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NEW LOCALITIES WITH STEGOSAUR REMAINS FROM THE JURASSIC/CRETACEOUS TRANSITION OF VALENCIA (EASTERN SPAIN)

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Recent fieldwork carried out in the Tithonian-Berriasian Villar del Arzobispo Formation outcroppings in the southwestern Iberian Range (Valencia province, Spain), has provided two new vertebrate localities that have yielded remains of stegosaurian dinosaurs. The localities are placed near to the villages of Baldovar (Alpuente) and La Yesa. The Villar del Arzobispo Formation consists predominantly of variegated massive mudstones and siltstones interbedded with lenticular sandstone bodies, representing a fluvial depositional environment. Two stegosaur partial skeletons were recovered from gray-white thick sandstone bodies with cross bedding, interpreted as migrating point bar deposits in a meandering river channel. The first specimen (La Yesa) consists of dorsal vertebrae, ribs and fragmentary limb bones; the second specimen (Baldovar) has been only partially excavated, and a complete femur, a partial scapula and three dermal tail spines articulated with distal caudal centra have been recovered to date. In both localities, the presence of associated elements of relatively unweathered bones with little abrasion suggests low energy burial and/or presence of soft tissues. The new stegosaurian specimens from Valencia are tentatively referred to the Dacentrurinae clade on the basis of features observed on the dorsal vertebrae and caudal dermal spines. Dacentrurines are represented so far in the Late Jurassic of the Iberian Peninsula by *Dacentrurus* (Leiria and Lisboa districts in Portugal, Teruel and Valencia provinces in Spain) and *Miragaia* (Lisboa district of Portugal), as well as by an indeterminate form from Asturias (Spain).

Keywords: Tithonian-Berriasian, Dacentrurinae, Iberian Peninsula