

## THE HISTORY OF THE QUATERNARY VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY IN PORTUGAL

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The History of the Quaternary vertebrate paleontology in Portugal began in the XIX century with the labour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Geological Commission, which started its work in 1857. During the second half of the XIX century Portugal was in the frontline of this field in Europe, thanks to the works of the pioneers Carlos Ribeiro and Nery Delgado, which crystallized in the IX International Congress of Anthropology and Pre-historic Archaeology that was organized in Lisbon in 1880. After the death of Nery Delgado in 1908 one of the top researchers in Quaternary fauna during that time; Édouard Harlé, published a work in 1910 that would be the major reference for the Portuguese Quaternary vertebrates during more than 80 years. After a phase of stagnation during the first half of the XX century; between 1950 and 1980 the works of Octávio da Veiga Ferreira and over all Georges Zbyszewski restarted the interest on the field. Between 1980 and 2000 the CEPUNL at Caparica, under the lead of Miguel Telles Antunes carried several excavations and formation of new personal, one of them (João Luis Cardoso) would mark a milestone for the area publishing in 1993 his PhD thesis, that even nowadays is a key reference for the study of big Pleistocene mammals of Portugal. In the XXI century the works of E. G. Crespo in the Quaternary reptiles, Carlos Pimienta and Sivério Figueiredo in avifauna, Simon Davis and mostly Cardoso in mammals, have filled gaps in our knowledge of those groups.