

ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE TITANOSAURIDS (DINOSAURIA - SAUROPODA) RECORDED IN THE WORLD[†]

J. O. Calvo¹, R. A. Coria², and L. Salgado¹

¹Museo Geología y Paleontología de la Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Buenos Aires 1400, 8300 Neuquén, Argentina

²Dirección General de Cultura, Museo "Carmen Funes", 8318 Plaza Huinca, Neuquén Argentina

translated by:
Jeffrey A. Wilson
University of Chicago
Department of Organismal Biology & Anatomy
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The specimen comes from the Río Colorado Formation, in the Rincon de los Sauces locality of Neuquén Province. It is composed of a nearly complete skull and postcranium lacking the left forelimb and both hindlimbs. The following characters suggest that this specimen represents a titanosaur: small, cylindrical teeth with beveled wear, procoelous caudal vertebral bodies, absence of manual phalanges, and a laterally projecting preacetabular process of the ilium. The specimen brings new information on the cranial anatomy, such as the first preservation of the rostral portion and jaws of a titanosaurid, and, moreover, information on the vertebral column of this family. We anticipate the total number of caudal vertebrae was 65. The cervical ribs are characterized by being elongate and fine, with a length of almost three vertebrae. It is recognized that this is the most complete titanosaurid, and that once preparation and study are finished we will have a clear panorama of the phylogenetic relations of this titanosaurid. The expedition was financed by the Dinosaur Society of America.

[†] Original reference: Calvo et al. 1997. Uno de los más completos Titanosauridae (Dinosauria - Sauropoda) registrados en el mundo. *Ameghiniana* 34:534.