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A new akidnognathid synapsid specimen from the Permian of Cradock, South Africa and the revision of *Hewittia albanensis*

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The main Karoo Basin of South Africa has yielded a treasure trove of fossil synapsids ranging from the middle Permian to the Early Jurassic, spanning approximately 80 Myr. *Hewittia albanensis* was first described by Brink (1959) based on AMG 4208 collected from the Chris Hani District Municipality (former Cradock District), Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. Since then, the taxon has been mostly ignored in published research. Here, we provide a redescription of *H. albanensis* based on a new specimen recovered from the Chris Hani District Municipality within rocks of the *Lystrosaurus maccaigi–Moschorhinus* Subzone of the *Daptocephalus* Assemblage Zone. We propose a new genus name for this species, *Cradognathus*, since *Hewittia* Brink, 1959, is preoccupied by *Hewittia* de Lessert, 1928, a crab spider from Congo. The position of *Cradognathus* within the Akidnognathidae, as well as its generic diagnosis, are revisited and discussed. The new specimen consists of an almost complete skull with some dorsoventral distortion. *Cradognathus* differs from other akidnognathids by the dental formula, a sharply pointed pterygoid transverse process, a median keel anterior to a short interpterygoid vacuity, and the presence of prominent lateral tuberosities at the ends of the ventromedial pterygoid flanges. We find that *Cradognathus* forms a clade with *Euchambersia* , *Cerdosuchoides*, and *Moschorhinus* within Akidnognathidae.

Key words: Therapsida, Therocephalia, Akidnognathidae, South Africa, Changhsingian, Permian.

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