

Poster presentation

A small pleurosternid turtle from the Upper Jurassic of Santa Rita (Torres Vedras, Portugal): Juvenile or new form?

A. PÉREZ GARCÍA,^{1,2} F ORTEGA³ & F ESCASO^{2,4}

¹ Departamento de Paleontología. Facultad de Ciencias Geológicas. Universidad Complutense de Madrid. 28040 Madrid, Spain. E-mail: paleontologo@gmail.com

² Unidad de Paleontología. Departamento de Biología. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. 28049 Madrid, Spain.

³ Grupo de Biología. Facultad de Ciencias. Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia. 28040 Madrid, Spain.

⁴ Museo de las Ciencias de Castilla-La Mancha. 16001 Cuenca, Spain.

Pleurosternidae are turtles known from the Upper Jurassic to the Palaeocene of Western Europe and North America. In Europe, these turtles are abundant in the English Purbeck. The most common species is *Pleurosternon bullockii*, but *Pleurosternon portlandicum* and "*Glyptops*" *typocardium* are also represented. Other smaller forms have been interpreted both as juveniles specimens of *P. bullockii* or as representatives of a new genus of small pleurosternid.

The rest of the Mesozoic European record is scarce. *Pleurosternon* and *Desmemys bertelsmanni* have been described from the Lower Cretaceous of Germany. *Pleurosternon* has also been documented in several Upper Jurassic French and Spanish localities and other indeterminate pleurosternids have been reported from the Upper Jurassic of Portugal and in the Lower Cretaceous of Spain.

A new specimen of pleurosternid turtle, preserving the whole plastron, has been recently found in the Upper Jurassic of Santa Rita (Torres Vedras, Portugal). The decoration of the outer surface is similar to that of *Pleurosternon*: smooth and shiny, with regular and clearly defined pits, and with fine striations perpendicular to the margins of the plates. The specimen shared with *Pleurosternon bullockii* the combination of a wider than long entoplastron and an intergular shield with five straight edges. However, the specimen has many differences with *Pleurosternon*: the plastral posterior lobe is more rounded and is not notched, the contact of the scutes on the sagittal plane is winding and has a different disposition of the inframarginal scutes on the plates of the plastron. On the other hand, the Santa Rita turtle is small, less than half of the size of the *P. bullockii* adults specimens, but presents two characters (the intergular covering the entoplastron and the absence of fontanelles) that allow to consider it as an adult individual.

In conclusion, the available information indicates that the Portuguese specimen is a member of a new pleurosternid taxon, probably closely related to some of the Dorset small individuals.