberian Peninsula with Eocene mammal sites indicated in black. Iberian Eocene mammal sites can be consulted in Antunes et al. (1997), Checa (1997), and Badiola et al. (2009). **B**, geological context of the Almazán Basin, which is situated in the eastern sector of the Duero Basin. **C**, stratigraphic column of the Mazaterón Formation (modified from Armenteros, 1994).

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Order ARTIODACTYLA Owen, 1848
Suborder TYLOPODA Illiger, 1811
Superfamily ANOPLOTHERIOIDEA Bonaparte, 1850 (sensu Gentry and Hooker, 1988)
Family ANOPLOTHERIIDAE Bonaparte, 1850
Subfamily ANOPLOTHERIINAE Bonaparte, 1850
DUEROTHERIUM, gen. nov.

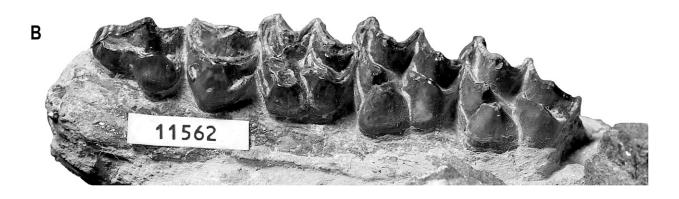
Anoplotheriinae indet. Cuesta, 1993:84, pl.1, fig.4

Etymology—"Duero-": after the Duero Basin, where this taxon is described; "-therium": meaning beast or mammal.

Type and Only Included Species—*Duerotherium sudrei*, sp. nov. (Fig. 2, Table).

Diagnosis—Small-sized anoplotheriine, known only by its maxilla fragment, which is characterized by having an unusual P3, which is a mesio-distally elongated triangular tooth with a





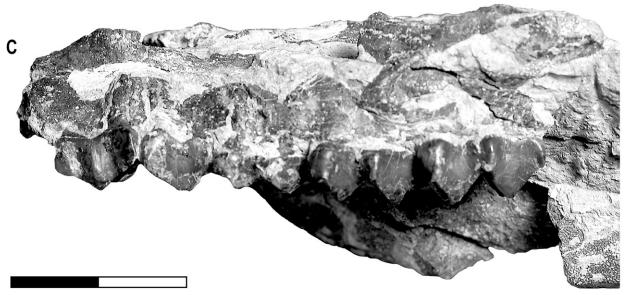


FIGURE 2. Duerotherium sudrei gen. et sp. nov. (Anoplotheriidae, Artiodactyla) from the late Middle Eocene of the Mazaterón site (Castilla y León, Soria). Left maxilla fragment, showing the P3-M3 series (STUS 11562, holotype) in occlusal (A), semi-lingual (B), and labial (C) views. Scale bar equals 2 cm.

disto-lingually placed protocone and a prominent posterolingual talon, in combination with a typical P4 and molar series of anoplotheriines. P4 has only one external cusp. Molars have anteriorly placed protocone, almost in front of the paracone, a slightly asymmetric metaconule with a moderate postmetaconule crista, and quite divergent parastyle and metastyle, showing a moderately open "W"-shaped ectoloph. Heterodont molar series: large increase in molar size from M1 to M3, and a pronounced gradient of the style development and the crown outline in the molar series, with M1quadrate and more trapezoidal M2 and M3 in the occlusal view as a result of the large decrease in the disto-lingual lobe width from M1 to M3, and with more protruding styles in the M2 and M3 than in M1. In addition to the obvious differences with other anoplotheriines apparent in

TABLE. Dental measurements (in mm) of the maxilla fragment (STUS 11562, holotype) of the *Duerotherium sudrei* gen. et sp. nov. (Anoplotheriidae, Artiodactyla) described in the late Middle Eocene (late Robiacian) site of Mazaterón (Castilla y León, Spain).

		STUS	11562		
Measurements in mm	P3	P4	M1	M2	M3
Length Width	10.3 8.9	8 10	11 10.8	12.5 12.4	14 13.6
Length of the P3-M3 series Length of the M1-M3 series	53.4 36				

The length measurement corresponds to the maximum mesio-distal dimension of the tooth, whereas the maximum labial-lingual dimension corresponds to the width measurement.

the structure of P3, Duerotherium gen. nov. can be distinguished from Robiatherium and Anoplotherium in terms of having molars with (1) a wider posterior lobe; (2) less asymmetric metaconule and a larger postmetaconule crista; (3) more anteriorly placed protocone; and (4) less divergent parastyle and metastyle, showing a shorter ectoloph. Moreover, molars of Robiatherium are more bunodont and brachyodont than those of Duerotherium, with thicker and labially more protruding styles, and Anoplotherium exhibits a less heterodont molar series (see details above). Duerotherium differs from Diplobune in having (1) mesio-distally longer molars, with a trapezoidal crown outline in the occlusal view, instead of rectangular; (2) a more centrally placed protocone; (3) a smaller metaconule crista, which is more labially placed; (4) mesio-distally longer ectoloph, with more divergent parastyle and metastyle and thinner and less protruding styles; and (5) a more heterodont molar series. Duerotherium differs from Ephelcomenus in having: (1) mesio-distally longer molars, with a trapezoidal crown outline in the occlusal view, instead of triangular; (2) a protocone more anteriorly placed, (3) a larger metaconule, and (4) a mesio-distally longer ectoloph, with much thinner and less protruding styles.

DUEROTHERIUM SUDREI, SP. NOV.

Etymology—Dedicated to Dr. Jean Sudre (University of Montpellier II or USTL) in honour of his contribution to the study of the European Eocene artiodactyl faunas.

Holotype—STUS 11562, a fragment of the left maxilla, showing the P3-M3 series.

Type Locality and Horizon—Mazaterón (Castilla y León, Soria), Spain. Almazán Basin, Mazaterón Formation, late Robiacian (MP 15-16) bed (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis—Same as for the genus.

Distribution—Only known in the type locality.

Description—P3 is a mesio-distally elongated triangular tooth, wider distally than mesially due to the disto-lingual position of the protocone and the presence of a large postero-lingual talon. In the labial view, the paracone has a central position. The metacone is small and labially slightly prominent, and it is situated near the paracone. The protocone is lower than the paracone and it is mesiodistally elongated. A long crest extends from the protocone toward the parastyle, and a posterior crest, which is shorter than the anterior one, connects to the small metastyle. The parastyle is large, showing a rounded outline. The preparacrista is long, whereas the postmetacrista is quite short. There is no cingulum. P4 is a subquadrangular tooth, with a labial side longer than the lingual side. There is only one external cusp, from which two crests extend toward the parastyle and metastyle. The parastyle is smaller than that of P3, and the metastyle is weak. The protocone has a central position and is joined to the paraconule and metaconule by the preprotocrista and postprotocrista, respectively. The preparaconule and postmetaconule cristae run toward the anterior and posterior edges of the crown, closing the central part of the tooth. There is an incipient cingulum at the base of the protocone. Molars are bunoselenodont, with selenodont paracone, metacone and metaconule, and semi-selenodont paraconule. They are slightly longer than wide, with the anterior lobe wider than the posterior one, mainly in M2 and M3. In the three molars, the protocone is a conical and large cusp, and is quite anteriorly placed, situated almost in front of the paracone, and clearly separated from the paraconule by a groove. The preprotocrista is present, but the postprotocrista is absent. The preparaconule crista extends from the paraconule toward the parastyle. There is no well-developed postparaconule crista. The metaconule is slightly asymmetric, with a moderate postmetaconule crista. The ectoloph is oblique, mainly in the M3. The styles (parastyle, mesostyle, and metastyle) are thick at the base of the crown, but much thinner on the top, which are slightly protruding labially. The parastyle and metastyle are quite divergent, showing a moderately open "W"-shaped ectoloph. The cingulum is only mesially present. The molar series is heterodont: there is a large increase in molar size from M1 to M3, and a pronounced gradient of the style development and the crown outline in the molar series, with M1 quadrate and more trapezoidal M2 and M3 in the occlusal view as a result of the large decrease in the disto-lingual lobe width from M1 to M3, and with more protruding styles in the M2 and M3 than in M1.

Discussion—The specimen we describe here (STUS 11562) has the upper dentition characters described by Viret (1961), Depéret (1917), and Stehlin (1910) for anoplotheriids: molars with a mesio-labially oriented preparacrista, with an enlarged paraconule, and without postprotocrista. The latter is an apomorphic character of anoplotheriids according to the cladistic analysis of Gentry and Hooker (1988: fig. 9.8). Other upper dentition characters described by Viret (1961) for anoplotheriines are also present in the studied specimen, which can be distinguished from dacrytheriine anoplotheriids by having a mesio-distally shorter P3, and narrower and more selenodont molars with (1) a trapezoidal crown outline; (2) an oblique and more marked "W"-shaped ectoloph, with thicker styles at the base, but thinner and more protruding on the top; (3) flat paracone and metacone in the labial view, without tubercules; and (4) a protocone less anteriorly placed and more separated from the paraconule. Within the anoplotheriines, the studied specimen differs from the rest of the genera by having a special combination of characters: an unusual structure of P3, which is a mesio-distally elongated triangular tooth with a disto-lingually placed protocone and a prominent postero-lingual talon, combined with typical P4 and molar series of anoplotheriines. The morphology of P3 is close to that of Dacrytherium (Dacrytheriinae), with the same distribution of cusps, though the P3 of Dacrytherium is a more mesio-distally elongated tooth. The STUS 11562 specimen has been herein assigned to a new anoplotheriine taxon, Duerotherium sudrei gen. et sp. nov. The latter is slightly larger in size than Robiatherium, but smaller than Ephelcomenus, and clearly smaller than Anoplotherium and Diplobune, except D. minor, which is similar in size to D. sudrei. The differences found between *Duerotherium* and the rest of the anoplotheriines (see diagnosis of the new genus) suggest that the molar structure of D. sudrei with respect to the crown outline in the occlusal view, the development of the metaconule, metaconule crista, and styles, the length of the ectoloph, and the position of the protocone can be situated morphologically between Robiatherium-Anoplotherium and Diplobune.

DISTRIBUTION AND PALEOBIOGEOGRAPHY

Anoplotheriine artiodactyls are regarded as members of the immigrant taxa, which appeared on the Central European Island, the largest islands of the Eocene European archipelago,

around the Middle-Late Eocene transition related to the second intra-Eocene faunal turnover involving immigration. Two intra-Eocene mammalian faunal turnovers involving immigration took place in the Central European Island, one in the Middle Eocene and the other around the Middle-Late Eocene transition. In addition to the intermittent presence of land bridges between the different areas of Europe, the paleoclimatic conditions also played a role in these immigrations (see Franzen, 2003 for a bibliography). Anoplotheriines seem not to have originated outside Europe, but their area of origin and dispersal directions through the different areas of the Eocene European Archipelago are still unresolved. The first immigrant, Robiatherium, appeared in the southern part of the Central European Island, now southern France, in the late Middle Eocene. Fossil specimens come from the late Robiacian beds (MP 16) at the Le Bretou and Robiac sites (Sudre, 1988). In this paper, another late Middle Eocene anoplotheriine, Duerotherium gen. nov, is described in a slightly older site at Mazaterón (late Robiacian, MP 15-16), Almazán Basin, in the Iberian Peninsula (Fig. 1). There are no anoplotheriines known in the early Late Eocene, in the early Headonian (MP 17a and 17b), even though artiodactyl faunas at this time are well known in the Central European Island (e.g. Sudre, 1978; Hooker, 1986; Hooker and Weidmann, 2000) and in the Iberian Peninsula (Cuesta et al., 2006). The next immigrants, the anoplotherium and Diplobune, arrived in the mid Headonian (MP 18) and were abundant and represented by several species during the mid and late Headonian (Aguilar et al., 1997 and references therein, Hooker and Weidmann, 2000). In the West European Island, now Britain, they are recorded from the late Headonian (MP 19) to earliest Oligocene (Hooker, 2007; Hooker et al., 1995), whereas in the Iberian Peninsula, they are recorded in the mid Headonian (MP 18), late Headonian (MP 19), and earliest Oligocene. However, except for the mid-Headonian anoplotheriine fossils at Zambrana (Miranda-Trebiño Basin, see Fig. 1; MP 18), which comprise a large amount of cranial and dental elements (Badiola, 2004), the rest of Late Eocene anoplotheriine fossils of the Iberian Peninsula are represented by scarce dental and postcranial elements (see Antunes et al., 1997 for a bibliography). A third anoplotheriine immigration wave is known with the presence of Ephelcomenus in the Middle Oligocene of Mouillac (Phosphorites du Quercy, Southern France; Hürzeler, 1938). According to Erfurt et al. (2007: fig.1), however, the stratigraphic range of Ephelcomenus remains uncertain, and Diplobune is known since the Robiacian instead of Headonian.

The discovery of the oldest known anoplotheriine in the Iberian Peninsula (Duerotherium sudrei gen. et sp. nov.) at the Mazaterón site (Almazán Basin, Fig. 1), along with the discovery of the slightly younger Middle Eocene anoplotheriine from the southern Central European Island (Robiatherium cournoverse [Sudre, 1969]) in what is now southern France (Sudre, 1988), suggests that the first anoplotheriine immigrants could have entered the Central European Island from the Iberian Peninsula after the Iberian plate became connected to the Central European Island in the late Lutetian (e.g., Meulekamp et al., 2000). The same dispersal route, from South (Iberian Peninsula) to North (Central European Island), has been hypothesized for the palaeotheriid perissodactyls that appeared in Central Europe in the Middle Eocene, related to the first intra-Eocene faunal turnover involving immigration (Badiola et al., 2009). The next anoplotheriine immigrants (Anoplotherium and Diplobune), however, may have entered the Iberian Peninsula from the Central European Island, from where they may have also later moved to the Western European Island. The recorded biodiversity and the biostratigraphic distribution range of *Diplobune*, however, are still poorly characterized for further evaluation of this hypothesis. Moreover, detailed study of the phylogenetic relationships between Iberian and European anoplotheriines is crucial for studying the area of origin and the dispersal directions of these artiodactyls. Unfortunately, most of the anoplotheriine representatives are still scarcely represented by incomplete upper or lower cheek teeth, making it difficult to carry out an adequate cladistic analysis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank B. Engesser (NMB, Basel), J. Sudre (USTL, Montpellier), Abel Prieur (FSL, Lyon), and L. Ginsburg (MNHN, Paris) for their help and access to specimens; and P. Huerta (University of Salamanra) for his revision of the geological section of this article. We are also grateful to the editors (Drs. M. Wilson, R. Asher, and R. Reisz) and the anonymous referees of this paper for helpful comments on an earlier version. Financial support was provided by The Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (MEC research project CGL2004-02338/BTE), by the Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (9/UPV 00121.310-15303/2003), and the autonomous community of Castilla y Leon (excavation campaigns of 1988–1990) of Spain. The research work of the second author (A. B.) was supported by the Programa Juan de la Cierva of the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia.

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Submitted January 5, 2008; accepted July 13, 2008.