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A new albanerpetontid amphibian from the Barremian (Early Cretaceous) Wessex Formation of the Isle of Wight, southern England

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A new albanerpetontid, *Wesserpeton evansae* gen. et sp. nov., from the Early Cretaceous (Barremian) Wessex Formation of the Isle of Wight, southern England, is described. *Wesserpeton* is established on the basis of a unique combination of primitive and derived characters relating to the frontals and jaws which render it distinct from currently recognized albanerpetontid genera: *Albanerpeton* (Late Cretaceous to Pliocene of Europe, Early Cretaceous to Paleocene of North America and Late Cretaceous of Asia); *Celtedens* (Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous of Europe); and *Anoualerpeton* (Middle Jurassic of Europe and Early Cretaceous of North Africa). Although *Wesserpeton* exhibits considerable intraspecific variation in characters pertaining to the jaws and, to a lesser extent, frontals, the new taxon differs from *Celtedens* in the shape of the internasal process and gross morphology of the frontals in dorsal or ventral view. It differs from *Anoualerpeton* in the lack of pronounced heterodonty of dentary and maxillary teeth; and in the more medial location and direction of opening of the suprapalatal pit. The new taxon cannot be referred to *Albanerpeton* on the basis of the morphology of the frontals. *Wesserpeton* currently represents the youngest record of Albanerpetontidae in Britain.

Key words: Albanerpetontidae, Lissamphibia, microvertebrates, Cretaceous, Britain.

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