

Lower Triassic footprints from the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, Poland

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Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 35 (3-4), 1990: 109-164

A tetrapod footprints assemblage from the Middle Buntsandstein labyrinthodontid beds, NE Świętokrzyskie Mts, appears to be the oldest known from the Triassic of Europe. It comprises 8 taxa: cf. *Capitosauroides* sp., *Chirotherium hauboldi* sp.n., *Isochirotherium sanctacrucense* sp.n., *Isochirotherium* sp., *Brachychirotherium kuhni* Demathieu et Haubold, 1982, *Symptichnium chirotherioides* sp.n., *Rhynchosaurooides brevidigitatus* sp.n. and *R. polonicus* sp.n. Footprints are preserved chiefly as casts on the sole surfaces, rarely as imprints on the upper surfaces of sandstones. Skin textures of chirotheriids have been noticed. Formation and preservation of prints as well as their relationship to facies are discussed. Mode and direction of movement of trackmakers and general characteristics of the environment in which their activity took place are reconstructed. Age and tectonic framework of the labyrinthodontic beds formation are briefly discussed.

Key words: tetrapods, footprints, parataxonomy, taphonomy, stratigraphy, Lower Triassic, Poland.

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