

Pterosaurs of the Araripe Basin, Brazil

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The Araripe Basin is the site where has been found the majority of Pterosauria remains of the country. Significant amounts and very well preserved material are present in the Lower Cretaceous Santana Formation. The Aptian Crato Mb. is the basal sequence, formed by calciferous shales and laminated limestones deposited over narrow and shallow platforms of the Afro-Brazilian depression. The pterosaurs of this member are represented by *Arthurdactylus conan-doylensis* Frey & Martill 1994 and *Tapejara imperator* Campos & Kellner 1997. The Romualdo Mb., the upper sequence of this Formation, shows calciferous sediments deposited during a marine transgression. The first Araripe's pterosaurs remains found in the basin were little fragments of the right wing of *Araripesaurus castilhoi* Price 1971. Subsequently, other fragments were found, belonging to *Araripedactylus dehmi* Wellnhofer 1977, *Santanadactylus brasiliensis* Buissonjé 1980, *Cearadactylus atrox* Leonardi & Borgomanero 1983, *Brasileodactylus araripensis* Kellner 1984 and *Anhanguera blittersdorffi* Campos & Kellner 1985, the last being probably the most known pterosaur from Brazil. Other species were attributed to the genus *Santanadactylus*, namely: *S. araripensis* Wellnhofer 1985, *S. pricei* Wellnhofer 1985 and *S. spixi* Wellnhofer 1985, found in the same member. New species of crested pterosaurs were successively described, as *Anhanguera santanae* Wellnhofer 1985, *Tropeognathus mesembrinus* Wellnhofer 1987 and *T. robustus* Wellnhofer 1987, the last being the largest pterosaur known from Brazil. The Araripe Basin has been shown also other flying reptiles, as *Tapejara wellnhoferi* Kellner 1990 and *Tupuxuara longicristatus* Kellner & Campos 1989, both exhibiting exotic and large sagittal crests over the skulls.