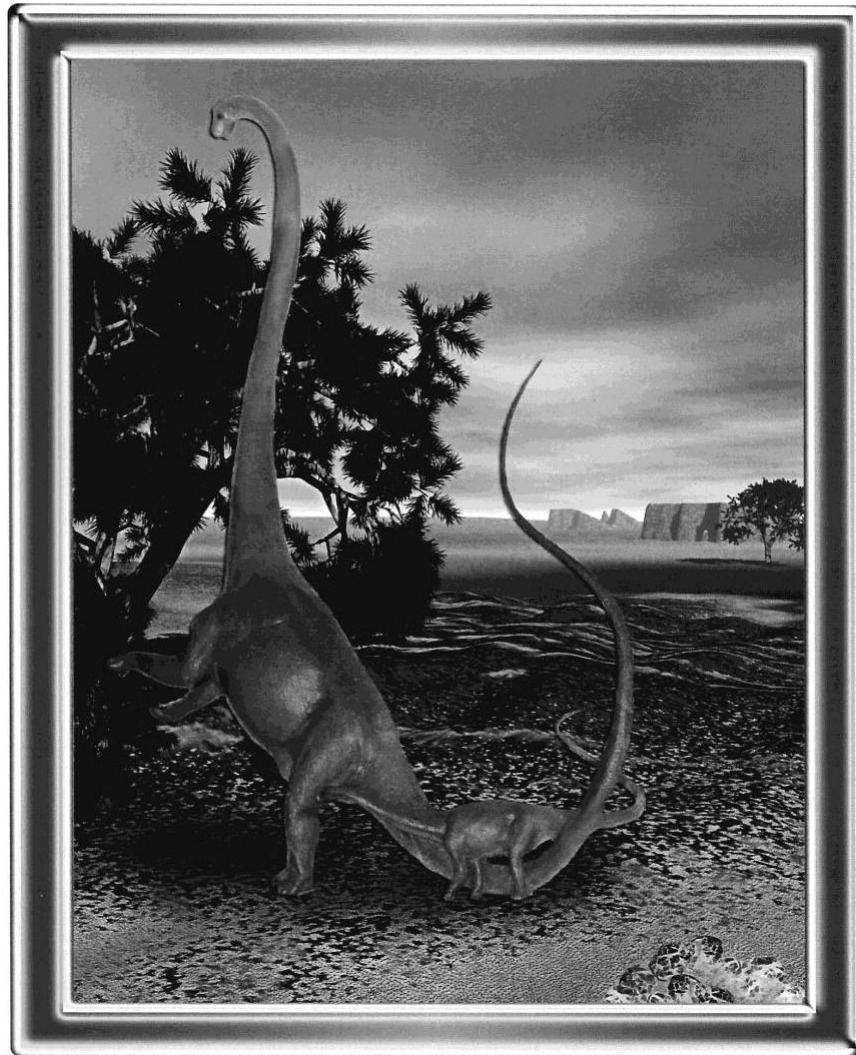


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Some Thoughts on the Juvenile Sauropod Diet Could mothers have supplied protein and calcium to their growing young?

Quest for the Exact Locality of an Important New

Fossil Discovery

by Ernest H. Williams, Jr. and Lucy Bunkley-Williams

Situation: A New Species without a Home

We had searched in vain for a peculiar kind of unusual isopod fossil of particular interest to us and our research for 35 years. We were astonished to finally see one advertised. We purchased five specimens, from two fossil dealers, of what we are describing as a new species. Unfortunately, the only collection locality given was "Namlia Taouz." These two villages are in east central Morocco (50°42.6'N, 04°24.0'W and 30°54.0'N, 03°58.8'W, respectively) about 20 miles from Nissani. One of the dealers purchased his specimens at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show from someone he only knew as "Mohammed." We have contacted many fossil dealers offering specimens from this site and one museum with specimens. Some have been kind enough to give us contact information on those selling them the fossils. But all we have learned is that it is a new site (circa 2005). A former graduate student of ours at NOAA tried to locate the site; another of our former graduate students and Dean at another university had one of his paleontologists try to help; a colleague who works with NASA tried to obtain high-resolution photographs of the area; a distant relative and geology professor who attends the Tucson and other mineral and fossil shows tried to find leads for us; Via the internet we contacted someone (another mysterious "Mohammed") supposedly living in Taouz—all to no avail. We, of course, tried to contact every paleontologist who had recently

• Anaethaljon sp. 110 myo from "new site Namlia Taouz" in Morocco advertised online at <http://www.henskensfossils.nl/fish.htm>

Opportunity to Participate

The fossil dealers and collectors are understandably reluctant to reveal the exact location of their finds. However, scientific journals are equally reluctant to publish new species descriptions without the exact locality and stratification. Our quest has evolved into something of a great detective mystery. Lewis M. Simon's "The fossil trade's shades of gray" in May 2005 National Geographic described this area of Morocco and suggested cooperation between scientists and dealers. Ironically, National Geographic Magazine was unwilling to help with our quest even though it is precisely what their article suggested. This is an opportunity for fossil collectors and traders to cooperate with science. If anyone can tell us the exact locality and

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published on fossils from Morocco, but with the same result. The new site appears to have not been examined by scientists, as is true of most of the area. Some fish specimens apparently from the same site were dated 110 million-years-ago (mya) and one was dated 127 mya in online advertisements. We also attempted to obtain information from those running these sites without success. Can anyone tell us who dated these specimens and how?

stratification of the "Ramliá Taouz site" (preferably latitude and longitude to a tenth of a minute), we will acknowledge you in the paper describing the new species. Does anyone know anything about the size of this Site? Any information about the site would be very useful.

What
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We are not paleontologists, as anyone can see from the complete texts our scientific publications freely available online (<http://biology.uprm.edu/facultad/index.php?prof=58&p=l&r=l#pub>). The specimens were purchased with our personal funds as none of our research grants applied to this study. The specimens will be deposited in an international museum. We believe these fossils represent an extremely important scientific discovery despite their nebulous origin. We are preparing a short note to be submitted to Science and a complete description to be submitted to the Journal of Paleontology.

Thank you for your help.

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