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Middle Miocene pikas from north-central Spain

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Pikas (Lagomorpha, Mammalia) are commonly found in European Neogene assemblages of small mammals and represent the folivorous guild within the group of primary consumers, which include also the more granivorous and omnivorous rodents. The pikas studied here come from the rich succession of small mammals in the Calatayud-Daroca Basin (north-central Spain). This well-dated record consists of more than 100 localities, covering the time interval between 17 and 10 Ma, which includes distinct changes in global climate.

The pikas are a quantitatively important group ($\sim$20% on average) and show a separate signal with respect to the rodents. Pikas can, therefore, be considered as an important factor in paleoecological analysis. Recently, regularities in the assembly, composition and disassembly of the rodent community structure from this record have been demonstrated. The community membership times of the evolutionary lineages of the pikas confirm the presence of two consecutive communities in the succession. Several pika lineages represent core species in the metacommunity structure in the studied interval, which illustrates their significance in community analysis of small mammals and in paleoecological analysis.