



The Pterosaur Database

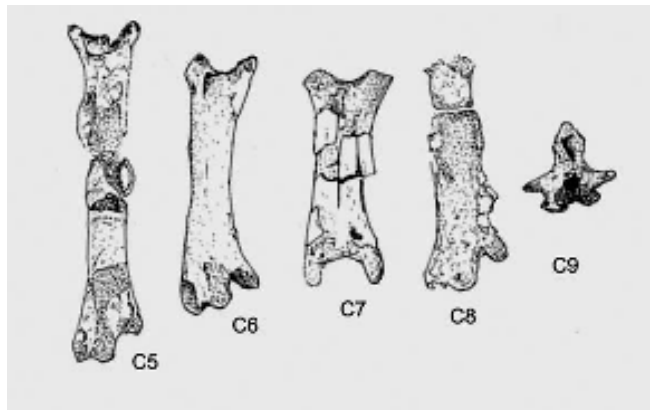
Phosphatodraco mauritanicus

5 large associated vertebrae of a single individual from the Oulad Abdoun Basin near Khouribga, central Morocco.

Holotype: OCP DEK/GE 111

**Office Cherifien des Phosphates,
Casablanca, Morocco**

Cervicals C5 to C9 and one indeterminate bone fragment.



Suberbiola X. P., Bardet N., Jouve S., Iarchene M., Bouya B. and Amaghazaz M., **2003**, A new Azhdarchid pterosaur from the Late Cretaceous phosphates of Morocco. In: Evolution and Palaeobiology of Pterosaurs, edited by Buffetaut, E., and Mazin, J.-M., Geological Society Special Publication, n. 217, p. 79-90.

Abstract: A large azhdarchid pterosaur is described from the Late Maastrichtian phosphatic deposits of the Oulad Abdoun Basin, near Khouribga (central Morocco). The material consists of five closely associated cervical vertebrae of a single individual. The mid-series neck vertebrae closely resemble those of azhdarchids *Quetzalcoatlus* and *Azhdarcho* in that they are elongate, with vestigial neural spines, prezygapophysial tubercles, a pair of ventral sulci near the prezygapophyses, and without pneumatic foramina on the lateral surfaces of the centra. The Moroccan pterosaur is referred to a new genus and species of Azhdarchidae: *Phosphatodraco mauritanicus* gen. et sp. nov. It is mainly characterized by a very long cervical vertebra eight, bearing a prominent neural spine located very posteriorly. Based on comparisons with azhdarchid vertebrae, the estimated wing span of *Phosphatodraco* is close to 5 m. This discovery provides the first occurrence of Late Cretaceous azhdarchids in northern Africa. *Phosphatodraco* is one of the few azhdarchids known from a relatively complete neck and one of the latest-known pterosaurs, approximately contemporaneous with *Quetzalcoatlus*.