

Osteology of the unenlagiid theropod *Neuquenraptor argentinus* from the Late Cretaceous of Patagonia


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Neuquenraptor argentinus was described as the first undoubted deinonychosaurian theropod from Gondwana. The only known specimen is represented by a fragmentary skeleton, including a nearly complete foot, coming from Late Cretaceous beds of Neuquén Province, Patagonia, Argentina. *Neuquenraptor* was later considered as belonging to the Southern Hemisphere paravian clade Unenlagiidae, and proposed as a junior synonym of *Unenlagia comahuensis*. The aim of the present paper is to include a detailed anatomical description of *Neuquenraptor* (up to the date only known by a preliminary description). Comparisons with other paravians, especially unenlagiids, resulted in the finding of characters that may be considered as diagnostic of Unenlagiidae (e.g., scar-like fourth trochanter of femur, metatarsal II with tongue-shaped process over the caudal surface of metatarsal III, well-developed convex longitudinal plantar crest of metatarsal IV). Furthermore, comparisons between *Neuquenraptor* and *Unenlagia* are carried out with the aim to evaluate the possible synonymy between these taxa. These comparisons indicate that at least two similar-sized unenlagiids were present on the Portezuelo Formation. However, in concordance with previous authors, we are not able to support nor dismiss the possible synonymy between *Unenlagia* and *Neuquenraptor*. Additional findings of unenlagiid fossils from the Portezuelo Formation will help to clarify the taxonomic status of these taxa.

Key words: Dinosauria, Theropoda, Unenlagiidae, *Neuquenraptor*, Cretaceous, Argentina, Patagonia.

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