

An enigmatic new archosauriform from the Carnian– Norian, Upper Triassic, Ischigualasto Formation of northwestern Argentina

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Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 66 (3), 2021: 509-533 doi:<https://doi.org/10.4202/app.00806.2020>


In this contribution we introduce a new Late Triassic archosaur, *Incertovenator longicollum* gen. et sp. nov., with an unusual combination of character states that are present in certain early avemetatarsalian and pseudosuchian archosaur clades. The holotype consists of a partial postcranial skeleton, preserving most of the axial skeleton and displaying a marked anteroposterior elongation in the cervical vertebrae. We include *I. longicollum* gen. et sp. nov. into one of the most comprehensive early archosaur phylogenetic data sets available, and recover it as either an early diverging avemetatarsalian, closely associated with the clade Aphanosauria and Ornithodira, or as an early diverging loricatan closely related to *Mandasuchus tanyauchen* in the most parsimonious trees. We further evaluate which alternative phylogenetic positions can *I. longicollum* gen. et sp. nov. take in the suboptimal trees, and determined which character states support those alternative positions in comparison with those of the unconstrained analysis. The analyses recover the new taxon in three main general phylogenetic placements within Archosauria, as well as one position outside this clade, highlighting widespread morphological evolutionary convergence towards neck elongation in several clades of Triassic archosauriforms.

Key words: Archosauria, Archosauriformes, Ischigualasto, osteology, phylogeny, taxonomy, Triassic, Argentina.

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