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A new proterochampsid archosauriform from the Middle–Upper Triassic of Southern Brazil

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Proterochampsidae is a clade of carnivorous archosauriforms that lived during the Triassic and is characterized by an elongated rostrum with dorsally oriented external nares, and a unique pes configuration. Although the majority of proterochampsids are found in South America, recent phylogenetic studies suggest a broader geographical distribution for this clade. Most proterochampsids are known from cranial remains; if postcranial elements are known they are frequently poorly preserved. This study describes a new proterochampsid, *Retymaijychampsa beckerorum* gen. et sp. nov., from the Middle–Late Triassic, based on an almost complete and articulated hindlimb. The holotype was excavated at the Linha Várzea 2 (Becker) Site, located in the municipality of Paraíso do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The fossils from this locality places it within the *Dinodontosaurus* Assemblage Zone, which is Ladinian to early Carnian in age according to biostratigraphic investigations. The new taxon is the second proterochampsid described from the Pinheiros- Chiniquá Sequence and represents one of the oldest known members of the clade worldwide. An interesting aspect of *R. beckerorum* gen. et sp. nov. is its phylogenetic position because it is more closely related to *Proterochampsa* than to rhadinosuchine proterochampsids. Therefore, the discovery of the new proterochampsid partially fills a long ghost lineage extending from the Middle Triassic to the early Late Triassic. Furthermore, the presence of two proterochampsid species within the Pinheiros-Chiniquá Sequence deposits supports the hypothesis of significant ecomorphological diversity among proterochampsians in Triassic environments.

Key words: Archosauromorpha, Proterochampsia, Proterochampsidae, phylogeny, Carnian, Ladinian, South America, Brazil.

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