

Cover Letter: Submission of Manuscript to Journal of Iberian Geology

Madrid, 30th November 2015

Dear Editor of Journal of Iberian Geology,

Please find enclosed the submission of our manuscript entitled “Anatomy and variability of *Cuvierichelys parisiensis*, a geoemydid turtle that crosses the Eocene-Oligocene boundary in Belgium”.

*Cuvierichelys* is a turtle belonging to the ‘*Palaeochelys* s. l.–*Mauremys*’ group. The only so far known Oligocene member of this species is the Spanish *Cuvierichelys iberica*. However, Oligocene abundant and well-preserved material of *Cuvierichelys* is identified here outside the Spanish record, in the Belgian locality of Boutersem-TGV, corresponding to the first representative of this group recognized in the Belgian Paleogene record. This material, which allows to know all the elements of both the carapace and the plastron of the taxon, cannot be attributed to *Cuvierichelys iberica*. It is recognized as *Cuvierichelys parisiensis*, the presence of this species being confirmed for the first time outside the French Eocene record. The validity of some European forms is refuted, and several characters previously proposed as different between *Cuvierichelys iberica* and *Cuvierichelys parisiensis* are recognized as subjected to intraspecific variability. Therefore, the identification of *Cuvierichelys iberica* as the only valid member of this genus present in the Oligocene record is refuted. Several characters previously recognized as different between both species are also discussed. Therefore, new data on the anatomy and variability of this genus, and of its representatives, are presented.

The submitted manuscript is original and it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

There are a number of experts on this group of turtles who we regard as potential reviewers:

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We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'Adán Pérez-García', written over a faint background watermark of the UNED seal.

Dr. Adán Pérez-García (corresponding author)