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Ros-Franch, S., Paredes-Aliaga, M. V., Martínez-Pérez, C.
(Eds.)



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THAT IS NOT JUST A THEROPOD – REDESCRIPTION OF ARCHOSAUR REMAINS FROM THE NORIAN OF EAST GREENLAND

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Here we describe archosaur remains from the Late Triassic (Norian) from Jameson Land, East Greenland. Five sandstone blocks were recovered from Sydkronen site (Bjergkronerne Member, Ørsted Dal Formation) on the Harvard expedition of 1992. This material was preliminary assigned as indeterminate theropod material, however it has remained unstudied until now. Fossil remains from the five blocks are disarticulated bones, still encased in rock matrix and in a poor state of preservation due to erosion. Only in three of them was possible the identification of the bones, and there was the possibility that more than one taxon was present. Among the material, there was possible to identify a right femur, an ungual phalanx, seven vertebrae, a paramedian osteoderm and several ribs. Due to the preservation, the femur does not preserve enough characteristics to differentiate within Archosauria, showing common characteristics with different groups. The ungual is short and stout, and it has clear theropod affinities. The best-preserved vertebra was identified as a dorsal vertebra, and in contrast to the phalanx, it presents pseudosuchian features. The paramedian osteoderm found is not well preserved, but its shape resembles the ones from aetosaurs. Considering previous reports from the same formation, our results corroborate that phytosaurs, temnospondyls, and sauropodomorph material usually appears as disarticulated bones but close to each other. The detailed study of the anatomy of the recovered bones suggest that Sydkronen site is a multi-individual assemblage, with at least one Dinosauria (Theropoda?) and one Pseudosuchia (Aetosauria?) specimens, in contrast to the preliminary observations by Jenkins in 1992 who reported the here studied specimen as belonging to a theropod individual.

Keywords: Theropoda, Pseudosuchia, Late Triassic, Greenland.

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