

Mandibles of mastodonsaurid temnospondyls from the Upper Permian-Lower Triassic of Uruguay


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Partially preserved temnospondyl mandibles from the Late Permian-Early Triassic Buena Vista Formation of Uruguay are referred to the basal stereospondyl taxon Mastodonsauridae. These represent the earliest known members of this group for South America. In most cases, this assignment was based on the characteristic morphology of the postglenoid (= postarticular) area of the lower jaw together with the presence of a hamate process. Comparisons with basal mastodonsaurids indicate that the Uruguayan specimens are phenetically similar to Gondwanan and Laurasian Early Triassic taxa, such as *Watsonisuchus*, *Wetlugasarus*, and *Parotosuchus*. Nevertheless, they display some characters which have not previously been described in Mesozoic temnospondyls. The Permo-Triassic Uruguayan mastodonsaurids support a Gondwanan origin for the group, an event which probably occurred sometime during the latest Permian.

Key words: Temnospondyli, Mastodonsauridae, lower jaw, Permian, Triassic, Buena Vista Formation, Uruguay.

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