ACTA PALAEONTOLOGICA POLONICA

The cervical vertebrae of the Late Cretaceous abelisaurid dinosaur *Carnotaurus sastrei*

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Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 59 (3), 2014: 569-579 doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.4202/app.2012.0095

The cervical vertebral series of *Carnotaurus sastrei* from Argentina is described in detail, and compared with *Majungasaurus crenatissimus* from Madagascar, both Late Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) in age. Notable differences in the morphology of the cervical vertebrae, especially in the shape and development of the epipophysis and the neural spines, are observed between these two genera. These differences show a neck much more robust in *Carnotaurus* than in *Majungasaurus*, may be linked to the evolution of the clade in relation to the divergence time since the two genera shared a common ancestor, and functionally may relate to the feeding function associated to the extreme reduction of the forelimbs.

Key words: Dinosauria, Abelisauridae, *Carnotaurus, Majungasaurus*, neck, cervical vertebrae, morphology, Cretaceous, Argentina, Madagascar.

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