

**A PROBABLE NEW NEOCERATOSAURIA NOVAS, 1989 (THEROPODA)
FROM THE HUINCUL MEMBER, RIO LIMAY FORMATION (PRE-
SENONIAN CRETACEOUS) OF NEUQUÉN***

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We communicate theropod materials (identified as PVPH-36) from the Aguada Grande locality, 15 km south of Plaza Huincul, consisting of an articulated series of 2 dorsal vertebrae and 3 sacrals with the neural arches lacking fusion to the centra, corresponding to a juvenile specimen with the dorsal vertebrae characterized by: 1) transverse processes wide in dorsal view and slightly inclined backward; 2) well-developed infradiapophyseal lamina, with parapophyses moved away from the midline; 3) well-developed paradiapophyseal lamina; 4) presence of deep pre- and postspinal basin; 5) relatively low neural arch; 6) neural spines very laterally compressed, axially wide and posteriorly projected; and 7) absence of lateral pleurocoels in the centra. Characters 5 and 7 are present in a theropod specimen (PVPH-35, Coria et al., 1991) from the same horizon and discovered 10 meters from that communicated here. Character 1 is synapomorphic of Ceratosauria. Character 4 is a synapomorphy of PVPH-35 + (*Noasaurus* + Abelisauridae). Character 6 is preliminarily considered autapomorphic for the specimen communicated here, until as much of the morphology of the neural spines of PVPH-35 is known.

The fragmentary nature of the material and the juvenile condition of the specimen limit a detailed analysis of its affinities among the Neoceratosauria.

The probability exists that both specimens (PVPH-35 and PVPH-36) represent distinct ontogenetic stages of the same species. This being so, it is the first notice of the association of adult and juvenile specimens of a theropod species for the South American Cretaceous.

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