

Sauropod diversity in the Upper Cretaceous Nemegt Formation of Mongolia—a possible new specimen of *Nemegtosaurus*

Alexander O. Averianov and Alexey V. Lopatin

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Currently, there are two sauropod taxa known from the Upper Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) Nemegt Formation of Gobi Desert, Mongolia: *Nemegtosaurus* from the Nemegt locality and *Opisthocoelicaudia* from the Altan Uul IV locality. Both taxa are represented by not overlapping elements (skull and partial postcranial skeleton respectively), which arises question on their possible synonymy. Five articulated sauropod dorsal vertebrae (PIN 3837/P821, dorsals 6–10) were found in 1949 by the Mongolian Expedition of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR at the Nemegt locality. This specimen is similar to *Opisthocoelicaudia* in having a strong ventral ridge on dorsal centra, a low neural arch which is anteroposteriorly narrowest at the junction with the centrum and widens dorsally, and lack of hyposphene–hypantrum articulations. PIN 3837/P821 differs from *Opisthocoelicaudia* by having the less dorsoventrally flattened dorsal centra, a shallow ventral concavity of dorsal centra in lateral view, a vertical posterior centrodiapophyseal lamina (pcdl) in dorsals 8 and 9, a postzygodiapophyseal lamina (podl) that roofs the centrodiapophyseal fossa (pocdf), and strongly developed accessory laminae within the parapophyseal centrodiapophyseal fossa (pacdf). The sauropod femora from Nemegt Formation differ from the femur of *Opisthocoelicaudia* by the medial condyle extending more distally compared with the lateral condyle. Most likely these femora and PIN 3837/P821 belong to *Nemegtosaurus*, which would make this taxon distinct from *Opisthocoelicaudia* by discussed characters of dorsal vertebrae and femur.

Key words: Dinosauria, Sauropoda, *Nemegtosaurus*, Upper Cretaceous, Nemegt Formation, Mongolia.

Alexander O. Averianov [dzharakuduk@mail.ru], Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab. 1, 199034 Saint Petersburg, Russia; Institute of Earth Sciences, Saint Petersburg State University, 16 Liniya VO 29, 199178 Saint Petersburg, Russia; Institute of Geology and Petroleum Technology, Kazan Federal University, Kremlevskaya str. 4/5, 420008 Kazan, Russia. Alexey V. Lopatin [alopat@paleo.ru], Borissiak Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Profsovnaya ul. 123, 117997 Moscow, Russia.

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