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# THE FIRST SIVATHERIINE (ARTIODACTYLA, GIRAFFIDAE) FROM THE MIDDLE MIOCENE OF PORTUGAL

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The revision of the giraffid material stored at the Museu Geológico (Lisbon, Portugal) using current analytical tools and methods leads us to the first identification in Portugal of a member of the Samotheriinae-Sivatheriinae clade. The material consists of a metacarpal from Casais da Formiga, Azambuja (MG 5733, later Middle Miocene, MN 7: 13-12.5 Ma). Although previously tentatively assigned to *Palaeotragus* sp. due to size, several morphological features point to the specimen belonging to the widely distributed Samotheriinae-Sivatheriinae clade, whose earliest member recorded in the Iberian Peninsula is the Vallesian *Decennatherium* (MN 9-10). Giraffid metapodials have a high diagnostic value, and according to its morphology MG 5733 is most similar to *Decennatherium* (especially the proximal epiphysis and palmar diaphysis), which was present during the Vallesian (MN 9-10) in the Calatayud-Teruel, Duero, and Tagus basins. It is especially similar to *D. pachecoi* (MNCN-42769) from Los Valles de Fuentidueña, with the only relevant difference being a more dorsoventrally compressed proximal epiphysis in MG 5733. When compared to *Palaeotragus*, the condyles in *P. rouenii* are less developed and distally the diaphysis does not widen. The central trough is also deeper in *P. rouenii* and the proximal articular surface is on the same plane. A PCA analysis reveals this specimen as metrically falling between the ranges of variability of *Decennatherium pachecoi* and *Palaeotragus rouenii*. This is the first report of Sivatheriinae in Portugal.