

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

From petty predators to gentle giants: On the evolutionary history of the largest animals that have ever inhabited our Earth

Thursday, November 26, 2020, Discussion from 17:00 h

PD Dr. Oliver Hampe
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Whales developed the most colossal vertebrates with some of the most impressive adaptations evolution has ever produced. After the extinction of the dinosaurs, and with them all dominant marine reptiles, the oceans were conquered now by mammals during the Eocene and we look here today on a remarkable fossil record. The evolution of the large baleen whales is closely connected to the palaeogeographical developments of the southern hemisphere, the glaciation of the Antarctic continent and the corresponding constellation of water currents.



Oliver Hampe studied Chemistry and Geology-Palaeontology. The graduated geologist completed his doctorate in 1991 at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. Since 1996 he is working at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. 2003 he habilitated in Palaeobiology and Zoology at Humboldt University Berlin. His research focuses on extinct aquatic vertebrates, currently with emphasis on marine mammals.

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