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Albanerpetontid amphibians from the Upper Cretaceous of Middle Asia

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We review the fossil record of Asian albanerpetontids. The three dentaries previously attributed to the two species of Nukusurus Nessov, 1981 (lower Cenomanian and Coniacian, Uzbekistan) are from albanerpetontids, but none are distinctive below the familial level. We thus designate the names *Nukusurus*, *N. insuetus* Nessov, 1981, and *N. sodalis* Nessov, 1997 as nomina dubia within the Albanerpetontidae. Two dentaries (lower Cenomanian, Uzbekistan) described herein for the first time supplement the known record of Asian albanerpetontids. The holotype atlas and only specimen of the supposed albanerpetontid *Bishara backa* Nessov, 1997 (upper Santonian-?Campanian, Kazakhstan) is shown to be from a salamander, not an albanerpetontid. Our study recognizes *Albanerpeton* (Cretaceous-Miocene, North America and Europe) and *Celtedens* (Middle Jurassic-Lower Cretaceous, Europe) as the only valid albanerpetontid genera. Limited evidence favors one or more dispersals from Europe or North America to Asia in the medial Cretaceous as the major biogeographic event in the history of Asian albanerpetontids.

Key words: Albanerpetontidae, Bishara, Cretaceous, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Nukusurus, Uzbekistan.

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