

Revision of a pretribosphenic mammal *Arguimus* from the Early Cretaceous of Mongolia

Alexey Lopatin and Alexander Averianov

Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 51 (2), 2006: 339-349

Arguimus khosbajari is redescribed, based on five additional specimens from the topotypic Early Cretaceous (Aptian-Albian) Höövör locality in Mongolia. The teeth preserved in the holotype of *A. khosbajari* are interpreted as p4-5, m1-3. The original identification of the teeth preserved in the holotype and single specimen of *Arguitherium cromptoni* from Höövör as p4-5, m1 is confirmed and this specimen is considered conspecific with *A. khosbajari*. Thus *Arguitherium cromptoni* Dashzeveg, 1994 and Arguitheriidae Dashzeveg, 1994 are junior subjective synonyms of *Arguimus khosbajari* Dashzeveg, 1979 and Arguimuridae Dashzeveg, 1994 respectively (syn. nov.). *Arguimus* is a stem-lineage zatherian characterized by the lower postcanine formula p1-5, m1-4, a premolariform p5, a 'partially molariform' m1 having a widely open trigonid basin, trigonid cusps less angulated than in m2-4, a low and small paraconid, and a small but distinct metaconid, a single cusped talonid with an incipient talonid basin on m1-4, a distinct labial mandibular foramen, and total lack of the Meckel's groove. A similar 'partially molariform' m1 was apparently characteristic also for the stem-lineage zatherian *Nanolestes* from the Late Jurassic of Portugal, based on reinterpretation of the isolated tooth Gui Mam 1005, considered previously to be a deciduous premolar, and for *Chunnelodon* from the Early Cretaceous of England, described originally as an indeterminate dryolestoid, but referred here to as a stem-lineage zatherian.

Key words: *Arguimus*, *Arguitherium*, Zatheria, dental formula, Early Cretaceous, Höövör, Mongolia.

Alexey V. Lopatin [alopat@paleo.ru], Paleontological Institute, Russian

Academy of Sciences, Profsovnaya ul. 123, Moscow 117997, Russia;

Alexander O. Averianov [sasha@AA1923.spb.edu], Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab. 1, Saint Petersburg 199034, Russia.

distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

 [Full text \(513.9 kB\)](#)