

## First record of the ichthyodectiform fish *Cladocyclus* from eastern Gondwana: A new species from the Lower Cretaceous of Queensland, Australia

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*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 59 (4), 2014: 903-920 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4202/app.2012.0019>

*Cladocyclus* is a genus of ichthyodectiform fish that is best known from fossils found in shallow marine Cretaceous deposits in Brazil and Morocco. Herein, a new species of *Cladocyclus* is described on the basis of a fossil that comprises an articulated skull and anterior part of the body, preserved as part and counter-part in what was originally a single eroded nodule of fluvially-deposited volcanolithic sandstone from the Lower Cretaceous (upper Albian) portion of the Winton Formation near Isisford, central-western Queensland, Australia. This specimen represents the first record of *Cladocyclus* in eastern Gondwana, and indicates that species of this fish may also have inhabited freshwater environments. The new species is assigned to the genus *Cladocyclus* based on the morphology of the cleithrum (the arms are oriented at approximately 90° to each other) and a mandibular articular facet that incorporates portions of the angular, the articular and the retroarticular. *Cladocyclus geddesi* sp. nov. can be distinguished from other congeners based on the possession of a more elongate horizontal arm of the cleithrum and a supraoccipital crest that is gently convex posteriorly. This discovery greatly expands the geographic range of *Cladocyclus*, and supports the idea of a distinct southern fish fauna in the seas surrounding the fragmenting Gondwanan landmasses during the mid-Cretaceous.

**Key words:** Teleostei, *Cladocyclus*, Cretaceous, Winton Formation, Australia.

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