

NEW REMAINS OF *PROCHELIDELLA* IN THE ANACLETO FORMATION (CAMPANIAN LEVELS) OF NEUQUÉN BASIN, PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

IGNACIO J. MANIEL, I.J.^{1,2}, MARCELO S. DE LA FUENTE^{1,2}, and LEONARDO S. FILIPPI³

¹National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET).

²Instituto de Evolución, Ecología Histórica y Ambiente (IDEVEA-UTN FRSR). Calle Urquiza 314, San Rafael, Mendoza, 5600, Argentina. imaniel@mendoza-conicet.gov.ar, mdelafuente1910@gmail.com

³Museo Municipal "Argentino Urquiza". Chos Malal 1277, 8319, Rincón de los Sauces, Neuquén, Argentina. lsfilippi@gmail.com

The new turtle remains presented here were recovered from the Anacleto Formation (Campanian) exposed in the Aguada Grande site. This area is located 10 km south of Rincón de Los Sauces city, in the north of the province of Neuquén, Patagonia, Argentina. The specimen (MAU-Pv-AG-452) consists of a partially preserved skull, carapace remains, an almost complete plastron, and a left ilium. The new specimen is assigned to Pleurodira because its ilium is sutured to the carapace. Both parietals, the posterior part of frontals and postorbitals, the dorsal region of the supraoccipital, both pterygoids, the basisphenoid, and part of the prootics are recognized in the skull. The carapace remains are represented by a left first costal bone in articulation with a peripheral bone, a left paired costal bone, and another fragmented costal. The plastron is represented by both epiplastra, the entoplastron, left hyoplastron, both hypoplastra, and the left xiphoplastron. The skull shows some characters that allow its referral to *Prochelydella* spp. (e.g., a developed retropterygoid foramen, and a big muscle attachment area over the basisphenoid). The visceral view of the first costal bone exhibits long axillary buttresses that extend 2/3 of the costal width. This condition is also observed in the costal bone of *Prochelydella buitreaensis* from the Candeleros Formation (Cenomanian). The scute pattern observed in the anterior lobe of the plastron shows a large gular that extends along the entoplastral length and small extragulars over the epiplastra. In contrast, on the scheme observed in *Prochelydella cerrobarcinae* and *Prochelydella portezuelae*, the gular does not extend beyond the first third of the entoplastron. The material recovered from the Anacleto Formation represents the most complete specimen outside the *Prochelydella* peak of diversity range (Albian–Cenomanian) and the second skull recognized in this genus.

* Project funded by: ANPCyT PICT 0994-2019.