

# A revision of European *Plesiosminthus* (Rodentia, Dipodidae), and new material from the upper Oligocene of Teruel (Spain)

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# ABSTRACT

The European record of the rodent genus *Plesiosminthus* is revised, and two new species are described. *Plesiosminthus promyarion* is found to be a nomen dubium in the sense of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and that name should therefore no longer be used. Until now the genus was hardly known from localities older than MP28; for the first time we describe rich samples from the upper Oligocene (MP 27) of Spain. By now, 10 European species are known, one from the lower Miocene, and the other ones from the upper Oligocene. For most of them it is not possible to establish ancestor-descendant relationships.

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# INTRODUCTION

The genus *Plesiosminthus* (Rodentia, Dipodidae) was created by Viret, 1926 for the species *P. schaubi* from Coderet, France. In 1930 Schaub added two new species: *P. myarion* and *P. promyarion*. In 1941 Freudenberg described *P. bavaricus* from Gaimersheim, Germany. Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980) described a number of new samples from France, all of which were attributed to the already known species, and these authors put *P. bavaricus* in synonymy with *P. promyarion*. From 1987 onwards several new species have been described and by now 10 different species are known from the European Oligocene and Miocene, including the two new species described in

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this work. Apart from these, several species have been mentioned or described in open nomenclature. In Table 1 the European species of Plesiosminthus are listed. The oldest occurrences of the genus are: Seven teeth from La Devèze, France (MP26 according to Biochrom, 1997), mentioned by Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980) as P. promvarion. One tooth of Plesiosminthus sp. (Engesser and Mödden, 1997) from Mümliswil-Hardberg, Switzerland (MP26 according to Engesser and Mödden; MP27 according to Biochrom, 1997). A doubtful occurrence is reported from Mirambueno 4C and Mirambueno 4D, Spain (MP26) by Freudenthal (1997); no teeth were found, only some fragments of grooved incisors, which are relatively large for Plesiosminthus. Freudenthal (1997) considered the possibility that they belong to the glirid Gliravus (now Butseloglis Vianey-Liaud, 2004).

In this paper a new species, *P. margaritae* n. sp., is described from the upper Oligocene (MP27) of Mirambueno 1, Spain. Another species, from Mirambueno 2A, Spain, is described as P. aff. conjunctus. They represent the second oldest representatives of the genus. Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980) described P. promyarion from Pech Desse, France; we transfer that sample to P. moniqueae n. sp. European Plesiosminthus may be divided into two overlapping size groups: the larger species like P. schaubi, P. winistoerferi and P. admyarion, and smaller species like P. myarion, P. promyarion, P. moniqueae n. sp., P. bavaricus, P. conjunctus, P. moralesi, P. meridionalis, and P. margaritae n. sp. The large-sized group is not represented in our material. Furthermore there are a few records, described in open nomenclature, of a very small-sized group.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Our material comes from three Spanish localities: Mirambueno 1 (MIR1), Mirambueno 2A (MIR2A), and Vivel del Río 1 (VIV1); storage location and catalogue numbers are as follows.

Collection Naturalis (Leiden, the Netherlands, former Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie, RGM): MIR1: 214 specimens, RGM 558094– 558307; MIR2A: 102 specimens, RGM 558532– 558633; VIV1: 224 specimens, RGM 558308-558531.

Collection Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad de Zaragoza: 35 specimens, MIR1 164– 197, 228; 37 specimens, MIR2A 82–118; 106 specimens, VIV1 514–619.

These localities are located on topographic map 1:50,000, 27-19, Segura de los Baños. Their UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) coordinates (datum point European Datum 1950 (ED50), as used on the printed map) are: Zone 30T; MIR1: 0675545/4524770; MIR2A: 0675404/4524803; MIR4: 0676048/4524496; VIV1: 0674649/ 4525328.

The Cricetidae from these localities have been described by Freudenthal (1994) and Freudenthal et al. (1994); provisional faunal lists were published by Freudenthal (1997).

The terminology used (Figure 1) is as in Cricetidae (Freudenthal et al., 1994), with a few additions: anterostyle, a cusp at the labial end of

TABLE 1. Species of *Plesiosminthus* described from the European Oligocene and Miocene.

Species	Type-locality
P. schaubi Viret, 1926 (type-species)	Coderet, France
P. myarion Schaub, 1930	Chavroches, France
P. promyarion Schaub, 1930	Puy-de-Montdoury, France
P. bavaricus Freudenberg, 1941	Gaimersheim, Germany
P. winistoerferi Engesser, 1987	Brochene Fluh 53, Switzerland
P. conjunctus Ziegler, 1994	Herrlingen 8, Germany
P. moralesi Álvarez Sierra, Daams and Lacomba Andueza, 1996	Sayatón 1, Spain
P. admyarion Comte, 2000	Thézels, France
P. meridionalis Comte, 2000	Venelles inf., France
<i>P. margaritae</i> n. sp. (this paper)	Mirambueno 1, Spain
<i>P. moniqueae</i> n. sp. (this paper)	Pech Desse, France
Plesiosminthus n. sp., Ziegler, 1994	Herrlingen 8, Germany
Plesiosminthus sp., Engesser and Mödden, 1987	Mümliswil-Hardberg, Switzerland
Plesiosminthus sp., Comte, 2000	Venelles inf., France



FIGURE 1. Terminology of molars. Figures represent left-hand molars.

the anteroloph in M1; antecingulum, a cingulum ridge at the base of the anteroloph in M1.

V' is the coefficient of variation (Range divided by median) as defined by Freudenthal and Cuenca Bescós (1984).

Photographs were taken on the electron microscope FEI ESEM QUANTA 400 of the 'Centro de Instrumentación Científica' of the University of Granada.

Measurements were taken with a Wild M8 binocular microscope, equipped with a mechanical stage with electronic sensors, connected to a computer through a Sony Magnescale measuring unit. The measurement data were processed using a private computer program, written in Visual Basic. Measurements are given in mm.

Locality codes are explained in Table 2. Other abbreviations are: pcdha = protoconid hind arm; m1, m2, m3 = lower molars; M1, M2, M3 = upper molars.

For some characters morphology values (MV) have been calculated (see Freudenthal, 2004), using the equation

$$MV = \Sigma(n-1)f_n / (C-1)\Sigma f_n,$$

where C is the number of character states, and  $f_n$  is the observed frequency for the nth character state. For example, if four character states are distinguished, the consecutive states score 0, 0.333, 0.666, and 1.0, respectively. The scores of all specimens are summed up, and the result is divided by the total number of specimens, leading to a value between 0 and 1. MV is typically useful for features, that in fact have a continuous size representation, e.g., for a length: absent/short /medium/ long, and is an approximation of actually measuring the parameter in each specimen, and calculating the mean of the measurements. It may be calculated on actual numbers of specimens, or on percentages; in the latter case  $\Sigma f_n = 100$ .

#### SYSTEMATIC PALAEONTOLOGY

Order Rodentia Bowdich, 1821 Family Dipodidae Fischer, 1817 Genus PLESIOSMINTHUS Viret, 1926

**Remarks.** Many authors give Fischer de Waldheim or Fischer von Waldheim as author of the family Dipodidae. However, Hutterer (2003) stated: "Fischer was elevated to nobility in 1835, and then

Code	Locality	Locality Zone		Reference
BF53	Brochene Fluh 53	MP30	P. winistoerferi	Engesser (1987)
CANAL	Canales	MP28	Plesiosminthus sp.	Alvarez Sierra et al. (1999)
CHAVR	Chavroches	MN2	P. myarion	Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980)
CLUZEL	Cluzel	MN2	P. myarion	Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980)
COD3	Coderet 3	MP30	P. schaubi	Hugueney (1969)
DIEU	Dieupentale	MP30	P. schaubi	Baudelot and Olivier (1978)
FORN11	Fornant 11	MN1	P. myarion	Engesser (1987)
GAIM	Gaimersheim	MP28	P. bavaricus	Kristkoiz (1992)
HERR8	Herrlingen 8	MP28	P. conjunctus	Ziegler (1994)
LAUT2	Lautern 2	MN1	P. myarion	Ziegler and Werner (1994)
MIR1	Mirambueno 1	MP27	P. margaritae	this paper
MIR2A	Mirambueno 2A	MP27	P. aff. conjunctus	this paper
OBL	Oberleichtersbach	MP30	P. winistoerferi	Engesser and Storch (2008)
PARR	Parrales	MP29	P. schaubi	Alvarez Sierra et al. (1999)
PDES	Pech Desse	MP28	P. promyarion	Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980)
PDES	Pech Desse	MP28	P. moniqueae	this paper
PDF	Pech-du-Fraysse	MP28	P. promyarion	Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980)
RDUBEY	Ruisseau du Bey	MP28	P. promyarion	Engesser (1987)
SAULC	Saulcet	MN1	P. myarion	Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980)
SAY1	Sayatón 1	MP29	P. moralesi	Alvarez et al. (1996)
THZ	Thézels	MP30	P. admyarion	Comte (2000)
VENINF	Venelles inf.	MP30	P. meridionalis	Comte (2000)
VIV1	Vivel del Río 1	MP28	P. cf. margaritae	this paper

**TABLE 2.** Locality codes, species contents and most important reference of the localities studied. Zones are European mammal zones (Biochrom'97, 1997).

adopted the title von Waldheim. His earlier work should be cited as Fischer."

Type species. Plesiosminthus schaubi Viret, 1926.

#### Plesiosminthus promyarion Schaub, 1930

Type locality. Puy-de-Montdoury, MP 28, France. Holotype. Schaub (1925) classified two m3 from Puy-de-Montdoury as ?Cricetodon spec. One is extremely worn and was not described. He described the other one (Au 1214) in detail and figured it (Schaub, 1925, plate 2, figure 10). Later, Schaub (1930) placed the two aforementioned m3 from Puy-de-Montdoury in a new species, Plesiosminthus promyarion, whose type material also includes a M2 with double protolophule from Rickenbach, Germany. Schaub (1930) did not designate a holotype. Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980) designated the specimen Au 1214 as the holotype, but in fact it is a lectotype. Such type material is clearly insufficient to define a species of Plesiosminthus, or, in other words, P. promyarion is a nomen dubium in the sense of article 75.5 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

The first exhaustive description of *P. promyarion* is by Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980). These authors recognized the insufficiency of the type material, and therefore introduced the sample from Pech Desse as reference for *P. promyarion*. What they did in fact was change the concept of the species *P. promyarion*, coining the name to a different sample. Furthermore, they placed *P. bavaricus* Freudenberg, 1941 from Gaimersheim, poorly known at the time, in synonymy with *P. promvarion*.

Since the paper by Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980) our knowledge of *Plesiosminthus* has increased, and several new species have been described. Particularly important is the redescription of an enlarged collection from Gaimersheim by Kristkoiz (1992). That author maintained the synonymy of *P. bavaricus* and *P. promyarion*, but here we will show that the samples from Gaimersheim and Pech Desse represent different species. That means that it is impossible to know whether the type material of *P. promyarion* belongs to *P. bavaricus* or to the species from Pech Desse. The best solution is to create a new name for the Pech Desse material and restrict *P. promyarion* to the type material.

Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980) attributed a sample from Pech-du-Fraysse to the same species as the one from Pech Desse. However, it seems to represent a different species since four of the six figured M2 from Pech-du-Fraysse have a posterior protolophule besides the anterior one. Furthermore, in Pech Desse the mesolophid of m3 is nearly always long, never absent, whereas in PDF it is shorter and may be absent. Also, the antecingulum of M1 is nearly always present in the latter locality. The width of M1 and of the lower molars is significantly larger in PDF than in PDES.

Insufficiently described samples have been reported from Ruisseau du Bey, Switzerland (Engesser, 1987), Cournon, and La Devèze, both in France (Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud, 1980). We provisionally refer to these samples and to the one from PDF as *P. promyarion* Auctorum, since it is impossible to know to what species they belong.

*Plesiosminthus promyarion* has been reported from Vivel del Río (Hugueney et al., 1987). We transfer that sample to *P.* cf. *margaritae* n. sp. (see below).

#### Plesiosminthus moniqueae n. sp.

#### zoobank.org/0154335C-6C9E-4F15-9ABD-3C64C0CECFF7

**Type locality.** Pech Desse, MP28, Quercy, France. **Holotype.** M2 sin., PDS 510, Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980, plate 4g).

**Measurements.** Appendix 1 (from Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud, 1980).

**Derivatio nominis.** In honour of Dr. Monique Vianey-Liaud, co-author of the first monographic paper on *Plesiosminthus* after the study by Schaub (1930).

**Diagnosis.** Based on data in Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980); In m1 the anteroconid is isolated and the mesostylid is well developed; the ectolophid is rarely interrupted at the protoconid. In m2 the protoconid hind arm (or posterior metalophulid) is complete in 30%, absent in about 20% of the specimens, and incomplete in the rest; in m3 it is absent in about 30% and complete or incomplete in the rest. M1 and M2 almost equal in length. In M1 the mesostyle is well developed; in 33% of the specimens, there is an anterostyle and a cingulum in front of the anteroloph. In M2 the protolophule is anterior and a posterior connection is rarely present.

**Differential diagnosis.** Plesiosminthus moniqueae n. sp. from Pech Desse differs from most other species (except for *P. schaubi* and *P. admyarion*) by the rarely present posterior protolophule in M2 (morphology value MV = 0.195; see Table 3 and Figure 2). It differs from *P. schaubi* and *P. admyarion* by its smaller size.

Plesiosminthus bavaricus Freudenberg, 1941

**Type locality.** Gaimersheim, MP28, Germany. **Synonymy.** *Plesiosminthus promyarion* in Krist-koiz (1992).

**Holotype.** Not designated, but marked as holotype in the Munich collection: Mandibula dext. with m1–

**TABLE 3.** Frequencies of character states of the protolophule of M2, number of observations, and morphology values. Ant. = anterior, trans = transverse, ant.plus = anterior plus an incomplete posterior connection. \* protolophule posterior, not double.

Sample	ant. or trans ant. plus dou		double	n	MV
CHAVR	0	3	97	33	0.985
FORN11					
VENINF	4	0	96*	25	0.960
THZ	95	0	5	97	0.050
COD3	97	0	3	63	0.032
HERR8	17	8	75	12	0.790
PDF					
GAIM	39	52	9	23	0.350
PDES	74	13	13	16	0.195
RDUBEY					
VIV1	57	4	39	69	0.410
MIR2A	19	7	74	27	0.775
MIR1	28	37	35	43	0.535



**FIGURE 2.** Distribution of morphology values of protoconid hind arm in m2 (filled circles) and protolophule in M2 (open circles). Enclosing circles and connecting lines indicate possible relationships.

m3, SNSB-BSPG 1939 XI 23, figured in Freudenberg (1941, figure 8 and plate 12, figure 17) and Kristkoiz (1992, plate 1, figure c) (information kindly provided by Dr. G. Roessner, Munich).

Measurements. Appendix 1 (from Kristkoiz, 1992). Emended diagnosis. Extracting the most important features from Kristkoiz (1992) we propose the following diagnosis: in m1 the anteroconid is isolated and the mesostylid is weakly developed; the protoconid hind arm is nearly always bent, rarely straight; the ectolophid is rarely interrupted at the protoconid; an ectostylid or cingulum is present in the sinusid in about half the cases. In m2 the protoconid hind arm (or posterior metalophulid) is complete in 50% of the specimens. In m3 the protoconid hind arm is generally absent and the mesolophid is nearly always long, reaching the molar border. In M1 an antecingulum is rarely present, the mesostyle is small. In M2, besides the anterior one, the posterior protolophule is present in more than half the cases, either interrupted or rarely complete; the entoloph is never connected to the protocone.

*Plesiosminthus bavaricus* differs from *P. moniqueae* n. sp. by: the less frequent ectostylid/ cingulum in m1 (44% vs. 93%); the better developed protoconid hind arm in m2; the less frequent antecingulum in M1; the poorly developed mesostyle in M1, which is always well developed in Pech Desse; the more frequent posterior protolophule in M2.

#### Plesiosminthus margaritae n. sp. Figure 3.1-12

zoobank.org/9B1B48B8-7527-453D-9031-F0D850E9627B

Type locality. Mirambueno 1, MP27, Spain.

**Holotype.** M2 dext., MIR1 193, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad de Zaragoza.

**Material.** Collection Naturalis-Leiden: 21 m1, RGM 558094–558114; 32 m2, RGM 558115–558146; 41 m3, RGM 558147–558187; 1 P4, RGM 558307; 49 M1, RGM 558188–558236; 36 M2, RGM 558237–558272; 33 M3, RGM 558273–558306. Collection Zaragoza: 2 m1, MIR1 164–165; 11 m2, MIR1 166–176; 4 m3, MIR1 177–180; 8 M1, MIR1 181–188; 7 M2, MIR1 189–195; 3 M3, MIR1 196–197, 228.

Measurements. Appendix 1, Figure 4.

**Derivatio nominis.** In honour of Dr. Marguerite Hugueney, co-author of the first monographic paper on *Plesiosminthus* after the study by Schaub (1930).

**Diagnosis.** Anteroconid of m1 small, without an anterolophulid. Ectolophid oblique. Mesoconid and mesostylid generally absent; when present, poorly developed. Protoconid hind arm of m2 transverse and low connected to the metaconid in half the cases, may be absent or short, or of medium length. Ectolophid oblique or, less frequently, longitudinal. Mesoconid and mesostylid like in m1. Protoconid hind arm in m3 the predominantly absent, mesolophid generally long, may reach the border of the molar. Anterocone, anterostyle, and mesostyle in M1 generally absent. Protolophule in M2 anterior, frequently accompanied by a - complete or incomplete posterior connection.

Description. Number of specimens in brackets.

- m1—anteroconid absent (3), small (11), or with cingulum (3); anterolophulid absent; metalophulid absent; protoconid hind arm transverse and low connected to the metaconid (4), transverse and high connected to the metaconid (9), bent and low connected to the metaconid (1), or bent and high connected to the metaconid (8); ectolophid longitudinal (1) or oblique (22); ectolophid complete (14), anteriorly interrupted (6), or isolated (2); mesoconid absent (16) or weak (4); mesosinusid open (19) or closed (3); mesolophid reaching the border of the molar (15) or ends in a mesostylid (6); ectomesolophid absent; hypolophulid anterior transverse (17) or transverse (5); hypoconid hind arm absent; posterolophid continuous (18) or interrupted (1); labial posterolophid absent (17) or small (2).
- m2—labial anterolophid present; metalophulid absent (1), anterior complete (38), or connected to the anteroconid (2); protoconid hind arm absent (6), short free (6), transverse and low connected to the

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**FIGURE 3.** *Plesiosminthus margaritae* n. sp. from Mirambueno 1 (occlusal views). **1**, m1 sin., RGM 558099; **2**, m2 sin., MIR1 168; **3**, m3 sin., RGM 558149; **4**, M1 sin., RGM 558200; **5**, M2 sin., MIR1 189; **6**, M3 sin., MIR1 196; **7**, m1 dext., RGM 558105; **8**, m2 dext., RGM 558138; **9**, m3 dext., MIR1 178; **10**, M1 dext., MIR1 187; **11**, M2 dext., MIR1 193 (Holotype); and **12**, M3 dext., MIR1 197.

metaconid (20), transverse and high connected to the metaconid (2), medium-length and free (5), bent and low connected to the metaconid (2), or bent and high connected to the metaconid (1); ectolophid longitudinal (13) or oblique (29); ectolophid complete (41) or anteriorly interrupted (1); mesoconid absent (32) or weak (8); mesosinusid open (37) or closed (4); mesolophid reaching the border of the molar (37) or ends in a mesostylid (5); ectomesolophid absent; hypolophulid anterior transverse (41) or transverse (1); hypoconid hind arm absent (39) or



**FIGURE 4.** Scatter diagrams of molar length (L) and width (W) of *Plesiosminthus margaritae* n. sp. from Mirambueno 1 (in mm). **1**, m1; **2**, m2; **3**, m3; **4**, M1; **5**, M2; and **6**, M3.

short (2); posterolophid continuous; labial posterolophid absent (29), small (7), or strong (2).

m3-lingual anterolophid absent (2), short (2), or long (39); labial anterolophid long; metalophulid absent (5), connected to the anteroconid (8), to anterolophulid (23), to protoconid (4), or double (3); protoconid hind arm absent (28), short free (5), transverse and low connected to the metaconid (9), or long and ending free (1); sinusid open; sinusid narrow transverse (7), broad transverse (1), narrow backwards (32), or broad backwards (3); mesosinusid open (13) or closed (29); mesolophid absent (2), short (1), of medium length (5), long (22), reaching the border of the molar (11), or ends in a mesostylid (2); ectomesolophid absent; entoconid absent (13), small (24), or large (4); hypolophulid anterior oblique (7) or anterior transverse (35); hypoconid hind arm absent; posterosinusid open (4), half closed (17), or closed (21); shape short triangle (11), long triangle (7), or trapezoid (23); in four specimens there is a longitudinal connection metaconidmesoconid.

- M1—anterocone absent (46) or present (4); anterostyle absent (43) or present (5); anterolophule continuous; antecingulum absent (44) or present (10); protolophule double (1) or posterior (53); sinus open (51), half closed (1), or there is an entostyle (1); sinus strong forward (3), forward (50), or transverse (1); mesosinus open; mesoloph reaching the border of the molar (52) or connected to a mesostyle (1); entomesoloph absent (52) or short (2); metalophule anterior (6) or transverse (48); posterosinus large and open (44), small and open (6), or small and closed (1).
- M2—lingual anteroloph absent (11), weak (17), or strong (11); protolophule anterior (10), anterior plus incomplete posterior connection (16), transverse (2), or double (15); sinus open (41) or there is an entostyle (2); sinus strong forward (6) or forward (37); mesosinus open (40) or closed (1); mesoloph reaching the border of the molar, no mesostyle. Entoloph-protocone connection high (6), low (23), or interrupted (13); metalophule anterior (27) or transverse (15); posterosinus large and open.
- M3—lingual anteroloph absent (25) or weak (9); protocone is a distinct cusp (17) or a mere crest (17); protolophule absent (2), to anterocone (9), to anterolophule (14), transverse to axioloph (8), or double (1); sinus absent (15), very small (8), small (5), or deep (7); neo-entoloph absent (2), interrupted (5), low (4), or high (24); mesosinus open (30) or closed (3); mesoloph reaching the border of the molar (26) or connected to a mesostyle (7); old entoloph absent (10), curved spur (1), or complete (24); axioloph absent (2), short posterior spur (1), long posterior spur (7), or = old entoloph (25); centroloph absent; centrocone absent (31), present (18) or present (16); posterosinus open (3) or closed (32).

*Plesiosminthus margaritae* n. sp. differs from *P. moniqueae* n. sp. by: the better developed posterior protolophule in M2, the general absence of anterocone and anterostyle in M1 and of the mesostyle in M1 and M2; the frequent absence of a protoconid hind arm in m3. *Plesiosminthus margaritae* n. sp. differs from *P. bavaricus* by: on average shorter molars; protoconid hind arm of m1 bent in less than half the cases (41% vs. 91%); the rare presence of an ectostylid/cingulum in m1; the on average shorter mesolophid in m3; the more frequently complete posterior protolophule in M2, the less frequently interrupted entoloph-protocone connection in M2 (31% vs. 100%).

**N.B.** The two smallest M2 from MIR1 (RGM 558261 0.91 mm x 0.84 mm; RGM 558264 0.87 mm x 0.85 mm) may belong to a different species. The distribution in Figure 4 appears to be discontinuous.



**FIGURE 5.** Scatter diagrams of molar length (L) and width (W) of *Plesiosminthus* cf. *margaritae* n. sp. from Vivel del Río 1 (in mm). **1**, m1; **2**, m2; **3**, m3; **4**, M1; **5**, M2; and **6**, M3.

#### Plesiosminthus cf. margaritae n. sp.

Locality. Vivel del Río 1, MP28, Spain.

**Material.** Collection Naturalis-Leiden: 40 m1, RGM 558308–558347; 31 m2, RGM 558348–558378; 38 m3, RGM 558379–558416; 7 P4, RGM 558525–558531; 40 M1, RGM 558417–558456; 47 M2, RGM 558457–558503; 21 M3, RGM 558504–558524. Collection Zaragoza: 10 m1, VIV 514–523; 23 m2, VIV 524–546; 3 m3, VIV 547–549; 31 M1, VIV 550–580; 29 M2, VIV 581–609; 10 M3, VIV 610–619.

### Measurements. Appendix 1, Figure 5.

Description. Number of specimens in brackets.

m1—anteroconid absent (3), small (33), or with cingulum (7); anterolophulid absent (42) or present (2); metalophulid absent; protoconid hind arm absent (1), transverse and low connected to the metaconid (8), transverse and high connected to the metaconid (20), bent and low connected to the metaconid (6), or bent and high connected to the metaconid (9); ectolophid longitudinal (3) or oblique (46); ectolophid complete (32) or anteriorly interrupted (17); mesoconid absent (12), weak (25), or strong (11);

mesosinusid open (44) or closed (5); mesolophid reaching the border of the molar (37) or ending in a mesostylid (13), ectomesolophid absent; hypolophulid anterior oblique (1), anterior transverse (41), or transverse (7), hypoconid hind arm absent (45) or short (1); posterolophid continuous (36) or low connected (4); labial posterolophid absent (27), small (7), or strong (14); in five specimens there is a longitudinal connection metaconid-mesoconid; seven specimens have hypoconulid.

- m2-labial anterolophid present; metalophulid anterior interrupted (2), anterior complete (40), or connected to the anteroconid (10); protoconid hind arm absent (27), short free (8), transverse and low connected to the metaconid (14), transverse and high connected to the metaconid (1), or bent and low connected to the metaconid (1); ectolophid longitudinal (20), oblique (29), or curved (3); ectolophid complete (51) or anteriorly interrupted (1); mesoconid absent (41), weak (8), or strong (1); mesosinusid open (46) or closed (6); mesolophid long (2), reaching the border of the molar (46), or ending in a mesostylid (4); ectomesolophid absent (51) or weak (1); hypolophulid anterior oblique (1) or anterior transverse (51); hypoconid hind arm absent; posterolophid continuous; labial posterolophid absent (42), small (5), or strong (4): in five specimens there is a longitudinal connection metaconid-mesoconid; one specimen has a hypoconulid.
- m3-lingual anterolophid absent (1), short (2), or long (37); labial anterolophid long; metalophulid absent (1), anterior interrupted (3), connected to the anteroconid (3) or to anterolophulid (32); protoconid hind arm absent (37) or transverse and low connected to the metaconid (2); sinusid open; sinusid narrow backwards (3) or broad backwards (36); mesosinusid open (4) or closed (34); mesolophid of medium length (12), long (21), or reaching the border of the molar (6); ectomesolophid absent; entoconid absent (10), small (17), or large (8); hypolophulid anterior oblique (1), anterior transverse (33), or transverse (1); hypoconid hind arm absent; posterosinusid open (2), half closed (2), or closed (33); shape short triangle (10), long triangle (17), or trapezoid (12); in two specimens there is a longitudinal connection hypolophulid-mesoconid.
- M1—anterocone absent (59) or present (9); anterostyle absent; anterolophule continuous; antecingulum absent (40) or present (29); protolophule transverse (1), double (1), posterior interrupted (1), or posterior (68); sinus open (68), closed (1), or there is an entostyle (1); sinus forward (70) or transverse (1); mesosinus open (70) or closed (1); mesoloph of medium length (1), reaching the border of the molar (61), or connected to a mesostyle (9); entomesoloph absent (70) or short (1); metalophule anterior (31), transverse (39), or curved backward (1); posterosinus large and open (67) or large and closed (1).

- M2—lingual anteroloph absent (21), weak (41), or strong (9); protolophule anterior (27), anterior plus incomplete posterior connection (3), transverse (12), or double (27); sinus open (71) or there is an entostyle (2); sinus strong forward (9) or forward (64); mesosinus open (67) or closed (6); mesoloph reaching the border of the molar (71) or connected to a mesostyle (3); entoloph-protocone connection high (2), low (32), or interrupted (34); metalophule anterior (35) or transverse (36); posterosinus large and open (59) or large and closed (11).
- M3—lingual anteroloph absent (20), weak (3), or strong (2); protocone a distinct cusp (18) or a mere crest (8); protolophule to anterocone (11), to anterolophule (18), or transverse to axioloph (1); sinus absent (2), very small (2), small (15), or deep (10); neo-entoloph absent (3), interrupted (9), low (6), or high (8); mesosinus open (23) or closed (6); mesoloph reaching the border of the molar (26) or connected to a mesostyle (4); old entoloph absent (12), curved spur (1), long spur (1), or complete (16); axioloph absent (2), short posterior spur (2), long posterior spur (8), complete (1), or = old entoloph (17); centroloph absent; centrocone absent (29) or on old entoloph (1); metacone absent (17) or present (12); posterosinus open (8) or closed (21).

**N.B.** Hugueney et al. (1987) mentioned *P. promyarion* from VIV1, but did not describe it. We provisionally call it *P.* cf. *margaritae* n. sp. in order to avoid creating yet another species, but there are important differences with the type material: whereas the MV value of m2 is higher in VIV1 (0.610 vs. 0.270), the value for M2 is lower (0.410 vs. 0.535) than in *P. margaritae* n. sp. from the type locality. Other differences are: The pcdha of m3 is nearly always absent in VIV1; the sinusid of m3 is wider in VIV1; the antecingulum of M1 is more frequent in VIV1; the neo-entoloph of M3 is less developed in VIV1.

# Plesiosminthus conjunctus Ziegler, 1994

**Type locality.** Herrlingen 8, MP28, Germany. **Holotype.** Mandible with m1–m3, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart, SMNS 45661. **Material and measurements.** Appendix 1. **Diagnosis.** Translated from Ziegler (1994); *Plesiosminthus* of medium size. Protoconid hind arm of m2 predominantly connected to the metaconid.

Plesiosminthus aff. conjunctus Ziegler, 1994

Locality. Mirambueno 2A, MP27, Spain. Material. Collection Naturalis-Leiden: 16 m1, RGM 558532–558547; 14 m2, RGM 558548–558561; 15 m3, RGM 558662–558567, 558569–558577; 2 P4, RGM 558632–558633; 27 M1, RGM 558578– 558604; 19 M2, RGM 558605–558623; 8 M3, RGM 558624–558631. Collection Zaragoza: 3 m1, MIR2A 82–84; 5 m2, MIR2A 85–89; 5 m3, MIR2A 90–94; 6 M1, MIR2A 95–100; 9 M2, MIR2A 101–109; 8 M3, MIR2A 111–118.

Measurements. Appendix 1, Figure 6.

**Description.** Number of specimens in brackets.

- m1—anteroconid absent (1), small (15), or with cingulum (2); anterolophulid absent (17) or present (1); metalophulid absent; protoconid hind arm transverse and high connected to the metaconid (18) or bent and high connected to the metaconid (1); ectolophid oblique; ectolophid complete (13), anteriorly interrupted (4), posteriorly interrupted (1), or isolated (1); mesoconid absent (9), weak (8), or strong (1); mesosinusid open (18) or closed (1); mesolophid reaches the border of the molar (11) or ends in a mesostylid (8); ectomesolophid absent; hypolophulid anterior oblique (1), anterior transverse (17), or transverse (1); hypoconid hind arm absent (15) or short (1); posterolophid continuous (14) or low connected (2); labial posterolophid absent (15) or small (2); in one specimen, there is a longitudinal connection metaconid-mesoconid.
- m2-labial anterolophid present; metalophulid anterior complete (14) or connected to the anteroconid (4); protoconid hind arm absent (3), transverse and low connected to the metaconid (14), or bent and low connected to the metaconid (1); ectolophid longitudinal (11) or oblique (7); ectolophid complete (17) or anteriorly interrupted (1); mesoconid absent (12), weak (4), or strong (2); mesosinusid open (13) or closed (4); mesolophid reaches the border of the molar (16) or ends in a mesostylid (1); ectomesolophid absent (17) or weak (1); hypolophulid anterior oblique (2) or anterior transverse (16); hypoconid hind arm absent; posterolophid continuous (14) or low connected (1); labial posterolophid absent (12) or small (4); In one specimen, there is a longitudinal connection metaconid-mesoconid.
- m3—lingual anterolophid long; labial anterolophid long; metalophulid absent (1), connected to the anteroconid (12), to anterolophulid (5), or to protoconid (2); protoconid hind arm absent (13), short and free (3), transverse and low connected to the metaconid (3), or long and ending free (1); sinusid open; sinusid narrow backwards (4) or broad backwards (16); mesosinusid open (3) or closed (16); mesolophid absent (1), of medium length (2), long (10), or reaching the border of the molar (6); ectomesolophid absent; entoconid absent (11), small (4), or large (2); hypolophulid anterior oblique (3) or anterior transverse (15); hypoconid hind arm absent; posterosinusid half closed (1) or closed (18); shape short triangle (5), long triangle (6), or trapezoid (8); in four specimens there is a longitudinal connection metaconid-mesoconid.
- M1—anterocone absent; anterostyle absent; anterolophule continuous (31) or interrupted (1); antecingulum absent (11) or present (20); protol-



**FIGURE 6.** Scatter diagrams of molar length (L) and width (W) of *Plesiosminthus* aff. *conjunctus* (cross) and *Plesiosminthus* sp. (circle) from Mirambueno 2A, compared with the distribution area (rectangle) of *Plesiosminthus conjunctus* molars from HERR8 (in mm). **1**, m1; **2**, m2; **3**, m3; **4**, M1; **5**, M2; and **6**, M3.

ophule posterior plus a trace of an anterior connection (1) or posterior (32); sinus open (30) or there is an entostyle (2); sinus forward; mesosinus open; mesoloph reaching the border of the molar; entomesoloph absent; metalophule anterior (15) or transverse (18); posterosinus large and open (28), large and closed (1), or small and open (1).

- M2—lingual anteroloph absent (10), weak (7), or strong (9); protolophule anterior (1), anterior plus incomplete posterior connection (2), transverse (4), or double (20); sinus open (27) or there is an entostyle (1); sinus strong forward (1) or forward (27); mesosinus open (15) or closed (10); mesoloph of medium length (1) or reaching the border of the molar (25), no mesostyle; entoloph-protocone connection high (3), low (17), or interrupted (5); metalophule anterior (13) or transverse (11);posterosinus large and open (17) or large closed (7).
- M3—lingual anteroloph absent (14) or weak (1); protocone a distinct cusp (8) or a mere crest (7); protolophule to anterolophule; sinus absent (3), very small (6), small (4), or deep (2); neo-entoloph absent (2), low (2), or high (10); mesosinus open (6) or closed (9); mesoloph reaches the border of the molar (14) or connected to a mesostyle (2); old entoloph absent (9), curved spur (1), or complete (6); axioloph absent (2), short posterior spur (1), long posterior spur (6), complete (1), or = old entoloph (6); centroloph absent; centrocone absent (15) or isolated (1); metacone absent (5) or present (9); posterosinus open (1) or closed (12).

*Plesiosminthus conjunctus* from Herrlingen 8 is characterized by the primitive state of the pcdha

of m2 (82% complete, never absent), combined with an advanced state of the protolophule of M2 (75% double). For an evaluation of "primitive" and "advanced" see the section on morphology values. These values are similar to those found in MIR2A (see Table 3). However, *P. conjunctus* from HERR8 is clearly larger than *P.* aff. *conjunctus* from MIR2A (see Figures 7-12). Other differences are: The protoconid hind arm of m3 is always absent in HERR8, and present, complete, or incomplete, in 35% of the specimens in MIR2A; the mesostylid is better developed in the m1, 2 from HERR8; the entoloph-protocone connection of M2 is more frequently interrupted in HERR8.

#### Plesiosminthus schaubi Viret, 1926

Type locality. Coderet, MP30, France.

**Holotype.** Mandibula sin. with m1–m3, nr. 96325, coll. Lyon.

Material and measurements. Appendix 1.

**Diagnosis.** Combined from Hugueney (1969) and Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980). Anteroconid of m1 clearly separated from protoconid, generally connected to the metaconid; protoconid hind arm straight or little curved; ectolophid incomplete; no protoconid hind arm in m2; the m3 has a maximum of four lingual crests; P4 with big root and crown of little importance; M3 and m3 with simplified posterior lobe; crown of M1 broad; protolophule posterior in M1, anterior in M2 and M3; M2 with simple anterior protolophule.

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**FIGURE 7.** m1 length (1) and width (2) of *Plesiosminthus* species. The bars represent the minimum and maximum in mm, a tick marks the mean, and the number of specimens is given to the right.

#### Plesiosminthus admyarion Comte, 2000

Type locality. Thézels, MP30, France.

Holotype. m2 dext., Th. 7582, coll. University Poitiers.

Material and measurements. See Appendix 1.

**Diagnosis.** Translated from Comte (2000). Dimensions similar to those of the type material of *P. schaubi*, and sharing a number of morphological features with that species, but the relative proportions of the teeth and several other characters show affinities with *P. myarion*.

According to its author, *P. admyarion* Comte, 2000 is significantly different from *P. schaubi* from Coderet in terms of size: its m1, m3, and M3 are significantly longer, its M1, M2, and m2 are significantly shorter. The t-test values reported by Comte are somewhat different from our results (see Table 4) because that author applied the formula for equal variances (Vianey-Liaud, personal commun., 2016), but we confirm the differences are significant at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . However, the distributions of the measurements (Figures 7-12) largely overlap and size can hardly serve to distinguish these species.

The MV values are very similar: very high values for m2 and the lowest values of all species for M2. *Plesiosminthus admyarion* and *P. schaubi* are

probably closely related. Among the differences is the more reduced m3 of *P. schaubi* (maximum four lingual crests). Another difference is found in the anteroconid of m1: isolated (n = 39), connected to the metaconid (30), or to the protoconid (39); in Coderet it is rarely isolated, generally connected to the metaconid, never to the protoconid.

Plesiosminthus meridionalis Comte, 2000

Type locality. Venelles inf., MP30, France.

Holotype. m1 dext., VEL. 420, coll. University Montpellier II.

Material and measurements. Appendix 1.

**Diagnosis.** Translated from Comte (2000). Differs from *Plesiosminthus schaubi* by the shorter mesol-ophid, not connected to the mesostylid in the lower molars.

According to the description by Comte the mesolophid is separated from the mesostylid in 40% of the m1 (n = 20) and 77% of the m2 (n = 26). *Plesiosminthus meridionalis*, originally described as a subspecies of *P. schaubi*, and here treated as a species, is characterized by the very high MV values of both m2 and M2 (see Figure 2, Tables 3, 5). In this respect it is the most advanced species, very different from *P. schaubi*, and a close relationship is not probable.



FIGURE 8. m2 length (1) and width (2) of *Plesiosminthus* species. The bars represent the minimum and maximum in mm, a tick marks the mean, and the number of specimens is given to the right.

#### Plesiosminthus moralesi Alvarez Sierra, Daams and Lacomba Andueza, 1996

Type locality. Sayatón 1, MP29, Spain.

Holotype. M1 sin., SAY1 108, Department of Paleontology, Universidad Complutense Madrid.

Material and measurements. Appendix 1.

**Original diagnosis.** Small *Plesiosminthus* species with a well-developed antero-lingual cingulum ridge in M1, 2, with a continuous anteroloph in M1 in which traces of an anteroconule are absent, and with a relatively short mesolophid in the lower molars.

#### Plesiosminthus myarion Schaub, 1930

**Type locality.** Chavroches, MN2, France.

**Syntypes.** Two maxillas and two mandibles figured by Schaub (1930, figures 5-9).

Material and measurements. Appendix 1.

**Diagnosis.** Adapted from Schaub (1930). Lamella of the canalis nervi infraorbitalis reaching the anterior border of the foramen foramen infraorbitale; anterior end of the upper toothrow farther away from the jugal arch than in *Plesiosminthus schaubi;* 

P4 smaller, with thinner root and clearly set-off crown; M3 and m3 with reduced but complete posterior lobe; M1 narrow, with new (posterior) protolophule; M2 almost as large as M1, with double protolophule, M3 small, with old (anterior) protolophule; anteroconid of m1 connected to the protoconid; ectolophid well developed: protoconid hind arm frequent in m2, rare in m3.

Plesiosminthus winistoerferi Engesser, 1987

**Type locality.** Brochene Fluh 53, MP30, Switzerland.

**Holotype.** m2 sin., Br.F. 1, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.

Material and measurements. Appendix 1.

**Diagnosis.** From Engesser (1987). "Very large species of *Plesiosminthus* with very long and strong posterior arm of protoconid on m2 and m3, double protoloph on M2 and M3, and little reduced m3/M3. m1 always with secondary ridge between metalophid and mesolophid. Entoloph of M2 situated far lingually, ectolophid of m2 and m3 far labially. Connection between protoconid and anterior cingulum of m2 and m3 sometimes interrupted. m2

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FIGURE 9. m3 length (1) and width (2) of *Plesiosminthus* species. The bars represent the minimum and maximum in mm, a tick marks the mean, and the number of specimens is given to the right.



FIGURE 10. M1 length (1) and width (2) of *Plesiosminthus* species. The bars represent the minimum and maximum in mm, a tick marks the mean, and the number of specimens is given to the right.



**FIGURE 11.** M2 length (1) and width (2) of *Plesiosminthus* species. The bars represent the minimum and maximum in mm, a tick marks the mean, and the number of specimens is given to the right.

equally wide as m1, but somewhat longer. Upper molars with 3 roots. Upper incisor with longitudinal groove."

It is generally assumed (Schaub, 1930; Ziegler and Werner, 1994; Engesser, 1987) that the evolutionary trend of the protoconid hind arm of *Plesiosminthus* is to lose contact with the metaconid, become shorter, and finally disappear. Apparently, this is not the case in *P. winistoerferi*, where the pcdha may even reach the molar border, a feature unknown in other species of the genus. It is doubtlessly the largest species known, but the length relation between m2 and m1 may be misleading due to the small number of specimens (see section "Size").

Plesiosminthus sp. small size

Apart from the species described above, a very small *Plesiosminthus* is documented in a number of localities:

**Mirambueno 2A**, MP27, Spain. M1 sup.dext., 0.85 x 0.74, RGM 558568, M2 sup.dext., 0.81 x 0.81, MIR2A 110; in our material there is a clear gap

between these specimens and the distribution of *P. margaritae* n. sp. (see Figure 6).

**Ruisseau du Bey,** MP28, Switzerland. Specimens of similar size have been reported from Ruisseau du Bey (Engesser, 1987; one M2 and maybe one M1); Engesser (1987) attributed this material to *P. promyarion,* but the size range of his sample is very large, and the small specimens probably represent another species.

**Canales,** MP28, Spain. The size of these specimens (three M1 and one M2) is at the lower limit of the penecontemporaneous sample from VIV1. It must, however, represent another species, because one M2 has a short mesoloph, and another one has a posterior metalophule plus an interrupted anterior connection. (see Alvarez et al. 1999).

**Herrlingen 8,** MP28, Germany. Two m2 from Herrlingen 8 are smaller than *P. conjunctus* from the same locality. They lack the protoconid hind arm and have a less-developed mesolophid (see Ziegler 1994).

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FIGURE 12. M3 length (1) and width (2) of *Plesiosminthus* species. The bars represent the minimum and maximum in mm, a tick marks the mean, and the number of specimens is given to the right.

**Thézels,** MP30, France. Comte (2000) reported two very small M2 from Thézels as *P. admyarion* or *Plesiosminthus* sp.?.

The presence of *Plesiosminthus* in Mirambueno 4C and 4D (MIR4C and MIR4D), Mp26, Spain, is doubtful; no molars have been found, only several incisor fragments with the characteristic furrow. If they represent *Plesiosminthus*, it must be a large species. The incisors of some Gliridae present a similar furrow, but in that group the furrow is less developed (Freudenthal, 1997).

#### **MORPHOLOGY VALUES**

#### **Protolophule of M2**

Schaub (1925), in his work on Cricetidae, introduced the concept of the old and the new "Jochkanten": in the upper molars the connections from the labial cusps to the lingual ones primitvely are directed anteriorly and in the course of evolution shift posteriorly. In the lower molars a similar shift takes place, but in the opposite direction. Schaub (1930) applied this to the Dipodidae, and that has been generally accepted, (e.g., Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud, 1980; Engesser, 1987).

Like in Cricetidae, the protolophule of M2 appears to be an important diagnostic feature of

the Dipodidae dentition. Following Schaub (1930), the anterior connection between protocone and paracone (protolophule I of Wood and Wilson, 1936) is considered to be the primitive situation, and a posterior connection (protolophule II) is considered to be derived. The presence of both connections is the intermediate situation. However, the presence of a posterior protolophule alone has not been observed in *Plesiosminthus*, except for *P. meridionalis* Comte, 2000 from Venelles inf., and, rarely, *P. admyarion* Comte, 2000 from Thézels. Kimura (2013) considered the double protolophule of M2 to be a primitive character, but it is best developed in *P. myarion*, the youngest species.

**TABLE 4.** P-values of t-test comparing the samples from THZ and COD3; df = degrees of freedom.

Molar	Comte (2000)	this paper	df
m1	3.18	3.092	205
m2	2.02	-2.162	180
m3	3.00	2.828	127
M1	2.39	-2.483	188
M2	2.06	-2.178	172
M3	3.00	2.832	98

Sample	complete	incomplete	absent	n	MV
CHAVR	12	50	38	50	0.630
FORN11	26	52	22	27	0.480
VENINF	0	0	100	26	1.000
COD3	0	0	100	59	1.000
THZ	9	9	82	127	0.865
HERR8	82	18	0	17	0.090
PDF	36	53	11	28	0.375
GAIM	50	41	9	31	0.295
PDES	32	45	23	53	0.455
RDUBEY	31	69	0	13	0.345
VIV1	31	16	53	52	0.610
MIR2A	83	0	17	16	0.170
MIR1	60	26	14	41	0.270

**TABLE 5.** Frequencies of character states of the protoconid hind arm of m2, number of observations, and morphology values. Data from Kristkoiz (1992, figure 84) and this paper.

In the oldest sample (*P. margaritae* n. sp. from MIR1) about 35% of the M2 have a double connection, of which the anterior protolophule is stronger than the posterior one. In the youngest sample (*P. myarion* from Chavroches) there is a double connection in 97% and both crests are equally well developed. In the intermediate samples values vary, and there is no continuous trend, which probably means we are dealing with more than one evolutionary lineage. The samples from MIR1 and VIV1 are quite similar with 35 and 39% of double protolophule, respectively. The sample from MIR2A, stratigraphically between MIR1 and VIV1, has 74%, much more than in the other two, and less than in Chavroches; those from MIR1 and

VIV1 may form a lineage, but MIR2A must be excluded from it.

Surprisingly, the lowest percentage is found in *P. myarion* from Pech Desse (12.5%). This sample, more or less of the same age as VIV1, is the most primitive of all samples studied here with respect to the protolophule of M2. It should be noted that the number of specimens is smaller than in other samples. In Table 3 we give the morphology values for a number of samples.

## Protoconid Hind Arm of m2

The original connection from metaconid to protoconid is supposed to be posterior; this situation is maintained in m1, but in m2 there is nearly always an anterior connection. The posterior "old"

**TABLE 6.** Frequencies of character states of the protoconid hind arm of m3, number of observations, and morphology values.

Sample	complete	incomplete	absent	n	MV
CHAVR	5.4	0.0	94.6	37	0.946
VENINF	0.0	0.0	100.0	8	1.000
COD3	0.0	0.0	100.0	32	1.000
THZ	0.0	0.0	100.0	97	1.000
HERR8	0.0	0.0	100.0	14	1.000
PDF	8.0	32.0	60.0	25	0.760
GAIM	14.9	27.3	63.6	11	0.730
PDES	25.0	43.8	31.2	16	0.531
RDUBEY	0.0	0.0	100.0	6	1.000
VIV1	5.1	0.0	94.9	39	0.949
MIR2A	20.0	15.0	65.0	20	0.725
MIR1	23.2	11.6	65.1	43	0.710

connection may be complete, interrupted, or absent, and these character states are interpreted as consecutive evolutionary stages (Schaub, 1930; Ziegler and Werner, 1994; Engesser, 1987).

In Table 5 we give the percentages of each character state and the resulting morphology values (MV) and in Figure 2 we compare the MV of the pcdha of m2 with those of the protolophule of M2. As said before, *P. meridionalis* from Venelles inf. is most derived on the basis of the protolophule of M2, and that is confirmed by the pcdha (always absent), so that in Figure 2 m2 and M2 from Venelles both display values on the positive end of the graphs.

On the other hand, *P. conjunctus* from Herrlingen 8 and *P.* aff. *conjunctus* from MIR2A have very high values for the protolophule, and the lowest values for pcdha. We find this very difficult to explain. Both dental elements form part of the same functional mechanism, and one would expect parallel changes in order to make them interact correctly. Assuming a different interpretation of primitive/derived provides no solution, because then the same problem would exist for other samples. The only explanation seems to be that we are dealing with several evolutionary lineages that present fundamentally different tendencies.

In this respect, it is tempting to assume a relationship between the samples from MIR2A (MP27) and HERR8 (MP28). *Plesiosminthus conjunctus* from HERR8 is on average larger and has welldeveloped mesostylids, but in the development of the protolophule and pcdha both samples are identical. Ziegler (1994) suggested that *P. schaubi* from Coderet is a descendent of *P. conjunctus*. However, that hypothesis implies an abrupt leap in the morphology of the pcdha of m2, from 100% present to 97% absent.

Also, according to Ziegler (1994), *P. conjunctus* has no relation with *P. winistoerferi* from Brochene Fluh 53. That author states that *P. winistoerferi* is the most primitive species; however, it always has a double protolophule in M2, which we consider to be advanced. Its m2 has a long free ending pcdha, supposedly a primitive condition. But in this case its morphology is different from all other species, and it may be a derived situation, evolved from a relatively short pcdha, connected to the metaconid. The few available specimens do not allow a reliable conclusion.

### Protoconid Hind Arm of m3

With respect to the pcdha, the m3 is constantly more advanced than m2. In about half the samples the pcdha is absent, and, when present, it is more reduced than in m2. The lowest MV is found in *P. moniqueae* n. sp. from PDES (Table 6), confirming our interpretation that it is a different species.

#### SIZE

In Figures 7-12 the ranges of length and width of a number of samples are represented. According to Engesser (1987), P. winistoerferi from Brochene Fluh 53 is larger than P. schaubi. That is true for m3/M3, but not for the length of m1, M1, and M2 and the width of m2; width of m1 and M2 are somewhat larger, but overlap. The number of specimens (between 4 and 6 per element) is very small and may lead to unreliable results. If its measurements are representative for a larger sample, this means that in P. winistoerferi the size relations between the elements are completely different from other species. We think, however, that the values for the length of m1 are too small. The ratio of the mean length m1/m2 varies between1.02 to 1.12. Applying a multiplication factor of 1.06 to the length of m2 (mean = 1.37 mm), the mean of m1 length should be around 1.45 mm, a value that is indeed found in the same species from Oberleichtersbach (Engesser and Storch, 2008). Also, the few specimens from Findreuse, published by Engesser (1987), show that the type material from BF53 by no means covers the size distribution range of the species.

Using the specimen numbers given in Table 7, in Figure 13 we compare the distributions of the mean values of the length of the molars in the type samples of 10 *Plesiosminthus* species. In *P. moralesi* from Sayatón 1 (Alvarez et al., 1996) the m3 is very small, but only one specimen is available, and the mean of a larger sample would certainly be different. In most other samples the material is sufficiently abundant and the mean values are very similar. There are differences in the relation of the mean lengths of first and second molars: the ratio Lm1/Lm2 varies from 1.02 to 1.12; the ratio LM1/LM2 varies from 1.02 to 1.14; the ratios Lm2/Lm3 and LM2/LM3 hardly vary.

Three samples (GAIM, PDES and MIR1) differ from the other samples as their m1 and m2 are very similar in length. The same is true for the other samples from MP27 and MP28. From MP29 through MN2 the m1 is always clearly longer than m2, also in the samples that are not represented in Figure 13. The only exception is BF53, where the number of specimens is insufficient for a reliable result. The same situation is found for the relation



**FIGURE 13.** Relation of mean length values (in mm) of m1, m2, m3, M1, M2, M3 of *Plesiosminthus* species. Number of specimens per sample in Table 7.

**TABLE 7.** Number of specimens for samples in Figure 13.

Sample	m1	m2	m3	M1	M2	М3
BF53	4	4	5	6	5	5
CHAVR	36	48	39	49	33	15
COD3	65	59	32	71	63	13
GAIM	34	32	11	28	23	3
HERR8	8	15	14	18	12	11
MIR1	17	41	45	49	43	37
PDES	57	54	16	35	16	3
SAY1	7	6	1	3	3	1
THZ	142	123	97	119	111	87
VENINF	19	25	8	27	26	1

M1/M2, with two exceptions: BF53 and LAUT2. Some authors (e.g., Daxner-Höck and Wu, 2003) use the relation M1/M3 and m1/m3. However, third molars are often scarce, and their mean length may be less reliable than that of the first molars. We prefer comparing first and second molars.

#### PHYLOGENY

Until now all authors considered P. myarion to be a descendant of P. promyarion. But that was at a time when these two were practically the only species known. The evolution would be marked by a slight size increase, a moderately derived protoconid hind arm of m2 and a strongly derived protolophule of M2. In view of the impossibility to know what exactly is *P. promyarion*, we tried to identify a possible ancestor of P. myarion among the available species. The species from MP30, closest in time to P. myarion, can be excluded as its ancestors: P. winistoerferi and P. schaubi are larger and P. admyarion and P. meridionalis are morphologically different. On the other hand, almost any of the older species (MP27/28) is a potential ancestor, both by size and morphology. This difficulty to designate the most probable ancestor in the latest Oligocene was already observed by Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980, figure 7), and in spite of our enlarged knowledge this situation remains unchanged.

Among the MP30 species *P. admyarion* may be closely related to *P. schaubi*; both are characterized by the very low MV values for the protolophule of M2, combined with very high values for the pcdha of m2. Their size is quite similar, as well as the length relation of M1/M2 and m1/m2 (Figures 7-13). On the other hand, *P. meridionalis*, originally described as a subspecies of *P. schaubi*, is characterized by the very high MV values of both m2 and M2 (Figure 2), and a close relationship with *P. admyarion* is not probable.

*Plesiosminthus conjunctus* from HERR8 and *P.* aff. *conjunctus* from MIR2A share very low MV values for m2 with quite high values for M2 (Figure 2). In this respect, they differ from all other species and an ancestor-descendant relationship is possible. The other species occupy intermediate positions, and nothing can be said about their relationships.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Plesiosminthus promyarion Schaub, 1930 is restricted to the two specimens from Puy-de-Montdoury. The name should no longer be used, except when referring to its type material. The single M2 from Rickenbach does not permit classification. Plesiosminthus bavaricus Freudenberg, 1941, considered a synonym of P. promyarion by several authors, is here recognized as a different species. The sample from Pech Desse, described as P. promyarion by Hugueney and Vianey-Liaud (1980), is transferred to the new species P. moniqueae n. sp. Other supposed P. promyarion samples are provisionally called P. promyarion Auctorum. Analysis of the morphology values shows surprising mixtures of primitive and advanced states of characters that make it almost impossible to draw conclusions on ancestor-descendant relationships.

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# **APPENDIX 1.**

Measurements of *Plesiosminthus* samples. V' = coefficient of variation as defined by Freudenthal and Cuenca Bescos (1984): 100R/M, where R is the range, and M is the median of the distribution.  $\sigma$  = standard deviation.

Length									w	idth		
m1	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	۷'	σ	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	۷'	σ
CLUZEL	10	1.13	1.210	1.32	15.5	0.055	10	0.76	0.830	0.93	20.1	0.046
CHAVR	36	1.09	1.190	1.31	18.3	0.013	36	0.75	0.870	0.97	25.6	0.049
LAUT2	19	1.20	1.260	1.39	14.7	0.053	25	0.82	0.890	0.92	11.5	0.042
SAULC	15	1.07	1.260	1.39	26.0	0.059	15	0.79	0.880	0.94	17.3	0.044
FORN11	27	1.08	1.222	1.36	23.0	0.063	27	0.76	0.856	0.92	19.0	0.042
VENINF	19	1.13	1.270	1.39	20.6	0.064	19	0.83	0.910	1.02	20.5	0.058
BF53	4	1.30	1.320	1.34	3.0	0.016	4	0.96	1.035	1.08	11.8	0.054
THZ	142	1.19	1.330	1.47	21.1	0.062	142	0.82	0.920	1.02	21.7	0.045
COD3	65	1.18	1.300	1.44	19.8	0.066	65	0.86	0.960	1.06	20.8	0.046
DIEU	33	1.15	1.28	1.40	19.6		33	0.82	0.93	1.04	23.7	
PARR	15	1.17	1.280	1.44	20.7		16	0.86	0.940	1.12	26.3	
SAY1	7	1.07	1.140	1.22	13.1		8	0.70	0.750	0.79	12.1	
HERR8	8	1.17	1.240	1.33	12.8		8	0.82	0.879	0.96	15.7	
PDF	45	1.06	1.150	1.26	17.2	0.049	45	0.74	0.820	0.92	21.7	0.043
PDES	57	0.98	1.140	1.23	22.6	0.049	58	0.67	0.800	0.88	27.1	0.039
GAIM	34	1.05	1.160	1.25	17.4	0.051	34	0.73	0.840	0.94	25.1	0.051
RDUBEY	19	1.04	1.109	1.20	14.3	0.051	19	0.68	0.792	0.88	25.6	0.057
VIV1	42	1.02	1.109	1.23	18.7	0.062	47	0.68	0.776	0.88	25.6	0.050
MIR2A	17	1.02	1.125	1.22	17.9	0.051	18	0.72	0.808	0.89	21.1	0.035
MIR1	17	1.02	1.119	1.19	15.4	0.056	21	0.72	0.796	0.85	16.6	0.039
m2	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	V'	σ	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V'</b>	σ
CLUZEL	8	1.10	1.170	1.26	13.6	0.058	8	0.88	0.930	0.98	10.8	0.033
CHAVR	48	1.02	1.120	1.22	17.9	0.050	48	0.82	0.930	1.00	19.8	0.041
LAUT2	28	1.10	1.160	1.22	10.3	0.034	29	0.86	0.950	1.01	16.0	0.048
SAULC	24	1.07	1.170	1.28	17.9	0.057	24	0.82	0.920	1.02	21.7	0.050
FORN11	24	1.00	1.116	1.20	18.2	0.052	24	0.77	0.898	0.98	24.0	0.054
VENINF	25	1.07	1.190	1.30	19.4	0.049	24	0.88	0.950	1.00	12.8	0.041
BF53	4	1.34	1.373	1.40	4.4	0.032	4	1.04	1.048	1.06	1.9	0.010
THZ	123	1.01	1.190	1.33	27.4	0.065	123	0.83	0.950	1.09	27.1	0.051
COD3	59	1.09	1.210	1.34	20.6	0.055	59	0.86	0.990	1.09	23.6	0.049
DIEU	30	1.05	1.17	1.28	19.7		30	0.82	0.92	1.02	21.7	
PARR	13	1.03	1.190	1.35	26.9		16	0.84	0.960	1.11	27.7	
SAY1	6	0.95	1.050	1.15	19.0		6	0.77	0.840	0.89	14.5	
HERR8	15	1.16	1.197	1.26	8.3		15	0.85	0.923	1.00	16.2	
PDF	28	0.99	1.140	1.25	23.2	0.067	28	0.79	0.880	0.98	21.5	0.047
PDES	54	0.99	1.120	1.23	21.6	0.048	54	0.79	0.850	0.94	17.3	0.038
GAIM	32	1.05	1.140	1.21	14.2	0.041	31	0.79	0.870	0.96	19.4	0.039
RDUBEY	9	1.00	1.106	1.18	16.5	0.066	9	0.80	0.841	0.90	11.8	0.044
VIV1	51	0.96	1.063	1.17	19.7	0.050	52	0.73	0.842	0.92	23.0	0.046
MIR2A	16	1.05	1.116	1.21	14.2	0.048	18	0.83	0.893	0.94	12.4	0.032

# Appendix 1 (continued).

Length							Width					
MIR1	41	0.99	1.093	1.17	16.7	0.041	42	0.78	0.869	0.98	22.7	0.041
m3	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V</b> '	σ	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V</b> '	σ
CLUZEL	13	0.83	0.920	0.99	17.6	0.044	13	0.75	0.820	0.88	16.0	0.043
CHAVR	39	0.78	0.880	0.99	23.7	0.056	39	0.68	0.790	0.90	27.8	0.047
LAUT2	26	0.88	0.960	1.04	16.7	0.051	26	0.75	0.820	0.90	18.2	0.044
SAULC	18	0.90	0.950	1.05	15.4	0.036	18	0.76	0.810	0.89	15.8	0.040
FORN11	18	0.80	0.928	1.00	22.2	0.042	18	0.68	0.799	0.86	23.4	0.043
VENINF	8	0.82	0.900	0.98	17.8	0.052	8	0.70	0.780	0.84	18.2	0.046
BF53	5	1.16	1.220	1.32	12.9	0.062	5	0.98	1.032	1.10	11.5	0.063
THZ	97	0.73	0.890	1.01	32.2	0.049	97	0.70	0.800	0.97	32.3	0.052
COD3	32	0.74	0.860	0.99	28.9	0.053	32	0.70	0.800	0.88	22.8	0.045
DIEU	20	0.68	0.79	0.90	27.8		20	0.70	0.77	0.84	18.2	
PARR	2	0.84	0.890	0.94	11.2		3	0.81	0.850	0.88	8.3	
SAY1	1		0.710				1		0.650			
HERR8	14	0.92	0.961	1.05	13.2		14	0.76	0.819	0.87	13.5	
PDF	21	0.83	0.950	1.08	26.2	0.057	21	0.71	0.790	0.88	21.4	0.046
PDES	16	0.86	0.920	1.00	15.1	0.041	14	0.68	0.750	0.81	17.4	0.037
GAIM	11	0.81	0.930	0.99	20.0	0.050	11	0.72	0.780	0.80	10.5	0.024
RDUBEY	6	0.80	0.883	0.92	14.0	0.043	6	0.72	0.760	0.82	13.0	0.044
VIV1	39	0.76	0.839	0.94	21.2	0.045	40	0.63	0.724	0.82	26.2	0.044
MIR2A	20	0.79	0.867	0.96	19.4	0.051	20	0.68	0.773	0.89	26.8	0.056
MIR1	45	0.78	0.867	0.99	23.7	0.046	45	0.67	0.773	0.86	24.8	0.045
P4	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V</b> '	σ	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	۷'	σ
CLUZEL	7	0.47	0.550	0.60	24.3	0.042	7	0.49	0.560	0.65	28.1	0.038
CHAVR	18	0.36	0.470	0.60	50.0	0.051	18	0.43	0.530	0.65	40.7	0.049
SAULC	21	0.40	0.480	0.58	36.7	0.053	21	0.42	0.520	0.64	41.5	0.054
THZ	34	0.47	0.610	0.71	40.7	0.043	34	0.57	0.650	0.73	24.6	0.035
COD3	29	0.48	0.590	0.66	31.6	0.040	29	0.51	0.620	0.73	35.5	0.049
GAIM	1		0.500				1		0.600			
VIV1	7	0.49	0.536	0.59	18.5	0.036	7	0.52	0.559	0.60	14.3	0.027
MIR2A	2	0.56	0.565	0.57	1.8		2	0.47	0.505	0.54	13.9	
MIR1	1		0.540				1		0.590			
M1	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	V'	σ	N	Min.	Mean	Max.	V'	σ
CLUZEL	17	1.09	1.160	1.30	17.6	0.053	17	0.95	1.040	1.11	15.5	0.043
CHAVR	49	1.06	1.130	1.23	14.8	0.044	49	0.93	1.030	1.14	20.3	0.056
LAUT2	20	1.04	1.150	1.26	19.1	0.054	18	0.95	1.030	1.12	16.4	0.049
SAULC	28	1.06	1.150	1.25	16.5	0.047	28	0.90	1.030	1.15	24.4	0.055
FORN11	30	1.04	1.150	1.26	19.1	0.050	30	0.96	1.036	1.12	15.4	0.053
VENINF	27	1.08	1.200	1.30	18.5	0.049	27	0.98	1.080	1.19	19.4	0.049
BF53	6	1.14	1.217	1.38	19.0	0.089	6	0.97	1.122	1.24	24.4	0.088
THZ	119	1.06	1.230	1.36	24.8	0.058	119	0.99	1.140	1.28	25.6	0.059
COD3	71	1.14	1.250	1.39	19.8	0.051	71	1.06	1.160	1.34	23.3	0.052
DIEU	30	1.14	1.22	1.30	13.1		30	1.02	1.15	1.28	22.6	

# Appendix 1 (continued).

Length									Wi	idth		
PARR	13	1.09	1.220	1.37	22.8		13	0.98	1.120	1.22	21.8	
SAY1	3	1.03	1.090	1.14	10.1		2	0.94	0.970	1.00	6.2	
HERR8	18	1.04	1.139	1.21	15.1		18	1.00	1.111	1.21	19.0	
PDF	30	0.96	1.080	1.22	23.9	0.067	30	0.90	1.010	1.17	26.1	0.065
PDES	35	1.00	1.060	1.15	14.0	0.035	35	0.87	0.960	1.02	15.9	0.035
GAIM	28	1.01	1.090	1.18	15.5	0.044	28	0.93	1.010	1.10	16.7	0.045
RDUBEY	12	0.88	1.023	1.13	24.9	0.088	12	0.84	0.948	1.08	25.0	0.080
VIV1	70	0.93	1.050	1.18	23.7	0.049	69	0.85	0.970	1.10	25.6	0.048
MIR2A	30	0.96	1.075	1.19	21.4	0.050	32	0.83	0.973	1.10	28.0	0.049
MIR1	49	0.93	1.062	1.16	22.0	0.048	51	0.85	0.962	1.11	26.5	0.051
M2	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V'</b>	σ	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V'</b>	σ
CLUZEL	18	0.92	1.020	1.11	18.7	0.052	17	0.88	0.980	1.10	22.2	0.054
CHAVR	33	0.98	1.030	1.12	13.3	0.057	33	0.88	1.000	1.10	22.2	0.057
LAUT2	26	0.98	1.080	1.16	16.8	0.047	28	0.93	1.030	1.09	15.8	0.049
SAULC	21	0.96	1.050	1.16	18.9	0.051	21	0.91	1.010	1.08	17.1	0.048
FORN11	16	0.92	1.016	1.10	17.8	0.055	16	0.88	0.959	1.06	18.6	0.058
VENINF	26	0.96	1.070	1.17	19.7	0.057	24	0.94	1.000	1.06	12.0	0.036
BF53	5	1.10	1.164	1.22	10.3	0.048	5	1.07	1.134	1.18	9.8	0.040
THZ	111	0.96	1.110	1.25	26.2	0.065	111	0.89	1.020	1.13	23.8	0.051
COD3	63	1.01	1.130	1.24	20.4	0.054	63	0.97	1.070	1.21	22.0	0.046
DIEU	26	1.00	1.10	1.20	18.2		26	0.97	1.08	1.20	21.2	
PARR	14	1.01	1.100	1.17	14.7		14	0.91	1.060	1.18	25.8	
SAY1	3	0.95	0.990	1.05	10.0		3	0.80	0.870	0.92	14.0	
HERR8	12	1.02	1.085	1.18	14.5		12	1.01	1.077	1.15	13.0	
PDF	27	0.90	1.010	1.12	21.8	0.067	25	0.88	0.970	1.08	20.4	0.053
PDES	16	0.95	1.040	1.12	16.4	0.050	16	0.88	0.960	1.02	14.7	0.036
GAIM	23	0.99	1.030	1.10	10.5	0.034	22	0.94	0.990	1.05	11.1	0.032
RDUBEY	17	0.88	1.000	1.08	20.4	0.054	17	0.84	0.951	1.05	22.2	0.051
VIV1	74	0.87	0.982	1.15	27.7	0.049	69	0.84	0.935	1.09	25.9	0.047
MIR2A	24	0.91	1.006	1.08	17.1	0.050	20	0.87	0.953	1.07	20.6	0.048
MIR1	43	0.87	1.007	1.08	21.5	0.046	44	0.84	0.967	1.10	26.8	0.054
M3	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V</b> '	σ	Ν	Min.	Mean	Max.	<b>V</b> '	σ
CLUZEL	18	0.68	0.780	0.85	22.2	0.050	18	0.76	0.840	0.90	16.9	0.036
CHAVR	15	0.66	0.740	0.86	26.3	0.055	15	0.71	0.820	0.90	23.6	0.047
LAUT2	20	0.71	0.780	0.90	23.6	0.048	19	0.78	0.850	0.94	18.6	0.049
SAULC	19	0.69	0.770	0.89	25.3	0.056	19	0.77	0.840	0.95	20.9	0.052
FORN11	7	0.72	0.774	0.82	13.0	0.034	7	0.80	0.836	0.90	11.8	0.038
VENINF	1		0.780				1		0.780			
BF53	5	0.92	0.950	1.02	10.3	0.040	5	0.96	1.022	1.12	15.4	0.067
THZ	87	0.67	0.790	0.90	29.3	0.044	87	0.65	0.800	0.89	31.2	0.045
COD3	13	0.63	0.750	0.79	22.5	0.048	13	0.68	0.760	0.86	23.4	0.053
DIEU	6	0.61	0.70	0.78	24.5		6	0.66	0.75	0.84	24.0	
PARR	2	0.79	0.830	0.87	9.6		2	0.83	0.890	0.95	13.5	

# Appendix 1 (continued).

			Lei	ngth				Wi	dth			
SAY1	1		0.670				1		0.730			
HERR8	11	0.74	0.824	0.89	18.4		11	0.82	0.882	0.94	13.6	
PDF	9	0.68	0.750	0.82	18.7	0.046	9	0.71	0.780	0.85	17.9	0.044
PDES	3	0.74	0.760	0.77	4.0	0.015	3	0.74	0.770	0.79	6.5	0.025
GAIM	3	0.63	0.720	0.85	29.7		2	0.82	0.860	0.89	8.2	
RDUBEY	4	0.64	0.738	0.80	22.2	0.068	4	0.72	0.773	0.81	11.8	0.041
VIV1	31	0.63	0.698	0.83	27.4	0.051	29	0.66	0.733	0.81	20.4	0.041
MIR2A	15	0.60	0.702	0.76	23.5	0.047	16	0.71	0.783	0.84	16.8	0.039
MIR1	37	0.63	0.700	0.77	20.0	0.035	37	0.70	0.772	0.86	20.5	0.038