

New albanerpetontid amphibians from the Early Cretaceous of Morocco and Middle Jurassic of England

James D. Gardner, Susan E. Evans, and Denise Sigogneau-Russell

Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 48 (2), 2003: 301-319

A third albanerpetontid genus, *Anoualerpeton* gen. nov., is erected for two new species: *An. unicus* sp. nov. (type species) from the Early Cretaceous (Berriasian) of Morocco and *An. priscus* sp. nov. from the Middle Jurassic (late Bathonian) of England. *Anoualerpeton* differs from the exclusively Laurasian albanerpetontid genera *Albanerpeton* (Early Cretaceous-Paleocene, North America; Miocene, Europe) and *Celtdens* (?Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous, Europe) in a unique combination of primitive and derived character states of the jaws and zygous frontals. Monophyly of *Anoualerpeton* is supported by two synapomorphies of the maxilla and dentary (occlusal margin convex in labial outline and teeth strongly heterodont in size anteriorly) that are convergent with an unrelated, relatively derived Late Cretaceous species of *Albanerpeton* from North America. The two species of *Anoualerpeton* differ in character states of the premaxilla and zygous frontals. Cladistic analysis of 20 characters scored for ten albanerpetontid taxa postulates *Anoualerpeton* as the sister-taxon of *Albanerpeton* + *Celtdens*. The sister-pair of *Albanerpeton* + *Celtdens* is founded on one or, perhaps, two premaxillary synapomorphies. *Anoualerpeton unicus* documents the only known Gondwanan occurrence for the Albanerpetontidae and provides a minimum age of basal Cretaceous for the establishment of the clade in Africa. Characters of the mandible, vertebrae, and limbs support the interpretation that *Ramonellus* (Aptian; Israel) is a caudate, not an albanerpetontid.

Key words: Albanerpetontidae, Cretaceous, England, Jurassic, Lissamphibia, Morocco, Ramonellus.

James D. Gardner [james.gardner@gov.ab.ca], Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Box 7500, Drumheller, Alberta T0J 0Y0 Canada; Susan E. Evans [ucgasue@ucl.ac.uk], Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT England; Denise Sigogneau-Russell [ds.dr@free.fr], Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire de Paléontologie, 8 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France.

Attribution License (for details please see creativecommons.org), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

 [Full text \(677.3 kB\)](#)