

## **Eocene antiquity of the European nyctitheriid euarchontan mammal *Darbonetus***

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Until now *Darbonetus* was represented by only one valid species, the type species *D. aubrelongensis* from the early Oligocene of the Quercy region, France. A late appearance of this genus and of its closest relative *Amphidozotherium* have been thought to result from dispersal from outside western Europe, rather than a local ancestry earlier in the late Eocene. Here, a new species, *Darbonetus sigei* sp. nov., is described from the middle Priabonian site of La Débruge, France. Although clearly closely related to *D. aubrelongensis*, *D. sigei* shows less reduction of its p2, p3, and m3 than in the more derived type species. The early age of *D. sigei* suggests that its origins were within the still isolated central European island and that it is unnecessary to invoke dispersal from another continent.

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