

Cambridge Elements

Elements of Paleontology

edited by
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EXPANDED SAMPLING ACROSS ONTOGENY IN *DELTASUCHUS* *MOTHERALI* (NEOSUCHIA, CROCODYLIFORMES)

*Revealing Ecomorphological Niche
Partitioning and Appalachian Endemism
in Cenomanian Crocodyliforms*

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-009-00581-4 — Expanded Sampling Across Ontogeny in *Deltasuchus motherali*
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Frontmatter
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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009005814
DOI: 10.1017/9781009042024

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Maddox, and Christopher R. Noto 2021

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009042024

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-00581-4 Paperback
ISSN 2517-780X (online)
ISSN 2517-7796 (print)

Additional resources for this publication at www.cambridge.org/drumheller

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Abstract: New material attributable to *Deltasuchus motherali*, a neosuchian from the Cenomanian of Texas, provides sampling across much of the ontogeny of this species. Detailed descriptions provide information about the paleobiology of this species, particularly with regards to how growth and development affected diet.

Overall snout shape became progressively wider and more robust with age, suggesting that dietary shifts from juvenile to adult were not only a matter of size change, but of functional performance as well. These newly described elements provide additional characters upon which to base more robust phylogenetic analyses. The authors provide a revised diagnosis of this species, describing the new material and discussing incidents of apparent ontogenetic variation across the sampled population. The results of the ensuing phylogenetic analyses both situate *Deltasuchus* within an endemic clade of Appalachian crocodyliforms, separate and diagnosable from goniopholidids and pholidosaurs, herein referred to as Paluxysuchidae. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core

Keywords: Cretaceous, Woodbine Formation, ontogeny, Crocodyliformes, *Deltasuchus*

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ISBNs: 9781009005814 (PB), 9781009042024 (OC)
ISSNs: 2517-780X (online), 2517-7796 (print)

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