

## **ARARI PEMYS BARRETO (CHELONII, PLEURODIRA) FROM THE BRAZILIAN LOWER CRETACEOUS: ITS PHYLOGENETIC POSITION AND CHELIDEAN CONVERGENCES**

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On the occasion of its description, *Araripemys barreto* was assigned to the Pleurosternoidea, a cryptodiran clade, but later its pleurodiran affinities were discovered. The author presented a preliminary phylogenetic analysis some years ago, concluding that *A. barreto* was the sister-group of Pelomedusa+Pelusios (1996, An.Ac.Bras.Cien., 68:288-289). In the same year, another analysis was published (Meylan, 1996, J.Vert.Pal., 16:20-33), showing *A. barreto* as the sister-group of the crown-group Pelomedusoidea (Pelomedusidae+Podocnemididae). Both set of characters were grouped (some were common), plus some more, resulting 85 (some multistate). The new analysis sustains the first result of the author. As the chelid affinity was postulated in the past, all nominal chelid genera were included to evaluate supposed convergences with the most derived members of this clade (e.g., Hydromedusa). The result is that *Araripemys barreto* shares with *Hydromedusa tectifera* (and with some or all of the remaining chelids) the following features: absence of quadratojugal and mesoplastra, Sutura interexoccipitalis dorsal to Foramen magnum, absence of uncination of mandible, elongated neck, fused postzygapophyseal facets and four clawed fingers in hand. *A. barreto*, probably, was a very aquatic animal, with a low profile and hydrodynamic shell. It can be interpreted, by the morphology of skull, elongation of neck and flatness of shell, as an ecological mix between chelids and trionychians, extant spear-fishing forms that eat fishes, frogs and insects.