

The affinities of *Afrophoca libyca* from basal Middle Miocene of Gebel Zelten, Libya

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Re-interpretation of the holotype and only known specimen of *Afrophoca libyca* reveals that it represents a medium-sized anthracothere, *Afromeryx zelteni*, a species that is common in the basal Middle Miocene deposits at Gebel Zelten, Libya. This re-identification affects several recently published papers that have accepted it as the earliest known phocid, with repercussions on biogeographic scenarios and phylogeny reconstructions.

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