



On a new peirosaurid crocodyliform from the Upper Cretaceous, Bauru Group, southeastern Brazil

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ABSTRACT

A new crocodyliform from the Upper Cretaceous (Campanian-Maastrichtian) Presidente Prudente Formation of the Bauru Group is described based on two almost complete skulls and mandibles. The material comes from the “Tartaruguito” site, situated at an old railroad between the cities of Pirapozinho and Presidente Prudente, state of São Paulo, Brazil. The new species, *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov., is classified in the clade Peirosauridae on the basis of three synapomorphies: the presence of five premaxillary teeth, the anterior two premaxillary alveoli nearly confluent, and the oval cross-section of the jugal along the lower temporal bar. The new taxon increases the outstanding crocodyliform diversity of the Bauru Group, particularly of the Peirosauridae, which might turn out to be one of the most representative clades of gondwanan mesoeucrocodylians.

Key words: *Pepesuchus*, Peirosauridae, Cretaceous, Bauru Group, Brazil.

INTRODUCTION

The study of crocodyliforms from Brazil has increased tremendously in the last decades, with several new discoveries (e.g., Barbosa et al. 2008, Iori and Carvalho 2009, Kellner et al. 2009). No other stratigraphic unit has provided so many new specimens as the Bauru Group, located in the southeastern portion of the country (Kellner 1998, Kellner and Campos 1999, Candeiro and Martinelli 2006). Among these, the most diversity is found in the Notosuchia, which includes the Baurusuchidae (e.g., Price 1945, Carvalho and Bertini 1999, Campos et al. 2001), and in the Peirosauridae (e.g., Price 1955, Carvalho et al. 2004). The abundance of spec-

imens and their disparity of forms allow these clades to be the most studied mesoeucrocodylians from the Bauru Group, with several species described in detail and included in phylogenetic analyses (e.g., Pol 2003, Andrade and Bertini 2008).

So far the crocodyliform fauna from the Bauru Group is composed by the following species: *Baurusuchus pachecoi* Price, 1945; *Baurusuchus salgadoensis* Carvalho, Campos & Nobre, 2005; *Baurusuchus albertoi* Nascimento & Zaher, 2010; *Sphagesaurus huenei* Price, 1950; *Sphagesaurus montealtensis* Andrade & Bertini, 2008; *Peirosaurus tormini* Price, 1955; *Itasuchus jesuinoi* Price, 1955; *Mariliasuchus amarali* Carvalho & Bertini, 1999; *Mariliasuchus robustus* Nobre, Carvalho, Vasconcellos & Nava, 2007; *Stratiotosuchus maxhechti* Campos, Suarez, Riff & Kellner, 2001; *Uberabasuchus*

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terrificus Carvalho, Ribeiro & Avilla, 2004; *Adamantinasuchus navae* Nobre & Carvalho, 2006; *Montealtosuchus arrudacamposi* Carvalho, Vasconcellos & Tavares, 2007; *Armadillosuchus arrudai* Marinho & Carvalho, 2009; and *Morrinhosuchus luziae* Iori & Carvalho, 2009. Other specimens currently under description will further increase the diversity of these reptiles from those deposits (e.g., Kellner and Campos 1999).

A good number of species are taxonomically well supported, but there are some exceptions. The most conspicuous one is *Brasilosaurus pachecoi* von Huene 1931, based on fragmentary material that cannot be diagnosed and is therefore regarded as *nomen dubium* (Candeiro and Martinelli 2006). Other taxa are in need of careful examination, such as *Baurusuchus salgadoensis* and *Mariliasuchus robustus* that potentially could represent *Baurusuchus pachecoi* and *Mariliasuchus amarali*, respectively. *Uberabasuchus terrificus* is another taxon whose validity has been questioned recently (Larsson and Sues 2007).

Here we describe a new crocodyliform from the Upper Cretaceous deposits of the Presidente Prudente Formation (Bauru Group), *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov. Based on two nearly complete skulls and lower jaws, the new species is referred to the Peirosauridae, as defined by Larsson and Sues (2007).

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Bauru Group is a large cratonic depression developed during the Upper Cretaceous in the central-southeastern portion of the South American Platform (Fernandes and Coimbra 1996) whose sedimentary rocks overly the basaltic lava flows of the Serra Geral Formation (133Ma to 130Ma, Riccomini 1997). This group is subdivided in several stratigraphic units whose age and distribution are still controversial (e.g., Soares et al. 1980, Fernandes and Coimbra 1996, 2000, Dias-Brito et al. 2001, Zaher et al. 2006).

The holotype of *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov. was discovered in an outcrop located near the Km 736 of the old Sorocabana railroad, between the cities of Pirapozinho and Presidente Prudente (coordinates 22°13'14.9"S, 51°25'58.3"W) (Bertini et al. 2006). This site, informally called "Tartaruguito" (free translation – rock made out of turtles), is also the type locality

of *Bauruemys elegans* (Suárez, 1969) (Romano and Azevedo 2007) that is by far the most abundant fossil in this region. This deposit is referred to the Presidente Prudente Formation.

The paratype of *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov. (MCT 1788-R) was donated to the Museu de Ciências da Terra (DNPM) by José Martin Suárez. No detailed information about the provenance of this specimen is available other than that it was found in the Presidente Prudente – Pirapozinho region. Based on the sedimentary matrix where the material was preserved we believe that it also came from the "Tartaruguito" site, an area where José Martin Suárez did most of his collecting.

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

CROCODYLOMORPHA Walker 1970

CROCODYLIFORMES Hay 1930

MESOEUCROCODYLIA Whetstone and Whybrow 1983

SEBECIA Larsson and Sues 2007

PEIROSAURIDAE Gasparini 1982

Pepesuchus gen. nov.

Etymology: In honor of the late Professor José Martin Suárez (known by his colleagues as Pepe), the discoverer and main fossil collector at the "Tartaruguito" outcrop. He led Llewellyn Ivor Price and one of the authors (DAC) to this site for the first time in 1969, from which numerous specimens have been collected since then by several institutions. Pepe assisted the Museu Nacional team in several fieldworks including the one where the type specimen (MN 7005-V) was recovered. He also donated the paratype (MCT 1788-R) to the Museu de Ciências da Terra, along with numerous specimens over the years.

Type species: *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov., type by monotypy.

Diagnosis: The same as for the species.

Pepesuchus deiseae sp. nov.

Holotype: Nearly complete skeleton with skull, lower jaw, sacral and caudal vertebrae, osteoderms and limb elements housed at the Museu Nacional/Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro under the number MN 7005-V.

Paratype: A nearly complete skull and lower jaw likely from the same locality of the holotype donated to the Museu de Ciências da Terra – DNPM (MCT 1788-R) by José Martin Suárez.

Type Locality: “Tartaruguito” site, Km 736 of the old Sorocabana railroad, between the cities of Pirapozinho and Presidente Prudente (coordinates 22°13'14.9"S, 51°25'58.3"W), state of São Paulo.

Horizon: Presidente Prudente Formation, Campanian-Maastrichtian (Fernandes and Coimbra 2000).

Diagnosis: Peirosaurid crocodyliform with the following combination of characters that distinguishes it from other members of this clade (autapomorphies are marked with an asterisk): posterolateral process of the squamosal thin and smooth*; postorbital with a comparatively acute anteromedial process*; anterior end of the frontal tapering between the prefrontals; dorsoventral extension of the lacrimal short (approximately 40% that of the orbit)*; anterior teeth thinner and more elongated than in other peirosaurids*; crowns that lack serrations; anterior teeth of the lower jaw inclined anteriorly; suture between the palatine and the maxilla V-shaped; presence of two alveoli couplets (6th – 7th and 8th – 9th pairs) in the mandible*.

Etymology: In honor of the paleontologist Deise Dias Rêgo Henriques who has maintained the traditional research on vertebrate fossils at the Museu Nacional/UFRJ. She also takes care of the fossil vertebrate collection of the museum with dedication and diligence.

DESCRIPTION

SKULL

The anatomical description of *Pepesuchus deiseae* is based primarily on the holotype (MN 7005-V), with many additional information on the rostrum and mandible from the paratype (MCT 1788-R). Although crushed and distorted during fossilization, the skull of the holotype is well preserved. The left lateral side of the postorbital region and the tip of the snout are missing, the latter is only known by fragments of the premaxilla.

The skull is triangular in dorsal view and the cranial table is nearly as wide as the ventral part. The bones of the cranial table (e.g., frontal, parietal, squamosal)

are heavily ornamented with large and deep pits, while at the rostrum this ornamentation is less conspicuous (Figs. 1-3). The rostrum is slightly broad, has the dorsal surface slightly concave and comprises about 65% of the total skull length. The anteriormost region of the snout is pointed upward.

The upper temporal fenestra has a sub-elliptical outline and is formed by the parietal, squamosal, frontal, and postorbital. This opening is slightly smaller than the orbit and has a smooth inner surface. The orbit is elliptical and is placed laterally on the skull, with a slight dorsal inclination. Although reduced, the antorbital fenestra in this taxon is larger in respect to the orbit when compared with other peirosaurids (e.g., *Lomasuchus*).

The unpaired parietals form a single T-shaped element, in which the anteriormost branch is thinner and spreads out laterally at the contact with the frontal. The parietal forms most of the medial margin and half of the posterior border of the upper temporal fenestra. This general morphology resembles the one of some *Sebecia* (*sensu* Larsson and Sues 2007), like *Lomasuchus palpebrosus* Gasparini, Chiappe & Fernandez, 1991, *Montealtosuchus* and, especially, *Hamadasuchus rebouli* Larsson & Sues, 2007. The posterior margin of the parietal is slightly concave in occipital view, and no distinctive ridges or crests are present, contrary to the condition observed in *Sebecus icaeorhinus* Simpson 1937 (Colbert 1946). The frontoparietal suture is located between the upper temporal fenestrae and both bones are subequal in width.

The squamosal is sub-trapezoidal in dorsal view similar to *Lomasuchus* and *Hamadasuchus*, but different from *Uberabasuchus* where this bone is sub-triangular. This heavily sculptured element forms the dorsal border of the optic cavity and the posterior half of the upper temporal fenestra lateral margin. Posteriorly, the squamosal shows an unsculptured process that extends posterolaterally. The tip of this process is slightly rectangular and less robust than in any other peirosaurid. In occipital view, it is possible to note that the squamosal extends further posteriorly than the paroccipital process and the occipital condyle. The dorsal surface of the squamosal is flat, without a central depression, the latter present in *Uberabasuchus*. A well-marked groove is observed on the lateral border of this

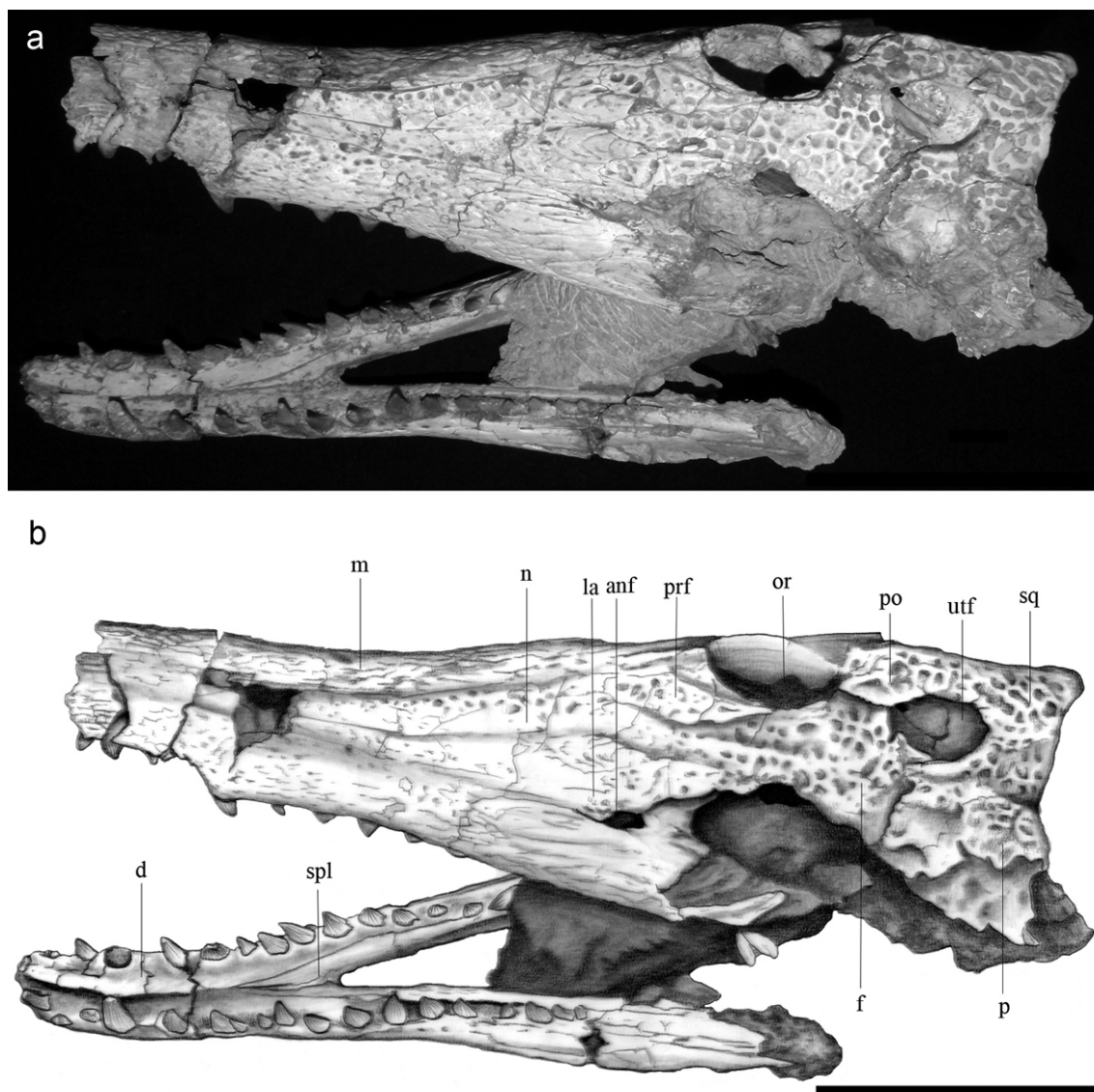


Fig. 1 – Dorsal view of skull and mandible of the holotype (MN 7005 – V) of the crocodyliform *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov. Scale bar: 100 mm. Abbreviations: anf – antorbital fenestra, d – dentary, f – frontal, la – lacrimal, m – maxilla, n – nasal, or – orbit, p – parietal, po – postorbital, prf – prefrontal, spl – splenial, sq – squamosal, utf – upper temporal fenestra.

bone, extending over the external auditory meatus, suggesting the presence of an epidermal flap as seen in extant eusuchians.

In dorsal view, the postorbital is anteroposteriorly elongated, with the anterior portion expanded and showing two processes. The anterolateral process is reduced as in other peirosaurids, but the anteromedial process is comparatively more developed, forming the anterior margin of the upper temporal fenestra. As in all peirosaurids, this bone is placed medially relative to the ju-

gal. The processes on the corners of the anterior margin of the postorbital are to some extent similar to those of some dyrosaurid species (Jouve 2005, Jouve et al. 2006, Barbosa et al. 2008). *Pepesuchus* also has a prominent depression on the anterolateral portion of the postorbital suggesting the presence of palpebral bones. This bone in the new taxon differs from the one of *Uberabasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus*, which is longer, with a prominent inward projection towards the frontal.

The completely fused frontals form a highly orna-

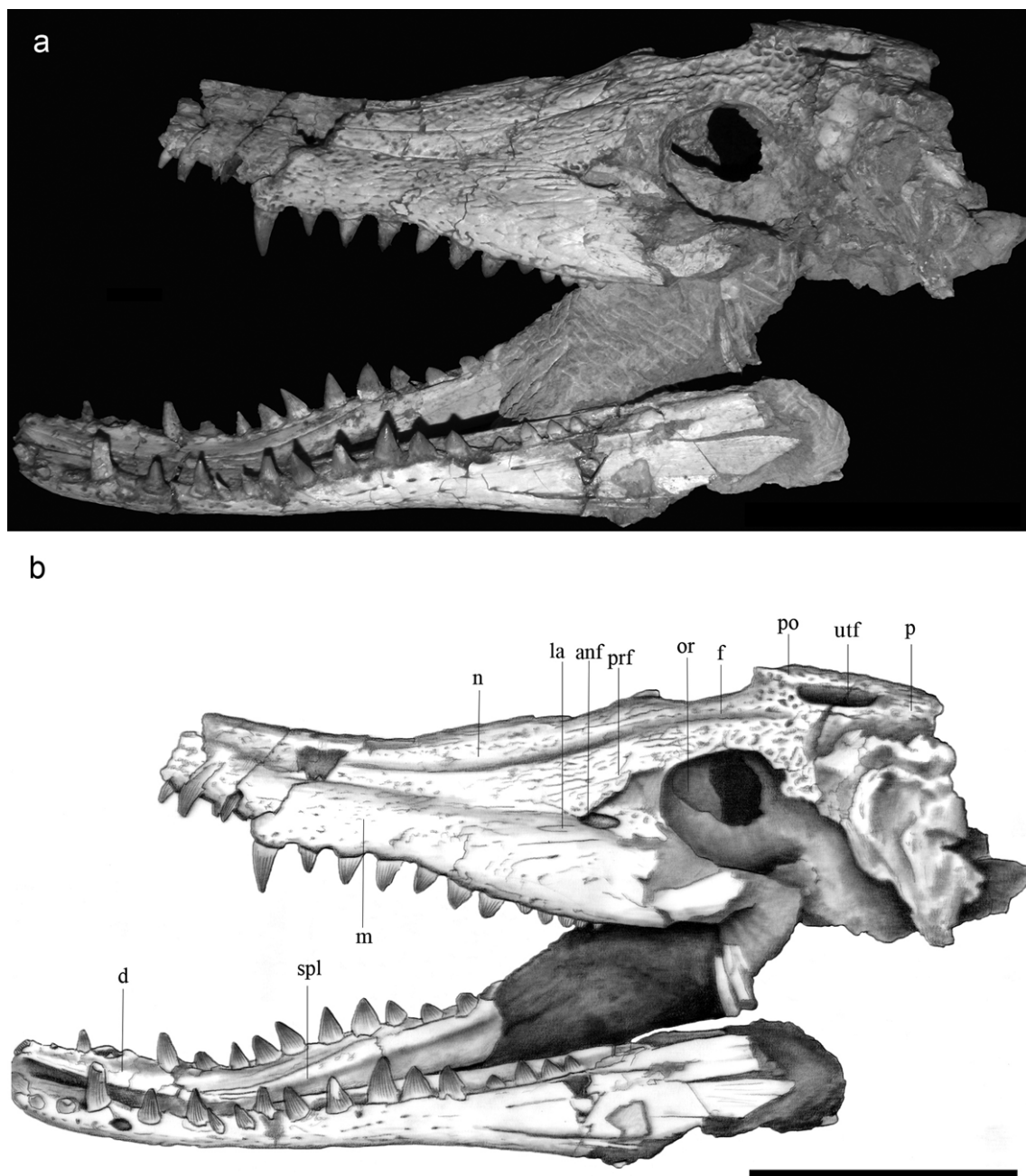


Fig. 2 – Lateral view of skull and mandible of the holotype (MN 7005 – V) of the crocodyliform *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov. Scale bar: 100 mm. Abbreviations: anf – antorbital fenestra, d – dentary, f – frontal, la – lacrimal, m – maxilla, n – nasal, or – orbit, p – parietal, po – postorbital, prf – prefrontal, spl – splenial, utf – upper temporal fenestra.

mented, sub-triangular plate whose lateral edges articulate with the postorbitals, similar to extant crocodyliforms such as *Crocodylus* and *Mecistops*. The suture between the frontal and the parietal is rather straight, like in *Hamadasuchus*, *Montealtosuchus* and *Lomasuchus*, but different from the concave condition observed

in *Uberabasuchus* and the festooned posterior margin of *Sebecus*. There is a low crest in the center of the frontal running throughout the entire length between the orbit, which was also reported in *Lomasuchus* and in other South American mesoeucrocodylians (Gasparini et al. 1991). Some *Hamadasuchus* specimens also have low

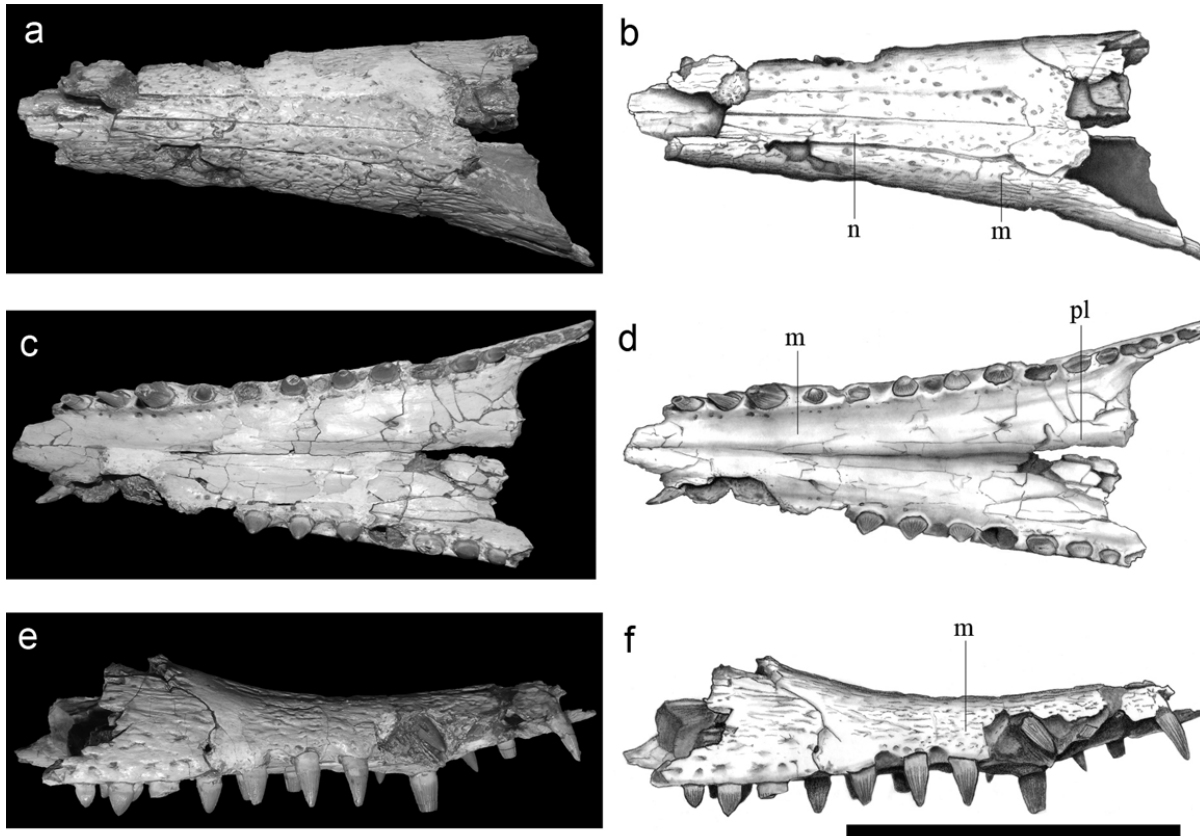


Fig. 3 – Paratype (MCT 1788 – R) of *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov. in dorsal, ventral and lateral views. Scale bar: 100 mm. Abbreviations: m – maxilla, n – nasal, pl – palatine.

crests on the dorsal surface of the frontal, but these are located more posteriorly, close to the contact with the parietal. The anterior end of the frontal is very acute, tapering between the prefrontals and the posterior processes of the nasals and differing therefore from other *Sebecia* where this bone generally has straight anterior margins.

The prefrontals are diamond-shaped, much longer than wide. They are reduced posterolaterally, forming the rim of the orbits. There is no fossa between the lacrimals. Like in *Lomasuchus* and *Hamadasuchus* the nasoprefrontal suture in *Pepesuchus* forms a gently curve with the concavity directed posterolaterally. This differs from the irregular nasoprefrontal suture without a clear curvature found in *Peirosaurus* and *Uberabasuchus*. In *Montealtosuchus* this suture is rather convex and directed posterolaterally. In *Sebecus*, the nasal forms a shallow concavity that borders the anterior margin of the prefrontal. The posterior contact between the prefrontal

and the lacrimal bears a triangular depression, which extends into a groove along the lateral margin of the frontal.

The lacrimals are more dorsoventrally flattened in comparison with those of other peirosaurids (Fig. 2). The height of these bones is approximately 40% that of the orbit, which is a unique feature of this new crocodyliform. The lacrimals contact the nasals only in their dorsal border as in *Hamadasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus*, forming a comparatively larger suture than in *Uberabasuchus*, while in *Peirosaurus*, *Lomasuchus* and *Mahajangasuchus* there is no contact between these bones. The nasolacrimal suture is straight and sub-equal in length to the nasoprefrontal suture. In *Hamadasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus* the former contact is slightly shorter than the latter. The lacrimal bone of *Pepesuchus* comprises the total length of the dorsal border of the antorbital fenestra, which is also the case of *Hamadasuchus* and *Uberabasuchus*.

The jugal displays a conspicuous ornamentation with large pits. The anterior process is dorsoventrally twice as tall as the posterior one. This feature is also present in *Sebecus*, *Hamadasuchus*, *Lomasuchus*, and *Uberabasuchus*. The orientation of the posterior process of the jugal that forms the lower margin of the orbit is straight, similar to the condition observed in *Sebecus* and *Hamadasuchus*, differing from the ventrally directed condition observed in *Uberabasuchus* and *Lomasuchus*, and the strongly arched condition of *Mahajangasuchus*. *Montealtosuchus* shows a thinner jugal with anterior and posterior processes sub-equal in width and sub-parallel.

The postorbital process of the jugal is a rod-like bone with an oval cross-section. It is directed posterodorsally and forms the base of the postorbital bar like in most other Sebecia, except for *Uberabasuchus*, which presents the base of the postorbital bar in strict dorsal orientation, such as observed in some basal crocodyliforms (e.g., *Sphenosuchia* and *Protosuchia*), and eusuchians (e.g., *Crocodylus*). The jugal of *Pepesuchus* extends rostrally in front of the prefrontal, what has only previously been observed in *Stolokrosuchus lapparenti* Larsson & Gado, 2000, and in a few neosuchians (e.g., *Elosuchus*).

The anteriorly inclined dorsal head is the only preserved part of the quadrate. This bone forms the ventral border of the tympanic cavity and contacts the squamosal broadly. As in *Hamadasuchus*, *Mahajangasuchus*, and *Montealtosuchus*, the quadrate contacts the otoccipital laterally to the cranioquadrate passage. There are two low crests in the anterior ascending branch of the quadrate, almost inside the tympanic cavity, but no evidence of any fenestrae.

Overall the snout is narrow and platyrostral (MCT 1788-R). It comprises about 65% of the total skull length and has a width/length ratio of about 1.8, similar to *Hamadasuchus*, *Lomasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus*. As in all other sebecian crocodyliforms (but not in *Stolokrosuchus*), the maxilla is festooned.

The nasals are rectangular, with sub-parallel margins that taper anteriorly. This configuration is common in Sebecia, but differs from the notosuchian triangular outline (e.g., *Mariliasuchus* and *Notosuchus*). The nasals are unfused, as in *Hamadasuchus*, *Uberabasuchus*, *Mon-*

tealtosuchus, and *Lomasuchus*, and differ from *Mahajangasuchus* and *Kaprosuchus* in which they fuse into a single element. The lateral exposure of these bones is minimal, similarly to *Stolokrosuchus*, *Lomasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus*, and differ from the larger exposure of those bones observed in *Uberabasuchus* and *Hamadasuchus*.

The premaxilla is incomplete. The outline of this bone suggests a small oval opening that is laterally exposed. It is possible to observe the perinarial fossa beneath the external nares, which is a feature present in sebecians and notosuchians (including baurusuchids). There are five premaxillary teeth, with the two first ones almost confluent (MN 7005-V), features are regarded as peirosaurid synapomorphies (Larsson and Sues 2007). Posterior to the fifth premaxillary tooth there is a constriction that indicates the presence of a notch between the maxilla and the premaxilla (MCT 1788-R).

The suture between the palatine and the maxilla is V-shaped (MN 7005-V), similarly to neosuchian and eusuchian crocodyliforms. The contact between these two bones is M-shaped in *Hamadasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus*, and U-shaped in *Lomasuchus*. There is a slight sagittal torus on maxillary palatal shelves that is regarded as a diagnostic character of sebecian crocodyliforms (Larsson and Sues 2007).

The ectopterygoid is long and elliptical, extending posteriorly along the ventral surface of the jugal and forming the postorbital bar. This is not observed in other sebecians (e.g., *Hamadasuchus* and *Sebecus*), but has been reported in several mesoeucrocodylians such as *Araripesuchus*, *Notosuchus*, and *Trematochampsia*. Anteriorly, the ectopterygoid contacts the maxilla close to the last maxillary alveoli, as in *Hamadasuchus*, differing from the condition observed in *Sebecus* and *Lomasuchus*.

The pterygoids are damaged and their wings are broken. The contact with the palatines limits both the lateral border of the choana and the medial border of the palatal fenestra. There is no bone wall or intumescence delimiting the posterior margin of the choana, which is the plesiomorphic condition of non-neosuchian mesoeucrocodylians. Furthermore, there is no developed septum made by this bone directed into the choanae, as in *Hamadasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus*, but only a thin

bone bar. The posteromedial region of the pterygoid is visible in occipital view, close to the basioccipital plane, as in *Hamadasuchus* and *Lomasuchus*.

There is a limited dorsal exposition of the supraoccipital, as in *Montealtosuchus* (also occurring in the baurusuchids, e.g., *Stratiotosuchus*). Other sebecians like *Hamadasuchus*, *Uberabasuchus*, *Stolokrosuchus*, and *Lomasuchus* have no dorsal exposure of this bone. There are two marked depressions for the neck articulation located at the base of the postoccipital processes, as in *Hamadasuchus*.

The exoccipital borders the foramen magnum and contacts the basioccipital. Its ventromedial portion bears two foramina placed side by side. The medial one is the aperture for the XIIth (hypoglossal) cranial nerve, and the lateral one is the larger foramen vagi, which is the exit of cranial nerves IX, X and XI. The foramen for the posterior carotid artery is placed below these, similar to *Montealtosuchus* and *Lomasuchus*. *Mahajangasuchus* differs by having four different foramina for the cranial nerves and the carotid artery passage well marked in this region.

The basioccipital and the occipital surfaces as a whole present a marked slope with posteroventrally orientation, differing from the verticalized condition present in extant eusuchians. The basisphenoid is exposed on the ventral surface of the braincase. It presents no ridges on its ventral surface, as in *Sebecus* and *Mahajangasuchus*. In occipital view, the basisphenoid is broadly exposed, beneath the basioccipital and close to the median Eustachian foramen.

MANDIBLE

The lower jaw bones are slender, delicate, and relatively short. The dentaries and splenials form a moderately long mandibular symphysis, comprising 36% of the mandible length. The splenials contribute extensively to the symphysis, with more than 20% of its total length. Except for *Stolokrosuchus*, which is a long-snouted sebecian, all other members of this clade (e.g., *Sebecus*, *Montealtosuchus*, *Uberabasuchus*, *Lomasuchus*) have short and deep symphysis. The general morphology of the mandible is very similar to *Itasuchus*, which is bigger and very robust. This taxon was once considered as also present in the Araripe basin (Buffetaut 1991), but

this has been refuted since (Kellner 1987, 1994). The presence of a conspicuous enlargement in the region of the fourth dentary tooth in *Itasuchus* also differentiates these taxa. A long and shallow groove runs along the lateral surface of the dentary, below the alveolar margin, as in extant eusuchians.

DENTITION

There are 17 subcircular maxillary teeth preserved in MCT 1788-R, which is the second highest number of teeth recorded in a sebecian species, only lower than the long-snouted *Stolokrosuchus*. The closely related *Mahajangasuchus* and *Kaprosuchus* are the sebecians with fewer teeth, presenting no more than 11 maxillary teeth. There are five small subcircular teeth in the premaxilla, with the two first ones placed close to each other in near confluent alveoli. These two characters are traditional synapomorphies of the clade Peirosauridae (Gasparini 1982). There are 18 teeth in the dentary, with the most anterior ones directed anterodorsally and more slender and elongated than in other peirosaurids.

All teeth are smooth bicarinate, with striated external surfaces and well-marked longitudinal lines. The crowns lacking serrations are a distinctive feature of this species since most sebecians present ziphodont dentition, with lateral compression and chisel-like denticles.

Some of the dentary alveoli placed at middle symphyseal length are disposed in a peculiar fashion. The 6th and 7th alveoli are very close to each other, forming a couplet, but with a complete interalveolar wall between both. The same occurs with the next alveolar pair, 8th and 9th. Both couplets are separated from each other by a small diastema equivalent in length to the anteroposterior diameter of its larger alveoli (the 6th and 9th, respectively). A similar arrangement of the middle symphyseal teeth occurs in the holotype of *Itasuchus jesuinoi*, involving different alveolar pairs (5th and 6th, 7th and 8th).

DISCUSSION

The current phylogenetic proposal regarding cretaceous mesoeucrocodylians is disputed, including the monophyly of the Peirosauridae. Introduced by Gasparini (1982), this clade traditionally comprises terrestrial South American crocodyliforms with ziphodont denti-

tion and oreinostrual skulls. The recognition of African peirosaurids, such as *Hamadasuchus rebouli* from Morocco (Upper Cretaceous Kem Kem Beds) and *Stolokrosuchus lapparenti* from Niger (Lower Cretaceous El Rhaz Formation), indicates that the Peirosauridae had a Gondwanan distribution (Larsson and Gado 2000, Larsson and Sues 2007).

A peirosaurid group that includes *Peirosaurus*, *Lomasuchus* and *Uberabasuchus* is well established, and its affinities with *Hamadasuchus* and *Montealtosuchus* is supported by several authors (Carvalho et al. 2004, Larsson and Sues 2007, Jouve 2009, Turner and Sertich 2010). Larsson and Sues (2007) define the Peirosauridae on the basis of five unambiguous synapomorphies, and three of them are present in *Pepesuchus deiseae*: the oval cross-section of jugal along the lower temporal bar, the presence of five premaxillary teeth, and the anterior two premaxillary alveoli nearly confluent.

The major issue about the monophyly of the Peirosauridae is the inclusion of *Stolokrosuchus*, but according to Larsson and Sues (2007) this taxon possesses all synapomorphies that diagnose this group. However, some recent phylogenetic hypotheses have contested the positioning of *Stolokrosuchus* within Peirosauridae, defending a closer relationship of this species with neosuchian crocodyliforms (e.g., Jouve 2009, Turner and Sertich 2010). The support of that relationship, however, is rather weak and based on the longirostrine condition of *Stolokrosuchus* (Clark 1994), a question that needs further studies and is beyond the scope of this paper.

The name Sebecia was proposed for a clade that includes *Pabwehshi pakistanensis* Wilson, Malkani & Gingerich, 2001 from Pakistan (Upper Cretaceous Pab Formation), Peirosauridae and its sister-taxon Sebecidae (Larsson and Sues 2007). *Pepesuchus deiseae* has at least one unambiguous synapomorphy of this group, namely the presence of a sagittal torus on maxillary palatal shelves. A large foramen on the palatine-maxillae contact can be seen in MCT 1788-R, but not in MN 7005-V, and therefore it precludes the proper assignment of this sebecian synapomorphy for the new species. *Pepesuchus* also shares one synapomorphy with the unnamed clade formed by Sebecidae + Peirosauridae, which is the posteriormost premaxillary alveolus excavated by

the premaxilla-maxilla lateral fossa.

The recent phylogenetic analysis by Turner and Sertich (2010) has the most complete sample of sebecian-related species with *Peirosaurus*, *Lomasuchus*, *Hamadasuchus*, *Montealtosuchus*, *Uberabasuchus*, *Mahajangasuchus*, *Kaprosuchus* and *Stolokrosuchus*. They recognize a monophyletic Peirosauridae (but excluding *Stolokrosuchus*) on the basis of five unambiguous synapomorphies, and two of them are entirely unique to this clade: the wedge-like process of maxilla in lateral surface of premaxilla-maxilla suture and the presence of developed perinarial fossa, ventral to external naris. The latter character is present in *Pepesuchus* and is also considered a synapomorphy of Sebecia.

Some taxonomic definitions regarding the Peirosauridae are still not well established. The validity of *Uberabasuchus terrificus* has been questioned recently, since it comes from the same locality and deposits of *Peirosaurus tormini* (DGM 433-R) and, according to Larsson and Sues (2007), there are no characters that distinguish both species (see general discussion about species recognition in the fossil record by Kellner 2010). The Argentinean specimens currently assigned to *Peirosaurus tormini* (Upper Coniacian of Bajo de la Carpa Formation, *sensu* Calvo and Porfiri 2010) possibly constitute a distinct taxon (Martinelli unpublished data).

Pepesuchus deiseae presents several diagnostic features that are traditionally associated with Sebecia and Peirosauridae. The new set of characters reported here can help to improve our understanding of the relationships among these mesoeucrocodylians, especially regarding problematic species (e.g., *Stolokrosuchus*), and a comprehensive analyses including *Pepesuchus deiseae* and the postcranial information (not addressed here) will add to the comprehension of the evolutionary history of gondwanan crocodyliforms.

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RESUMO

Um novo crocodilomorfo da Formação Presidente Prudente, Cretáceo Superior (Campaniano-Maastrichtiano) do Grupo Bauru é descrito com base em dois exemplares, consistindo de crânio e mandíbulas quase completos. O material é procedente da localidade conhecida como “Tartaruguito”, situada em um antigo ramal ferroviário que ligava as cidades de Pirapozinho e Presidente Prudente, Estado de São Paulo, Brasil. A nova espécie, denominada de *Pepesuchus deiseae* gen. et sp. nov., é classificada no clado Peirosauridae, com base em três sinapomorfias: presença de cinco dentes pré-maxilares, os dois primeiros alvéolos da pré-maxila quase confluentes e a secção transversal do jugal ao longo da barra temporal inferior oval. O novo táxon aumenta a marcante diversidade de crocodiliformes do Grupo Bauru e dos Peirosauridae, que poderá vir a ser um dos clados mais representativos de mesoeucrocilianos gondwânicos.

Palavras-chave: *Pepesuchus*, Peirosauridae, Cretáceo, Grupo Bauru, Brasil.

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