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An anhanguerian pterodactyloid mandible from the lower Valanginian of Northern Germany, and the German record of Cretaceous pterosaurs

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The record of Cretaceous pterosaur remains from Germany is sparse. The material recovered to date includes the fragmentary holotypes of *Targaryendraco wiedenrothi* and *Ctenochasma roemeri*, as well as a few isolated pterodactyloid teeth and some indeterminate skeletal elements, together with a plaster cast of a large *Purbeckopus* manus imprint. Here, we report the discovery of a pterodactyloid pterosaur mandible from lower Valanginian strata of the Stadthagen Formation in the Lower Saxony Basin of Northern Germany. Based on the size and spacing of its alveoli, this fossil is attributable to the cosmopolitan Early Cretaceous pteranodontoid clade Anhangueria. Moreover, it represents the first and only known pterosaur from the Valanginian of Germany and is one of only a handful Valanganian pterosaur occurrences presently recognized worldwide. In addition to the approximately coeval *Coloborhynchus clavirostris* from the Hastings Bed Group of southern England, the Stadthagen Formation pterosaur mandible is among the stratigraphically oldest identifiable anhanguerians.

Key words: Pterosauria, Pterodactyloidea, Anhangueria, Cretaceous, Stadthagen Formation, Lower Saxony.

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