

THE SITE OF LA CANTALERA (TERUEL): AN EXCEPTIONAL WINDOW ON THE VERTEBRATE BIODIVERSITY OF THE HAUTERIVIAN-BARREMIAN BOUNDARY IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

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The site of La Cantalera is located near the village of Josa (Iberian Range, Teruel, Spain). Geologically, the La Cantalera site is an outcrop of Early Cretaceous clays (“Wealden facies”), specifically clays from the Blesa Formation. The fossiliferous beds comprise grey clays with abundant vegetal remains, charophytes, ostracods and gastropods. *Atopochara trivolvis triquetra* dates the locality as late Hauterivian-early Barremian in age (subzone triquetra). The site was formed in a palustrine environment with periodic droughts. It is likely to have been a rich and diverse terrestrial ecosystem. The highly diverse vertebrate fossils are composed mainly of isolated teeth, disarticulated, complete or fragmented bones, eggshell fragments, and coprolites. To date, 29 different taxa have been identified.

The dinosaurs display exceptional biodiversity. The theropods are represented by at least 10 tetanurans. There are medium-sized basal forms included in Spinosauridae and Allosauroidea and a great abundance of small or medium-sized maniraptorans attributed to aff. *Paronychodon* sp., Maniraptora indet. 1, 2 and 3, Dromaeosaurinae indet. 1, 2 and 3, and Velociraptorinae indet. The sauropods are represented by isolated teeth attributed to Euhelopodidae indet. Shed teeth from ornithopods of various sizes are the most abundant dinosaur fossil remains, attributed in large measure to “Hypsilophodontidae” indet., and to Iguanodontoidea indet. Less frequent are the dental crowns similar to Hadrosauridae and small-

sized Rhabdodontidae. The thyreophorans are represented by dermal plates and isolated teeth attributed to Polacanthidae indet.

The most abundant crocodylomorph teeth are those of Atoposauridae indet., Bernissartiidae indet., aff. *Chiquitosuchus* sp. and Goniopholididae indet. Chelonians are represented by small-sized peripheral plates included in Pleurosternidae? There are isolated teeth of at least two different pterosaurs. Mammals are represented by isolated multituberculate teeth. The fossils have been assigned to at least three taxa: a pinheirodontid taxon, *Cantalera abadi*; a representative of the eobaatarids *Eobaatar*; a taxon described as Plagiaulacidae or Eobaataridae gen. et sp. indet.; and another described as Plagiaulacida indet. Lissamphibians are represented by humeri and dentaries of Albanerpetonidae, as well as a humerus and fragments of tibiofibula of a discoglossid frog (Alytidae). Lacertids are represented by dentaries, indeterminate tooth-bearing fragments, and one fragment of vertebra of Paramacellodidae.

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