

The oldest fossil record of the extant penguin genus *Spheniscus* - a new species from the Miocene of Peru

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Described here is a partial postcranial skeleton and additional disarticulated but associated bones of the new fossil penguin *Spheniscus muizoni* sp. nov. from the latest middle/earliest late Miocene (11-13 Ma) locality of Cerro la Bruja in the Pisco Formation, Peru. This fossil species can be attributed to the extant genus *Spheniscus* by postcranial morphology and is the oldest known record of this genus. *Spheniscus muizoni* sp. nov. is about the size of the extant Jackass and Magellanic penguins (*Spheniscus demersus* and *Spheniscus magellanicus*). Beside *Spheniscus urbinai* and *Spheniscus megaramphus* it is the third species of *Spheniscus* represented in the Pisco Formation. This study contains morphological comparisons with Tertiary penguins of South America and with most of the extant penguin species.

Key words: Spheniscidae, Pisco Formation, Miocene, Peru.

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