

Aspects of diversity in early Antarctic penguins

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Penguin bones from the Eocene La Meseta Formation (Seymour Island, Antarctic Peninsula) constitute the only extensive fossil record of Antarctic Sphenisciformes. Here, we synonymize some of the recognized genera (*Anthropornis* with *Orthopteryx*, *Delphinornis* with *Ichtyopteryx*) and species (*Anthropornis nordenskjoeldi* with *Orthopteryx gigas*, *Delphinornis gracilis* with *Ichtyopteryx gracilis*). Moreover, we suggest that Antarctic species of *Anthropornis* and *Palaeudyptes*, so-called giant penguins, may in fact comprise only one species each instead of two, based on evidence of well-marked sexual dimorphism. We also present new estimates of body mass based on femora testifying to the impressive scope of interspecific body-size variation in Eocene Antarctic penguins.

Key words: Aves, Sphenisciformes, systematics, sexual dimorphism, body mass, Eocene, Antarctic Peninsula.

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