

A new occurrence of the Late Triassic archosaur *Smok* in southern Poland

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Two isolated teeth, a dorsal vertebra, fragments of a humerus and femur, a fragmentary pubic “boot” and part of an ischium shaft, identified here as belonging to a large predatory archosaur were discovered in the Upper Triassic site at Marciszów near Zawiercie (southern Poland). Comparisons of the new fossils from Marciszów with the dorsal vertebrae, pubic “boot”, ischium and femur of the theropod-like *Smok wawelski* from Lisowice (Silesia) reveal that the two taxa are very similar. Nevertheless, due to the lack of more diagnostic elements (e.g., braincase or cranial elements), we prefer to consider all described specimens from Marciszów as *Smok* sp. *Smok* sp. shares a low mound-like, anterior trochanter with trochanteric shelf on the femur, a massive pubic “boot” with a distinct depression (= bevelled area), and a transversely lenticular ischium shaft in cross-section with *S. wawelski*. Some observed characters of the dorsal vertebra (e.g., lack of some lamina, shape and position of zygapophyses), however, are different from *S. wawelski* and may also suggest that the new findings represent a second species of the genus in the Upper Triassic of Poland. The discovery of *Smok* sp. at Marciszów is significant because it is the second example of the co-occurrence of this genus with: (i) bones of a large dicynodont; and (ii) record of gnawed tetrapod bones. The discovery of *Smok* sp. and the lack of significant morphologic divergence from *S. wawelski* suggest that this taxon is the only large-bodied predator currently known from the Upper Triassic of Poland. This new evidence expands the record of the genus and contributes, in some measure, to our knowledge of the stratigraphical distribution of large predatory archosaurs from the Polish Upper Triassic bone-bearing levels.

Key words: Diapsida, Archosauromorpha, Archosauria, Late Triassic, Poland, Silesia.

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