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Marine vertebrate faunas from the Maastrichtian phosphates of Benguéir (Ganntour basin, Morocco): biostratigraphy, palaeobiogeography and palaeoecology

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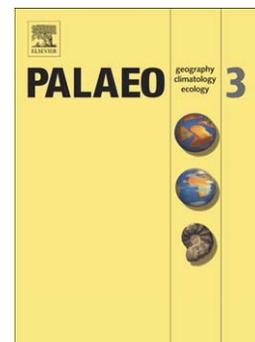
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biostratigraphy, palaeobiogeography and palaeoecology

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## ABSTRACT

The Maastrichtian of Benguérir (eastern part of the Ganntour Basin, Morocco) consists of about 20 meters of phosphates displaying an alternation of soft phosphate levels, marly horizons and hard phosphatic limestones. Isolated teeth of selachians, actinopterygians and marine reptiles are extremely numerous in these phosphatic deposits and have been used for both biostratigraphical, palaeodiversity and palaeoecological purposes.

Detailed field work allowed to establish an exhaustive list of the Benguérir marine vertebrate faunas with their biostratigraphical distribution through five main fossiliferous levels (L6 to L2) spanning all the Maastrichtian. Their importance for biochronological purposes and correlations with other Maastrichtian phosphate deposits worldwide appears noteworthy.

The selachians are currently represented by 60 species belonging to 32 genera and 7 orders. Among them, the genus *Squalicorax* is one of the most interesting concerning high-resolution biostratigraphy and correlations

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