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Dracolestes Goin, Candela, Abello, and Oliveira, 2009, is a nomen nudum

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DRACOLESTES GOIN, CANDELA, ABELLO, AND OLIVEIRA, 2009, IS A *NOMEN NUDUM*

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Goin et al. (2009) described the oldest Paucituberculata marsupials from the Las Flores and La Barda localities of Argentina (late Palaeocene, and early–middle Eocene), as well as from the Itaboraí Basin of Brazil (late Palaeocene). The new taxa, represented by very scarce, although well-preserved, dental remains were named *Riolestes capricornicus*, *Bardalestes hunco*, *Bardalestes* sp., and *Dracolestes* sp. They identified the specimen MLP 90-II-5-300 as *Dracolestes* sp. (Goin et al., 2009:table 1, p. 871), and designated *Dracolestes* as a plesion of the Order Paucituberculata (Goin et al., 2009:table 3, p. 879).

However, MLP 90-II-5-300, identified by Goin et al. (2009) as an isolated right talonid, was illustrated and named *Bardalestes* sp. in figure 2E–F (p. 869). This specimen, as well as MLP 90-II-5-336, MLP 90-II-5-335, MLP 90-II-5-337, were the four referred specimens of *Bardalestes* sp. (p. 873), and were described on pages 873–874 of Goin et al. (2009).

According to the above-mentioned evidence, the name *Dracolestes* Goin, Candela, Abello, and Oliveira, 2009, fails to conform to Article 13 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 2000), because *Dracolestes* was not “... accompanied by a description or definition that states in words characters that are purported to differentiate the taxon” (Art. 13.1.1; ICZN, 2000). *Dracolestes* is a nomen nudum and, consequently, is not an available name. Notwithstanding, *Dracolestes* “... may be made available later for the same or a different concept; in such a case it would take authorship and date [Arts. 50, 21] from that act of establishment, not from any earlier publication as a *nomen nudum*” (ICZN, 2000:glossary). An Internet search within the Index to Organism Names (ION, 2008) and Google Scholar ({{Google scholar cite|keywords =

dracolestes}}}) revealed that the name *Dracolestes* has not been used or cited in the scientific literature after the paper of Goin et al. (2009).

Finally, we have added a revised Table 1 and a revised Table 3 (after Goin et al., 2009), with *Dracolestes* removed and *Bardalestes* inserted. This would help correct not only the nomen nudum issue, but present the correct information for the tooth dimension table (table 1 of Goin et al., 2009, p. 871) and the proposed classification of the Paucituberculata (table 3 of Goin et al., 2009, p. 879).

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TABLE 1. Dental measurements of *Bardalestes hunco*, *Bardalestes* sp., and *Riolestes capricornicus* (revised Table 1, after Goin et al., 2009:table 1, p. 871).

Taxon	Specimen	LM2	WM2	LM3	WM3	Lm1	Wm1	lmx
<i>Bardalestes hunco</i>	LIEB-PV 1135	1.42	1.68	1.41	1.78			
<i>Bardalestes</i> sp.	MLP 90-II-5-336	1.5	1.89					
<i>Bardalestes</i> sp.	MLP 90-II-5-300							1.05
<i>Riolestes capricornicus</i>	MCN-PV 1790					3.79	2.36	

Measurements are in mm.

Abbreviations: **LIEB-PV**, Laboratorio de Investigaciones en Evolución y Biodiversidad, Sede Esquel, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia, Esquel, Argentina–Paleontología Vertebrados; **MCN-PV**, Coleção de Paleovertebrados, Museu de Ciências Naturais, Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil; **MLP**, Departamento Paleontología Vertebrados, Museo de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina; **L**, maximal length (upper molar); **l**, maximal length (lower molar); **M**, upper molar; **m**, lower molar; **W**, maximal width (upper molar); **w**, maximal width (lower molar); **x**, unidentified locus.

TABLE 3. A proposed classification of the Paucituberculata (revised Table 3, after Goin et al., 2009:table 3, p. 879).

Order Paucituberculata Ameghino, 1894
Plesion <i>Bardalestes</i>
Plesion <i>Riolestes</i>
Superfamily Caenolestoidea Trouessart, 1898
Family Caenolestidae Trouessart, 1898
<i>Silotherium</i> Ameghino, 1887
<i>Pliolestes</i> Reig, 1955
<i>Rhyncholestes</i> Osgood, 1924
<i>Caenolestes</i> Thomas, 1895
Superfamily Palaeothentoidea
Family Pichipilidae (Marshall, 1980)
<i>Pichipilus</i> Ameghino, 1890
<i>Phonocdromus</i> Ameghino, 1894
Family Palaeothentidae Sinclair, 1906
<i>Palaeothentes</i> Ameghino, 1887
<i>Acestis</i> Ameghino, 1887
<i>Abderites</i> Ameghino, 1887
<i>Parabderites</i> Ameghino, 1902

References contained in table appear in Goin et al., 2009.