

A NEW ICHNOFAUNA IN THE LOS RASTROS FORMATION, MIDDLE TRIASSIC, IN THE ISCHICHUCA CHICA CANYON (LA RIOJA PROVINCE, ARGENTINA)\*

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In a recent expedition made to the Triassic outcrops located in the environs of Cerro Bola (Ischichuca Chica and Grande Canyons), an association of tracks and trackways were found.

This ichnofauna is located in two stratigraphically separate sites, near the base of the Los Rastros Formation, and includes tridactyl and tetradactyl tracks.

In the first site, a cap of carbonaceous limestone, three trackways were encountered, one of a tetradactyl quadrupedal animal and two of a tridactyl bipedal one. In the same site was found a tridactyl track of great size and good preservation.

In the second site were found a series of fifteen tridactyl impressions, whose maximum width varied from 25 to 50 cm. In this case the preservation of the tracks is not so clear the difficult reason why its association in form of trackways. The substrate is argillaceous and presents an irregular surface with bioturbations and diaclasts.

This ichnofauna represents the first documentation of the existence of bipedal, tridactyl animals of great size in the Middle Triassic of Argentina.

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