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*'From four-legged cetaceans to tooth-bearing relatives of baleen whales  
and strange-looking sperm whales:  
new fossils from Peru provide clues about cetacean evolution'*

**Mon, 13th June 2022 @ 14h**

on site: Site DOUA, Darwin D building, Amphi Depéret

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j.php?MTID=m169dbdea00509b14d13844f815f1af74](https://univ-lyon1.webex.com/univ-lyon1-en/j.php?MTID=m169dbdea00509b14d13844f815f1af74)

Located on the southern coast of Peru, the East Pisco basin is well known for its rich record of Cenozoic marine vertebrates. Among those, cetaceans (whales and dolphins) are represented by a large number of species, ranging in time from the middle Eocene to the Pliocene. For the last 15 years, our international and multidisciplinary team organized multiple field campaigns in this large desert area, leading to the discovery of many new fossils of cetaceans that provided clues about different steps of the evolutionary history of this successful clade of secondarily aquatic tetrapods. In addition to the general geological and taphonomical context, I will briefly introduce a series of newly described species that helped us better understanding the origin and radiation of various clades, as well as their role in local trophic webs. Among others, I will present several archaeocetes (protocetids and basilosaurids), an early toothed relative of nowadays baleen whales, and highly morphologically disparate echolocating toothed whales.