

A NEW THEROPOD FROM THE RIO LIMAY FORMATION

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The discovery of a new specimen of theropod (Dinosauria, Saurischia) from the locality of Cortaderas, 15 km south of Plaza Huincul, Neuquén is reported. The specimen comes from the Huincul Member of the Rio Limay Formation (Upper Cretaceous). Material already collected includes an isolated maxillary tooth, a surangular, a caudal vertebra, a manual ungual, the acetabular region of an ilium, a pubis, the proximal part of an ischium, femora, tibiae, a fibula, a metatarsal, and many pedal phalanges. The quarry is far from finished, and many additional bones will be collected. Dental morphology is suggestive of carcharodontosaurids, and some femoral features (deep sulcus, dorsally oriented femoral head) are present in Giganotosaurus. This is the second theropod record from the Huincul member, and these taxa, along with the sauropod Argentinosaurus and a new iguanodontid, comprise one of the more diverse faunas from the Neuquen Group. The size and ontogenetic stage of development of the new specimen (an eight meter long adult) are distinct from both the 15 m long Giganotosaurus and an unpublished 5 m abelisaur. Thus it appears to represent a new theropod taxon, which will allow us to evaluate the phylogenetic relationship between abelisaurids, carcharodontosaurids, and other carnosaur.

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