

# New insights into the lifestyle of *Allosaurus* (Dinosauria: Theropoda) based on another specimen with multiple pathologies

Christian Foth, Serjoscha Evers, Ben Pabst, Octávio Mateus, Alexander Flisch, Mike Patthey, Oliver W. M. Rauhut

Adult large-bodied theropods are often found with numerous pathologies. A large, almost complete, probably adult *Allosaurus* specimen from the Howe Stephens Quarry, Morrison Formation (Late Kimmeridgian–Early Tithonian), Wyoming, shows multiple pathologies. Pathologic bones include the left dentary, two cervical vertebrae, one cervical and several dorsal ribs, the left scapula, the left humerus, right ischium, and two left pedal phalanges. These pathologies can be classified as follows: the fifth cervical vertebra, the scapula, several ribs and the ischium are traumatic, and a callus on the shaft of the left pedal phalanx II-2 is traumatic-infectious. Traumatically fractured elements exposed to frequent movement (e.g. the scapula and the ribs) show a tendency to develop pseudarthroses instead of callus healing. The pathologies in the lower jaw and a reduced flexor tubercle of the left pedal phalanx II-2 are most likely traumatic or developmental in origin. The pathologies on the fourth cervical are most likely developmental in origin or idiopathic, that on the left humerus is infectious or idiopathic, whereas left pedal phalanx IV-1 is classified as idiopathic. With exception of the ischium, all traumatic / traumatic-infectious pathologic elements show unambiguous evidences of healing, indicating that the respective pathologies did not cause the death of this individual. Alignment of the scapula and rib pathologies from the left side suggests that all may have been caused by a single traumatic event. The ischial fracture may have been fatal. The occurrence of multiple traumatic pathologies again underlines that large-bodied theropods experienced frequent injuries during life, indicating an active predatory lifestyle, and their survival perhaps supports a gregarious behavior for *Allosaurus*. Signs of infections are scarce and locally restricted, indicating a successful prevention of the spread of pathogens, as it is the case in extant reptiles (including birds).

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27 **Abstract**

28 Adult large-bodied theropods are often found with numerous pathologies. A large,  
29 almost complete, probably adult *Allosaurus* specimen from the Howe Stephens Quarry,  
30 Morrison Formation (Late Kimmeridgian–Early Tithonian), Wyoming, shows multiple  
31 pathologies. Pathologic bones include the left dentary, two cervical vertebrae, one  
32 cervical and several dorsal ribs, the left scapula, the left humerus, right ischium, and two  
33 left pedal phalanges. These pathologies can be classified as follows: the fifth cervical  
34 vertebra, the scapula, several ribs and the ischium are traumatic, and a callus on the  
35 shaft of the left pedal phalanx II-2 is traumatic-infectious. Traumatically fractured  
36 elements exposed to frequent movement (e.g. the scapula and the ribs) show a tendency  
37 to develop pseudarthroses instead of callus healing. The pathologies in the lower jaw  
38 and a reduced flexor tubercle of the left pedal phalanx II-2 are most likely traumatic or  
39 developmental in origin. The pathologies on the fourth cervical are most likely  
40 developmental in origin or idiopathic, that on the left humerus is infectious or idiopathic,  
41 whereas left pedal phalanx IV-1 is classified as idiopathic. With exception of the ischium,  
42 all traumatic / traumatic-infectious pathologic elements show unambiguous evidences  
43 of healing, indicating that the respective pathologies did not cause the death of this  
44 individual. Alignment of the scapula and rib pathologies from the left side suggests that  
45 all may have been caused by a single traumatic event. The ischial fracture may have  
46 been fatal. The occurrence of multiple traumatic pathologies again underlines that large-  
47 bodied theropods experienced frequent injuries during life, indicating an active  
48 predatory lifestyle, and their survival perhaps supports a gregarious behavior for  
49 *Allosaurus*. Signs of infections are scarce and locally restricted, indicating a successful  
50 prevention of the spread of pathogens, as it is the case in extant reptiles (including  
51 birds).

52

53 **Subjects** Animal Behavior, Paleontology, Pathology, Veterinary medicine, Zoology

54 **Keywords** Archosauria, gregarious behavior, Jurassic, osteomyelitis, paleopathology,  
55 pseudarthrosis, Theropoda

56

## 57 **Introduction**

58 Palaeopathology is the study of diseases and traumatic injuries in extinct animals and  
59 reveals great potential to provide insights into behaviour (e.g. Rothschild & Storrs,  
60 2003), physiology (e.g. Rothschild et al., 2003), life history (e.g. Hanna, 2002) as well as  
61 interspecific (e.g. predator-prey relationships) and intraspecific interactions (e.g.  
62 intraspecific combats) (e.g. Carpenter, 2000; Tanke & Currie, 2000; Avilla, Fernandes &  
63 Ramos, 2004; Farke, 2004; Carpenter et al., 2005; Farke & O'Connor, 2007; Butler et al.,  
64 2013). In recent years, the study of osteological pathologies among non-avian dinosaurs  
65 has become of great interest, documenting a wide range of different kinds of injuries and  
66 diseases, e.g. fractures and stress fractures (Rothschild, 1988; Rothschild, Tanke & Ford,  
67 2001; Hanna, 2002; Anné et al., 2014), amputations (Farke & O'Connor, 2007; Butler et  
68 al., 2013), bite marks and scratches (Carpenter, 2000; Tanke & Currie, 2000; Peterson et  
69 al., 2009; Bell, 2010), cancer and tumour growth (Rothschild et al., 2003; Arbour &  
70 Currie, 2011), developmental disorders (Witzmann et al., 2008) as well as different  
71 kinds of microbial infections (Hanna, 2002; Wolff et al., 2009; Witzmann et al., 2011). Of  
72 special interest in this respect are non-lethal pathologies, as they can potentially tell us  
73 something about the lifestyle of the animal. Especially, large-bodied non-avian  
74 theropods are frequently found with numerous fractures, bite marks and infections  
75 (Gilmore, 1920; Molnar & Farlow, 1990; Molnar, 2001; Hanna, 2002; Brochu, 2003;  
76 Farke & O'Connor, 2007; Rothschild & Molnar, 2008; Bell, 2010; Bell & Coria, 2013),

77 indicating an active predatory life style predisposed to injuries (Hanna, 2002). The basal  
78 tetanuran *Allosaurus* is one of the best-documented dinosaurs in this field of research  
79 (e.g. Marsh, 1884; Gilmore, 1920; Moodie, 1923; Petersen, Isakson & Madsen, 1972;  
80 Madsen, 1976; Rothschild, 1988; Rothschild & Martin, 1993; Hanna, 2002; Anné et al.,  
81 2014). However, only one study, which is based on the almost complete *Allosaurus*  
82 specimen MOR 693 ('Big Al') as well as isolated material from the Cleveland-Lloyd  
83 Dinosaur Quarry, has studied its pathologies in greater detail and in a comparative  
84 approach (Hanna, 2002). Here, we report a second almost complete, probably adult  
85 *Allosaurus* specimen from the Upper Jurassic of Wyoming, U.S.A, which possesses  
86 several pathologic bones, including the left dentary, two mid-cervical vertebrae, a right  
87 cervical rib, several dorsal ribs, the left scapula, the left humerus, the right ischium, and  
88 the left pedal phalanges II-2 and IV-1 (Fig. 1). After documentation and diagnosis, the  
89 single pathologies of the specimen will be compared with the data from Hanna (2002)  
90 and that of other large-bodied theropods, so that the current study provides new  
91 insights into the disease patterns and lifestyles of these remarkable predators.

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### 93 **Material and Methods**

94 The *Allosaurus* specimen SMA 0005 ('Big Al 2') was collected from the Upper Jurassic  
95 outcrops of the Morrison Formation (Late Kimmeridgian – Early Tithonian) of the Howe  
96 Ranch (Howe Stephens Quarry), Big Horn County, Wyoming, by a team of the  
97 Sauriermuseum Aathal (Switzerland) in 1996, close to the famous Howe Quarry  
98 discovered by Barnum Brown in 1934 (Brown, 1935; Breithaupt, 1997). The almost  
99 complete skeleton was found partially articulated and probably represents an adult  
100 individual (total body length = 7.6 m), which is about 12% larger than MOR 693 ('Big  
101 Al'), which was found only a few hundred meters away.

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For classification of different pathologies present in SMA 0005 we follow the nomenclature of Hanna (2002), who classifies osteological abnormalities as 1) traumatic (resulting from traumatic injury), 2) infectious (resulting from viral, bacterial and protozoan infection), 3) traumatic-infectious (resulting from secondary infection of an injured element), 4) developmental (caused by growth disturbance during development), and 5) idiopathic (pertaining to a condition without clear pathogenesis).

Traumatic injuries of bone include fractures and amputations. If these injuries do not cause the immediate death of an animal they are characterized by healing responses, usually in form of callus formation (Cleas, Wolf & Augat, 2000), which is proliferating growth of originally non-mineralized connective tissue to close the gap and stabilize the respective injury (Park et al., 1998; Cleas et al., 2000; Schell et al., 2005). Generally, the callus surrounds the perimeter of the injured bone locally and forms a different superficial structure compared to healthy bone. If the healing process of the injury is not disturbed by secondary infections or interfragmentary movements, the callus is remodelled by zonal lamellar bone after some time (McKibbin, 1978; Park et al., 1998). In case of bone fractures, however, intense mechanical loadings and interfragmentary movements can rupture the bridging callus tissue, including its vessels, resulting in the formation of a pseudarthrosis or 'false joint' (Cleas et al., 2000; Lobo, Beaupré & Carter, 2001; Klein et al., 2003; Strube et al., 2008), which is usually accompanied by chronic pain, and often so by disability (Lobo et al., 2001). However, pseudarthrosis can also result from syntraumatic malunions (Klein et al., 2003).

126 An osteological abnormality caused by viral, bacterial or protozoan infections is called  
127 osteitis. If such infection becomes chronic and affects the bone marrow it is called  
128 osteomyelitis (Pschyrembel, 1990), which is usually characterized by comb-like lesions  
129 on the bone surface. In extant mammals, tissue-invasive microbial infections are often  
130 characterized by locally restricted, subperiosteal suppurative abscesses. In later stages,  
131 these abscesses can cause necroses of original bone due to an infiltration of pus into the  
132 blood vessel system, impairing the blood supply of the local bone area. Such infiltrations  
133 can further lead to a spread of microbial pathogens via the blood stream, affecting other  
134 skeletal elements (so called haematogenous osteomyelitis) (Ortner & Putschar, 1981;  
135 Pschyrembel, 1990; Gross, Rich & Vickers-Rich, 1993). In contrast, extant reptiles  
136 (including birds) do not respond to tissue-invasive microbial infections by producing  
137 liquid pus (Montali, 1988; Rega, 2012), but instead by exuding fibrin into the infected  
138 areas, which forms local fibrin clots (as a type of granuloma), and preventing the spread  
139 of the infection via the blood stream (Gomis et al., 1997; Huchzermeyer & Cooper, 2000;  
140 Cooper, 2005). Thus, reptiles usually manifest only contiguous osteomyelitis. Besides  
141 osteomyelitis, osteitis can also lead to the formation of exostoses, superficial bony  
142 outgrowths.

143  
144 Developmental disorders are pathologies related to ontogenetic abnormalities resulting  
145 from inherent genetic defects or growth disturbances, whereas in idiopathic  
146 abnormalities the cause of the osteological pathology is unknown (Hanna, 2002).

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148 To study potential internal structures several pathologic bones of SMA 0005 were CT  
149 scanned. The left dentary and the left scapula were investigated using a Siemens  
150 SOMATOM Sensation Open (CT) system at Vetsuisse Faculty (University of Zurich) with

151 source: 120 kV, 176 mA, rotation time: 1 s, pitch: 0.55 mm and slice thickness: 0.6 mm.  
152 The fifth cervical was scanned with a 450kV X-ray system MG450 (YXLON) and a CITA  
153 101B+ collimated line detector (CITA Systems Inc.) at the Center for X-ray Analytics  
154 (EMPA, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology) with source:  
155 450 kV, 3.3 mA, focal spot size: 2.5 mm, target: wolfram, 750 projections of 0.04 s over  
156 360°, slice thickness: 0.25 mm. The generated CT data were preceded with help of the  
157 3D reconstruction software package Amira 5.3.3 (Visage Imaging, Inc.). Unfortunately,  
158 the foot was firmly installed in the mounted skeleton, so that the pathologic phalanges  
159 could not be scanned.

160

## 161 **Institutional Abbreviations**

162 **BSPG**, Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Geologie, München, Germany;

163 **BYU**, Earth Science Museum, Brigham Young University, Provo, U.S.A.; **DINO** Dinosaur

164 National Monument, Vernal, U.S.A.; **MOR**, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, U.S.A.;

165 **NCSM**, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, U.S.A.; **SMA**, Sauriermuseum

166 Aathal, Switzerland; **UMNH**, Utah Museum of Natural History, Salt Lake City, U.S.A.,

167 (formerly UUVP, University of Utah Vertebrate Paleontology); **USNM**, National Museum

168 of Natural History, (formerly United States National Museum), Smithsonian Institution,

169 Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

170

## 171 **Results**

### 172 **Dentary**

173 The anterior end of the left dentary in SMA 0005 is strongly modified. In lateral view, it

174 has the shape of an anterior rosette, similar to the morphology seen in spinosaurid

175 megalosaurs (Stromer, 1915; Charig & Milner, 1997; Sereno et al., 1998). The anterior

176 part is both dorsally and ventrally expanded, reaching a maximal height at the level of  
177 the fifth alveolus. Anteriorly, the alveolar border curves ventrally, forming a convex arch,  
178 resulting in a slightly procumbent anterior-most and, to a lesser degree, second alveolus  
179 (Fig. 2). Anterior to the first clearly identifiable alveolus, there is another concavity on  
180 the medial side of the bone facing anterodorsally, which might represent a further tooth  
181 position. If this interpretation were correct, the first tooth of the left dentary in SMA  
182 0005 would be almost anteriorly directed. However, CT data of the dentaries show that  
183 the proximal part of the left dentary is formed by compact bone, while respective parts  
184 on the right dentary, as well as more distal parts on both dentaries, show repetitive  
185 indentations representing deep alveoli. Therefore, it is also possible that the first alveoli  
186 of the left dentary were reduced during the healing response to merely externally visible,  
187 shallow pits, and that the anterior part of the left dentary was thereafter edentulous. No  
188 clear indication of a fracture, bite marks, callus or other lesion are visible, indicating that  
189 this pathology happened a long time before the death of the animal, possibly even  
190 during its early development. As a consequence of the pathology in the left dentary, the  
191 symphyseal region of the mandible is dorsoventrally shortened, and when both  
192 mandibles are aligned with the ventral border of the symphysis, at least the anterior  
193 part of the left alveolar margin would project dorsally well beyond the right alveolar  
194 margin.

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## 196 **Cervicals**

197 Within the cervical series of SMA 0005 two cervical vertebrae could be identified as  
198 pathologic. The fourth cervical shows a conspicuous, irregularly shaped proliferation of  
199 bone originating from the posteromedial side of the left prezygapophysis (Fig. 3A, B).

200 The proliferation is anteroventrally and medially directed and measures c. 9 mm

201 anteroposteriorly, c 18 mm dorsoventrally and 25 mm lateromedially in its maximum  
202 extent. Anteriorly, the proliferation flattens and expands laterally, contacting the  
203 ventromedial side of the left prezygapophysis, so that it looks inverted L-shaped from  
204 dorsal view. From anterior view it is kidney-shaped with the concave edge facing  
205 ventrally. The surface of the structure is overall rugose. A further small anomaly is  
206 present medial to the left lateral margin of the spinopostzygapophyseal fossa above the  
207 neural canal (Fig. 3C-E). The structure is posteroventrally directed and tapers distally. It  
208 measures c. 6 mm anteroposteriorly, c. 9 mm dorsoventrally and c. 11 mm  
209 lateromedially. A clear diagnosis of both exostoses is difficult. As no external indicator of  
210 a fracture or infection is observable, and as the structures belong to none of the regular  
211 parts and processes of the vertebra, the most plausible explanation could be an  
212 enthesopathy (= inflammatory ossification of ligamentous or muscular attachments), an  
213 osteochondroma (= benign bone tumour) or an idiopathy. Here, the irregular shape of  
214 the large anterior exostosis may correspond with the cauliflower-like morphology of an  
215 osteochondroma (Murphey et al., 2000).

216  
217 The neural arch of the fifth cervical shows a severe injury caused by a fracture at the  
218 base of the left postzygapophysis (Fig. 4). In external view, the fracture runs around the  
219 whole process, indicating the complete rupture of the postzygapophysis. The fracture is  
220 surrounded by a large callus on the dorsolateral side, which gives the left  
221 postzygapophyseal pedicle a swollen appearance, and follows roughly the course of the  
222 epiprezygapophyseal lamina. While the broken postzygapophyseal fragment seems  
223 secondarily well connected to the neural arch medially, the fracture line appears as a  
224 gap laterally, separating the callus in an anterior and posterior part, which are not  
225 connected to each other. The anterior part of the callus measures c. 38 mm. Anteriorly, it

226 ends at the level of the posterior edge of the transverse process. The callus shows a  
227 stronger lateral (c. 14 mm) than dorsal expansion (c. 8 mm). The posterior part of the  
228 callus is smaller and measures c. 19 mm in its anteroposterior dimension. The external  
229 surface of both parts of the callus is smooth, without any rugosity. CT data of the  
230 specimen show no abnormalities in the bone structure around the injury.

231

### 232 **Presacral ribs**

233 Several ribs of SMA 0005 show evidence of traumatic events. In the cervical region, one  
234 pathologic rib is found on the right side of the fourth cervical vertebrae (Fig. 5A). In the  
235 dorsal region, the fifth rib from the right body side shows a fracture in its distal third. On  
236 the left body side, the third, seventh and ninth dorsal ribs show clear evidences of  
237 fractures, appearing all in the distal half of the rib, almost on the same level (Fig. 5B).  
238 Other ribs from the left side also show deformations on this level. However, as clear  
239 fractures cannot be observed, a distinction between a pathologic or taphonomic origin is  
240 not possible for the deformed elements. All fractured bones identified show a distinct  
241 overlapping connection of both broken elements, sometimes with a slight displacement  
242 of the distal end. No callus formation is visible. These observations are consistent with  
243 the morphology of pseudarthroses (Cleas et al., 2000; Lobo et al., 2001; Klein et al.,  
244 2003).

245

### 246 **Scapula**

247 A complete, transverse fracture occurs in the proximal part of the left scapula (Fig. 6).  
248 This fracture does not show a regular callus, but some osseous connection of the  
249 fractured end to the respective other fragment is apparent. Thus, the proximal fragment,  
250 which articulates with the coracoid and the humerus, is laterally displaced, so that it sits

251 on the distal fragment. The periphery around the distal end of the proximal fragment  
252 shows a rough striation in line with the longitudinal axis of the scapula. The lateral  
253 displacement may be explained by a number of reasons, including mechanical instability  
254 due to the morphology of the scapula as a blade-like element or the nature of the  
255 traumatic event that caused the fracture. One possible explanation might be found in the  
256 separation of muscle groups on the lateral scapula in a distal part (*M. deltoideus*  
257 *scapularis*) and a more proximal part (*Mm. scapulohumeralis*, *M. deltoideus clavicularis*),  
258 with the boundary between these two regions apparently coinciding with the area of the  
259 break in SMA 0005 (see Remes, 2008; Burch, 2014). Thus, the pull of the *M. deltoideus*  
260 *scapularis* would have rotated the distal end of the scapula outwards in respect to the  
261 proximal end, possibly accounting for the overlap. Furthermore, the proximal fragment  
262 is displaced in that it is rotated ventrally. This tilt is probably caused by the mechanical  
263 load of the arm, pulling the fragment it is articulated with down. The malunion of the  
264 fracture fragment, once achieved, can hardly be reversed, and the weight of the attached  
265 arm together with movements induced by arm use and torso movements related to  
266 locomotion of the animal account for a lack of stabilization of the fracture. The maximal  
267 overlap between the proximal and distal element is c. 81 mm. CT data of the specimen  
268 show that most of the overlapping parts only lie on top of each other, and that only the  
269 fracture ends constitute a fused bridge between the fracture elements (Fig. 6D). The  
270 overall morphology and the CT data of the fracture are consistent with the morphology  
271 of a pseudarthrosis (Cleas et al., 2000; Lobo et al., 2001; Klein et al., 2003). In a  
272 preliminary report (Evers et al., 2013), we described a second potential fracture of the  
273 scapula in the distal part of the bone. However, a re-examination of the specimen  
274 suggests rather a plastic deformation of this structure.

275

276 **Humerus**

277 The left humerus of SMA 0005 shows an abnormal ulnar condyle (Fig. 7). The ulnar  
278 condyle has an irregular surface texture of numerous pits of varying depth, and it has a  
279 deep oblique groove toward the anterior aspect of the medial side. Additionally, the  
280 ventral surface of the ulnar condyle bears some sharp, trough-like marks. Also, the ulnar  
281 condyle of the left element is elongate and thin, contrasting the more rounded  
282 morphology usually seen in theropods and also seen in the right element. Therefore, the  
283 abnormal form and texture of the left ulnar condyle is interpreted as an idiopathic  
284 pathology, although the pits might indicate a potential infection.

285  
286 **Ischium**

287 The right ischium exhibits an oblique fracture located at a midshaft position (Fig. 8). The  
288 distal fracture fragment sits on the medial side of the proximal fragment, and is slightly  
289 medially rotated. Due to this orientation, there is a distally widening interfracture  
290 gap between the distal end of the proximal fracture fragment and the proximal part of  
291 the distal fracture fragment, which can be best seen in anterior view (Fig. 8B).  
292 Consequentially, the end of the proximal fragment forms a laterally projecting tip. The  
293 gap is partially filled with matrix, which shows that it was internally not closed by  
294 connective tissue when the animal died. The fracture line can be traced almost around  
295 the entire shaft of the ischium (Fig. 8B-E). However, toward the proximal end of the  
296 fracture, the fragments are well connected on the anteromedial side. Because no clear  
297 callus structure is visible, and because the fracture line is at no point bridged by cortical  
298 bone, it is possible, that either the trauma caused only incomplete fracturing and no  
299 healing took place (which would indicate trauma-related death of the animal), or that  
300 breakage of the bone occurred post-mortem. Another possibility is that the fracture was

301 complete, and that the anteromedially located connection of the fragments was  
302 secondarily achieved. In this case, the structure would fulfill the criteria of a developing  
303 pseudarthrosis (see Cleas et al., 2000; Lobo et al., 2001; Klein et al., 2003). On the  
304 anterior side of the fractured area, the cortical surface is disturbed by a large trace of  
305 small, interconnected depressions with irregular size, shape, and depth. The traces  
306 continue well beyond the fracture almost to the ischial boot. As similar traces appear  
307 also on the surface of other bones we interpret this structure as most probably  
308 taphonomic in origin (see discussion, Fig. 5C, D).

309  
310 The left ischium shows a slight swelling and possible associated fracture line at the same  
311 level as the right element (Fig. 8A). However, parts of the possible pathology are  
312 obscured by a reconstruction of the lateral bone surface in this part. Thus, if our  
313 observation is correct, it would be impossible to say if the bone was completely or only  
314 partially fractured, and if any healing occurred. However, due to the present uncertainty  
315 regarding this structure, we avoid further interpretations.

316

### 317 **Foot**

318 The pedal phalanx II-2 of the left foot has a bulbous callus covering about two-thirds of  
319 the element (Fig. 9A-D). The callus is located at the proximal part of the phalangeal shaft,  
320 and does not reach both the proximal and distal articulation facets. In the mid-shaft area,  
321 the callus surrounds the phalanx body almost entirely. Toward the proximal articulation,  
322 the callus forms a groove-like channel with a sharp and step-like edge, which  
323 circumferences the medial, dorsal, and lateral parts of the callus. Towards the distal  
324 articulation, the callus is laterally complanate and hence approaching the regular  
325 morphology again, while the medial aspect is strongly swollen. The ventral side of the

326 proximal end is also strongly inflated, exhibiting a c. 5 mm thick bulge. The surface of the  
327 callus is generally irregular, while the degree of irregularity is reducing towards the  
328 distal part of the element, and weaker developed than in comparative specimens (Hanna,  
329 2002; see discussion).

330

331 Compared to the non-pathological pedal phalanx II-2 of the right foot (Fig. 9E), the  
332 extensor tubercle is almost completely reduced in the left pedal phalanx II-2 with the  
333 most proximal point ending approximately 40 mm anteriorly in relation to the ventral  
334 flexor heel (see Fig. 9A, C, D). However, the surface structure in the respective area of  
335 the phalanx is not indicative of taphonomic deformation or erosion. Therefore, this  
336 anomaly likely represents a pathologic structure. It is perhaps developmental in origin  
337 or results from a healed trauma that happened a long time before the death of the  
338 animal.

339

340 Several depressions could be observed in this bone, penetrating the callus (Fig. 9B, C).  
341 The largest depressions appear posteromedially and are several millimetres deep. Here,  
342 the outer margin of the more posterior depression measures c. 6 mm by 10 mm and  
343 faces posteromedially. The second depression lies anteroventrally in respect to the  
344 former, and faces medially. Its outline is circular and measures c. 7 mm by 7 mm. Both  
345 depressions possess a distinct rim. The ventral aspect of the callus also shows several  
346 small round to oval-shaped depressions. If these depressions underlie a pathologic  
347 origin, the current morphology is consistent with lesions caused by osteomyelitis  
348 (Ortner & Putschar, 1981; Pschyrembel, 1990; Rothschild & Martin, 2006).

349

350 In the left pedal phalanx IV-1, there are two bulbous swellings on the lateral side (Fig.  
351 9F). One is positioned underneath and posteroventral to the lateral ligament pit, another  
352 one is situated at the posterolateral side near the proximal articulation. The anterior  
353 swelling follows the slightly sinuous curvature of the ventral side of the bone in lateral  
354 view, which is the result of the constricted phalangeal shaft between the proximal and  
355 distal joints, which are both dorsoventrally expanded in relation to the shaft. The  
356 posterior swelling parallels the posterolateral and lateral margin of the proximal  
357 articulation, and is therefore vertically oriented. The swellings are separated by a small  
358 oblique gap, under which the bone seems to have retained its usual form. Both swellings  
359 have a smooth surface structure not different from other parts of the bone, but are not  
360 found on the same element of the right foot and are therefore abnormal. The swellings  
361 are different from the callus on the left pedal phalanx II-2, as they have a clearly  
362 delimited and abrupt border to either side. As additionally no lesions are found and a  
363 fracture line is absent, the pathology on the left pedal phalanx IV-1 is classified as  
364 idiopathic.

365

## 366 **Discussion**

### 367 **Identification and cause of pathologies**

368 According to the scheme of Hanna (2002), the pathologic elements of SMA 0005 can be  
369 classified as follows: the fifth cervical vertebra, the scapula, several ribs and right  
370 ischium are traumatic, and the callus structure of the left pedal phalanx II-2 is traumatic-  
371 infectious. In contrast, the supposed pathologies in the lower jaw and in the reduced  
372 flexor tubercle of the left pedal phalanx II-2 cannot be assigned to a certain type of this  
373 scheme, as they show evidence of advanced healing. They are most likely traumatic or

374 developmental in origin. The same is true for the abnormal outgrowths in the neural  
375 arch of the fourth cervical, which are most likely developmental in origin or idiopathic.  
376 The pathology on the left humerus is infectious or idiopathic, whereas the left pedal  
377 phalanx IV-1 is classified as idiopathic. With exception of the ischium, all traumatic /  
378 traumatic-infectious pathologic elements show unambiguous evidences of healing,  
379 indicating that the respective pathologies did not cause the death of SMA 0005. The role  
380 of the ischial fracture as a possible cause of death will be discussed below.

381  
382 The deformed anterior end of the left dentary of SMA 0005 is most likely pathologic, but  
383 no obvious lesions are developed. This indicates that the supposed pathology was  
384 probably completely healed and happened long before the animal died. A pathology in  
385 the anterior part of the dentary is also found in the *Allosaurus* specimen USNM 2315  
386 (Gilmore, 1920; Tanke & Currie, 2000; Molnar, 2001). As in SMA 0005, the symphyseal  
387 region is strongly deformed, leading to a concavity in the anterior part of the dentary,  
388 which is bordered anteriorly by a dorsally pointing, hook-like projection. The anterior  
389 alveoli are completely resorbed so that the symphyseal region is edentulous. According  
390 to Gilmore (1920) and Tanke & Currie (2000) the anterior end of the dentary in USNM  
391 2315 was probably bitten off and then heavily remodelled during the healing process. As  
392 no sign of other pathologic deformations are visible in the anterior end of the dentary,  
393 the supposed trauma happened probably long before the death of the animal, too.  
394 Assuming a similar scenario for the supposed pathology in SMA 0005, both specimens  
395 may indicate face-biting behaviour in *Allosaurus*, which was previously also  
396 hypothesized for other large-bodied theropods (e.g. *Sinraptor*, *Albertosaurus*,  
397 *Daspletosaurus*, *Gorgosaurus* and *Tyrannosaurus*), including in juveniles of some of these  
398 taxa (Tanke & Currie, 2000; Peterson et al., 2009; Bell, 2010). Another example of a

399 remodeled alveolus with possible traumatic origin was recently described for a single  
400 maxilla of the basal tetanuran *Sinosaurus* (= "*Dilophosaurus sinensis*") (Xing et al., 2013).  
401 However, it is also possible that the abnormal shape of the dentary in SMA 0005 results  
402 from developmental malformation or a fracture that happened in earlier ontogeny,  
403 which left no remaining traces.

404

405 The deformation of the anterior end of the dentary has implications for the structure  
406 and function of the mandibular symphysis in *Allosaurus*. As pointed out by Holliday &  
407 Nesbitt (2013), most basal theropod dinosaurs have a very simple mandibular  
408 symphysis that consists of a simple flattened medial area of the anterior end of the  
409 dentary. However, even in such an osteologically simple structure the actual union of the  
410 left and right mandible by connective tissue can be quite variable (see Holliday et al.,  
411 2010). The deformation of the left, but not the right mandible in SMA 0005 indicates that  
412 there was no very tight junction between the two mandibular rami, and the symphysis  
413 and the jaws as a whole functioned despite the different morphologies and resulting  
414 differences in the level of the alveolar margins in the left and right mandible. This is also  
415 supported by the deformation seen in USNM 2315, which also affected the mandibular  
416 symphysis.

417

418 Another interesting aspect of the pathologic dentary of SMA 0005 is its similarity with  
419 dentaries of spinosaurid megalosaurs. As there are no direct indications of pathology in  
420 the bone itself, and the pathologic nature can only be inferred by comparison with the  
421 other dentary, which shows a more typical morphology for *Allosaurus*. This element, if  
422 found isolated, would probably not have been classified as *Allosaurus*. This has  
423 happened with the dentary USNM 2315, which was originally described as a new

424 species, *Labrosaurus ferox*, by Marsh (1884). Thus, caution is needed when evaluating  
425 the systematic position of isolated elements to rule out possible pathologies.

426

427 The most common pathology in the axial skeleton of dinosaurs is the fusion of single  
428 vertebrae, which often appears in the caudal series. Possible causes of vertebral fusion  
429 are e.g. congenital abnormality (e.g. Witzmann et al., 2008), infections (Rothschild, 1997;  
430 Rothschild & Martin, 2006), malformations during the healing process of a trauma  
431 (Rothschild, 1997; Butler et al., 2013), diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH)  
432 (Rothschild, 1987; Rothschild & Berman, 1991) or spondyloarthropathy (Rothschild &  
433 Martin, 2006; Witzmann et al., 2014). No evidence of vertebral fusion is found in SMA  
434 0005.

435

436 Like in the *Allosaurus* specimen MOR 693, the dorsal neural spines of SMA 0005 show  
437 irregular-shaped exostoses, which were diagnosed by Hanna (2002) as idiopathic  
438 pathological ossification of interspinous ligaments. However, little research has been  
439 done on the classification of ossified ligaments and other soft tissues in dinosaurs. In  
440 ornithopods and dromeosaurid theropod dinosaurs, ossified tendons are found to stiffen  
441 parts of the axial skeleton, and these structures are commonly not interpreted as  
442 pathologic (e.g. Ostrom, 1969; Norell & Makovicky, 1999; Organ, 2006). However, in  
443 many theropod dinosaurs, rugose outgrowths are found on the anterior and posterior  
444 sides of the neural spine, which are thought to be part of ossified prespinal and  
445 postspinal ligaments, respectively. These structures occur more frequently on larger  
446 specimens (e.g. *Allosaurus* BYU 725/12901, BYU 725/12902, BYU 725/13051, UMNH VP  
447 8365, UMNH VP 13813; *Acrocanthosaurus* SMU 74646, Harris 1998; cf. *Spinosaurus*  
448 BSPG 2006 I 57), although there are also smaller specimens with such ossification (e.g.

449 *Allosaurus* UMNH VP 7341, DINO 11541). In individuals preserving an articulated or  
450 associated vertebral series, no clear pattern of intervertebral tendon ossifications can be  
451 observed. In *Neovenator*, the posterior cervical vertebrae show ossifications at the  
452 apexes of the neural spines, and most dorsal vertebrae show such structures (Brusatte,  
453 Benson & Hutt, 2008), while in *Baryonyx*, a mid-cervical vertebra (BMNH R9951) shows  
454 relatively large ossifications, whereas more posterior positioned vertebrae lack such  
455 structures and only show rugose attachment sites for the respective ligaments on the  
456 neural arch (Charig & Milner, 1997). In some cases, the interspinal ossifications have  
457 been suggested to be of diagnostic and thus taxonomic value (Chure, 2000). The above  
458 cases show that ligament ossifications in dinosaurs are frequently not interpreted as  
459 pathologic, and because many theropods show ossifications of at least the attachment  
460 areas of interspinal ligaments, we advocate that they should be regarded as non-  
461 pathologic, pending more detailed research on the topic.

462  
463 However, the exostoses found in the fourth cervical of SMA 0005 differ in their position  
464 and morphology from the examples mentioned above. Here, the strongly irregular shape  
465 of the anterior exostosis resembles the morphology of an osteochondroma, which  
466 represents the most common type of bone tumours in humans (Murphey et al., 2000;  
467 Sekharappa et al., 2014). In captive wild extant mammals and reptiles (including birds),  
468 however, the development of tumours is rather rare (Ratcliffe, 1933; Efron, Griner &  
469 Benirschke, 1977; Huchzermeyer, 2003). Thus, it is not surprising that the unambiguous  
470 diagnosis of tumours in dinosaurs is limited to only a few cases (e.g. Rothschild et al.,  
471 1998; Rothschild, Witzke & Hershkovitz, 1999; Rothschild et al., 2003; Arbour & Currie,  
472 2011; Rega, 2012). Due to the restricted knowledge of tumour formation in dinosaurs in  
473 general, this diagnosis has to be seen with caution. However, if the diagnosis is correct,

474 the anterior exostosis found in the fourth cervical of SMA 0005 represents the third case  
475 of an osteochondroma in dinosaurs (Rega, 2012). The smaller, more regular-shaped  
476 exostosis on the posterior side of the neural arch does not fulfil the criteria for a bone  
477 tumour. One possible explanation for these structures could be an inflammatory  
478 ossification of the *ligamentum elasticum interlaminae*, which attaches right above the  
479 neural canal of cervical vertebrae (Tsuihiji, 2004), probably affecting the neck mobility.  
480 However, if none of the presented diagnosis is correct, both exostoses have to be  
481 classified as idiopathic.

482  
483 Evidence for traumatic pathologies in the vertebral column is also rare in dinosaurs.  
484 Carpenter et al. (2005) describes an anterior caudal of *Allosaurus* with a possible  
485 puncture in the left transversal process, which was most likely injured by a *Stegosaurus*  
486 tail spike, indicating a predator-prey relationship between both dinosaurs. Traumatic  
487 caudals found in the basal sauropodomorph *Massospondylus* (Butler et al., 2013) and the  
488 hadrosaur *Edmontosaurus* (Carpenter, 2000) probably result from unsuccessful attacks  
489 of large-bodied theropods, indicating active hunting behaviour in the latter, while an  
490 injured caudal in the abelisaurid *Majungasaurus* (Farke & O'Connor, 2007) may indicate  
491 cannibalistic behaviour. In contrast, the traumatic fracture found in the fifth cervical of  
492 SMA 0005 probably results from a serious accident. Although the whole left  
493 postzygapophysis was basically broken, the trauma shows evidence of healing in form of  
494 a callus, indicating the survival of the accident. A possible explanation for such a rather  
495 unusual break might be found in the importance of the neck in hunting behaviour in  
496 large theropods (e.g. Snively & Russell, 2007a,b; Snively et al., 2013). Thus, the injury  
497 might have resulted from a failed hunting attack or from struggling prey, in which case  
498 this represents further evidence for active hunting in *Allosaurus* (see also Carpenter et

499 al., 2005). However this may be, the severity of the injury most probably had a serious  
500 affect on the neck mobility of the specimen (see Snively et al., 2013).

501  
502 Fractured or infected presacral ribs are one of the most common pathologies found  
503 within theropods (Molnar, 2001), in which, however, cervical ribs are less affected than  
504 dorsal elements. Pathologic cervical ribs are reported for *Megalosaurus* (Tanke &  
505 Rothschild, 2002), *Allosaurus* (Petersen et al., 1972) and *Tyrannosaurus* (Brochu, 2003),  
506 whereas corresponding dorsal rib pathologies are found in various large-bodied  
507 theropods like the abelisaurid *Majungasaurus* (Farke & O'Connor, 2007), the  
508 allosauroids *Acrocanthosaurus* (Harris, 1998), *Allosaurus* (Molnar, 2001; Hanna, 2002;  
509 Rothschild & Tanke, 2005), *Mapusaurus* (Bell & Coria, 2013) and *Sinraptor* (Currie &  
510 Zhao, 1993) and the tyrannosaurids *Albertosaurus* (Bell, 2010), *Gorgosaurus* (Lambe,  
511 1917) and *Tyrannosaurus* (Brochu, 2003; Rothschild & Molnar, 2008). The examples  
512 mentioned above show different kinds of pathologies, i.e. trauma-related callus  
513 formations (Harris, 1998; Hanna, 2002; Brochu, 2003), pseudarthroses (Harris, 1998;  
514 Brochu, 2003; Rothschild & Molnar, 2008; Bell, 2010) or lesions by microbial infections  
515 (Harris, 1998; Hanna, 2002; Brochu, 2003; Bell & Coria, 2013), in which the latter could  
516 be the result of secondary infections of the injury. Hanna (2002) further describes the  
517 formation of idiopathic spiculae on two fractured dorsal ribs in the *Allosaurus* specimen  
518 MOR 693. In SMA 0005, all pathologic ribs show evidence for traumatic-related  
519 pseudarthroses. Here, the pseudarthrosis as a healing response (rather than callus  
520 healing) in the cervical rib results most likely from regular neck movements (Snively &  
521 Russell, 2007a; Snively et al., 2013), whereas the pseudarthroses found in the dorsal ribs  
522 were probably caused by constant movement of the ribcage during breathing (Claessens,  
523 2009a,b) or due to thorax movements during locomotion (see Mallison, 2010).

524

525 The fractured scapula shows a clear case of a pseudarthrosis as healing response, which  
526 resulted from the apparent malunion of the fractured elements. Mechanical loading is  
527 additionally likely, as the proximal fragment, which is articulated with the rest of the  
528 arm, is tilted ventrally. The extent of the malunion may be indicative of syn-traumatic  
529 displacement, which potentially indicates great destructive force acting upon the  
530 element. Accordingly, the left arm in SMA 0005 was likely dysfunctional after the trauma.

531 Other examples of pathologic scapulae in theropods can be found in the *Allosaurus*  
532 specimen USNM 4734 (Gilmore, 1920; Rothschild, 1997; Molnar, 2001) and in  
533 *Yangchuanosaurus* (Xing et al., 2009). The scapula of USNM 4734 shows a strong, arched  
534 dislocation between both fragments, in which the proximal element developed a spine-  
535 like exostosis on the ventral margin of the projecting portion of the proximal fragment  
536 (Gilmore, 1920; Rothschild, 1997). In contrast, the injury of the scapula in  
537 *Yangchuanosaurus* shows callus formation as healing response (Xing et al., 2009),  
538 indicating an incipient fracture. Other examples of pathologic scapulae seem not to be  
539 related to traumatic events, but with the development of exostoses [e.g.  
540 *Acrocanthosaurus* (NCSM 14345, pers. obs.) and *Neovantor* (Brusatte et al., 2008)],  
541 idiopathic lesions [e.g. *Allosaurus* (MOR 693; Hanna, 2002)] and infectious lesions in  
542 relation to osteomyelitis [e.g. *Allosaurus* (UUVP 1528, UUVP 5599, Molnar, 2001; Hanna,  
543 2002)].

544

545 Because the injuries of the left scapula and the dorsal ribs from the left side are present  
546 at almost the same level of the thorax, it is possible that these traumas happened in one  
547 single event, e.g. a serious fall, or a defensive blow from a sauropod tail. This scenario  
548 would be even more probable if the deformations found in the other dorsal ribs from the

549 left side have a traumatic origin. However, as stated above, this cannot currently be  
550 confirmed, as they cannot be distinguished from taphonomic deformations. Multiple rib  
551 fractures from one thorax side are also documented in *Acrocanthosaurus* (Harris, 1998),  
552 *Allosaurus* (Hanna, 2002) and *Tyrannosaurus* (Brochu, 2003), possibly resulting from  
553 one single traumatic event.

554

555 The most complex pathology appears in the left pedal phalanx II-2, including a reduced  
556 flexor tubercle, a callus formation of the phalangeal shaft, and several lesions  
557 penetrating the callus. The origin of the reduced flexor tubercle remains speculative,  
558 possibly being developmental in origin or resulting from a healed trauma. However, as  
559 the flexor tubercle in its normal condition should prevent the hyperextension of pedal  
560 phalanges, it is possible that the reduced process in SMA 0005 was not able to fulfil this  
561 task properly, leading to a frequent overloading of pedal muscles and ligaments. Thus, it  
562 is possible that this pathology is physically linked to the callus formation in the proximal  
563 portion of the phalangeal shaft. This type of pathology is very common in theropods  
564 (Madsen, 1976; Rothschild, 1988; Rothschild et al., 2001; Rothschild & Tanke, 2005;  
565 Farke & O'Connor, 2007; Bell, 2010; Zanno et al., 2011; Anné et al., 2014), and probably  
566 a result of stress fractures related to strenuous activities (Rothschild et al., 2001;  
567 Rothschild & Tanke, 2005). The additional penetration of the callus by several lesions  
568 indicate a secondary infection of the pedal phalanx, perhaps caused by a syn-traumatic  
569 injury of adjacent soft tissue, through which microbial pathogens got access to the bone  
570 and cause contiguous osteomyelitis. Thus, the callus pathology is most likely traumatic-  
571 infectious. Secondary infections of callus structures in, as well as infections not clearly  
572 linkable to fractures, seem to be common in pedal phalanges of *Allosaurus* (MOR 693,  
573 UUVP 1657, UMNH VP 6295, UMNH VP 6284, UMNH VP 10755, UMNH VP 6287, UMNH

574 VP 6299). In two specimens (MOR 693; UUVP 1657), the secondary infections led to  
575 colossal exostoses, causing chronic pain and restriction in the locomotion.

576

577 The cause for the abnormalities of the left humerus and left pedal phalanx IV-1 are  
578 unknown, although the pits found on the ulnar condyle of the left humerus might result  
579 from an infection.

580

581 The most severe and potentially fatal pathology occurs in the ischium, which most likely  
582 represents a traumatic fracture. Pathologies in the pelvic region are not often  
583 documented in theropods and usually restricted to the ilium (Molnar, 2001; Hanna,  
584 2002; Bell & Coria, 2013). In the *Allosaurus* specimen UUVP 5985, the ilium is fused with  
585 the ischium (Hanna, 2002). However, an ischial fracture is to our knowledge not  
586 documented within theropods so far. The fracture of the right ischium exhibits a large  
587 interfragmentary gap with a projecting fragment on the lateral side. Because  
588 unambiguous healing responses are absent around the fracture, the possibility that the  
589 ischium was broken post-mortem has to be considered. However, scenarios in which a  
590 skeletal element with a designated long axis fractures in the oblique way described  
591 above are hard to come by, and we think the most parsimonious explanation for the  
592 observed fracture is a traumatic event during life. This is perhaps supported by the  
593 presence of sandy sediment matrix in the interfragmentary gap, as a void would be  
594 expected to be filled by different material if the fracture was the result of stress related  
595 to tectonic activity. Although no callus structure is found around the fracture, its absence  
596 per se cannot be seen as a clear indicator for the lack of a healing response, as the  
597 integration of the ischium in a complex network of locomotor musculature (Carrano &  
598 Hutchinson, 2002; Hutchinson et al., 2005) would predict intense motion along the

599 fracture, favoring the formation of a pseudarthrosis (Cleas et al., 2000; Lobo et al.,  
600 2001). As seen in the scapula, large parts of the fracture line can remain unfused in a  
601 pseudarthrosis, and the fragments can be adhered at the end points of overlapping  
602 fracture fragments. In SMA 0005, the periphery of the connective bone in the scapula is  
603 structurally marked by fine striations and modifications from the smooth surface of  
604 healthy bone. Unfortunately, the irregular texture of the ischium, which we interpret as  
605 taphonomic (see below), prevents an assessment of the bone structure around the area  
606 where the ischium fragments meet, as the pattern would have overprinted the original  
607 bone surface structure. Therefore, it cannot be clarified if the connection of the  
608 fragments is the result of incomplete fracturing, or a secondary bridging due to a healing  
609 response. As experimental studies on animal fractures have shown that overhanging  
610 fracture ends tend to be resorbed during the healing process (Lobo et al., 2001), the  
611 presence of a laterally projecting fragment indicates that the healing process, if already  
612 started, was still in an early phase, supporting the hypothesis that the trauma happened  
613 shortly before the animal died, and is accordingly a possible cause of death. It is likely  
614 that the locomotion ability of SMA 0005 was significantly limited or even inhibited by  
615 the injury, consequentially affecting life traits like its hunting success. The reason for the  
616 traumatic event remains speculative, although it must have been a forceful incident.

617  
618 The irregular cortical texture found around the ischial fracture is probably not  
619 pathologic. The right pubis shows also large traces of similar structure. Smaller traces  
620 can be found in the right coracoid, both scapulae, the left humerus, the left ischium, the  
621 left pubis and the left fibula (Fig. 5C, D). The structures differ in their morphology from  
622 the supposed lesions found in the right pedal phalanx II-2, as they possess a very  
623 irregular outline with a weak margin and a complex inner topography, which is

624 composed of interconnected round pits with irregular size and depth (c. 1 to 3 mm).  
625 This morphology is similar to the superficial pits found on various sauropod bones from  
626 the Morrison Formation, which are most likely taphonomic in origin (Fiorillo, 1998;  
627 Hasiotis, Fiorillo & Hanna, 1999). Possible causes for these traces are bone corrosion  
628 due to soil acidity (Fiorillo, 1998) or scavenging by insect larvae (Hasiotis et al., 1999).

629

### 630 **Implications for paleobiology and lifestyle**

631 The number of pathologic specimens in general and the number of pathologies within  
632 fairly complete *Allosaurus* individuals suggest that members of this taxon had an active  
633 lifestyle predisposed to injury. Most pathologies found seem to be traumatic in origin,  
634 but only few show evidence of secondary infection (Molnar, 2001). This either suggests  
635 that inflamed wounds quickly caused death, leaving no osteological traces, or that the  
636 immune defence of these animals was successful in prohibiting infections. Oftentimes  
637 injuries were indeed survived, as evidence for healing responses are abundant in the  
638 theropod fossil record. In previous studies (e.g. Hanna, 2002; Butler et al., 2013; Vittore  
639 & Henderson, 2013) mammalian immune response has often been used as a model for  
640 explaining pathologic structures thought to be related to tissue-invasive microbial  
641 infections in non-avian dinosaur taxa. However, while the mammalian immune response  
642 to such infections usually is the formation of suppurative abscesses, extant reptiles  
643 (including birds) form small cysts of fibrin (fibriscesses) at the sources of infection,  
644 which tend to calcify in advance stages (Montali, 1988; Gomis et al., 1997;  
645 Huchzermeyer & Cooper, 2000; Cooper, 2005; Rega, 2012). Applying the extant  
646 phylogenetic bracket, a reptile-like immune response should be suspected for tissue-  
647 invasive microbial infections in non-avian dinosaurs, too. Consequently, application of a  
648 mammalian model for infectious pathologies in non-avian dinosaurs should be avoided

649 (see Arbour & Currie, 2011; Rega, 2012). As the localization of pathogens in fibriscesses  
650 successfully prevents haematogenous osteomyelitis in reptiles, the risk of lethal  
651 infections due to the spread to other body regions is minimized (Rega, 2012). This is  
652 supported by the fact that theropods show only very localized indications for infections  
653 (Molnar, 2001).

654

655 The severity of pathologies in SMA 0005 and other *Allosaurus* specimens (Gilmore,  
656 1920; Molnar, 2001; Hanna, 2002) points to a frequent exposure to hazardous situations.  
657 This might be seen as evidence for an active predatory life style. If this is accepted, many  
658 of the traumatic pathologies found could be the result of hunting accidents (see e.g.  
659 Carpenter et al., 2005). Some of the pathologies seen in *Allosaurus*, like the broken  
660 cervical postzygapophysis and scapula of SMA 0005, the hypertrophied pedal phalanx of  
661 MOR 693 (Hanna, 2002) and UMNH 1657 (Madsen, 1976; Hanna, 2002), or the fibula of  
662 USNM 4734 (Gilmore, 1920) can be expected to severely limit the movement,  
663 manoeuvrability, and speed of the animals. This in turn should affect the hunting success,  
664 but also intra- and interspecific competition for various other resources (water,  
665 territories, captured prey and carrion) of such an individual, which would be expected  
666 to mean certain death within a relatively short period of time. This is especially true for  
667 animals with solitary behavior. Indeed, the broken ischium qualifies as a strongly  
668 limiting and severe injury, and is potentially related to the death of SMA 0005. However,  
669 the number of cases of advanced healing for severe injuries within various *Allosaurus*  
670 specimens (including SMA 0005) might be an indication of social behaviour, in which  
671 prey was shared among individuals of a group. Although stratigraphic and taphonomic  
672 information is not provided in detail for all *Allosaurus* remains, this taxon represents the  
673 most abundant theropod within the Morrison Formation, and oftentimes appears with

674 several specimens within near proximity to one another (see Gilmore, 1920; Madsen,  
675 1976; Foster, 2003; Loewen, 2009), supporting a possible gregarious behavior. Within  
676 theropod dinosaurs, similar behavior has been further hypothesized for the  
677 coelophysoids *Coelophysis* (Colbert, 1989) and *Syntarsus* (Raath, 1990), the  
678 carcharodontosaurid *Mapusaurus* (Coria & Currie, 2006), the ornithomimosaur  
679 *Sinornithomimus* (Kobayashi & Lü, 2003; Varricchio et al., 2008), and the tyrannosaurids  
680 *Albertosaurus* (Currie, 2000; Currie & Eberth, 2010) and *Daspletosaurus* (Currie et al.,  
681 2005), which were all found in (nearly) monospecific assemblages. Although  
682 monospecific assemblages are scarce in the Morrison Formation (Foster, 2003; Gates,  
683 2005), at least the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry is by far dominated by *Allosaurus*.  
684 In spite of repeated taphonomic and sedimentological investigations of the quarry  
685 (Bilbey, 1998, 1999; Gates, 2005), the abundance of *Allosaurus* has not been  
686 satisfactorily explained, so that a gregarious scenario should not be ruled out at this  
687 point.

688

## 689 **Conclusions**

690 The *Allosaurus* SMA 0005 represents a further specimen of this taxon with multiple  
691 pathologies, which were mostly traumatic in origin and pertain to all body regions (i.e.  
692 skull, axial skeleton, pectoral and pelvic girdle, and extremities). Traces of healing  
693 responses in all pathologic bones but the ischium suggest the survival of accidents and  
694 infections, but also an active predatory lifestyle predisposed to injury. The scarcity and  
695 local restriction of infectious pathologies is in agreement with a reptile-like immune  
696 response preventing the spread of infections via the blood stream. The survival of  
697 injuries affecting the physical fitness in *Allosaurus* may indicate gregarious behavior.  
698 However, verification of this hypothesis would require more direct evidence, like an

699 unambiguous find of a group or direct trackway evidence (e.g. McCrea et al., 2014). The  
700 probable fracture in the ischium was potentially fatal, as no advanced traces of healing  
701 could be identified.

702

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716

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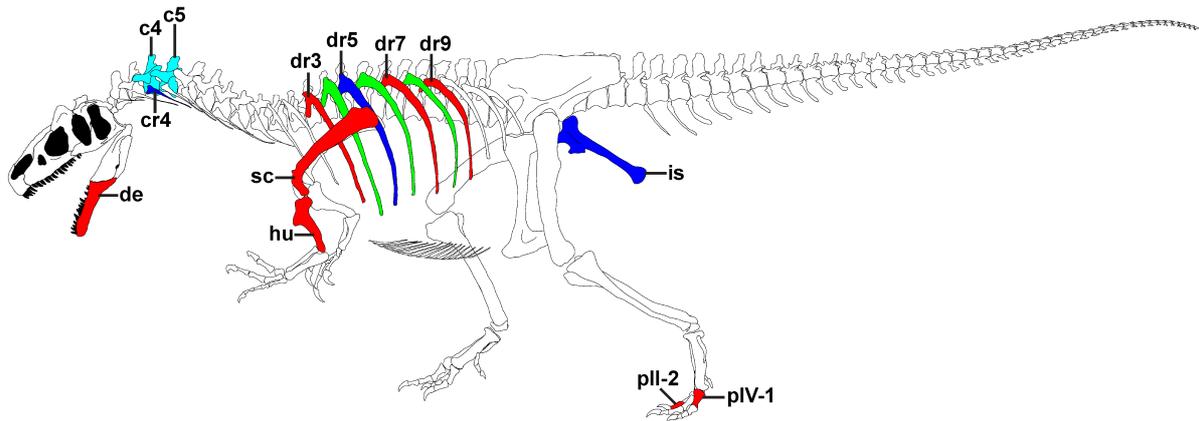
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**Figure 1 Overview of pathologies in SMA 0005.** Skeletal reconstruction of SMA 0005, showing all pathologic bones. Pathologic elements from the left side are shown in red, while respective elements from the right side are marked in blue. Unpaired pathologic bones are colored in cyan. Green ribs represent ribs from the left, for which a pathologic condition is uncertain. **Abbreviations:** **c** cervical, **cr** cervical rib, **de** dentary, **dr** dorsal rib, **hu** humerus, **is** ischium, **p** pedal phalanx, **sc** scapula. Skeletal reconstruction of SMA 0005 with courtesy from the Sauriermuseum Aathal.

A



B



1009

1010 **Figure 2 The dentaries of SMA 0005 in lateral view. (A) Left dentary with pathologic**

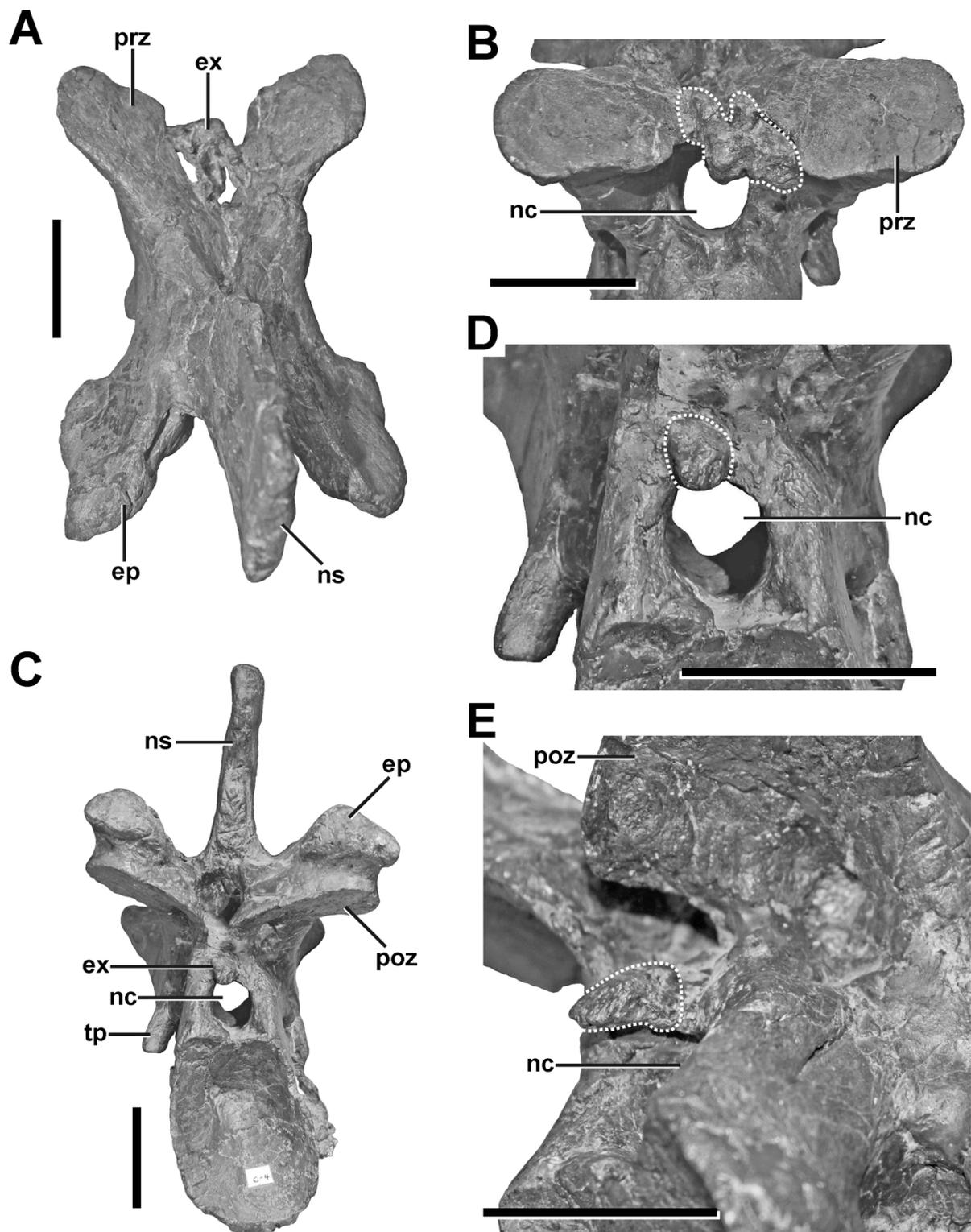
1011 anterior end. (B) Right dentary in mirrored view, showing the normal condition for

1012 *Allosaurus*. The differences in the shape of the alveolar margin in both dentaries are

1013 shown with a dashed line. Note that most teeth in both dentaries are not original, but

1014 glued to the internal margin of the dentaries. Scale bar = 5 cm.

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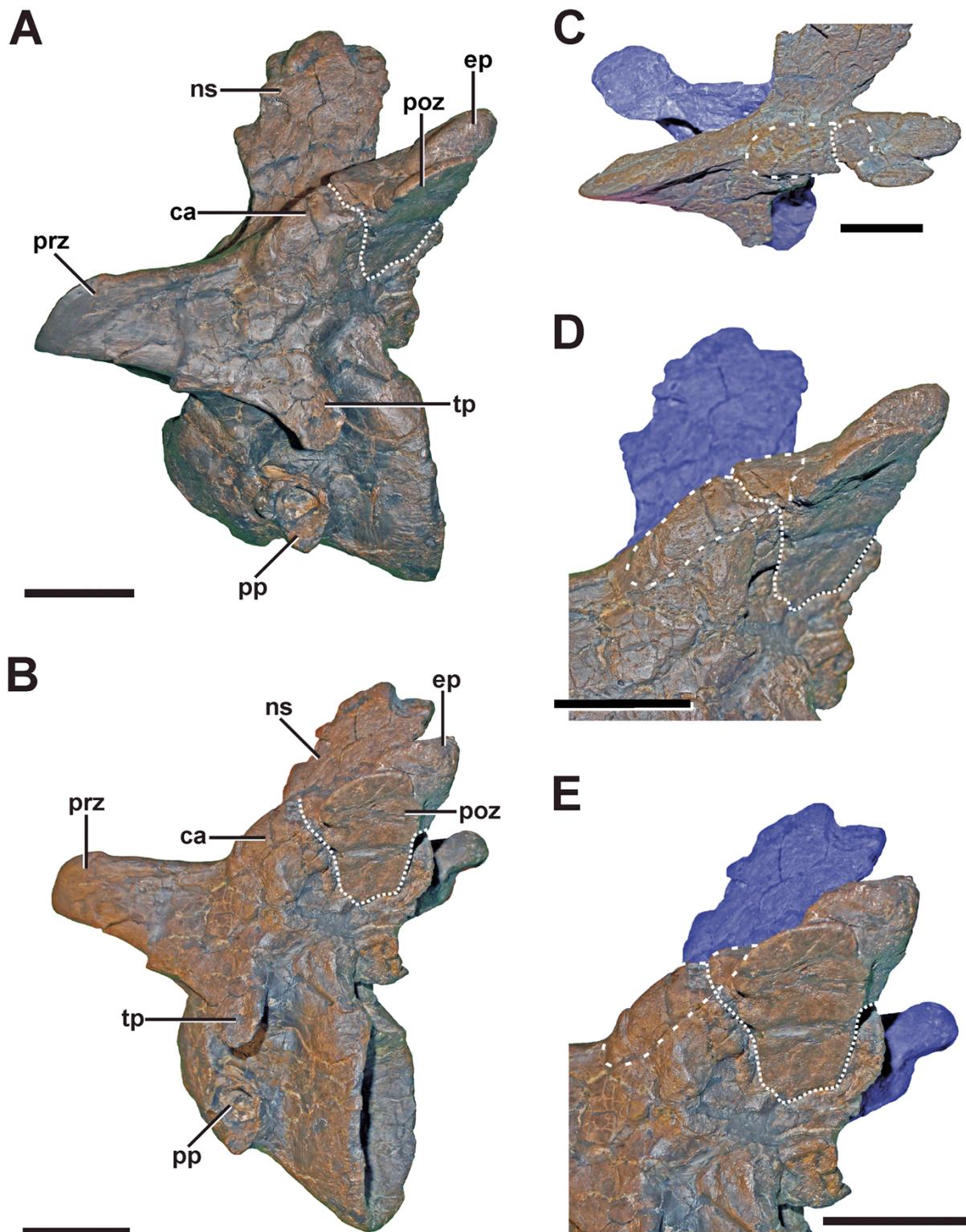
1017 **Figure 3 Fourth cervical of SMA 0005.** (A) Fourth cervical in dorsal view, showing a

1018 pathologic exostosis (possible osteochondroma) between the prezygapophyses. (B)

1019 Possible osteochondroma from anterior view marked by a dotted line. (C) Fourth

1020 cervical in posterior view, showing another exostosis (possible inflammatory

1021 ossification) above the neural canal. (D) Possible inflammatory ossification (dotted line)  
1022 in close-view. (E) Possible inflammatory ossification (dotted line) in posterolateral view.  
1023 **Abbreviations:** **ep** epiphysis, **ex** exostosis, **nc** neural canal, **ns** neural spine, **poz**  
1024 postzygapophysis, **prz** prezygapophysis, **tp** transverse process. Scale bar = 5 cm.  
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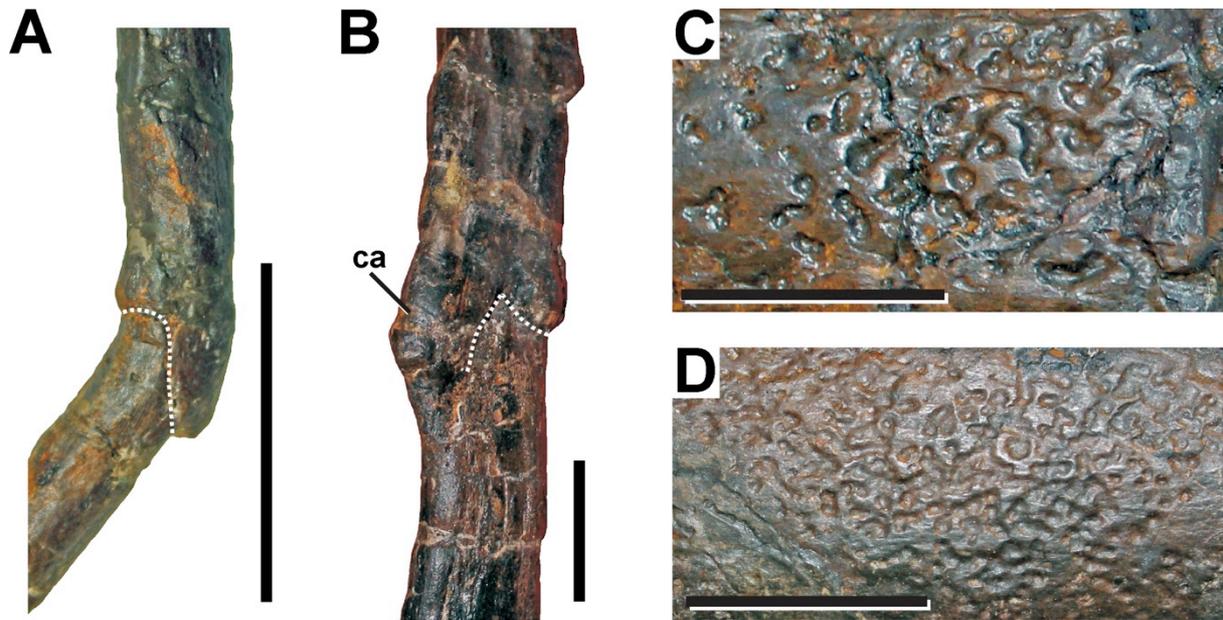
1027 **Figure 4 Fifth cervical of SMA 0005.** (A) Fifth cervical in left lateral view, showing the

1028 callus and the fracture (dotted line) at the base of the left postzygapophysis. (B) Fifth

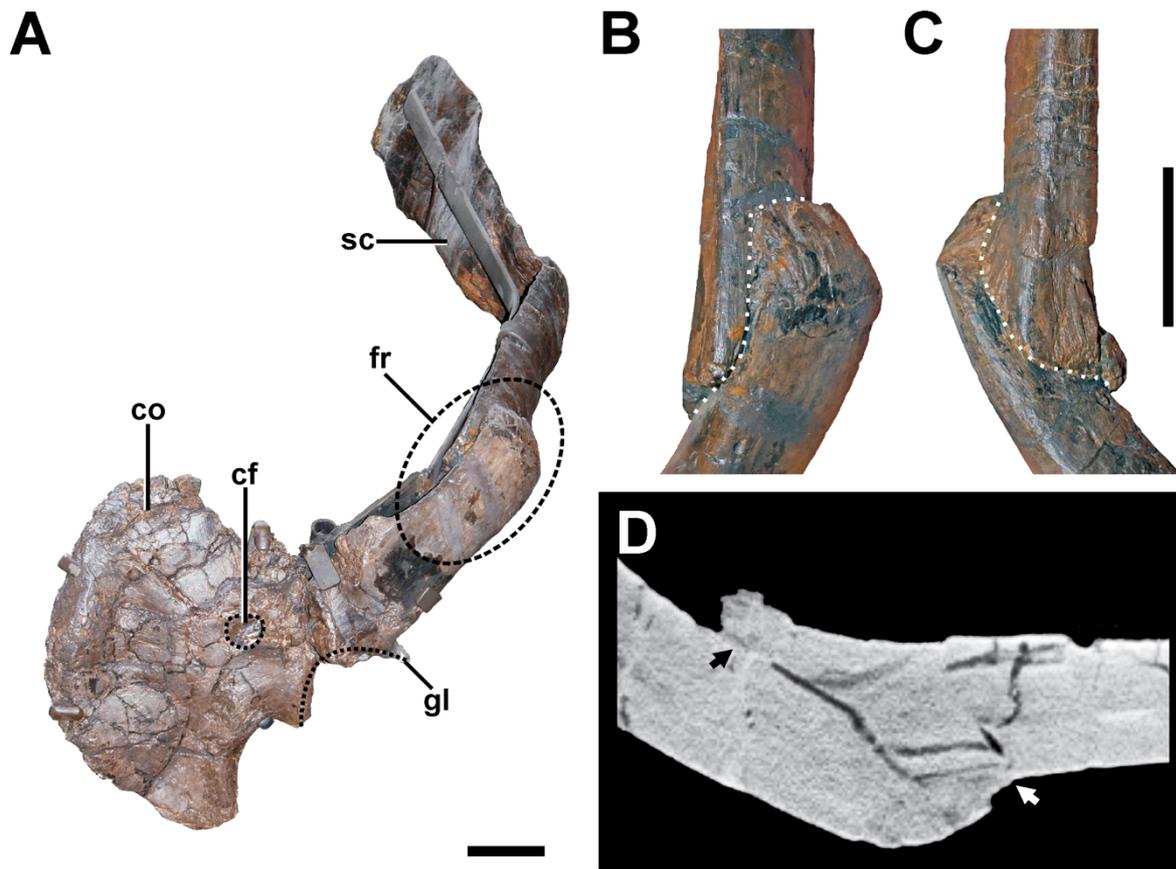
1029 cervical in lateral view in posterolateral view. (C) Callus (dashed line) and fracture

1030 (dotted line) in laterodorsal view. (D) Callus (dashed line) and fracture (dotted line) in

1031 lateroventral view. (E) Callus (dashed line) and fracture (dotted line) in oblique  
1032 posterolateral view. Parts of the bone are colored for better contrast. **Abbreviations: ca**  
1033 callus, **ep** epiphysis, **ns** neural spine, **poz** postzygapophysis, **pp** parapophysis, **prz**  
1034 prezygapophysis, **tp** transverse process. Scale bar = 5 cm.  
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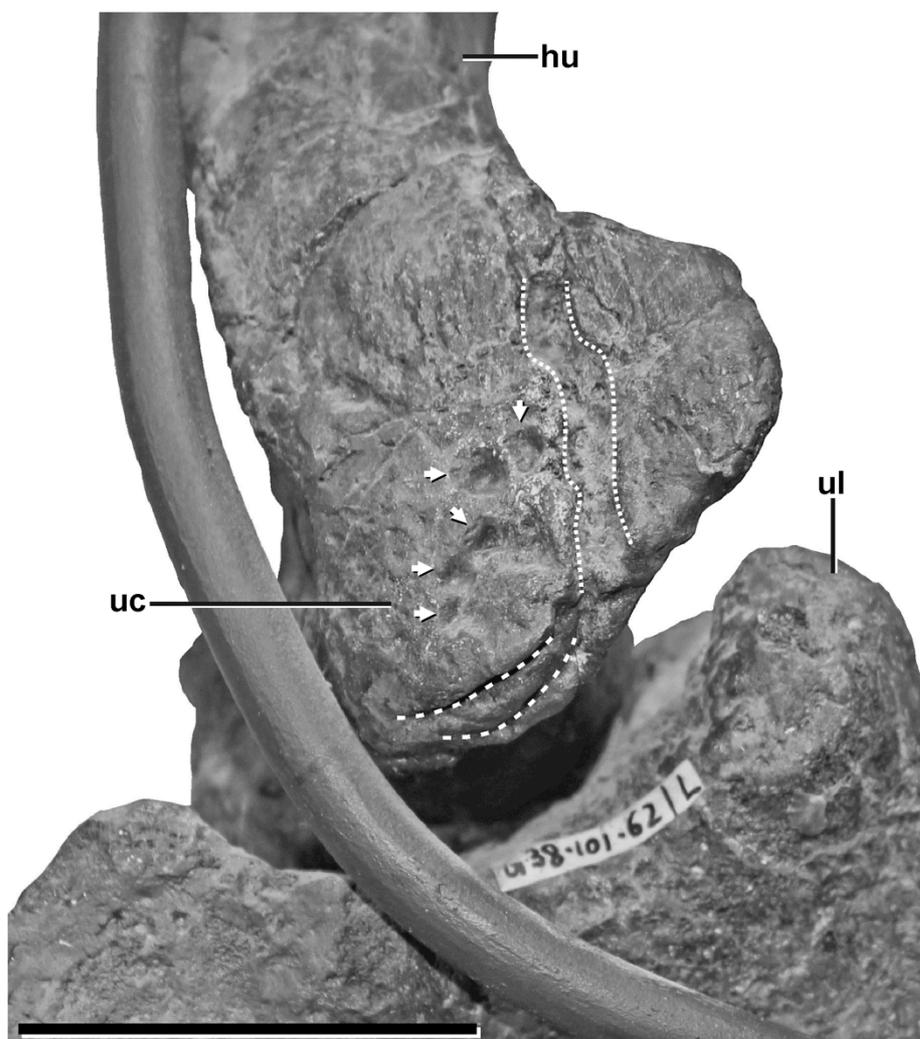


**Figure 5 Pathologic ribs and cortical traces in SMA 0005.** (A) Fourth cervical rib from the right side with fracture (dotted line). (B) Seventh dorsal rib from the left side with fracture (dotted line). (C) Cortical traces in the right ischium. (D) Cortical traces in the left scapula. **Abbreviations:** ca callus. Scale bar = 2 cm.



1043  
 1044 **Figure 6 Pathologic scapula of SMA 0005.** (A) Left scapula in anterolateral view,  
 1045 showing the fractured area of the scapula blade (dashed line). (B) Fracture (dotted line)  
 1046 in dorsal view. (C) Fracture (dotted line) in ventral view. (D) CT scan of the scapula,  
 1047 showing that only the fracture ends constitute a fused bridge between the fracture  
 1048 elements (arrows), which is consistent with a pseudarthrosis. **Abbreviations: co**  
 1049 **coracoid, cf coracoid foramen, fr fracture, gl glenoid facet, sc scapula blade.** Scale bar = 5  
 1050 cm.

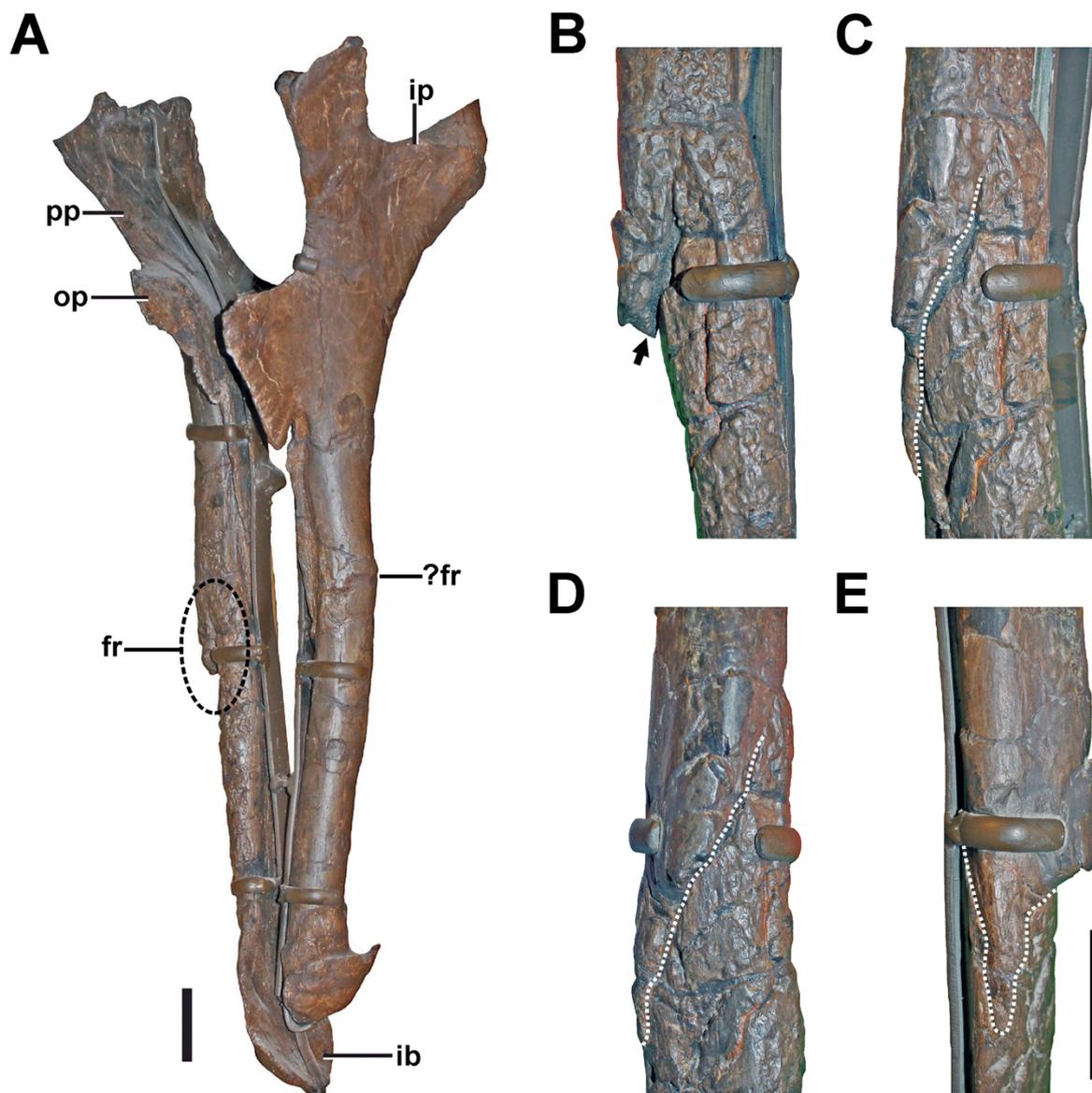
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1053 **Figure 7 Pathologic structures in the left humerus of SMA 0005.** Proximal portion of  
1054 the humerus in ventromedial view, showing idiopathic pathologies. The pathologies  
1055 contain an irregular cortical texture with numerous pits (arrows), a deep oblique groove  
1056 toward the anterior aspect of the medial side (dotted lines), and two sharp, trough-like  
1057 marks on the ventral surface of the ulnar condyle (dashed lines). **Abbreviations: hu**  
1058 **humerus, ul ulna, uc ulnar condyle.** Scale bar = 5 cm.

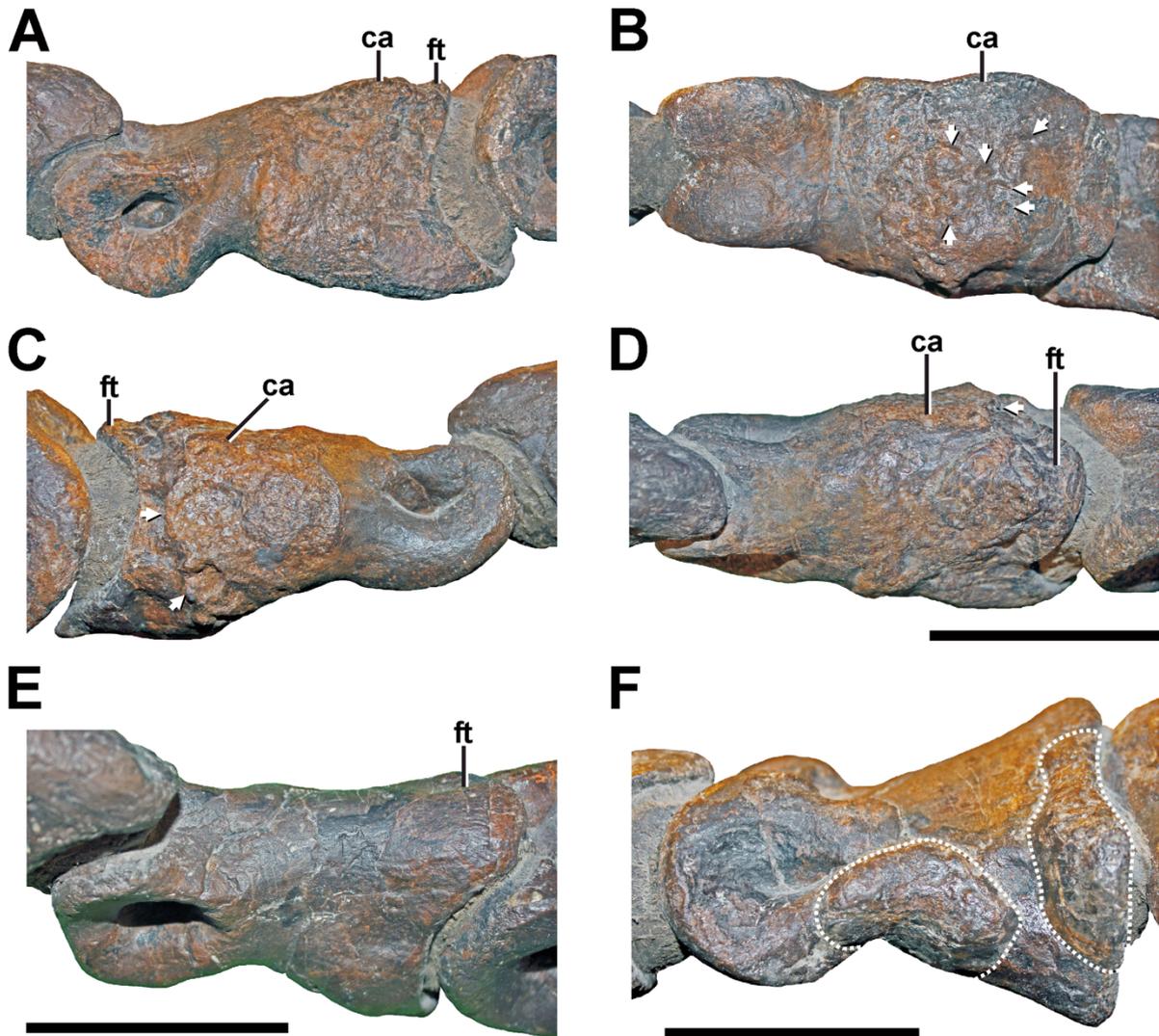
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1061 **Figure 8 Ischium of SMA 0005.** (A) Both Ischia in anterolateral view, showing the  
 1062 oblique fracture at the shaft of the right ischium. (B) Interfragmentary gap (arrow) of  
 1063 the right ischium in anterior view. (C) Fracture (dotted line) of the right ischium in  
 1064 anterolateral view. (D) Fracture (dotted line) of the right ischium in lateral view. (E)  
 1065 Fracture (dotted line) of the right ischium in posterior view. **Abbreviations:** **fr** fracture,  
 1066 **ib** ischial boot, **ip** ischial peduncle, **op** obturator process **pp** pubic peduncle. Scale bar =  
 1067 5 cm.

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1070 **Figure 9 Pathologic phalanges in SMA 0005.** (A) Left pedal phalanx II-2 from lateral  
 1071 view, showing the callus and the reduced flexor tubercle. (B) Left pedal phalanx II-2  
 1072 from ventral view, showing the callus and multiple small pits (arrows). (C) Left pedal  
 1073 phalanx II-2 from medial view, showing the callus and two large depressions (arrows),  
 1074 possibly indicating a secondary infection of the bone. (D) Left pedal phalanx II-2 from  
 1075 dorsal view, showing the callus and one of the two large depressions on the medial side.  
 1076 (E) Right pedal phalanx II-2 from mediodorsal view, showing the normal condition and  
 1077 size of the flexor tubercle. (F) Left pedal phalanx IV-1 in lateral view, showing two  
 1078 idiopathic bulbous swellings (dotted lines). **Abbreviations:** **ca** callus, **ft** flexor tubercle.  
 1079 Scale bar = 5 cm.

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