

NEW FOSSIL REMAINS FROM THE LAGO COLHUÉ HUAPI FORMATION (CONIACIAN–MAASTRICHTIAN): INCREASING THE RECORD OF VERTEBRATE DIVERSITY AND THE PALEOECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE FOR THE LATE CRETACEOUS OF PATAGONIA

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In this communication we present a fossil association found in a new locality of the Lago Colhué Huapi Formation of Chubut, Central Patagonia. This site is located 16.65 km south-eastern of the origin of the Chico River and 3.65 km south of the stratotype locality of the Formation. The fossils were recovered about 1.5 m below the erosive contact with the base of the Salamanca Formation. This association mainly includes postcranial remains of Hadrosauridae and Testudinata found in successive layers of green-greyish to reddish mudstones with carbonized logs, interpreted as distal floodplains. The hadrosaurid remains comprise vertebrae representing all regions, fragments from the pectoral and pelvic girdles and fragmentary fore and hind limb bones. Several limb bone fragments, although lacking of overlapping morphology, show a marked difference in size, supporting the coexistence of different ontogenetic stages of a Hadrosauridae representative. The turtle remains are fragmentary but can be identified belonging to two different groups, supporting the coexistence of different sized Testudinata in this association. A large, undecorated peripheral plate is identified as Testudinata indet. In addition, a small, decorated peripheral plate is identified as Chelidae indet., however its size and ornamentation resembles *Hydromedusa* sp. and *Yaminuechelys* sp. This fossil association increases the knowledge of the vertebrate diversity and paleoecology of the formation, resulting in the first record of different ontogenetic stages of Hadrosauridae, and the first evidence of different fresh-water turtles with contrasting sizes interacting at the same environment.

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NEW ICHNOLOGICAL MATERIAL FROM THE VERA FORMATION (LOS MENUCCOS COMPLEX, TRIASSIC), PUESTO VERA LOCALITY, RÍO NEGRO PROVINCE, ARGENTINA: A FIRST ACCOUNT

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Los Menuccos locality, in the north-western sector of the North Patagonian Massif (Río Negro province, Argentina), is prominent for having returned one of the most significant Triassic tetrapod ichnofauna of southern South America. A volcanoclastic succession mainly composed of dacitic to rhyolitic ignimbrites, mesosilicic lavas and subordinate sedimentary rocks, is exposed there. The tetrapod footprints are preserved in volcanoclastic and sedimentary strata of the Vera Formation, which constitutes, together with the overlying Sierra Colorada Formation, the Los Menuccos Complex. The ichnofauna is mainly documented by small and large pentadactyl tracks respectively referable to as *Dicynodontipus* and *Pentasauropus*. The *Dicynodontipus* tracks originally came from the Tschering quarry (west of Los Menuccos town), while the *Pentasauropus* specimens came from the Yancaqueo quarry (east of Los Menuccos town). In both cases, the exact stratigraphic position of the material, up to date, is unknown. Here, we present a new ichnosite from the thin sedimentary sequence of Puesto Vera Formation in its type locality. The material consists of 14 footprints of about 5 cm in overall length. The best-preserved tracks are pentadactyl with short and straight digits and show a central, well-developed heel-trace, resembling footprints commonly referred to as *Dicynodontipus*. The new finding is very important seeing that it allows, for the first time, positioning tetrapod tracks within the Vera Formation.

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