

GEOLOGY.— Discovery of remains of a large sauropod dinosaur in the Cretaceous of southern Morocco. Note by **M. RENÉ LAVOCAT**, presented by M. Paul Fallot.

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April 2001

I have announced (<sup>1</sup>) the existence in southern Morocco; in the base of the Hammada du Guir and the Kem-Kems (<sup>2</sup>) of formations of vertebrates remarkable for their wealth and their extent that reaches 250<sup>km</sup> in length. In 1950, in the continuation of a mission for the service of the Geological Map of Morocco, I made an important excavation in these formations, at the foot of Gara Sba, close to the Wadi Bou Haiara. The cliff, 150 to 200<sup>m</sup> high, is capped by the fossiliferous Cenomanian marine limestone, that has 40<sup>m</sup> of thickness. The whole bottom part of the side is constituted mainly by the Cretaceous continental sands. The Primary shows on the surface for some kilometers of it, in the plain. The excavation, made in the lower third of the hill, allowed me to bring to light: a sacrum, eight pre or post sacral vertebrae, a scapula, seven ribs, pieces certainly all pertaining to the same individual, and of which several are remarkably preserved. The first observations permit to affirm that it is a sauropod dinosaur of a size approaching that of the *Diplodocus*, probably belonging to a new genus. The sacrum shows four fused spinous apophyses. The scapula is distinguished from that of the *Diplodocus* or the *Brontosaurus* by its oval, very widened shape. The spinous apophyses are remarkably developed.

One can have the hope that the resumption of the excavations will permit the discovery of very important complements to this skeleton, maybe some of the skull. The elements already found represent that what we currently possess is more complete and of better preservation than the dinosaurs of the Cretaceous of French North Africa. One knows that the same formation, at Baharia (Egypt), provided some important enough elements of dinosaurs, studied by Stromer, but whose skulls are yet known only very incompletely.

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Footnotes see original citation: Lavocat, R. 1951. Découverte de restes d'un grand Dinosaurien sauropode dans le Crétacé du Sud marocain. *Comptes Rendus de l'Academie des Sciences* 232: 169-170.