

## Early Miocene dispersal of the lizard *Varanus* into Europe: Reassessment of vertebral material from Spain

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*Iberoveranus* Hoffstetter, 1969 was erected as a monotypic genus of varanine varanid lizard on the basis of a single trunk vertebra from the Miocene of Spain. Thanks to the study of the holotype, as well as of a still undescribed cervical vertebra from the same locality, we show that the vertebral morphology of *Iberoveranus* is contained within the known variability of *Varanus*. Therefore, *Iberoveranus* Hoffstetter, 1969 is considered a subjective junior synonym of *Varanus* Merrem, 1820, and the species *Iberoveranus catalaunicus* Hoffstetter, 1969 should be considered a nomen dubium.

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