UNUSUAL TITANOSAURIDAE (SAUROPODA, SAURISCHIA) VERTEBRAE FROM THE UPPER CRETACEOUS BAURU GROUP, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

1SANTUCCI, R. M. and 2BERTINI, R. J. 1Instituto de Geociências/USP, São Paulo, Brasil; 2IGCE/UNESP, Rio Claro, Brasil.

The Bauru Group, Upper Cretaceous of Southeastern Brazil, is composed of sandstones, conglomeratic sandstones and siltstones, with some carbonate, related to lake, braided river and alluvial fan deposits. It contains vertebrate remains, including fishes, turtles, crocodilomorphs, dinosaurs and mammals. Six articulated procelic anterior caudal vertebrae of a titanosaurid sauropod from the lower portion of the Adamantina Formation were collected between Adamantina and Flórida Paulista, western São Paulo state, together with a left femur, questionably belonging to the same individual as the vertebrae. Although briefly mentioned previously, this caudal series has not been classified, even though it is significant, showing features unlike those of any other titanosaurids from the Bauru Group. The caudal vertebrae have short centra, with concave lateral and ventral faces. The transverse processes are laterally projected but not long. The neural arch is low, situated on the anterior half of the vertebral body. The prezygapophysis is short and projects forward and upward, with wide faces, inclined 45 degrees to the sagital plane. The neural spine is high, wide and straight, with strong distal expansion, projecting backward slightly on posterior vertebrae. These features distinguish these remains from Aeolosaurus and Titanosaurus, previously mentioned in São Paulo state, thereby revealing a considerably varied fauna of titanosaurids in the Upper Cretaceous of the Paraná Basin.