The smallest biggest theropod dinosaur: a tiny pedal ungual of a juvenile *Spinosaurus* from the Cretaceous of Morocco

Simone Maganuco1** and Cristiano Dal Sasso1**

1 Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano, Milano, Italy

* These authors contributed equally to this work.

**ABSTRACT**

We describe a nearly complete pedal ungual phalanx, discovered in the Kem Kem Beds (Cenomanian) of Tafilalt region, south-eastern Morocco. The bone is symmetric, pointed, low, elongate, and almost flat ventrally in lateral aspect. This peculiar morphology allows to refer the specimen to the smallest known individual of the genus *Spinosaurus*. The bone belongs to an early juvenile individual and it is proportionally identical to the ungual of the third digit of a large partial skeleton recently found, suggesting an isometric growth for this part of the pes and the retention of peculiar locomotor adaptations—such as traversing soft substrates or paddling—during the entire lifespan.

**Subjects**  Evolutionary Studies, Paleontology

**Keywords**  *Spinosaurus*, Cenomanian, Theropoda, Pedal ungual, Morocco

**INTRODUCTION**

In recent decades, several theropod remains have been reported from the mid Cretaceous of North Africa (Sereno et al., 1994, 1996, 1998, Sereno, Wilson & Conrad, 2004; Russell, 1996; Riff et al., 2004; Dal Sasso et al., 2005; Mahler, 2005; Novas, Dalla Vecchia & Pais, 2005; Brusatte & Sereno, 2007; Sereno & Brusatte, 2008; D’Orazi Porchetti et al., 2011; Ibrahim et al., 2014; Chiarenza & Cau, 2016; Hendrickx, Mateus & Buffetaut, 2016). Most have been referred to abelisauroids and basal tetanurans (i.e., allosauroids and spinosaurids) of medium to large body size. In May 1999, the Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano, in collaboration with the Geological Service of Morocco and with the logistical support of G. Pasini (Appiano Gentile, Italy), carried out a palaeontological expedition in the southern part of the Errachidia Province, Morocco, focusing on invertebrate fauna (Alessandrello & Bracchi, 2003). Some prospecting was also carried out in the Tafilalt region, near Erfoud. Among fossil finds, there was an almost complete, very small pedal ungual, surface collected by Pasini to the South of Erfoud, between the villages of Taouz and Begaa (Fig. 1). This specimen remained unnoticed in the Vertebrate Paleontological Collection of the Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano, until the recent discovery of a new partial skeleton of *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus* published by Ibrahim et al. (2014), which preserves an almost complete right pes with peculiar pedal ungual morphology. The striking similarities with the pedal unguals of *Spinosaurus* allowed us to refer the isolated specimen to this genus, of which it represents the smallest individual reported up to today.
This fact is even more remarkable, considering the dramatic size attained by some large specimens of *Spinosaurus*, which are possibly the longest, and among the largest theropod dinosaurs ever found (*Dal Sasso et al., 2005; Ibrahim et al., 2014*).

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The specimen described herein was legally collected and transported to Italy together with the material published by *Alessandrello & Bracchi (2003)*, in agreement with the Geological Service of Morocco, and permanently deposited in the Vertebrate Palaeontological Collection of the Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano (MSNM V), where it is catalogued as MSNM V6894. In conformity with *Weishampel, Dodson & Osmolska (2004)*, we adopt the following anatomical terms of the *Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria* (NAV 1994) and the *Nomina Anatomica Avium* (NAA 1993): plantar (opposite to the back), dorsal (toward the back), proximal (toward the mass of the body), and distal (away from the mass of the body). Specimen images were taken with a Canon PowerShot S50, mounted on an ocular tube attached to a Leica MS5 stereomicroscope with Plan Apo 1.0× objective and carrier AX, then stacked with software Combine ZP.

**Systematic Palaeontology**

DINOSAURIA Owen, 1842  
THEROPODA Marsh, 1881  
SPINOSAURIDAE Stromer, 1915  
SPINOSAURUS Stromer, 1915  
cf. *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus* Stromer, 1915
MSNM V6894 strongly resembles the pedal ungual phalanges associated to diagnosable skeletal remains of specimen FSAC-KK18888, described by Ibrahim et al. (2014) and defined as the neotype of S. aegyptiacus. MSNM V6894 shares with FSAC-KK18888 the following diagnostic characters: pedal unguals with flat plantar surface; pedal unguals broader than deep with length almost four times of the proximal depth. The overall morphology, proportions, and pattern of furrows are also very similar (see “Description and comparisons”). Following Ibrahim et al. (2014) we refer the ungual MSNM V6894 to cf. S. aegyptiacus. The variability found in cervicodorsal vertebræ (Evers et al., 2015) and quadrates (Hendrickx, Mateus & Buffetaut, 2016) might indicate a higher diversity among the spinosaurid material from the Albian–Cenomanian of North Africa than previously recognized. This proportional and morphological diversity may be related to individual variability or sexual dimorphism, or it could be above the species level. However, taking into account the low number of the known specimens, their low degree of completeness, their apparently strict taxonomic affinities, their occurrence in the same strata (or, more often, their uncertain stratigraphic provenance), and all the difficulties and controversies in investigating these aspects and, ultimately, in defining a species in palaeontology, we prefer to regard all the spinosaurid material (including pedal unguals) from the Kem Kem Beds as belonging to cf. S. aegyptiacus, pending more complete, articulated remains and reliable geological data. Further comments on this topic are beyond the purpose of this paper.

Locality: MSNM V6894 comes from some kilometers south of Erfoud, between the villages of Taouz and Begaa, Errachidia Province, Morocco (Fig. 1).

Horizon: Kem Kem Beds, Cenomanian, Upper Cretaceous (Sereno et al., 1996). The specimen was collected by G. Pasini (2008, personal communication) together with rostral teeth of the Aptian–Cenomanian elasmobranch Onchopristis sp. (Rage & Cappetta, 2002; Russell, 1996).

Description and comparisons
The specimen MSNM V6894 is almost complete, except for the distalmost 2 mm of the tip and most of the proximal articular surface (Fig. 2). Sediment remains are inset in the bone pits and cemented in a few small patches on the bone surface, documenting the provenance of the specimen from a fine grained sandstone layer. The general morphology (i.e., shape, proportions, pattern of furrows) of MSNM V6894 strongly recalls that of the pedal ungual phalanges of the partial skeleton FSAC-KK18888, that are articulated to the rest of the pes (Fig. 3A; Ibrahim et al., 2014: fig. S1), and that of three isolated unguals, the specimen MPCM 13574 (Novas, Dalla Vecchia & Pais, 2005: fig. 2), the lost specimen Nr. 1922 X45 “Spinosaurus B” (Stromer, 1934: taf. I, figs. 17a–b; Ibrahim et al., 2014: fig. S2D), and the unlabelled ungual reported by De Lapparent (1960: pl. VI, figs. 10–12) and erroneously referred to Carcharodontosaurus. All these unguals are nearly flat ventrally and greatly differ from the deeper recurved unguals of many other Mesozoic theropods (Novas, Dalla Vecchia & Pais, 2005; Maganuco et al., 2007; Maganuco, Cau & Pasini, 2008). Among the pedal unguals of the specimen FSAC-KK18888, the
Figure 2 Pedal ungual phalanx of *Spinosaurus*. Specimen MSNM V6894 in right lateral (A), left lateral (B), dorsal (C), plantar (D), proximal (E), and distal (F) views. Abbreviations: as, articular surface; co, cortex; et, extensor tubercle; sb, spongy bone; vf, vascular furrow. Scale bar equals 5 mm. Photos by M. Zilioli, used with his permission. DOI: 10.7717/peerj.4785/fig-2

Figure 3 Anatomical and size comparisons. Specimen MSNM V6894 in dorsal view, compared to a cast of the right ungual III-4 of specimen FSAC-KK18888 (A). Size-comparison of selected *Spinosaurus* individuals from the Kem Kem Beds: MSNM V6894 (B, this paper), the neotype FSAC-KK18888 (C) and the largest known individual MSNM V4047 (D), compared with *Homo* (1.75 m tall). Drawing by Marco Auditore and Prehistoric Minds, used with their permission. Scale bar equals 20 mm in A. Photos by M. Zilioli and C. Dal Sasso, used with their permission. DOI: 10.7717/peerj.4785/fig-3
ungual of digit III is the most similar to MSNM V6894, due to its proportions and symmetry. Based on these apparent features, we then refer MSNM V6894 to a pedal digit III.

The shape of this bone is slightly and continuously convex along its dorsal margin, whereas its plantar surface is almost flat, especially on the preserved distal half of the bone, thus resulting low and elongate in lateral aspect, and with sharply defined margins separating the plantar surface from the medial and lateral sides. Both the lateral and medial surfaces are slightly convex and bear a single, unforked vascular furrow extending for most of the ungual length; these collateral furrows match the faint ungual curvature in lateral aspect, and are located close to the plantar margin of the bone, flowing into the plantar surface proximally. Two shallow semicircular depressions exist on the proximal end of the plantar surface, as in MPCM 13574 (Novas, Dalla Vecchia & Pais, 2005: fig. 2C) and FSAC-KK18888. The depressions are separated by a low median bump wider than the ridge that can be seen in MPCM 13574 and in some pedal unguals of FSAC-KK18888. A distinct flexor tubercle is absent on the plantar surface. In proximal view, the bone is as tall as broad. The proximal articular surface is not well-preserved but it is faintly divided in two sub-equal articular surfaces, it being slightly convex along the midline and slightly concave on the preserved right side. The base of the proximodorsal lip (extensor tubercle) is robust but the rest of the lip is eroded. Its preserved portion projects proximodorsally forming an angle of about 45° respect to the plantar surface of the bone. Numerous foramina are present. The collateral furrows exhibit either the smoother surface or the largest foramina, which are more numerous in the right lateral furrow.

**Ontogenetic assessment**

The ungual MSNM V6894 shows several features that indicate skeletal immaturity. The bone surface is densely pitted, not only towards the distal tip (Fig. 2C), but also all along its lateral and plantar sides/walls, whereas in the unguals of the subadult FSAC-KK18888, nutrition pits are retained only within the collateral furrows. A porous texture, with even more dense furrows and pits producing a “scared” effect, is found in archosaur hatchlings (Sanz et al., 1997; Horner, de Ricqlès & Padian, 2000; de Ricqlès et al., 2000), and disappears gradually during growth, as it can be seen in immature extant crocodilians (C. Dal Sasso & S. Maganuco, 2010, personal observation), and birds (L. M. Chiappe, 2006, personal communication). The scarred effect is marked on the limb bones of the perinate and juvenile theropods, such as Scipionyx (Dal Sasso & Maganuco, 2011), Sinornithoides (Currie & Dong, 2001), Juravenator (Göhlich & Chiappe, 2006), the young adult Sinosauropteryx (Currie & Chen, 2001), and extant birds (Tumarkin-Deratzian, Vann & Dodson, 2006; Watanabe & Matsuoka, 2013).

In specimen MSNM V6894, the interior of the bone is also highly porous, as is well exposed in proximal view (Fig. 2E). Under the cortex, which is limited to a 600–800 μm thick layer, there are thin pillars of bone, with a honeycomb arrangement delimiting large trabecular spaces. This indicates that the spongy bone was highly spongy and vascularized. In sum, taking into account the degree of “scarring” and porosity of the
bone, we estimate that the ungual MSNM V6894 pertained to a very young, but not perinate spinosaurid.

The measurements of MSNM V6894, compared to those of the ungual phalanges of FSAC-KK18888 (Table 1), in primis III-4 R, indicate fundamental growth isometry for these bone elements. Minor morphological difference exists. For instance, the proximal articular surface is slightly taller dorsopalmarly than wide mediolaterally, approaching the compression index of the ungual that in adults occupy different (internal) positions in the pes (e.g., I-2 and II-3 R in FSAC-KK18888); and the bone margins (or bony carinae) underlying the collateral furrows do not possess the arrow-like, backward pointed apices seen in some adult specimens (Stromer, 1934: taf. I, figs.17a–b).

Recently, Curry Rogers et al. (2016) found that the titanosaurian sauropod Rapetosaurus, in spite of massive changes in body size, maintained isometric relationships in the limb bones throughout ontogeny, which indicates an active precocial growth strategy. Similarly, Mateus, Antunes & Taquet (2001) documented that the proportions of presacral vertebral centra, between embryos and adults of the theropod Lourinhanosaurus, are identical and even superposing in published graphs. On the other hand, non-phalangeal elements of theropod hind limbs are reported to show significant allometry (Holtz, 1995; Christiansen, 1998; Currie, 2003), affecting limb proportion and cursorial potential.

CONCLUSION

The specimen described here improves the knowledge about the appendicular skeleton of the spinosaurid theropods from the Kem Kem Beds (Late Cretaceous of Morocco) published by Ibrahim et al. (2014).

The new material indicates that the pedal ungual phalanges of Spinosaurus grew with isometry and it documents the smallest individual referable to Spinosaurus, a genus/taxon usually indicated as the longest if not the largest theropod dinosaur (Dal Sasso et al., 2005). The specimen FSAC-KK18888, with an estimated body length of 11 m, has an ungual phalanx of digit III that is 130 mm long. Assuming isometry—although isometrical scaling of the other parts of the spinosaur hind limb skeleton shown in Fig. 3

Table 1 Basic measurements.

| Selected measurements expressed in mm | MSNM V 6894 | FSAC-KK18888 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| I-2 R                                | 21* (18.7) | 94           |
| II-3 R                               | 87         | 93           |
| III-4 R                              | 118        | 108          |
| IV-5 R                               | 87         | 93           |
| ?IV-5 L                              | 93         | 93           |
| Maximum length                       |            |              |
| Proximal dorsopalmar diameter        | 7.5        | 37           |
| Proximal mediolateral diameter       | 7.1        | 32           |
| Midlength dorsopalmar diameter       | 5.6        | 25           |
| Midlength mediolateral diameter      | 7.0        | 30           |
| Elongation index (maximum length/proximal mediolateral diameter) | 2.95 | 2.93 |
| Compression index (proximal dorsopalmar diameter/proximal mediolateral diameter) | 0.94 | 1.15 |

Notes: Basic measurements of specimen MSNM V6894 and of the pedal unguals of specimen FSAC-KK1888. Asterisks indicate estimated measurements; brackets indicate incomplete measurements.
must be considered as tentative—the 21 mm long ungual MSNM V6894 would pertain to an early juvenile individual, 1.78 m long (Figs. 3B–3D), that is half the estimated length of the smallest *Spinosaurus* published up to date, represented by the isolated quadrate MNHN KK374 (*Hendrickx, Mateus & Buffetaut, 2016*).

According to *Ibrahim et al. (2014)*, the unguals in *Spinosaurus* are reminiscent of the flattened pedal unguals of shorebirds that do not perch (*Manegold, 2006*), and the whole foot may have been adapted to traversing soft substrates or webbed for paddling. We agree with this hypothesis although it needs to be tested in the future based on more complete fossil remains and biomechanical analyses. The isolated tiny ungual here referred to a small, early juvenile of *Spinosaurus* indicates that the pes had the same locomotor adaptations observed in large individuals, that were probably achieved early in ontogeny and retained for the entire lifespan.

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

| Abbreviation | Full Form |
|--------------|-----------|
| FSAC         | Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Casablanca, Morocco |
| MHNM         | Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle of Marrakech, Morocco |
| MPCM         | Museo Paleontologico Cittadino di Monfalcone, Gorizia, Italy |
| MSNM         | Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano, Italy |

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are grateful to the Geological Service of Morocco, Anna Alessandrello (MSNM), and Giovanni Pasini (Appiano Gentile, Italy) for making the specimen available for scientific description. The manuscript greatly benefited from reviews and comments by Federico Agnolin, Stephen Brusatte, Thomas Holtz, and Peter Wilf. We are indebted to Michele Zilioli (MSNM) for his help in taking photographs of the specimen.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS**

**Funding**
The authors received no funding for this work.

**Competing Interests**
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Author Contributions**

- Simone Maganuco conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.
- Cristiano Dal Sasso conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.
Data Availability

The following information was supplied regarding data availability:

The fossil specimen MSNM V6894 described in this manuscript is permanently deposited in the appropriate repository (i.e., the Vertebrate Palaeontological Collection of the Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano, MSNM V) and is accessible to other researchers. The MSNM is a public permanent inalienable institution, and is part of the “POLO DEI MUSEI SCIENTIFICI” of the Comune di Milano, together with the Planetarium and the Aquarium (see the MSNM webpage: https://www.comune.milano.it/dseserver/webcity/Documenti.nsf/webHomePage?OpenForm&settore=MCOI-6C5J9V_HP). The POLO is among the institutions officially certified by the government of Regione Lombardia to possess all requirements in order to be named a “museum.” In addition, the MSNM is also a member of ICOM, therefore it follows all ICOM guidelines.

REFERENCES

Alessandrello A, Bracchi G. 2003. Eldonia berbera n. sp., a new species of the enigmatic genus Eldonia Walcott, 1911 from the Rawtheyan (Upper Ordovician) of Anti-Atlas (Erfoud, Tafilalt, Morocco). Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali e del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano 144(II):337–358.

Brusatte SL, Sereno PC. 2007. A new species of Carcharodontosaurus (Dinosauria: Theropoda) from the Cenomanian of Niger and a revision of the genus. Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology 27(4):902–916 DOI 10.1671/0272-4634(2007)27[902:ANSOC]2.0.CO;2.

Chiarenza AA, Cau C. 2016. A large abelisaurid (Dinosauria, Theropoda) from Morocco and comments on the Cenomanian theropods from North Africa. PeerJ 4:e1754 DOI 10.7717/peerj.1754.

Christiansen P. 1998. Strength indicator values of theropod long bones, with comments on limb proportions and cursorial potential. Gaia 15:241–255.

Currie PJ. 2003. Allometric growth in tyrannosaurs (Dinosauria: Theropoda) form the Upper Cretaceous of North America and Asia. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences 40:651–665.

Currie PJ, Chen PJ. 2001. Anatomy of Sinosauropteryx prima from Liaoning, northeastern China. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences 38:1705–1727.

Currie PJ, Dong Z. 2001. New information on Cretaceous troodontids (Dinosauria, Theropoda) from the People’s Republic of China. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences 38:1753–1766.

Curry Rogers K, Whitney M, D’emic M, Bagley B. 2016. Precocity in a tiny titanosaur from the Cretaceous of Madagascar. Science 352(6284):450–453 DOI 10.1126/science.aaf1509.

Dal Sasso C, Maganuco S. 2011. Scipionyx samniticus (Theropoda: Compsognathidae) from the Lower Cretaceous of Italy. Osteology, ontogenetic assessment, phylogeny, soft tissue anatomy, taphonomy and palaeobiology. Memorie della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali e del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano xxxii(1):1–281.

Dal Sasso C, Maganuco S, Buffetaut E, Mendez MA. 2005. New information on the skull of the enigmatic theropod Spinosaurus, with remarks on its size and affinities. Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology 25(4):888–896 DOI 10.1671/0272-4634(2005)025[0888:niosp]2.0.co;2.

De Lapparent AF. 1960. Les dinosauriens du “continental intercalaire” du Sahara central. Mémoires de la Société géologique de France 88A:1–57.

De Ricqlès AJ, Padian K, Horner JR, Franchillon-Vielott H. 2000. Paleohistology of the bones of pterosaurs (Reptilia: Archosauria): anatomy, ontogeny, and biomechanical
implications. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* **129**(3):349–385 DOI 10.1111/j.1096-3642.2000.tb00016.x.

D’Orazi Porchetti S, Nicosia U, Biava A, Maganuco S. 2011. New abelisaurid material from the Upper Cretaceous (Cenomanian) of Morocco. *Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia* **117**(3):463–472 DOI 10.13130/2039-4942/5986.

Evers SW, Rauhut OWM, Milner AC, Mcfeeters B, Allain R. 2015. A reappraisal of the morphology and systematic position of the theropod dinosaur Sigilmassasaurus from the “middle” Cretaceous of Morocco. *PeerJ* **3**:e1323 DOI 10.7717/peerj.1323.

Göhlich UB, Chiappe LM. 2006. A new carnivorous dinosaur from the Late Jurassic Solnhofen archipelago. *Nature* **440**(7082):329–332 DOI 10.1038/nature04579.

Hendrickx C, Mateus O, Buffetaut E. 2016. Morphofunctional analysis of the quadrate of Spinosauridae (Dinosauria: Theropoda) and the presence of Spinosaurus and a second spinosaurine taxon in the Cenomanian of North Africa. *PLOS ONE* **11**(1):e0144695 DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0144695.

Holtz TR Jr. 1995. The arctometatarsalian pes, an unusual structure of the metatarsus of Cretaceous Theropoda (Dinosauria: Saurischia). *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* **14**(4):480–519 DOI 10.1080/02724634.1995.10011574.

Horner JR, de Ricqles A, Padian K. 2000. Long bone histology of the hadrosaurid dinosaur Maiasaura peeblesorum: growth dynamics and physiology based on an ontogenetic series of skeletal elements. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* **20**(1):115–129 DOI 10.1671/0272-4634(2000)020[0115:lbhotm]2.0.co;2.

Ibrahim N, Dal Sasso C, Maganuco S, Fabbri M, Martill DM, Gorscak E, Lamanna MC. 2016. Evidence of a derived titanosaurian (Dinosauria, Sauropoda) in the “Kem Kem Beds” of Morocco, with comments on sauropod paleoecology in the Cretaceous of Africa. In: Khosla A, Lucas SG, eds. *Cretaceous Period: Biotic Diversity and Biogeography. New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science Bulletin*. Vol. 71. Albuquerque: New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science, 149–159.

Ibrahim N, Sereno PC, Dal Sasso C, Maganuco S, Fabbri M, Martill DM, Zouhri S, Myhrvold N, Jurino DA. 2014. Semiaquatic adaptations in a giant predatory dinosaur. *Science* **345**(6204):1613–1616 DOI 10.1126/science.1258750.

Maganuco S, Cau A, Pasini G. 2008. New information on the abelisaurid pedal elements from the Late Cretaceous of NW Madagascar (Mahajanga Basin). *Atti della Societa Italiana di Scienze Naturali e del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Milano* **149**(II):239–252.

Maganuco S, Cau A, Pasini G, Dal Sasso C. 2007. Evidence of large theropods from the Middle Jurassic of the Mahajanga Basin, NW Madagascar, with implications for ceratosaurian pedal ungual evolution. *Atti della Societa Italiana di Scienze Naturali e del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Milano* **148**(II):261–271.

Mahler L. 2005. Record of Abelisauridae (Dinosauria: Theropoda) from Cenomanian of Morocco. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* **25**(1):236–239 DOI 10.1671/0272-4634(2005)025[0236:ROADTF]2.0.CO;2.

Manegold A. 2006. Two additional synapomorphies of grebes Podicipedidae and flamingos Phoenicopteridae. *Acta Ornithol* **41**:79–82 DOI 10.3161/068.041.0113.

Mateus O, Antunes MT, Taquet P. 2001. Dinosaur ontogeny: the case of Lourinhanosaurus (Late Jurassic, Portugal). *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* **21**(3, Supplement):78A.

Novas FE, Dalla Vecchia F, Pais DF. 2005. Theropod pedal unguals from the Late Cretaceous (Cenomanian) of Morocco, Africa. *Revista Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, n.s* **7**(2):167–175.
Rage JC, Cappetta H. 2002. Vertebrates from the Cenomanian, and the geological age of the Draa Ubari fauna (Libya). *Annales de Paléontologie* **88**:79–84.

Riff D, Mader B, Kellner AWA, Russell DA. 2004. An avian vertebra from the continental Cretaceous of Morocco, Africa. *Arquivos do Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro* **62**:217–223.

Russell DA. 1996. Isolated dinosaur bones from the middle Cretaceous of the Tafilalt, Morocco. *Bulletin du Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Série 4* **18**:349–402.

Sanz JL, Chiappe LM, Perez-Moreno BP, Moratalla JJ, Hernández Carrasquilla F, Buscalioni AD, Ortega F, Poyato-Ariza F, Rasskin-Gutman D, Martínéz-Delclòs X. 1997. A nesting bird from the Lower Cretaceous of Spain: implications for avian skull and neck evolution. *Science* **276**:1543–1546.

Sereno PC, Beck AL, Dutheil DB, Gado B, Larsson HCE, Lyon GH, Marcot JD, Rauhut OWM, Sadleir RW, Sidor CA, Varricchio DD, Wilson GP, Wilson JA. 1998. A long-snouted predatory dinosaur from Africa and the evolution of spinosaurids. *Science* **282**:1298–1302 DOI 10.1126/science.282.5392.1298.

Sereno PC, Brusatte SL. 2008. Basal abelisaurid and carcharodontosaurid theropods from the Lower Cretaceous Elrhaz Formation of Niger. *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* **53**(1):15–46 DOI 10.4202/app.2008.0102.

Sereno PC, Dutheil DB, Laroche M, Larsson H, Lyon GH, Magwene PM, Sidor CA, Varricchio DJ, Wilson JA. 1996. Predatory dinosaurs from the Sahara and Late Cretaceous faunal differentiation. *Science* **272**(5264):986–991 DOI 10.1126/science.272.5264.986.

Sereno PC, Wilson JA, Conrad JL. 2004. New dinosaurs link southern landmasses in the mid-Cretaceous. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* **271**(1546):1325–1330 DOI 10.1098/rspb.2004.2692.

Sereno PC, Wilson JA, Larsson HCE, Dutheil DB, Sues H-D. 1994. Early Cretaceous dinosaurs from the Sahara. *Science* **266**(5183):261–271 DOI 10.1126/science.266.5183.267.

Stromer E. 1934. Ergebnisse der Forschungsreisen Wirbeltier-Reste der Bahariestufe (unterstes Cenoman), 13. Dinosauria. *Abhandlungen der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche Abteilung. München, Neue Folge* **22**:1–79.

Tumarkin-Deratzian AR, Vann DR, Dodson P. 2006. Bone surface texture as an ontogenetic indicator in long bones of the Canada goose *Branta canadensis* (Anseriformes: Anatidae). *Zoological Journal of the Linnaean Society* **148**:133–168.

Watanabe J, Matsuoka H. 2013. Ontogenetic change of morphology and surface texture of long bones in the Gray Heron (Ardea cinerea, Ardeidae). In: Göhlch UB, Kroh A, eds. *Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution*. Wien: Verlag Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, 279–306.

Weishampel DB, Dodson P, Osmólska H. 2004. Introduction. In: Weishampel D, Dodson B, Osmólska PH, eds. *The Dinosauria*. Second Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1–3.