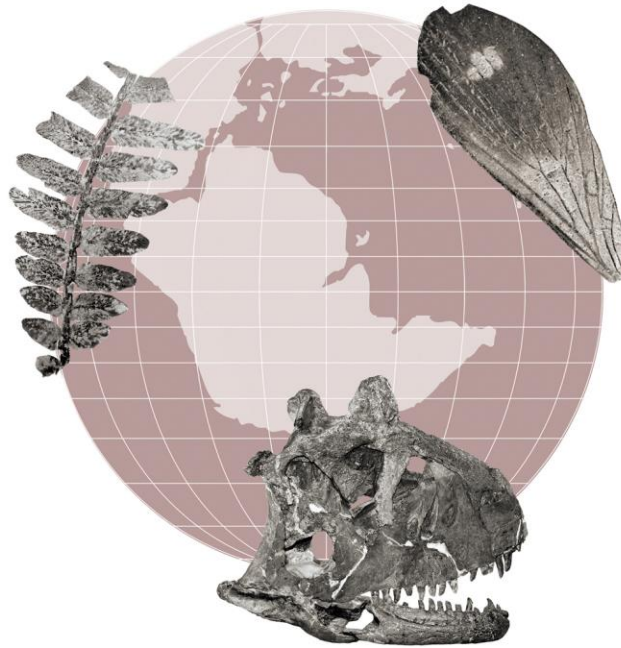




AMEGHINIANA

A GONDWANAN PALEONTOLOGICAL JOURNAL



This file is an uncorrected accepted manuscript (i.e., postprint). Please be aware that this version will change during the production process. This postprint will be removed once the paper is officially published. All legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Submitted: 7 May 2025 - **Accepted:** 17 September 2025 - **Posted online:** 30 September 2025

To link and cite this article:

doi: [10.5710/AMGH.17.09.2025.3643](https://doi.org/10.5710/AMGH.17.09.2025.3643)

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

1 **THE FIRST RECORD OF THEROPOD DINOSAUR REMAINS FROM THE**
2 **ANGOSTURA COLORADA AND COLI TORO FORMATIONS (CAMPANIAN-**
3 **MAASTRICHTIAN) IN THE INGENIERO JACOBACCI AREA (RIO NEGRO**
4 **PROVINCE, ARGENTINA)**

5

6 ARIANA PAULINA-CARABAJAL^{1,2,5}, ARIEL H. MÉNDEZ^{3,5}, KAREN ULLOA-
7 GUAIQUIN^{1,2,5}, JAVIER GONZÁLEZ-DIONIS^{3,5} AND FACUNDO M. IRAZOQUI^{4,5}

8

9 ¹Instituto de Investigaciones en Biodiversidad y Medioambiente (CONICET-
10 UNCOMA). Pje. Gutiérrez 1415, 8400, San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro, Argentina.

11 ²Museo Paleontológico Bariloche. Av. 12 de Octubre y Sarmiento, 8400, San Carlos de
12 Bariloche, Río Negro, Argentina.

13 ³Instituto Patagónico de Geología y Paleontología (CCT CONICET-CENPAT). Bv.
14 Brown 2915, 9120, Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina.

15 ⁴Museo de La Plata. Paseo del Bosque s/n, 1900, La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

16 ⁵CONICET. Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas.

17

18 27 pag. (text + references); 5 figs., 1 Supplementary Information (3 models)

19

20 Running Header: PAULINA-CARABAJAL *ET AL.*: FIRST ABELISAURID
21 REMAINS FROM INGENIERO JACOBACCI

22 Short Description: Theropod dinosaur remains were never found in Angostura Colorada
23 and Coli Toro formations. The first record in both geological units correspond to
24 abelisaurid remains near Ingeniero Jacobacci.

25

26 Corresponding author: Ariana Paulina-Carabajal a.paulinacarabajal@conicet.gov.ar

27 **Abstract.** Several unpublished remains of indeterminate Late Cretaceous dinosaurs -
28 collected by Rodolfo Casamiquela during the late 1950s are housed in the
29 paleontological collections of the Museo Histórico Jorge Gerhold (Ingeniero Jacobacci,
30 Rio Negro, Argentina) under the acronym MHJG 189 Pa. Among them, one
31 basicranium and two fragments of the ornamented skull roof of a mid-to-large
32 abelisaurid stand out, representing the first record of Theropoda for the Angostura
33 Colorada Formation. A recent prospection of the same locality produced an isolated
34 abelisaurid tooth, representing the first undoubtedly theropod record for the Coli Toro
35 Formation, a unit overlying the Angostura Colorada Fm. Despite their fragmentary
36 nature, these abelisaurid remains represent the first evidence of theropod dinosaurs not
37 only for the Ingeniero Jacobacci area, but for both Angostura Colorada and Coli Toro
38 formations.

39 **Keywords.** Abelisauridae. Basicranium. Tooth. Lacrimal. Postorbital. Upper
40 Cretaceous.

41 **Resumen.** EL PRIMER REGISTRO DE RESTOS DE DINOSAURIOS TERÓPODOS
42 DE LAS FORMACIONES ANGOSTURA COLORADA Y COLI TORO
43 (CAMPANIANO-MAASTRICHTIANO) EN EL ÁREA DE INGENIERO
44 JACOBACCI (PROVINCIA DE RÍO NEGRO, ARGENTINA). Varios restos de

45 dinosaurios indeterminados del Cretácico Superior -colectados por Rodolfo
46 Casamiquela a finales de la década de 1950- se albergan en las colecciones
47 paleontológicas del Museo Histórico Jorge Gerhold (Ingeniero Jacobacci, Río Negro,
48 Argentina) bajo el acrónimo MHJG 189 Pa. Entre ellos destacan un basicráneo y dos
49 fragmentos del techo craneano ornamentado de un abelisáurido de tamaño mediano a
50 grande, que representan el primer registro de Theropoda para la Formación Angostura
51 Colorada. Una prospección reciente en la misma localidad produjo un diente aislado de
52 abelisáurido, que representa indudablemente el primer registro de terópodo para la
53 Formación Coli Toro, una unidad suprayacente a la Formación Angostura Colorada. A
54 pesar de su naturaleza fragmentaria, estos restos de abelisáuridos representan la primera
55 evidencia de dinosaurios terópodos no solo para el área de Ingeniero Jacobacci, sino
56 también para las formaciones Angostura Colorada y Coli Toro.

57 **Palabras clave.** Abelisauridae. Basicráneo. Diente. Lacrimal. Postorbital. Upper
58 Cretaceous

59

60 RODOLFO CASAMIQUELA (1932–2008) was an Argentinean paleontologist,
61 archaeologist, and writer born and raised in the city of Ingeniero Jacobacci, in the centre
62 of Río Negro province in North Patagonia, Argentina. He started collecting Upper
63 Cretaceous dinosaur remains from areas near Ingeniero Jacobacci in 1949, and proper
64 research on extinct reptiles in this province started in the 1960s with his works on the
65 first Cretaceous hadrosaurid dinosaurs found in South America (Casamiquela, 1964). In
66 this area, the localities with sediments bearing dinosaurs correspond to outcrops of the
67 Angostura Colorada Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian) and the Coli Toro
68 Formation (Maastrichtian–Danian). Those dinosaur remains belong to sauropod and
69 hadrosaurid dinosaurs, including few cranial (*e.g.*, hadrosaurid isolate maxillae) and

70 many postcranial (the most common are sauropod and hadrosaurid caudal vertebrae and
71 limb bones) elements. Most of them are hosted in the collections of the Museo Histórico
72 Jorge Gerhold (MHJG) in Ingeniero Jacobacci and others at the Museo Argentino de
73 Ciencias Naturales (MACN) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, among them the first record of
74 Hadrosauridae for the Southern Hemisphere (Casamiquela, 1964). Despite the large
75 number of isolated dinosaur remains hosted in MHJG, few of them have been studied so
76 far (Casamiquela, 1964; Powell, 1987; Cruzado-Caballero, 2015, 2017; Zurriaguz *et al.*,
77 2017; Cruzado-Caballero *et al.*, 2018). The sole named dinosaur from the herpetological
78 collection of the MHJG is the titanosaurid sauropod *Aeolosaurus rionegrinus* Powell
79 1987, collected by R. Casamiquela at the Bajo Colorado site, from outcrops of the
80 Angostura Colorada Formation (Salgado, 2022). On the other hand, numerous
81 hadrosaurid remains have been identified at the family level (Coria, 2009; Cruzado-
82 Caballero, 2017 and references therein). Theropod dinosaur remains were never
83 reported in either Angostura Colorada Formation or in the overlying Coli Toro
84 Formation until recently (Paulina-Carabajal *et al.*, 2024).

85 As mentioned, the dinosaur research in the Ing. Jacobacci area started with R.
86 Casamiquela (particularly during the 1940s-1960s, and later until his death). José
87 Bonaparte (MACN) also led expeditions in the late 80s in the same sites where R.
88 Casamiquela made his findings but with no good results in terms of the recording of
89 better-preserved specimens (Bonaparte & Migale, 2015). In 2015, a team led by two of
90 the authors of this manuscript (APC and AHM) renovated the search for dinosaurs in
91 outcrops of the Angostura Colorada and Coli Toro formations. The research was at an
92 impasse due to the pandemic in 2020-2021 and was resumed in 2023 after acquiring
93 new Government permits to work. However, no significant findings were made until

94 2024 and 2025 (Becerra *et al.*, 2024; Paulina-Carabajal *et al.*, 2024; Pérez-Moreno *et*
95 *al.*, 2025).

96 As part of a larger project, our team members were dedicated to reviewing and
97 digitalizing the dinosaur collection of the MHJG. During this process, we identified
98 unpublished theropod material collected by R. Casamiquela in 1956. The fossils
99 correspond to three cranial fragments of an abelisaurid theropod, grouped with other
100 elements under the collection number MHJG 189 Pa.1-14. All these fossils were
101 collected in Estancia Yuquiche (García brothers farm), Southwest of Ingeniero
102 Jacobacci. Unfortunately, there is no other information in the museum's historical
103 records regarding which of the two outcropping geological units held the fossils. In this
104 regard, Volkheimer (1973: 20) made the following reference supporting the possible
105 Angostura Colorada Formation provenance of these elements “*En el área de la Estancia*
106 *Yuquiche aflora la parte superior de la Formación Angostura Colorada, rica en restos*
107 *de dinosaurios (actualmente en estudio por R. Casamiquela)”/ “In the area of the*
108 *Yuquiche ranch, the upper part of the Angostura Colorada Formation emerges, rich in*
109 *dinosaur remains (currently under study by R. Casamiquela).”*

110 More recently, a prospection made by our team at the Estancia Yuquinche site
111 (Fig. 1) produced the record of a second abelisaurid specimen, an isolated tooth. This
112 specimen was undoubtedly collected from sediments of the Coli Toro Formation.
113 Despite their fragmentary nature, these abelisaurid remains represent the first evidence
114 of theropod dinosaurs for the Ingeniero Jacobacci area and for both Angostura Colorada
115 and Coli Toro formations.

116 (INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE)

117 **Institutional Abbreviations.** **FMNH**, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago,
118 USA; **MACN**, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires, Argentina;
119 **MAU**, Museo Municipal Argentino Urquiza, Rincón de los Sauces, Argentina. **MCA**;
120 Museo Provincial Carlos Ameghino, Cipolleti, Argentina; **MHJG**, Museo Histórico
121 Jorge Gerlhold (**Pa**, Paleontology, Casamiquela Collection. **NCP**, new paleontological
122 collection), Ingeniero Jacobacci, Rio Negro, Argentina; **MPVN-PV**, Museo Patagónico
123 de Ciencias Naturales “Juan Carlos Salgado”, General Roca, Argentina

124 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

125 **Specimen MHJG-NCP 298**

126 The abelisaurid from the Angostura Colorada Formation was collected in 1956
127 near Cerro Yuquiche and belongs to a cluster of several dinosaur bones under the
128 number MHJG -189 Pa.1-14, registered as “diverse fossil remains” by Casamiquela
129 himself. These fossils correspond mostly to hadrosaurid dinosaur caudal vertebrae. The
130 identification card for the collection number MHJG 189 Pa indicates 14 bones for the
131 cluster, but specimens 189 Pa 3, 8, 11, 12, and 13 are currently missing. The abelisaurid
132 cranial elements are an incomplete basicranium (without collection number), an
133 incomplete right postorbital (without collection number), and a fragment of lacrimal
134 (identified with a partial collection number: “189 Pa...”). There is insufficient
135 information to associate the lacrimal, basicranium, and postorbital with any of the
136 missing specimens (*i.e.*, 189 Pa 3, 8,11-13). Here, we proposed a new nomination to
137 identify the three bones under a single theropod specimen: MHJG-NCP 298, with parts
138 “a” (basicranium), “b” (postorbital), and “c” (lacrimal).

139 Comparisons were made with other published abelisaurid braincases:
140 *Abelisaurus comahuensis* (Paulina-Carabajal, 2011a), *Arcovenator escotae* (Tortosa et

141 *al.*, 2014), *Aucasaurus garridoi* (Coria *et al.*, 2002; Paulina-Carabajal, 2011a),
142 *Carnotaurus sastrei* (Bonaparte, 1985; Paulina-Carabajal 2011b), *Guemesia ochoai*
143 (Agnolín *et al.*, 2022), *Llukalkan aliocranianus* (Gianechini *et al.*, 2021),
144 *Majungasaurus crenatissimus* (Sampson & Witmer, 2007), *Niebla antiqua* (Aranciaga
145 Rolando *et al.*, 2021), *Spectrovenator ragei* (Zaher *et al.*, 2020), *Viavenator exxoni*
146 (Filippi *et al.*, 2016; Paulina-Carabajal & Filippi, 2018), and the abelisaurid MAU-Pv-
147 LI-582 (Méndez *et al.*, 2022). 3D models used for comparisons included
148 *Majungasaurus* (FMNH PR 2100) lacrimal and postorbital, available at
149 www.morphosource.org.

150 The specimens were photographed using a Nikon D3000 camera, and the figures
151 were created using Adobe Photoshop (PS 2020). One of the authors (KUG) used the
152 photos to create PDF 3D models of MHJG-NCP 298a-c with the photogrammetry
153 software Agisoft PhotoScan (Supp. Inf. 1).

154 **Specimen MHJG-NCP 299**

155 The abelisaurid isolated tooth was collected in 2025 from the Coli Toro
156 Formation outcrops at the Estancia Yuquiche, a few kilometers north of Cerro
157 Yuquiche. The collection GPS data is S 41° 27' 38.9'' W 69° 43' 55.5''. We followed
158 the terminology proposed by Hendrickx *et al.* (2015) for the anatomical description and
159 measurements of the tooth.

160 SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

161 Dinosauria Owen 1842

162 Saurischia Seeley 1887

163 Theropoda Marsh 1881

164 Abelisauridae Bonaparte and Novas 1985

165 Specimen MHJG-NCP 298

166 Abelisauridae indet (Figs. 2,3)

167 Specimen MHJG-NCP 299

168 Abelisauroida indet

169 (Fig. 4.1-3)

170 **Locality and Horizon.** The specimens described here were collected at the Estancia
171 Yuquiche, located 30 km southwest of Ingeniero Jacobacci (Fig. 1). In this area, the
172 largest outcrops correspond to the upper section of the Angostura Colorada, which is
173 overlaid by smaller outcrops of the Coli Toro Formation (Volkheimer, 1973).

174 The Angostura Colorada Formation (Campanian-Maastrichtian) is integrated by
175 a succession of facies of continental sandstones, pelites, and conglomerates, arranged
176 according to a decreasing stratum and grain arrangement (Volkheimer, 1973; Manassero
177 & Maggi, 1995). This unit rarely exceeds the 100 m of red to yellow sandstones and
178 clays “bearing dinosaurs strata” extended north and southwest of Ingeniero Jacobacci
179 (Casamiquela, 1969). This geological unit extends in Rio Negro Province from
180 Pilcaniyeu Viejo to Carri Laufquen lagoon at the Somun Cura, and was first recognized
181 by Volkheimer (1973) as represented by rocks outcropping at south of Ingeniro
182 Jacobacci. Posteriorly, outcrops of other localities (*e.g.*, Pilcaniyeu Viejo, Comallo)
183 were included under the same formation (Manassero & Maggi 1995). During the upper
184 Cretaceous the Somun Cura divided two depocenters of continental sedimentation, the
185 basins of Nequen Group towards the north and the Chubut Group towards the south.
186 The Angostura Colorada Formation correlates with the late units of both groups, being

187 the microfossil associations important in determining a Campanian age for this unit
188 (Page *et al.*, 1999, and references therein). Besides the microfossils, the scarcity of plant
189 and animal materials with determinative features recovered so far from the Angostura
190 Colorada Formation prevented more accurate correlates. Hence the importance of
191 continuing to conduct paleontological studies in the area that allow us to better
192 understand the evolutionary history of dinosaur fauna at the end of the Cretaceous.

193 The Coli Toro Formation (Maastrichtian-Danian) represents the change from a
194 Cretaceous marginal environment to a Danian marine sedimentary environment
195 (Casamiquela, 1964; Bertels, 1969). This formation was named by Bertels (1969) based
196 on marine Maastrichtian deposits northeast of Ingeniero Jacobacci. It correlates with the
197 Allen Formation (continental) and Jagüel Formation (marine), and has been also
198 considered as the inferior member of the Los Alamos Formation (Coira, 1979). From
199 the Cerro Yeso locality, separated by few km from Estancia Yuquiche, isolated
200 hadrosaurid caudal vertebrae and several other marines and continental cretaceous
201 reptile teeth were recovered in the past by R. Casamiquela, including several
202 plesiosaurid teeth (*Sulcusuchus* Gasparini & Spalletti 1990; O’Gorman, 2015). In the
203 collections, we found one titanosaurid sauropod tooth (MHJG-NCP 300; formerly
204 identified as 5/4/7-3), and one crocodyliform (peirosaurid ?; MHJG Pa 614 106) tooth.
205 Also, lungfish dental plates (*Metaceratodus?*), fish vertebrae and ganoid scales, and
206 turtle plates are commonly found in these sediments (*e.g.*, Gasparini & Spalletti, 1990;
207 Casamiquela, 1992; Pascual & Bondesio, 1976; Apesteguía *et al.*, 2007). The present
208 work adds the first record of a theropod dinosaur (Abelisauridae) to the faunal
209 association of the Coli Toro Formation.

210 DESCRIPTION

211 **Specimen MHJG-NCP 298.a-c (basicranium, postorbital and lacrimal)**

212 The basicranium (MHJG-NCP 298a; Fig. 2) preserves a partial basioccipital
213 (missing the neck and body of the occipital condyle) and a partial basisphenoid (missing
214 the basipterygoid processes and the surface bone of the floor of the endocranial cavity).
215 The parabasisphenoid is not preserved either, and the anterior fracture exhibits the
216 partial posterior wall of the pneumatic subsellar recess. The preserved basicranium is 58
217 mm long (incomplete), 69.3 mm maximum wide (complete), and 60 mm tall
218 (incomplete, preserved below the neck of the occipital condyle level). Unfortunately,
219 this specimen has no preserved foramina or grooves associated with cranial nerves or
220 blood vessels.

221 (INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE)

222 **Basioccipital.** The basioccipital is fused to the basisphenoid. The contact between these
223 two bones is evident on the ventral surface of the basicranium, showing that the
224 basisphenoid forms most of the basal tubera, with the basioccipital participating only
225 posteriorly (Fig. 2.3).

226 The fused basal tubera project ventrally below the occipital condyle, forming a
227 subquadrangular plate in posterior view, as in other abelisaurids. This plate is vertical,
228 and the basituberal web -joining both tubera distally-bears a slight notch mediodistally,
229 indicating a separation between the right and left basal tuber. The low curvature of this
230 notch is similar to that in *Abelisaurus*, *Carnotaurus*, *Llukalkan* and *Spectrovenator* (in
231 *Arcovenator* and *Majungasaurus* the distal end of the fused basal tubera is flat). In
232 contrast, *Niebla*, *Viavenator* and the abelisaurid MAU-Pv-LI-582 (Méndez *et al.*, 2022)
233 exhibit well-defined and markedly pronounced notches. Above the notch, there is a
234 median vertical ridge of bone that is more prominent distally where it splits in an
235 inverted V-shape that disappears dorsally, reminding the condition in *Llukalkan*, but
236 unlike other abelisaurids where the ridge is absent (*e.g.*, *Carnotaurus*) or runs along the

237 complete height of the plate almost reaching the neck of the occipital condyle (*e.g.*,
238 *Niebla*, *Abelisaurus*, *Viavenator*). Laterally, symmetrical vertical fractures indicate the
239 basioccipital contact with the ventral rami of each opisthotic. If preserved, the ventral
240 ramus of the opisthotic forming the crista tuberalis would have been attached to the
241 basioccipital, extending ventrally and reaching the distal end of the basal tuber on each
242 side. This feature is typical of the abelisaurid braincase (Paulina-Carabajal, 2009,
243 2011a, 2011b). The symmetrical absence of both opisthotics indicates that these
244 elements were fragile crests, probably not completely fused to the basioccipital. In
245 *Carnotaurus* and *Viavenator*, the basioccipital-opisthotic contact is not evident,
246 indicating a complete fusion of bones. In other taxa, this contact is clearer (*e.g.*,
247 *Abelisaurus*, *Niebla*, *Llukalkan* (Fig. 5.1,5.2). This lack of fusion seems unrelated to
248 body size, being observed in both large and small abelisaurid specimens.

249 As mentioned, the neck and occipital condyle are missing. At the base of the
250 neck of the occipital condyle, the dorsal fractures show the osteological correlates of the
251 ventral side of paired elongated pneumatic sinuses that invaded the body of the
252 basisphenoid and part of the basioccipital. These anteroposteriorly elongated pneumatic
253 cavities are separated by a median longitudinal septum and correspond to the internal
254 extent of the lateral tympanic recesses (Fig. 2.6).

255 **Basisphenoid.** The main body of the basisphenoid is preserved, missing the dorsal and
256 anteriormost surfaces, including most of both basipterygoid processes and the area
257 where the internal carotid foramen and the preotic pendant would have been (Fig. 2).
258 The basisphenoid forms most of the basal tubera, the basipterygoid processes and the
259 basipterygoid web (transversely joining the base of both basipterygoid processes). As
260 mentioned, the dorsal surface of the basisphenoid (floor of the endocranial cavity) is
261 eroded, exhibiting the ventral walls of the lateral tympanic recesses. The ventral margin

262 of the external opening of the lateral tympanic recess is preserved on the lateral sides of
263 the basisphenoid (Fig. 2.2, 2.6). The basiptyergoid processes are missing, being
264 sectioned at their bases. This section is markedly oval, indicating a probable blade-like
265 morphology for the structure. The basiptyergoid web -joining both processes- is a wide
266 and low transverse ridge separating the basisphenoid recess posteriorly and the subsellar
267 recess anteriorly (Fig. 2.3). The posterior wall of the subsellar recess is preserved,
268 indicating a good development of this pneumatic cavity (Fig. 2.4).

269 The external opening of the basisphenoid recess is triangular. This pneumatic
270 recess deeply excavates the body of the basisphenoid ventrally, as in other abelisaurids
271 (e.g., Sampson & Witmer 2007; Paulina-Carabajal 2011a,b, 2015). Internally, there are
272 two small oval pneumatic foramina (Fig. 2.3). These two foramina do not contact
273 dorsally with the paired pneumatic recesses on the neck of the condyle (lateral tympanic
274 recesses).

275 (ININSERT FIGURE 3 HERE)

276 **Postorbital.** A partial right postorbital is preserved, missing the posterior branch and
277 the distal portion of the ventral shaft (Fig. 3.1-5). The dorsal and lateral surfaces are
278 highly ornamented. The ornamentation on the dorsal surface is well-defined, and it
279 comprises low ridges, narrow grooves, and circular to oval pits (Fig. 3.2). Unlikely,
280 *Abelisaurus* and *Aucasaurus* exhibit skull roof ornamentation predominantly formed by
281 protuberances, grooves, and valleys.

282 The preserved fragment of the postorbital is 62 mm long anteroposteriorly and
283 50 mm lateromedially, whereas the preserved ventral shaft is 42 mm long and 23 mm in
284 section. The shaft section is markedly triangular due to a median vertical crest. The
285 anterolateral contact surface with the lacrimal and the frontal consists of two striated

286 vertical facets (Fig. 3.5). On the medial side, the vertical crest is well-defined,
287 separating anterior and posterior faces (Fig. 3.3). The posteromedial side bears an oval
288 surface of contact for the laterosphenoid. The general morphology of the postorbital is
289 similar to that observed in other abelisaurids (Sampson & Witmer, 2007; Filippi *et al.*,
290 2016, 2018).

291 In lateral view, the dorsal margin of this fragment of the postorbital is straight,
292 as in *Arcovenator*, *Llukalkan*, and MAU-Pv-LI-582. However, this straight shape differs
293 from the convex border observed in *Skorpiovenator* and *Viavenator*, or the sigmoid
294 edge present in *Aucasaurus*, *Abelisaurus*, and *Majungasaurus* (Sampson & Witmer,
295 2007; Novas *et al.*, 2013; Filippi *et al.*, 2016, Gianechini *et al.*, 2021). The postorbital
296 does not have a thickened dorsal margin like that in *Abelisaurus*, *Arcovenator*,
297 *Ekrixinatosaurus*, *Ilokelesia*, and *Skorpiovenator*.

298 **Lacrimal.** The left lacrimal (MHJG-NCP 298c) preserves the posterior process, missing
299 the anterior process and most of the ventral ramus (Fig. 3.6-9). The posterior process
300 measures 58 mm anteroposteriorly and 48.5 mm lateromedially. This bone exhibits a
301 sculptured external surface, a convex smooth medial surface (orbital), and a large
302 striated surface of contact with the postorbital posteriorly. The fractures in two main
303 regions exposed pneumatic cavities within this bone anteriorly, consisting of at least
304 two cavities, with the largest one subdivided into smaller recesses. This morphology is
305 consistent with the pneumaticity described in other theropod lacrimal bones (*e.g.*, Gold
306 *et al.*, 2013). In particular, within the Abelisauridae, the presence of pneumatic foramina
307 in the lacrimal bone is well documented in *Majungasaurus* (Sampson & Witmer, 2007)
308 and *Carnotaurus* (Cerroni *et al.*, 2020). However, the fragmentary nature of MHJG-NCP
309 298c prevents us from determining the spatial arrangement and morphology of the
310 internal sinuses, thus hindering a comparison with these two taxa.

311 The dorsal margin of the posterior process is almost flat in lateral view, unlike
312 the margin with protuberances observed in *Abelisaurus*, *Carnotaurus*, and
313 *Majungasaurus*. In this aspect, the lacrimal MHJG-NCP 298 is more similar to that in
314 *Llukalkan*. However, the latter taxon has a posterior process triangular in dorsal view
315 (Gianechini *et al.*, 2021, fig.7D), whereas the process is quadrangular in MHJG-NCP
316 298, with parallel lateral and medial margins.

317 The lacrimal ornamentation is similar to that in the right postorbital but deeper,
318 denser, and with more pits. The pits are also larger, and a low ridge separates two
319 regions of the ornamented surface (Fig. 6.7).

320 **Specimen MHJG-NCP 299 (isolated tooth)**

321 The isolated tooth corresponds to a ziphodont tooth, 20 mm long, which is
322 missing the root and part of the enamel in one of the lateral faces (Fig. 4.1-3). In
323 labial/lingual views, the crown has a straight distal margin and a convex mesial margin,
324 which are features of the abelisaurid clade (Hendrickx *et al.*, 2015). The tooth is
325 labiolingually compressed with an interpreted crown-to-base ratio ($CBR = CBW/CBL$)
326 of 0.5 (meaning the labiolingual width is approximately 50% of mesiodistal length).
327 The CBR of this specimen would have lied within the range calculated for other
328 abelisaurids (circa 0.5) (Hendrickx *et al.*, 2015). $CBL = 11$ mm $CBW = 5.5$ mm
329 (approx.).

330 The serrated distal carina is straight and centrally positioned on the crown. In
331 contrast, the serrated mesial carina is straight apically but curves (lingually?) towards
332 the root. Denticles on the distal carina are subrectangular and become smaller apically.
333 They are proximo-distally longer than the mesial denticles and are apically projected.
334 Denticles on the mesial carina are equally longer than wider (quadrangular), hooked,

335 and strongly apically recurved. The interdenticular spaces are narrow, and denticle
336 density is approximately the same in both carinae. The number of denticles per 5 mm at
337 the mid-crown is 11.5 in the distal carina and 10.5 in the medial carina.

338 (INSERT FIGURE 4 HERE)

339 COMPARISONS

340 Abelisauroids are the best-represented theropods in Patagonia (Novas *et al.*,
341 2013). However, the diversity of the group is far from being well-known (*e.g.*,
342 Gianechini *et al.*, 2015; Cerroni *et al.*, 2020). Although highly fragmentary, the
343 preserved skull elements of MHJG-NCP 298 and MHJG-NCP 299 bear morphological
344 features of Cretaceous abelisaurids, which allowed the identification of the specimens at
345 a family level. These features include a robust basicranium with fused basal tubera
346 forming a quadrangular vertical plate; the presence of large basisphenoid, subsellar, and
347 lateral tympanic recesses; and a lateromedially compressed basiptyergoid process
348 (Paulina-Carabajal, 2011a, 2011b). Grooves, pits, and some protuberances highly sculpt
349 the postorbital and the lacrimal, all features considered a synapomorphy of
350 Abelisauridae (Canale *et al.*, 2009). The sutural surface of contact between postorbital
351 and lacrimal suggests that the frontal was excluded from the orbital rim, another feature
352 considered a synapomorphy of the clade (Carrano & Sampson, 2008).

353 Abelisaurid tooth traits defined by Hendrickx *et al.* (2015) and shared by this
354 specimen include an almost straight distal profile of the tooth, transversal and short
355 marginal undulations on the crown, denticles with strongly developed interdenticular
356 sulci, distal denticles with an apex pointing towards the tip, a DSDI (denticle size
357 density index) close to one, an irregular enamel texture, and the presence of apically
358 pointed denticles on the distal carina.

359 **Comparisons with other Patagonian Cretaceous abelisaurid basicrania**

360 The general configuration of the basicranium MHJG-NCP 298 is highly
361 reminiscent of that in *Llukalkan* (Fig. 5.7,5.8). However, the basal tuber has a rounded
362 distal end in MHJG-NCP 298, whereas the same margin is flat in *Llukalkan* (in ventral
363 view). Also, *Llukalkan* has a triangular external opening of the basisphenoid recess, but
364 in MHJG-NCP 298, it is markedly narrower and bears a median constriction that gives
365 it a distinct keyhole shape. Although the morphological differences between these two
366 abelisaurids seem minor, there are some important aspects to consider: 1) both
367 specimens come from different formations and ages. *Llukalkan* comes from the Bajo de
368 la Carpa Formation, being Santonian in age, whereas the new specimen is Campanian-
369 Maastrichtian. 2) The basicranial structures tend to be conservative among clades.
370 Although recent research has shown that the braincase is not as conservative as
371 previously thought (*e.g.*, Rauhut, 2007; Paulina-Carabajal, 2009; Bullar *et al.*, 2019),
372 dinosaur braincases are, in general, conservative structures compared to other regions of
373 the skull (Currie, 1995). The basicranium is, in turn, the most conservative region of the
374 braincase, which is why non-closely related dinosaur taxa may share basicranial
375 morphology (*e.g.*, Paulina-Carabajal, 2015). Furthermore, the only abelisaurids from
376 Rio Negro Province with preserved braincases are *Abelisaurus comahuensis* (Fig. 5. 1)
377 and *Niebla antiqua* (Fig. 5.2,5.3), both taxa recovered from the Allen Formation
378 (Bonaparte & Novas, 1985; Aranciaga Rolando *et al.*, 2021). The new specimen
379 exhibits morphological variation with them, including a unique trait (the shape and
380 reduction of the external opening of the basisphenoid recess, with the presence of a
381 median constriction) suggesting the presence of a different taxon for the Angostura
382 Colorada Formation at the end of the Cretaceous.

383 (INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE)

384 **Ornamentation.** Generally, the abelisaurid skull roof and craniofacial bones are
385 characterized by marked ornamentations, even presenting ornaments such as crests and
386 horns (Novas *et al.*, 2013). The reduction of ornamentation is observed in early
387 abelisaurids, such as *Eoabelisaurus* (Pol & Rauhut, 2012), *Spectrovenator* (Zaher *et al.*,
388 2020), and small upper Cretaceous taxa, such as *Guemesia* (Agnolín *et al.*, 2022) and
389 indeterminate small abelisaurids from North Patagonia (Paulina-Carabajal *et al.*, 2023).

390 As mentioned above, similar aged (Campanian-Maastrichtian) patagonian
391 abelisaurids preserving the braincase are *Abelisaurus comahuensis*, *Niebla antiqua* and
392 *Aucasaurus garridoi*. All these taxa, together with other abelisaurid specimens (*e.g.*,
393 isolated maxilla, Gianechini *et al.*, 2015), share sculptured bones characterized by well-
394 developed grooves and valleys, similar to those present in the lacrimal and postorbital
395 of MHJG-NCP 298.

396 **Pneumaticity.** The presence of large pneumatic cavities in the abelisaurid basicrania
397 was first commented by Paulina-Carabajal (2009, 2011a) regarding the “apneumatic”
398 state scored for the abelisaurid braincase in the phylogenetic analyses carried out at that
399 time. The abelisaurid basicranium is affected by the lateral tympanic recess,
400 basisphenoid recess, subsellar recess, and, in some cases, well-defined paracondylar
401 recess (*e.g.*, *Arcovenator*). The basisphenoid and lateral tympanic recesses are the most
402 expanded cavities within the body of the basisphenoid.

403 The specimen MHJG-NCP 298 preserves the basisphenoid recess, the posterior
404 wall of the subsellar recess, and evidence of the posterodorsal paired expansions of the
405 lateral tympanic recess on each side. The surface of the floor of the endocranial cavity is
406 eroded, exhibiting dorsally the parallel cavities that affect the neck of the occipital
407 condyle. The latter features are visible externally and through fractures, as in *Ilokelesia*
408 (Paulina-Carabajal 2011a). In other cretaceous abelisaurids such as *Aucasaurus*,

409 *Carnotaurus*, *Guemesia*, *Llukalkan*, *Majungasaurus*, *Niebla*, and *Viavenator*, the
410 basicranial pneumaticity was identified using CT scans (Sampson & Witmer, 2007;
411 Paulina-Carabajal 2011a, Paulina-Carabajal & Filippi, 2018; Paulina-Carabajal &
412 Cerroni, 2019; Aranciaga Rolando *et al.*, 2021; Gianechini *et al.*, 2021; Agnolín *et al.*,
413 2022; Méndez *et al.*, 2022). In the specimen MHJG-NCP 298 the median ridge below
414 the occipital condyle is markedly low, and the paracondylar recesses are poorly defined
415 but evident laterally to the neck of the occipital condyle (Fig. 5).

416 CONCLUSIONS

417 Rodolfo Casamiquela found theropod remains in outcrops of the Angostura
418 Colorada Formation, near Ingeniero Jacobacci, as long as the early 1950s. Still, the
419 fossils remained unidentified until 2024 (Paulina-Carabajal *et al.*, 2024, present work).
420 These cranial remains are the first evidence of theropod dinosaurs for the Angostura
421 Colorada Formations in North Patagonia and represent the first theropod for the
422 herpetological collections of the MHJG. A second specimen was collected in 2025 from
423 outcrops of the Coli Toro Formation, at the same locality where the first abelisaurid
424 came from. The specimens under study are abelisaurids, based on features of the
425 basicranium, ornamented lacrimal and postorbital, and serrated teeth. The fragmentary
426 nature of the remains prevents further assignation below the Family level.

427 Some features of the basicranium, such as the shape of the basisphenoid recess,
428 are not shared with other known abelisaurid braincases. This suggests the presence of an
429 unknown mid-to-large-sized abelisaurid taxon in the Angostura Colorada Formation
430 that roamed the region, probably among the top predators in a faunal association
431 dominated by hadrosaurid ornithopods and titanosaurid sauropods. This faunal
432 association coincides with those recorded in correlatable formations of Patagonia, such
433 as the Allen Formation, Los Alamos Formation, and La Colonia Formation.

434 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

435 We thank Julia Heredia (MHJG) for her constant help at the museum facilities;
436 the landowners Carmen Crespo, Fermin Franco y Liliana Garcia Crespo for welcoming
437 and allowing us to prospect in their land at Estancia Yuquiche; the Municipalidad de
438 Ing. Jacobacci for supporting our work and managing accommodations for our team on
439 several occasions; and the Secretaria de Cultura de la Provincia de Rio Negro that
440 granted paleontological work permissions. The curators Pablo Chafrat (MPVN) and
441 Leonardo Filippi (MAU) for access to the specimens under their care. We thank the
442 reviewers Dr Aranciaga Rolando and Dr. Delcourt, whose comments improved the first
443 version of this manuscript. Field Museum of Natural History granted access to CT scans
444 of *Majungasaurus* lacrimal.

445 Financial support: PICT 2021-1053 (to APC), PICT 2021-0014 (to AHM), NGS 9282-
446 R-22, The end of dinosaur era in Patagonia (to Dr. Diego Pol).

447 REFERENCE LIST

- 448 Agnolín, F., Cerroni, M., Scanferla, A., Goswami, A., Paulina-Carabajal, A., Halliday,
449 T., Cuff, A. R., & Reuil, S. (2022). First definitive abelisaurid theropod from the
450 Late Cretaceous of Northwestern Argentina. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*,
451 *41*(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/02724634.2021.2002348>
- 452 Apesteguía, S., Agnolín, F. L., & Claeson, K. (2007). Review of Cretaceous dipnoans
453 from Argentina (Sarcopterygii: Dipnoi) with descriptions of new species. *Revista del*
454 *Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales* *9*(1), 27-40.
- 455 Aranciaga Rolando, M., Cerroni, M. A., Garcia Marsà, J. A., Agnolín, F., Motta, M. J.,
456 Rozadilla, S., Brisson Eglí, F., & Novas, F. E. (2021). A new medium-sized
457 abelisaurid (Theropoda, Dinosauria) from the late cretaceous (Maastrichtian) Allen

458 Formation of Northern Patagonia, Argentina. *Journal of South American Earth*
459 *Sciences*, 105, 102915. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsames.2020.102915>

460 Becerra, M. G., Heredia, J., & Paulina-Carabajal, A. (2024). Museo Jorge H. Gerhold
461 (Ing. Jacobacci): Nuevos avances en identificación de restos de Hadrosauridae del
462 Cretácico Superior en Río Negro, Argentina. *XXXVII Jornadas Argentinas de*
463 *Paleontología de Vertebrados* (pp. 35-36). Corrientes.

464 Bertels, A. (1969). Micropaleontología y estratigrafía del límite cretácico-terciario en
465 Huintraí-co (provincia de Neuquén). *Ameghiniana*, 6(4), 253-290.

466 Bonaparte, J. F. (1985). A horned Cretaceous carnosaur from Patagonia. *National*
467 *Geographic Research*, 1, 149–151.

468 Bonaparte, J. F., & Migale, L. A. (2015). *Protomamíferos y mamíferos mesozoicos de*
469 *América del Sur* (pp. 218). Fundación de Historia Natural Félix de Azara, CABA.

470 Bonaparte, J. F., & Novas, F. E. (1985). *Abelisaurus comahuensis*, n.g., n.sp.,
471 Carnosauria del Cretácico Tardío de Patagonia. *Ameghiniana*, 21, 259–265.

472 Bullar, C. M., Benton, M. J., & Ryan, M. J. (2019). Ontogenetic braincase development
473 in *Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis* (Dinosauria: Ceratopsia) using micro-computed
474 tomography. *Peer J*, 7, e7217.

475 Canale, J. I., Scanferla, C. A., Agnolín, F., & Novas, F. E., (2009). New carnivorous
476 dinosaur from the Late Cretaceous of NW Patagonia and the evolution of abelisaurid
477 theropods. *Naturwissenschaften*, 96, 409e414.

478 Casamiquela, R. M. (1964). Sobre un dinosaurio hadrosáurido de la Argentina.
479 *Ameghiniana*, 3(9), 285-312.

480 Casamiquela, R. M. (1969). Historia geológica del Valle de Huahuel Niyeo área
481 extraandina del suroeste de la Provincia de Río Negro, República Argentina (con
482 énfasis en el Pleistoceno). *Revista de la Asociación Geológica Argentina*, 24(3),
483 287–329.

484 Casamiquela, R. M. (1992). Notas sobre vertebrados de la frontera Cretácica-Terciaria
485 II. La presencia del Aspidorrinquito '*Belonostomus*' (Osteichthys,
486 Aspidorhynchiformes) en la Formation Coli Toro (Maastrichtense), Ingeniero
487 Jacobacci, Río Negro. *Mundo Ameghiniano*, 11, 9-18.

488 Cerroni, M. A., Motta, M. J., Agnolín, F. L., Aranciaga Rolando, A. M., Brissón Egli,
489 F., & Novas, F. E. (2020). A new abelisaurid from the Huincul Formation
490 (Cenomanian-Turonian; Upper Cretaceous) of Río Negro province, Argentina.
491 *Journal of South American Earth Sciences*, 98, 102445.

492 Coria, R. A., Chiappe, L. M., & Dingus, L. (2002). A new close relative of *Carnotaurus*
493 *sastrei* Bonaparte 1985 (Theropoda: Abelisauridae) from the Late Cretaceous of
494 Patagonia. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 22(2), 460–465.

495 Cruzado-Caballero, P. (2015). Nuevos restos de dinosaurios hadrosauridos del Valle de
496 Huahuel Niyeo (Río Negro, Argentina). *Ameghiniana, Suplemento Resúmenes*,
497 52(1), (pp. 6-7).

498 Cruzado-Caballero, P. (2017). New hadrosaurid remains from the Late Cretaceous of
499 Río Negro Province (Argentina, Late Cretaceous). *Journal of Iberian Geology*, 43,
500 307–318.

501 Cruzado-Caballero, P., Filippi, L., Méndez, A. H., Garrido, A. C., & Díaz-Martínez, I.
502 (2018). First ornithopod remains from the Bajo de la Carpa Formation (Santonian,

503 Upper Cretaceous), northern Patagonia, Argentina. *Cretaceous Research*, 83, 182–
504 193.

505 Gasparini, Z., & Spalletti, L., (1990). Un nuevo cocodrilo en depósitos mareales
506 maastrichtianos de la Patagonia noroccidental, *Ameghiniana*, 27, 141–150.

507 Gianechini, F. A., Apesteguía, S., Landini, W., Finotti, F., Juárez Valieri, R., &
508 Zandonai, F. (2015). New abelisaurid remains from the Anacleto Formation (Upper
509 Cretaceous), Patagonia, Argentina. *Cretaceous Research*, 54, 1–16.

510 Gianechini, F. A., Méndez, A. H., Filippi, L. S., Paulina-Carabajal, A., Juárez-Valieri,
511 R. D., & Garrido, A. C. (2020). A new furileusaurian abelisaurid from La Invernada
512 (Upper Cretaceous, Santonian, Bajo de la Carpa Formation), northern Patagonia,
513 Argentina. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 40(6), e1877151.

514 Gold, M. E., Brusatte, S. L., & Norell, M. A. (2013). The cranial pneumatic sinuses of
515 the tyrannosaurid *Alioramus* (Dinosauria: Theropoda) and the evolution of cranial
516 pneumaticity in theropod dinosaurs. *American Museum Novitates*, 2013(3790), 1–46.

517 Hendrickx, C., Mateus, O., & Araújo, R. (2015), A proposed terminology of theropod
518 teeth (Dinosauria, Saurischia). *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 35(5), e982797.

519 Manassero, M., & Maggi, J. (1995). Análisis sedimentológico de la Formación
520 Angostura Colorada (Cretácico Superior) en la región de Comallo-Jacobacci,
521 provincia de Río Negro. *Revista de la Asociación Geológica Argentina*, 50(1-4),
522 132–142.

523 Méndez, A. H., Gianechini F. A., Paulina-Carabajal, A., Filippi, L., Juárez-Valieri, R.
524 D., Cerda, I. A., & Garrido, A.C. (2022). New furileusaurian remains from La

- 525 Invernada (northern Patagonia, Argentina): A site of unusual abelisaurids abundance.
526 *Cretaceous Research*, 129, 104989.
- 527 Novas, F. E., Agnolín, F. L., Ezcurra, M. D., Porfiri, J., & Canale, J. I. (2013).
528 Evolution of the carnivorous dinosaurs during the Cretaceous: the evidence from
529 Patagonia. *Cretaceous Research*, 45, 174–215.
- 530 O’Gorman, J.P. (2015). Plesiosaurs (Diapsida, Sauropterygia) from Late Cretaceous
531 (late Campanian–early Maastrichtian) marginal marine environments from North
532 Patagonia. In: M. Fernández y Y. Herrera (Eds.) Reptiles Extintos - Volumen en
533 Homenaje a Zulma Gasparini. *Publicación Electrónica de la Asociación*
534 *Paleontológica Argentina* 15(1), 187–195.
- 535 Pascual, R., & Bondesio, P. (1976). Notas sobre vertebrados de la frontera Cretácico-
536 Terciaria. III: †Ceratodontidae (Peces, Osteichthyes, Dipnoi) de la Formación Coli
537 Toro y otras unidades del Cretácico Tardío de Patagonia y sur de Mendoza. Sus
538 implicancias paleobiogeográficas. *Actas de VI Congreso Argentino*, 1,555-577.
- 539 Paulina-Carabajal, A. (2009). El neurocráneo de los dinosaurios Theropoda de la
540 Argentina: Osteología y sus implicancias filogenéticas. Tesis doctoral., Universidad
541 Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires). Available from
542 <https://sedici.unlp.edu.ar/handle/10915/4408>.
- 543 Paulina-Carabajal, A. (2011a). Braincases of abelisaurid theropods from the upper
544 Cretaceous of north Patagonia. *Palaeontology* 54, 793–806.
- 545 Paulina-Carabajal, A. (2011b). The braincase anatomy of *Carnotaurus sastrei*
546 (Theropoda: Abelisauridae) from the Upper Cretaceous of Patagonia. *Journal of*
547 *Vertebrate Paleontology* 31, 378–386.

548 Paulina-Carabajal, A., & Cerroni, M. (2019). Novel information on the endocranial
549 morphology of the abelisaurid theropod *Carnotaurus sastrei*. *Comptes Rendus*
550 *Palevol*, 18(8), 985–995.

551 Paulina Carabajal, A., & Currie, P. J. 2017. The braincase of the theropod dinosaur
552 *Murusraptor*: osteology, neuroanatomy and comments on the paleobiological
553 implications of certain endocranial features. *Ameghiniana*, 54, 517–640.

554 Paulina-Carabajal, A., & Filippi, L. (2018). Neuroanatomy of the abelisaurid theropod
555 Viavenator: The most complete reconstruction of a cranial endocast and inner ear for
556 a South American representative of the clade. *Cretaceous Research*, 83, 84-94.

557 Paulina-Carabajal, A., Ulloa-Guaiquin, K., Filippi, L., Méndez, A., & Lee, Y-N. (2023).
558 First record of an abelisaurid (Dinosauria, Theropoda) natural endocast, and
559 comments on skull roof ornamentation. In Lee, Y-N. (Ed.), *Windows into sauropsids*
560 *and synapsid evolution: Essays in honor of Prof. Luis Jacobs*.(pp: 130–139).
561 Dinosaur Science Center Press, Korea.

562 Paulina-Carabajal, A., Méndez A. H., Ulloa-Guaiquín, K., González-Dionis, J., &
563 Irazoqui, F. (2024). First record of Abelisauridae (Dinosauria/Theropoda) for the
564 Angostura Colorada Formation (Campanian-Maastrichtian), at the locality of
565 Ingeniero Jacobacci, Rio Negro, Argentina. *XXXVII Jornadas Argentinas de*
566 *Paleontología de Vertebrados* (pp. 78). Corrientes

567 Pérez-Moreno, A., Paulina-Carabajal, A., Méndez, A. H., Carballido, J. L., Ulloa-
568 Guaiquin, K., González-Dionis, J., & Pol, D. (2025). Revelando la diversidad de
569 titanosaurios aeolosaurinos en la Formación Angostura Colorada (Campaniano-
570 Maastrichtiano) a partir del hallazgo de nuevos restos. *XXXVIII Jornadas Argentinas*
571 *de Paleontología de Vertebrados*. San Luis.

- 572 Pol, D., & Rauhut, O. W. M. (2012). A Middle Jurassic abelisaurid from Patagonia and
573 the early diversification of theropod dinosaurs. *Proceedings of the Royal Society*
574 *Series B: Biological Sciences*, 279, 3170–3175.
- 575 Rauhut, O. W. M. (2007). The myth of the conservative character: braincase characters
576 in theropod phylogenies. *Hallesches Jahrbuch für Geowissenschaften*, 23, 51–54.
- 577 Salgado, L. (2022). Río Negro y sus instituciones en el desarrollo de los estudios
578 paleoherpetológicos. *Publicación Electrónica de la Asociación Paleontológica*
579 *Argentina*, 22(1), 294–308.
- 580 Sampson, S. D., & Witmer, L. M. (2007). Craniofacial anatomy of *Majungasaurus*
581 *crenatissimus* (Theropoda: Abelisauridae) from the late Cretaceous of Madagascar.
582 *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 27(S2), 32-104.
- 583 Tortosa, T., Buffetaut, E., Vialle, N., Dutour, Y., Turini, E., & Cheylan, G. (2014). A
584 new abelisaurid dinosaur from the Late Cretaceous of southern France:
585 Palaeobiogeographical implications. *Annales de Paléontologie*, 100, 63–83.
- 586 Volkheimer, W. (1973). Observaciones geológicas en el área de Ingeniero Jacobacci y
587 adyacencias (Provincia de Río Negro). *Revista de la Asociación Geológica Argentina*
588 28(1), 13–36.
- 589 Zaher, H., Pol, D., Navarro, B. A., Delcourt, R., & Carvalho, A. (2020). An Early
590 Cretaceous theropod dinosaur from Brazil sheds light on the cranial evolution of the
591 Abelisauridae. *Comptes Rendus Palevol* 19(6), 101–115
- 592 Zurriaguz, V., Martinelli, A., Rougier, G. W., & Ezcurra, M. D. (2017). A saltosaurine
593 titanosaur (Sauropoda: Titanosauriformes) from the Angostura Colorada Formation

594 (upper Campanian, Cretaceous) of northwestern Patagonia, Argentina. *Cretaceous*
595 *Research*, 75, 101–114.

596

597 Figure legends

598 **Figure 1.** Location map of Argentina. Detail of Ingeniero Jacobacci area (Rio Negro
599 province, Argentina). The star indicates the Estancia Yuquiche locality.

600 **Figure 2.** Abelisaurid basicranium (**MHJG-NCP 298a**) in **1**, posterior; **2**, left lateral; **3**,
601 ventral; **4**, anterior and **6**, dorsal views. **5**, diagram of a complete abelisaurid braincase
602 in left lateral view showing in grey the preserved basicranium. Abbreviations: **bsr**,
603 basisphenoidal recess; **bt**, basal tuber; **btp**, basiptyergoid process (sectioned base); **btw**,
604 basituberal web; **fecc**, floor of endocranial cavity (eroded); **ltr-*eo***, lateral tympanic
605 recess (external opening margin); **ltr**, lateral tympanic recess (internal cavity); **ocn**,
606 occipital condyle neck (base); **p.fo**, pneumatic foramen; **ri**, vertical ridge or crest; **sc-ct**,
607 sutural contact with the crista tuberalis; **ssr**, subsellar recess. Scale bar equals 50 mm.

608 **Figure 3.** **1-5**, Abelisaurid right postorbital (**MHJG-NCP 298b**) in **2**, lateral; **3**,
609 posterior; **4**, ventral and **5**, medial views. **6-9**, Abelisaurid left lacrimal (**MHJG-NCP**
610 **298c**) in **7**, lateral; **8**, posterior and **9**, ventromedial views. **1** and **6**, diagrams showing
611 the preserved area of the postorbital and lacrimal, respectively. Abbreviations: **orb**,
612 orbit; **orn**, ornamentation; **pn.fo**, pneumatic foramen; **sut.lac-f**, sutural contact with the
613 lacrimal and frontal; **sut.po**, sutural contact with the postorbital; **ve.rim**, vertical rim or
614 crest. Scale bar equals 10 mm.

615 Figure 4. Abelisaurid tooth (**MHJG-NCP 299**) in **1**, lingual; **2**, mesial; **3**, labial and **4**,
616 distal views. Scale bars equal 10 mm.

617 Figure 5. Comparative basicranial morphology among abelisaurid taxa. **1**, *Abelisaurus*
618 *comahuensis* (MC 11078) in posterior view; **2,3**, *Niebla antiqua* (MPVN-PV-706) in
619 **2**, posterior; and **3**, ventral views; **4**, *Carnotaurus sastrei* (MACN CH-894) in posterior
620 view; **5,6**, MHJG 189 Pa/a in **5**, posterior and **6** ventral views; **7,8**, *Llukalkan*
621 *aliocranianus* (MAU-Pv-LI-581) in **7**, posterior; and **8**, ventral views; **9,10**,
622 *Viavenator exxoni* (MAU-Pv-LI-530) in **9**, posterior; and **10**, ventral views.
623 Abbreviations: **bsr**, basisphenoid recess; **bt**, basal tuber; **btp**, basipterygoid process; **ct**,
624 crista tuberalis; **cul**, cultriform process; **oc**, occipital condyle; **ri**, vertical rim or crest
625 below the occipital condyle, **ssr**, subsellar recess. Arrows indicate the contact of the
626 ventral ramus of the opisthotic (crista tuberalis) with the basioccipital. Not to scale.

627

628 **Suppl. Inf. 1.** A 3D model generated using photogrammetry of the specimen MHJG-
629 NCP 298a. Abelisaurid basicranium. Available at The Internet Archive. Link:

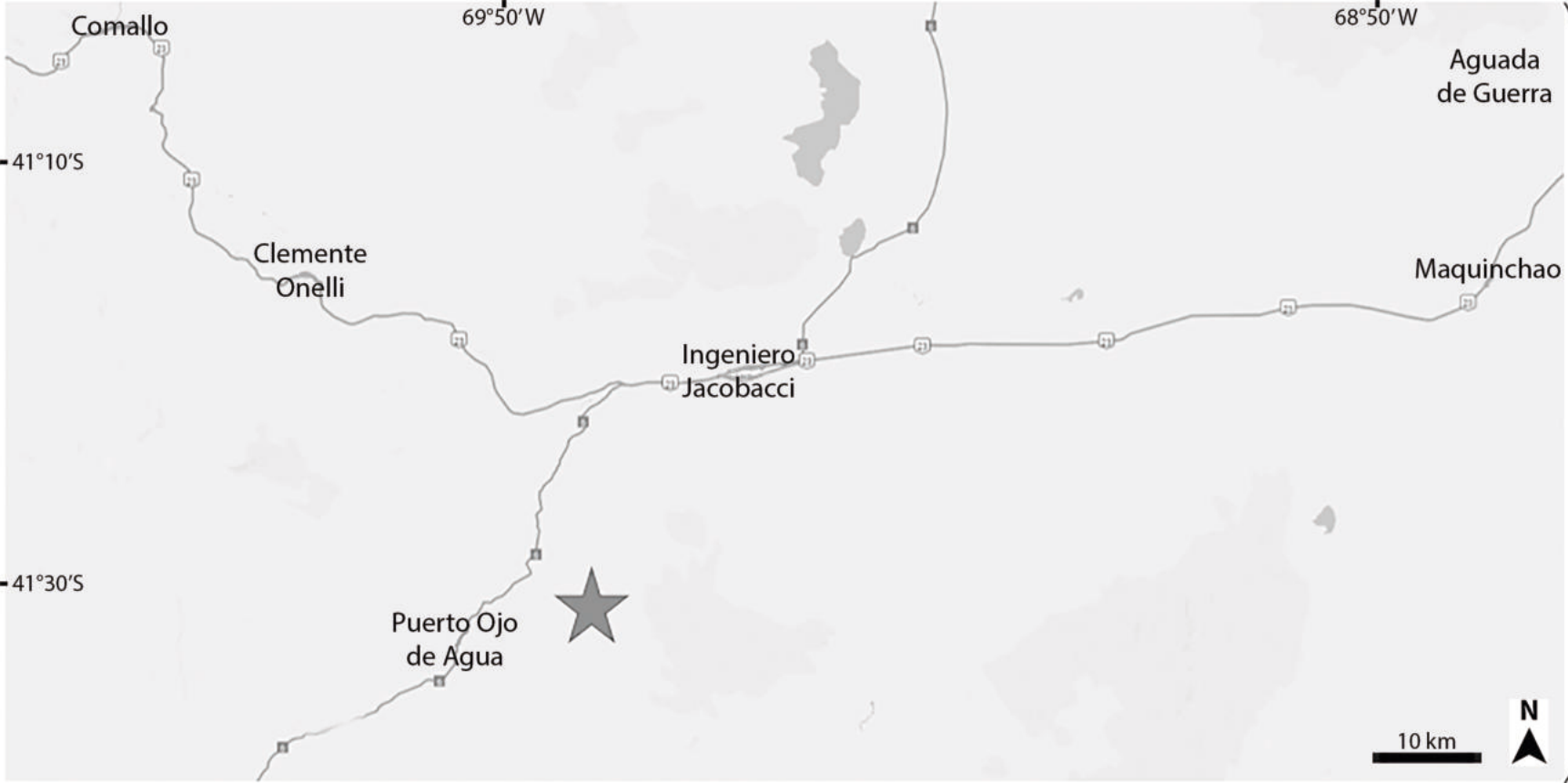
630 **Suppl. Inf. 2.** A 3D model generated using photogrammetry of the specimen MHJG-
631 NCP 298b. Abelisaurid postorbital (fragment). Available at The Internet Archive. Link:

632 **Suppl. Inf. 3.** A 3D model generated using photogrammetry of the specimen MHJG-
633 NCP 298c. Abelisaurid lacrimal (fragment). Available at The Internet Archive. Link:

634

635

636



Aguada de Guerra

Maquinchao

Ingeniero Jacobacci

Puerto Ojo de Agua

10 km



