

TWO LATEST CRETACEOUS EGG LOCALITIES IN THE EXTERNAL SIERRAS (SOUTHERN PYRENEES, HUESCA PROVINCE, NE SPAIN)

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Keywords: *Megaloolithidae*, *Megaloolithus siruguei*, *Maastrichtian*, *Sauropoda*, *nesting ground*

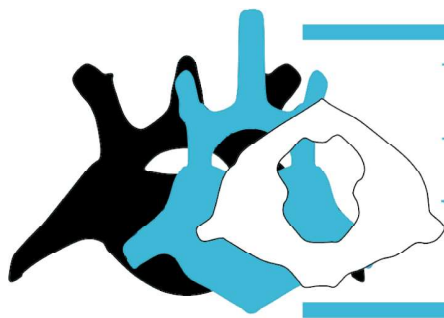
Sauropod oological remains are abundant in the northern and south-eastern Pyrenees, but scarce in the central region of the Southern Pyrenees (CRSP). Here we report two localities yielding eggs attributable to the oogenus *Megaloolithus*, located in Upper Cretaceous outcrops of the External Sierras (CRSP, Huesca, Spain).

In the CRSP, the Mesozoic succession is characterized by extensive stratigraphic unconformities and hiatus due to its marginal position in the Mesozoic Pyrenean basins. The Upper Cretaceous overlays the Triassic rocks, through a discontinuity that represents a non-depositional hiatus. The Cretaceous rocks are overlain by the Eocene Guara Formation. The eggshell-bearing layers are included in a continental terrigenous unit (Maastrichtian-Danian) traditionally named the “Garumnian facies”.

La Raya site (Peñas de Riglos municipality) was first mentioned by Pierre Souquet in 1967, who described eggshells “similar to those from the Begudian of Provence”. It is a small, ten-meter-thick outcrop where eggshell fragments and one isolated egg have been identified. On the other hand, the Ermita de Santa Marina site (Loarre municipality), discovered in 2019, is a 500m² outcrop, which has yielded a nesting ground with at least four different clutches, over 60 eggs, and thousands of eggshell fragments.

The compactituberculate ornamented subspherical eggs (~15 cm diameter) have ~3 mm-thick discretispherulitic eggshells composed of elongated shell units, thus being tentatively assigned to *Megaloolithus siruguei*. Survey between these localities, 8 km apart, shows the continuity of the egg-

bearing layer suggesting that the oological record of the CRSP might be on par with their Catalan and French equivalents.



PALÆO VERTEBRATA

Special Volume 1-2021



Abstract book of the 18th Conference of the
European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists (EAVP)
5-9 July 2021, Benevento, Italy