

## A new occurrence of *Dakotasuchus kingi* from the Late Cretaceous of Utah, USA, and the diagnostic utility of postcranial characters in Crocodyliformes

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Cenomanian mesoeucrocodylians from North America are known primarily from isolated teeth and scutes; any associated remains of this age are noteworthy and represent welcome additions to knowledge. Herein, we describe postcranial elements belonging to a single individual goniopholidid from the Mussentuchit Member of the Cedar Mountain Formation. We argue that this individual represents only the second fossil referable to *Dakotasuchus kingi*, based on overlapping elements, such as the coracoid, dorsal vertebrae, and scutes, which are strikingly similar to their counterparts in the holotype. The coracoid, in particular, is readily distinguished from those belonging to other closely-related crocodilian taxa; enough so to warrant detailed comparisons in the absence of diagnostic cranial material. The new *D. kingi* specimen is nearly 20% larger than the holotype, with body length and mass estimates comparable to modern American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), making it one of the largest aquatic predators in the Mussentuchit ecosystem.

**Key words:** Crocodylomorpha, Goniopholididae, *Dakotasuchus*, Cretaceous, Cenomanian, Utah, Mussentuchit.

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