

## **TRIASSIC REPTILE FAUNAS FROM THE PRANHITA-GODAVARI BASIN, DECCAN, INDIA**

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The Gondwana Supergroup of the Pranhita – Godavari basin, Deccan, India provides a succession of vertebrate faunas from Late Permian to Early Jurassic. In this succession, the Triassic shows signatures of abundant and diverse reptiles. However, apart from a probable procolophonid in the Kamthi Formation, the Early Triassic record is poor. The overlying Anisian Yerrapalli Formation has two large dicynodonts (*Wadiasaurus* and *Rechnisaurus*), a rhynchosaurid (*Mesodapedon*), a prolacertid, a rauisuchid and an erythrosuchid. This is followed by a dicynodont bearing Bhimaram Formation of Ladinian age. The Late Triassic Maleri Formation contains two biochrons. The lower one, of Carnian age, is characterized by a rhynchosaurid (*Paradapedon*), a phytosaurid (*Parasuchus*), a prolacertid (*Malerisaurus*), a coelurosaur (*Alwalkeria*) and a cynodont (*Exaertodon*); besides a *Typothorax* – like aetosaur, a prosauropod (*Massospondylus*) and a large dicynodont are also present. The upper biochron, comprising of a large *Rutiodon* - like and a small *Angistorhinus* – grade phytosaurid, belongs to Early Norian age. Two more successive biochrons have been identified in the overlying Dharmaram Formation. The lower, characterized by a *Nicrosaurus* - like phytosaurid, three different types of aetosaurs including a *Paratypothorax* and a small prosauropod, is considered Late Norian. The upper, consisting of a large plateosaurid and a sphenosauchid, however, indicates the beginning of Jurassic. Though the early Triassic record is lacking, the above reptilian faunal succession in the Pranhita - Godavari basin clearly shows repeated faunal replacement during the Triassic period.