

## **NEW DATA ON A PROSAUROPOD DINOSAUR FROM THE LATE TRIASSIC OF SOUTHERN BRAZIL**

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An incomplete prosauropod (UFSM11069) was found in the region of Água Negra, south of the Municipality of São Martinho da Serra, state of Rio Grande do Sul. The fossil comes from a reddish intraformational conglomerate of the Late Triassic Caturrita Formation, situated just above a brownish to reddish shale with intercalated siltstone lenses, and consists of a well-preserved semi-articulated skeleton with partial skull, incomplete lower jaw, most of the dorsal and caudal vertebral series, several ribs, gastralia, pectoral girdles, incomplete forelimb, and elements of one hindlimb. Among the prosauropod characters, UFSM 11069 shows an asymmetrical distal articulation of the first metacarpal and the particular “key-shape” articulation between astragalus and tibia. Among its possible autapomorphies is the comparatively large ulna, reaching over 0.70 % of the humeral length, indicating that this animal had a comparatively long forearm. Although the close relationships of the Brazilian prosauropod is not known yet, those features suggest that it represents a new taxon, possibly related to melanorosaurids or plateosaurids. Furthermore, the occurrence of UFSM 11069, the first prosauropod of this country, confirms the importance of the continental Triassic strata of Rio Grande do Sul as an important area for studying dinosaur diversity during the early phases of development of this important group of reptiles.