

1 The First Report of an Archosaur from the Kayenta Formation of Washington County, Utah

2 Robert Gay<sup>1</sup>, Andrew R. C. Milner<sup>2</sup>

3 1. Mission Heights Preparatory High School, 1376 E. Cottonwood Lane, Casa Grande, Az.  
4 85122.

5 928-660-9711

6 rob.gay@leonagroup.com

7 2. St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm, 2180 East Riverside Drive, St.  
8 George, UT 84790,

9 (435) 574-3466, ext. 2

10 arcmilner@gmail.com

11  
12 **ABSTRACT** - The Kayenta Formation has yielded numerous tetrapod fossils, including,  
13 amphibians, theropods, prosauropods, ornithischians, crocodylomorphs, sphenodonts,  
14 tritylodonts, pterosaurs, turtles, and rare mammals. Despite the phylogenetic diversity of the  
15 preserved animals, virtually all of the vertebrate fossils have come from the Ward Terrace area  
16 of north-central Arizona, on the Navajo Nation Reservation. Here we describe the first remains  
17 of a tetrapod found in the Kayenta Formation of Washington County, Utah. Tetrapod body  
18 fossils from the Kayenta Formation in southwestern Utah are proving to be very rare however,  
19 in contrast to common vertebrate tracks. The specimen described herein is likely the remains of  
20 a sphenosuchian crocodylomorph.

21 **INTRODUCTION**

22  
23 The Early Jurassic (Sinemurian) Kayenta Formation has been well studied and explored  
24 since at least the 1940s (Welles, 1954), and has yielded a diverse tetrapod vertebrate fauna.  
25 The majority of exposures surveyed are on the Navajo Nation in north-central Arizona. The area  
26 around Gold Tooth Springs and Rock Head especially have been very productive (Rowe, 1989;  
27 Sues, 1986; Clark and Sues, 2002), but few body fossils have been reported from out of this  
28 region (Kermack, 1982). In contrast, footprints are common throughout the formation with  
29 several localities described (e.g., Lockley and Gierliński, 2006; Hamblin and others, 2006;  
30 Lockley and others, 2006; Milner and others, 2012), however many tracksites still remain  
31 unstudied at this time. Here we describe the first remains of an associated tetrapod skeleton  
32 found in the Kayenta Formation of Washington County, Utah.

33 In October 2011 the authors discovered fragmentary vertebrate remains in the  
34 lowermost “silty facies” of the Kayenta Formation in Warner Valley, southeast of St. George  
35 (Figure 1). The fossils were immediately recognized as belong to a tetrapod and were of  
36 significance due to the lack of documented body fossils from the Kayenta Formation in  
37 southwestern Utah. Initial study of the specimen revealed traits that linked it to other Late

1 Triassic and Early Jurassic clades of archosaurs. The decision was made in 2012 to reexamine  
2 the site for more remains using hand searches as well as screening for fragments. The site was  
3 reexamined again in 2013 and additional fragments were recovered which allow us to refine  
4 our assessment of this specimen.

## 5 MATERIALS AND METHODS

6  
7 The fossils used in this study are accessioned at the Natural History Museum of Utah  
8 (UMNH) and will be curated there in perpetuity. Specimens were collected under Bureau of  
9 Land Management permit number UT09-022-SW issued to the second author. Standard field  
10 paleontology surface collection techniques were employed in the recovery of UMNH VP 21923.  
11 A 1.5 m square grid was laid on the outcrop and systematically sampled by hand and by using a  
12 1 mm dry screen. Bones were examined and photographed at the St. George Dinosaur  
13 Discovery Site at Johnson Farm (SGDS). Fragments that could be reassembled were repaired  
14 using either acryloid B-72 adhesive or Paleobond PALEO-POXY™, depending on the size of the  
15 area to be attached.

## 16 GEOLOGICAL SETTING

17  
18 The Kayenta Formation in the Warner Valley area of Washington County is divided into  
19 three units: the Springdale Sandstone Member at the base (braided stream system); the  
20 informally named, slope-forming “silty facies” (fluvial channels, playa, and  
21 transgressive/regressive lacustrine units); and the upper “Kayenta-Navajo Transition”  
22 (transition from fluvial playa into eolian deposits).

23 The Springdale Sandstone Member of the Kayenta Formation is unconformably  
24 underlain by the lacustrine Whitmore Point Member of the Moenave Formation. In  
25 southwestern Utah and northwestern Arizona, the J-0' unconformity (Marzolf, 1993; also  
26 known as the J-sub-Kay unconformity (Riggs and Blakey, 1993)) is located between the  
27 Moenave and Kayenta formations. The lower Kayenta Formation exhibits few gypsum deposits  
28 while the middle section has relatively more abundant deposits of gypsum, but has so far  
29 yielded no fossil remains. The upper portion of the section was not surveyed or prospected for  
30 this project.

31 The “silty facies” is composed mainly of silty mudstone and sandstone deposits with  
32 occasional limestone beds representing ephemeral lakes, and sheets of carbonate-rich  
33 sandstones often with dinosaur tracks on their upper surfaces (Lockley and others, 2006;  
34 Hamblin and others, 2006; Milner and Spears, 2007; Milner and others, 2012). This corresponds  
35 well with the “silty facies” of the Kayenta Formation from the Ward Terrace region in north-  
36 central Arizona as reported by previous workers (Baker, 1936; Peterson and Pippingos, 1979).

1 The locality, 42Ws502V (Field Number AM-11-35), also referred to as the “Jack Site”, is  
2 located about 6 m above the contact between the Springdale Sandstone Member and the ‘silty  
3 facies’ of the Kayenta Formation. The locality is approximately 2 m below a carbonate-rich  
4 sandstone bed which preserved abundant *Eubrontes*-like theropod dinosaur tracks. Fish fossils  
5 (semionotids, palaeoniscoids, and coelacanth) have been discovered locally in large quantities  
6 from a thin limestone bed (“Sarah’s Fish Bed”; Milner and others, 2012) about 1 m above the  
7 top of the Springdale Sandstone Member and approximately 5 m below the Jack Site (Figure 2).  
8 To-date, these are the only reported vertebrate remains thus far reported from the Kayenta  
9 Formation in Warner Valley. Although other sites are known, the remains are rare,  
10 fragmentary, and often unidentifiable. The presence of limestone beds, fish fossils,  
11 stromatolites, conchostracans, and ostracods in the lower part of the “silty facies” supports an  
12 interpretation of a shallow lake environment (Milner and others, 2012). With increased aridity  
13 to the area, the return of fluvial systems increased higher in the “silty facies”, along with saline  
14 playas, and eventually eolian deposition in the upper part of the Kayenta Formation with the  
15 migration of the Navajo erg (Milner and others, 2012).

## 16 DESCRIPTION

17 UMNH VP 21923 likely represents a single organism that is fragmentary. The fragments  
18 that have been recovered are not duplicated insofar as can be determined. Using the largest  
19 preserved centrum (discussed below), no element is significantly larger or smaller than what  
20 would be expected from a single individual. All recovered elements appear consistent with a  
21 single taxon as well. The sparse nature of vertebrate body fossils preserved in the Kayenta  
22 Formation at Warner Valley further supports this conclusion, and the formation has been  
23 extensively prospected to the east of the Jack Site for 8 years with very rare and fragmentary  
24 tetrapod fossils being recovered.

## 25 Preservation

26 All of the recovered elements have been broken post-burial to some degree. All of the  
27 dorsal vertebral centra have been fractured vertically (usually at the midpoint) although one is  
28 broken transversely as well as having both articular ends missing. The cervical centrum is well  
29 worn due to weathering. The osteoderms and skull fragments are not preserved as complete  
30 elements. Bone preservation appears good to very good in this specimen with large portions of  
31 cortical bone remaining intact in virtually every element. The bone is preserved with a grey to  
32 white coloration on unbroken surfaces. Details <0.5 mm remain clearly visible on ornamented  
33 surfaces such as skull elements and osteoderms. The osteoderms and skull elements have a  
34 thin red iron mineral crust on some surfaces, similar to what has been reported from the  
35 Kayenta Formation in other localities (Colbert, 1981). Owing to the fine preservation and tough  
36 nature of the mineral crust, it has not been prepared off of the bone surface nor has its  
37 composition been analyzed at the time of publication. While this crust does obscure some  
38 surface features it does not prohibit identification of elements or features on their surfaces.  
39 The bone is generally not friable and relatively hard. The elements were found as loose clasts  
40 on the surface, and likely most of the animal has eroded away.

## Differential Diagnosis

While no unambiguous autapomorphies are recognized in UMNH VP 21923, it can be distinguished from other armored taxa in the Kayenta Formation. From the Kayenta 'Scelidosaurus' (Padian, 1989): armor morphology in *Scelidosaurus* differs significantly from UMNH VP 21923. *Scelidosaurus* possesses multiple conical osteoderms with distinct depressions on their ventral surface (Padian, 1989). Other osteoderms are keeled in *Scelidosaurus* with a distinct ventral concavity. Ornamentation on conical osteoderms is absent and not complex on the keeled osteoderms of *Scelidosaurus*. UMNH VP 21923 has none of these characters. In addition, the specimens referred to as *Scelidosaurus* from the Kayenta Formation are an order of magnitude larger than UMNH VP 21923.

From *Scutellosaurus lawleri* (Colbert, 1981): the cervical vertebrae are longer and narrower in *S. lawleri*. The dorsolateral excavations on the cervical centrum are shallower in *S. lawleri* compared with UMNH VP 21923. UMNH VP 21923 preserves deep neural canal excavations in the dorsal vertebrae while *S. lawleri* does not possess deeply excavated neural canals. The osteoderms of *S. lawleri* have multiple morphologies with ventral excavations and random pitting. In UMNH VP 21923 two distinct morphologies have been identified (flat and bent), but no osteoderm is preserved intact. This makes identification of true osteoderm morphology difficult. None of the osteoderms in UMNH VP 21923 preserve a ventral concavity. From MNA V.3133, identified as *Scutellosaurus* sp. (Gay, 2013), as in *S. lawleri*, *Scutellosaurus* sp. has shallow neural canals on the dorsal centra and UMNH VP 21923 does not. MNA V.3133 lacks the ventral concavity of *S. lawleri*, as does UMNH VP 21923. The vertebrae, however, are dissimilar in having neural canals. UMNH VP 21923 cannot be assigned to either *S. lawleri* or *Scutellosaurus* sp.

From the turtle, *Kayentachelys aprix* (Gaffney and others, 1987), plastron and carapace segments are unornamented and thicker compared to UMNH VP 21923. There is no evidence of a plastron or carapace in UMNH VP 21923 as the osteoderms are much smaller than *K. aprix* shell pieces examined by the senior author at MNA. The dorsal centra in turtles are fused to the carapace; they are not fused to any osteoderms in UMNH VP 21923.

From *Eopneumatosuchus colberti* (Crompton and Smith, 1980; Curtis and Padian, 1999): While Crompton and Smith (1980) did not describe or figure any osteoderms from *Eopneumatosuchus*, Curtis and Padian (1999) suggested that several osteoderms recovered from screening the *Eopneumatosuchus* type locality may belong to that genus. These are described as either flat plate-like osteoderms or leaf-/spade-shaped osteoderms. Both morphologies have surface ornamentation or pitting similar to what is seen in UMNH VP 21923. Curtis and Padian (1999) also mention that the recovered osteoderms resemble those of *Protosuchus* from the slightly older Moenave Formation which is discussed below. At this time the figured armor referred to *Eopneumatosuchus* does not match the armor morphologies preserved in UMNH VP 21923.

1 It is possible that UMNH VP 21923 represents an animal not previously reported from  
2 the Kayenta Formation, or one that is known but preserves no post cranial skeleton (e.g.,  
3 *Calsoyasuchus valliceps* (Tykoski and others, 2002)) . As such UMNH VP 21923 is compared to  
4 known organisms in order to eliminate them as possible taxa or relatives. From  
5 *Chasmatosaurus rossicus* (Ezcurra and others, 2013), the cervical vertebrae are more elongate,  
6 the diapophysis and parapophysis are on cranial half of centrum, and the ventral keel is less  
7 pronounced. From *Nundasuchus songeaensis* (Nesbitt et al., 2014): diapophyses less  
8 pronounced, osteoderms less ornamented, lacking deep grooves on external surfaces, no  
9 obvious caudal thinning or articular facet. From *Prolacerta broomi* (Parrington, 1935; Gow,  
10 1975): by possessing osteoderms, cervical vertebra craniocaudally compressed, possessing a  
11 pronounced ventral keel. From *Youngina capensis* (Gow, 1975): dermal osteoderms are large  
12 with a lateral bend, likely paired. These taxa are generally Late Triassic in age and the temporal  
13 and morphological distance between them and UMNH VP 21923 serves to eliminate them as  
14 candidates.

15 The most obvious animal to compare UMNH VP 21923 with outside of the Kayenta  
16 Formation is *Protosuchus richardsoni* (Colbert and Mook, 1951). *Protosuchus richardsoni* is  
17 known from the slightly older Dinosaur Canyon Member of the Moenave Formation which  
18 underlays the Kayenta Formation unconformably in the Ward Terrace region of Arizona. In  
19 addition, several specimens of at least two undescribed taxa similar to *Protosuchus* have been  
20 found in the Kayenta Formation in Arizona (Sues and others, 1994). A comparison with the  
21 published photographs of *Protosuchus* showed very different armor morphologies. The armor  
22 of *Protosuchus* tends to be flat and square with ornamented surfaces. Photos of UCMP 125358,  
23 the *Edentosuchus*-like protosuchid, show a similar square morphology. At least in *Protosuchus*  
24 this morphology is consistent across the dorsum of the body. In the *Edentosuchus*-like form no  
25 additional information about the armor morphology is published. The cervical vertebrae of  
26 UMNH VP 21923 are similar to both *Protosuchus* and the *Edentosuchus*-like forms, which  
27 indicate that UMNH VP 21923 may be closely related despite the differences in the armor.

## 28 Preserved Elements

29 UMNH VP 21923 comprises three skull fragments (Figures 3-5), one cervical centrum,  
30 lacking neural arch or processes (Figure 6), two complete and two incomplete proximal dorsal  
31 centra (Figures 7-10), one neural arch or process fragments (Figure 11), a possible tooth  
32 fragment (Figure 12), six partial osteoderms (Figures 13-16), and several small unidentified  
33 bone fragments (Figure 16). Each identifiable element is described in detail below.

### 34 Skull Fragment A

35 Skull fragment A was recovered in two pieces and repaired (Figure 3). The total length of  
36 2 cm for the preserved portion of the element is recorded though broken ends make life length  
37 estimates difficult. The element is delta-shaped in cross-section with two concave sides. Faint  
38 ornamentation in the form of shallow random pits is present on the flat surface of the bone.  
39 The cortical bone is well preserved but mostly covered in mineral crust that could not be

1 prepared off. This element is tentatively identified as a quadrate process based on the shape  
2 (long and relatively thin), coupled with ornamentation on the exterior surface and a possible  
3 articular surface on the medial surface.

#### 4 **Skull Fragment B**

5 Skull fragment B is a complex element, possibly representing the medial portion of the  
6 postorbital (Allen, 2010, figure 3.6) as it preserves the classic crocodylomorph triradiate  
7 structure (Figure 4). While we have identified this as a skull bone based largely on its  
8 asymmetry it may also represent a portion of a neural process. This element measures 1.3 cm  
9 by 1.2 cm and has suffered post-burial breakage. Despite the damage most of the cortical bone  
10 is intact on this element and in good condition.

#### 11 **Skull Fragment C**

12 This large (2.8 cm x 1.6 cm) bone fragment is tentatively identified as a skull bone, possibly a  
13 portion of the occipital, on the basis of its size, a possible suture, and a distinct endocast (Figure  
14 5). Orientation of this element is difficult to determine as the item has been broken in multiple  
15 locations. A thin area of cortical bone appears to remain on the convex surface opposite the  
16 endocast. The bone is highly vascularized around the endocast, decreasing towards the cortical  
17 margin. A dark black line runs across the cortical surface of the bone. At the broken surface the  
18 black line runs diagonally at a 45° angle towards the endocast. This black line appears to divide  
19 the bone on the broken surface. We hypothesize that this line represents a suture.  
20 Examinations of CT data of *Alligator mississippiensis* (TMM M-983; Rowe and others, 2003)  
21 using inspeCTor, shows similarities between the occipital of *A. mississippiensis* and UMNH VP  
22 21923.

#### 23 **Tooth Fragment**

24 This element is tentatively identified as a tooth fragment on the basis of what appears  
25 to be enamel on the exterior surface of the element (Figure 6). No additional dental material  
26 has been recovered.

27

#### 28 **Cervical Vertebra**

29 This single cervical vertebra is 1.4 cm in length and 1.2 cm laterally at the widest point.  
30 No neural spine or associated processes are preserved (Figure 7). The articular surfaces are  
31 amphicoelous. It is obvious that a prominent ventral keel existed on the centrum with  
32 dorsolateral excavations on either side. These excavations are present in the body of the  
33 centrum and constrict the keel to a maximum lateral width of 2 mm. These excavations are  
34 deepest at the cranial edge of the vertebra and decrease towards the caudal margin. The  
35 parapophyses and diapophyses have been mostly lost to erosion, although their roots remain  
36 clearly on the right surface of the vertebra. On the right side, the parapophyses are present in  
37 the cranial half of the centrum and are thick (3.5 mm dorsoventral height). A shallow lateral



1 depression into the body of the centrum separates the parapophysis from the diapophysis. The  
2 diapophyses are present only on the caudal half of the centrum and are 1.5 mm thick  
3 dorsoventrally.

#### 4 **Dorsal Vertebra A**

5 Dorsal vertebra A was found broken transversely at the midpoint of the vertebra and  
6 was repaired (Figure 8). The vertebra is 2.5 cm in length and constricted both laterally and  
7 dorsally. The articular surfaces are amphicoelous and roughly circular (1.5 cm by 1.7 cm). The  
8 cortical bone around the articular surfaces has been worn away. This may make the articular  
9 surfaces appear rounder than they were *in vivo*. Diapophyses and parapophyses are not  
10 present on the vertebra. The neurocentral sutures are heavily worn so no conclusions can be  
11 drawn about suture fusion. The neural canal is deeply entrenched into the centrum with a  
12 maximum depth of 5 mm below the area of the neurocentral suture. The centrum itself is  
13 laterally and dorsally compressed with the body of the centrum being hollow.

#### 14 **Dorsal Vertebra B**

15 Dorsal vertebra B has been damaged heavily due to weathering (Figure 9). In addition to  
16 a transverse mid-centrum break, the anterior articular surface has been completely weathered  
17 away. The two fragments were reassembled along the fracture with minor reconstruction. The  
18 centrum has a length of 2.7 cm. Cortical bone is only preserved on the lateral and dorsal sides  
19 of the centrum. The presumed caudal portion has an intact articular surface and the base of the  
20 diapophysis is preserved on the right lateral side. The neurocentral suture region is worn down  
21 below the suture line and no evidence of a diapophysis or parapophysis is present. The  
22 preserved caudal articular surface measures 2 cm dorsoarticular surface dorsoventrally and 1.4  
23 cm laterally. The neural canal is obscured by matrix which has not yet been prepared away.  
24 Before reassembling the two fragments the profile of the neural canal was noted to be deeply  
25 incised into the centrum, similar to the other preserved dorsal vertebrae. As in dorsal vertebra  
26 A, the centrum is constricted dorsally and laterally compressed, at least where the vertebra was  
27 transversely fractured the body of the centrum was hollow.

#### 28 **Dorsal Vertebra C**

29 Dorsal vertebra C is half of a dorsal centrum (Figure 10). It shares many characteristics  
30 with the previously described two centra: the neural canal is deeply excavated into the  
31 centrum, the body of the centrum is hollow, the neurocentral sutures and articular surface are  
32 worn, the centrum is laterally and dorsally compressed, and cortical bone is present along most  
33 of the lateral and dorsal surfaces of the vertebra. The preserved articular surface is 1.1 cm x 1.2  
34 cm across. No matching fragment was found at the site to complete the centrum so the length  
35 of the centrum is unknown, though based on preserved morphology it was likely similar to the  
36 two complete centra recovered. No parapophyses or diapophyses are preserved on this  
37 centrum.

#### 38 **Dorsal Vertebra D**

1 The identification of this element as a dorsal vertebra fragment is less certain as it  
2 preserves no neurocentral sutures, articular surfaces, or neural canal (Figure 11). This element  
3 is tentatively identified as a dorsal centrum based on the curvature of the presumed ventral  
4 surface. This element, lacking any other diagnostic features that can identify its origin, is not  
5 used in the following analyses.

## 6 Neural Arch Fragment

7 One fragment of a neural arch was recovered from the site. Only the bases of the  
8 processes remain making it difficult to state much more about its features (Figure 12). It  
9 appears to have been fractured vertically. No articular surfaces remain intact though the  
10 cortical bone is well preserved on this element.

## 11 Osteoderms

12 The presence of osteoderms in UMNH VP 21923 was an important clue in ruling out  
13 many possible taxa previously known from the Kayenta Formation. Two large, flat, incomplete  
14 osteoderms were recovered (Figure 13), closely resembling the cervical paramedial osteoderms  
15 of archosaurs such as *Protosuchus* (Colbert and Mook, 1951) and *Hesperosuchus* (Allen, 2010).  
16 These presumed cervical paramedian osteoderms are large but incomplete. A mineralized crust  
17 does obscure some features especially on the largest osteoderms (Figures 13–16), but the  
18 cortical surface is well exposed allowing a description of the elements. The dorsal surfaces of  
19 the osteoderms are ornamented with shallow random pits. The ventral surface has shallow  
20 linear marks trending along the preserved long axis of the bone. No immediate corollaries to  
21 these linear marks are known from other Late Triassic or Early Jurassic armored  
22 archosauriforms, due to most specimens being preserved articulated with their vertebral  
23 column, and therefore not prepared off of the body.

24 Two arched osteoderms were also recovered (Figure 14). In cross-section (Figures 15,  
25 16) the arched nature of the osteoderms is obvious. The angle of the bend on the ventral  
26 surface of the osteoderms is not symmetrical. One of the medial faces is at  $137^\circ$  to the midline  
27 while the other is at  $127^\circ$ . The divergent angles and ventral concavity implies that this is not a  
28 median ridge as is found in some armored dinosaurs (Colbert, 1981), phytosaurs (Stocker and  
29 Butler, 2013), and “rauisuchians” (Nesbitt and others, 2013), but is a distinct lateral bend. This  
30 lateral bend is found in some archosauriforms (Ezcurra and others, 2013) and  
31 archosauromorphs. Pseudosuchians like aetosaurs (though they can also possess medial ridge)  
32 (Desojo and others, 2013) and crocodylomorphs also possess this lateral bend in their  
33 osteoderms. In this regard the preserved morphology osteoderms conform very well to the  
34 dorsal paramedial osteoderms of archosaurs such as *Dromicosuchus* (Allen, 2010). Virtually all  
35 of these armored taxa come from older (Olenekian-Hettangian) deposits and thus are not  
36 directly comparable to UMNH VP 21923. The exceptions to this are that crocodylomorphs  
37 which are known from younger rocks, including the Kayenta Formation. Unfortunately, many  
38 either lack preserved osteoderms (*Calsoyasuchus*, Tykoski and others, 2002; *Kayentasuchus*,



1 Clark and Sues, 2002) or have not been described (*Protosuchus*-like and *Edentosuchus*-like  
2 forms; Sues and others 1994).

3

4

## DISCUSSION

5 The Kayenta Formation has a relatively well-known fauna from the core area (approximately  
6 the middle of the preserved depositional area, near the main fluvial deposition system).  
7 Knowledge of the fauna outside of this area, preserved on the Navajo Nation, has been sparse  
8 and not well studied. UMNH VP 21923 is the first glimpse of the communities present outside  
9 of the Gold Spring and Rock Head areas. New discoveries in the Kayenta Formation of  
10 Washington County by one of the authors (AM) indicate that not only does UMNH VP 21923  
11 represent the first known archosaur in Washington County, but that a new and possibly distinct  
12 fauna existed in the Washington County area during Kayenta times. UMNH VP 21923 is  
13 frustratingly incomplete but does provide the first documented window into the fauna of the  
14 Kayenta Formation in Washington County.

15 UMNH VP 21923 is clearly differentiated from the armored dinosaurs known from the  
16 Kayenta Formation on the basis of its armor morphology. It is also distinct from the slightly  
17 older *Protosuchus*, known from the Late Triassic-Early Jurassic Moenave Formation on the basis  
18 of the presence of flat, unarched dermal armor. The armor morphology most closely matches  
19 that of sphenosuchians such as *Terrestrisuchus*. A sphenosuchian, *Kayentasuchus*, is known  
20 from cranial remains from the Kayenta Formation on the Navajo Nation. No overlapping  
21 material exists to allow a direct comparison between the type of *Kayentasuchus* (UCMP  
22 131830; Clark and Sues 2002) and UMNH VP 21923. It is likely that UMNH VP 21923 represents  
23 a sphenosuchian crocodylomorph, possibly *Kayentasuchus*. Considering the incomplete nature  
24 of the remains of this organism, it is possible that an undiagnosed sphenosuchian  
25 crocodylomorph is represented by UMNH VP 21923. Given the lack of phylogenetic information  
26 preserved, the lack of autapomorphies, and the lack of overlapping material between  
27 *Kayentasuchus* and UMNH VP 21923, it would not be wise to refer this specimen to any  
28 established taxon at this time. Further investigations in the Kayenta Formation of Washington  
29 County have yielded additional vertebrate remains (small and large theropods, ornithischians  
30 (?), and crocodylomorphs all based on teeth). Allowing natural weathering to occur and  
31 reexamining the Jack Site may allow further refinement as to the identity and phylogenetic  
32 position of UMNH VP 21923.

33

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

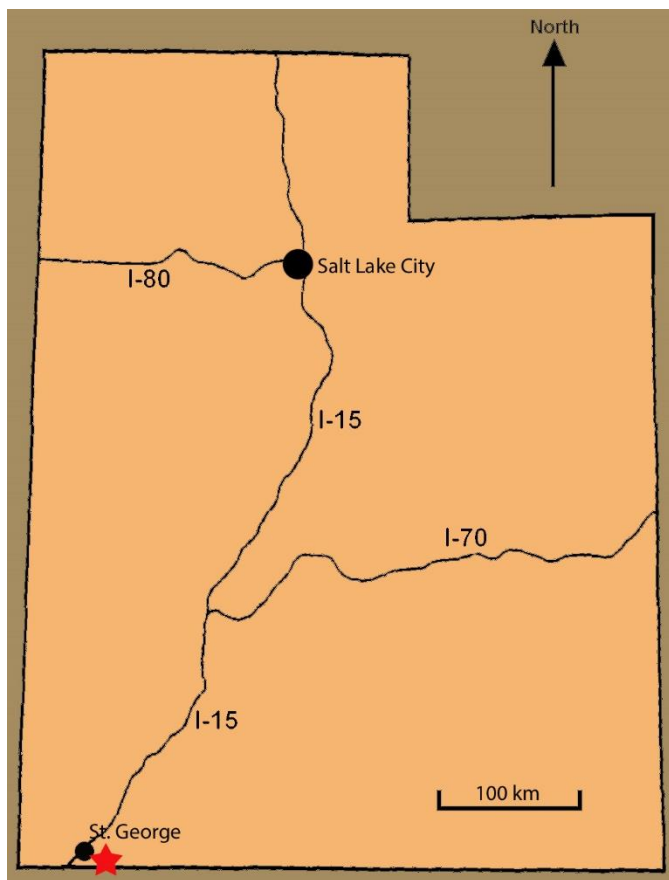
34 The authors would like to extend their thanks to Adam Power for preparing the figures  
35 of UMNH VP 21923. Thank you to Dawna Ferris-Rowley (St. George BLM Field Office) and Scott  
36 Foss for BLM permits.

## REFERENCES

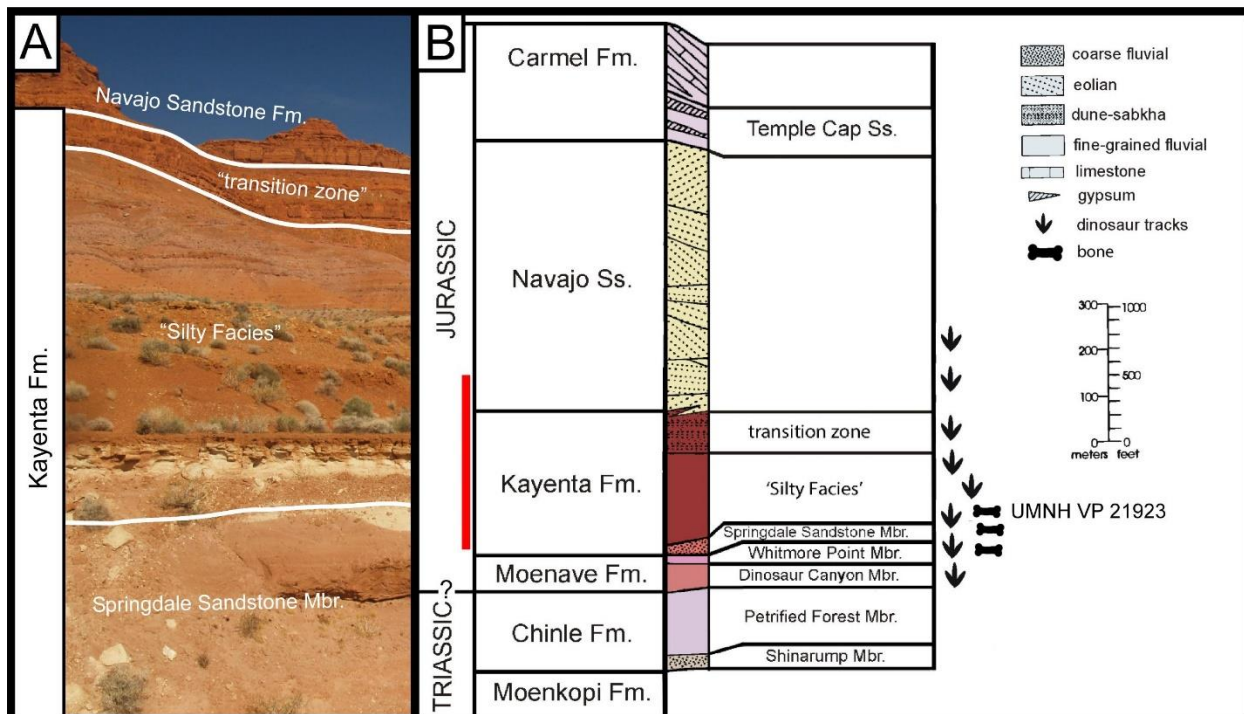
- 1  
2 Allen, R. C., 2010, The Anatomy and Systematics of *Terrestrisuchus gracilis* (Archosauria,  
3 crocodylomorpha): Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, Northern Illinois University.
- 4 Baker, A. A., 1936, Geology of the Monument Valley-Navajo Mountain region: Washington D.C.:  
5 United States Geological Survey. Pp 106
- 6 Clark, J. M., and Sues, H.-D., 2002, Two new species of basal crocodylomorphs and the status of  
7 the Sphenosuchia: *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 136(1): 77-96.  
8 doi:10.1046/j.1096-3642.2002.00026.x
- 9 Colbert, E. H., 1981, A primitive ornithischian dinosaur from the Kayenta Formation of Arizona.  
10 Flagstaff: Museum of Northern Arizona Press. Pp. 61
- 11 Colbert, E. H., and Mook, C. C., 1951, The ancestral crocodylian *Protosuchus*: *Bulletin of the*  
12 *American Museum of Natural History*, 97(3): 143-182.
- 13 Crompton, A. W. and Smith, K. K., 1980, A new genus and species from the Kayenta Formation  
14 (Late Triassic?) of Northern Arizona: *in* L. Jacobs, editor, *Aspects of Vertebrate History*  
15 Flagstaff: Museum of Northern Arizona Press: 193-217.
- 16 Curtis, K., and Padian, K., 1999, An Early Jurassic microvertebrate fauna from the Kayenta  
17 Formation of northeastern Arizona: microfaunal change across the Triassic-Jurassic  
18 boundary: *PaleoBios*, 19(2): 19-37.
- 19 Desojo, J. B., Heckert, A. B., Martz, J. W., Parker, W. G., Schoch, R. R., Small, B. J., and Sulej, T.,  
20 2013, Aetosauria: a clade of armoured pseudosuchians from the Upper Triassic  
21 continental beds: *in* S. J. Nesbitt, J. B. Desojo, and R. B. Irmis, editors, *Anatomy,*  
22 *Phylogeny and Palaeobiology of Early Archosaurs and their Kin*, Special Publication 379:  
23 203-240. London: Geological Society of London.
- 24 Ezcurra, M. D., Butler, R. J., and Gower, D. J., 2013, 'Proterosuchia': the origin and early history  
25 of Archosauriformes: *in* S. J. Nesbitt, J. B. Desojo, and R. B. Irmis, editors, *Anatomy,*  
26 *Phylogeny and Palaeobiology of Early Archosaurs and their Kin*, Special Publication 379:  
27 9-33. London: Geological Society of London.
- 28 Gaffney, E., Hutchinson, H., Jenkins, F., and Meeker, L., 1987, Modern turtle origins; the oldest  
29 known cryptodire: *Science*, 237: 289-291.
- 30 Gay, R., 2013, Does the Early Jurassic Kayenta Formation preserve two species of  
31 *Scutellosaurus*. Retrieved from Figshare: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.841759>
- 32 Gow, C. L., 1975, The morphology and relationships of *Youngina capensis* Broom and *Prolacerta*  
33 *broomi* Parrington. *Paleontologica Africana*, 18: 89-131.
- 34 Hamblin, A. H., Lockley, M. G., and Milner, A. R. C., 2006, More reports of theropod dinosaur  
35 tracksites from the Kayenta Formation (Lower Jurassic), Washington County, Utah –

- 1 Implications for describing the Springdale Megatracksite: New Mexico Museum of  
2 Natural History and Science Bulletin, 37: 276-281.
- 3 Kermack, D., 1982, A new tritylodont from the Kayenta Formation of Arizona: Zoological Journal  
4 of the Linnean Society, 76: 1-17.
- 5 Lockley, M. G., and Gierliński, G. D., 2006, Diverse vertebrate ichnofaunas containing  
6 *Anomoepus* and other unusual trace fossils from the Lower Jurassic of the western  
7 United States – implications for paleoecology and palichnostratigraphy: New Mexico  
8 Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin, 37: 176-191.
- 9 Lockley, M. G., Milner, A. R. C., Slauf, D., and Hamblin, A. H., 2006, Dinosaur tracksites from the  
10 Kayenta Formation (Lower Jurassic) “Desert Tortoise Site,” Washington County, Utah:  
11 New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin, 37: 269-275.
- 12 Marzolf, J. E., 1993, Palinspastic reconstruction of Early Mesozoic sedimentary basins near the  
13 101 latitude of Las Vegas: Implications for the Early Mesozoic Cordilleran cratonic  
14 margin: *in* G. C. Dunne, and K. A. McDougall, editors, Mesozoic paleogeography of the  
15 western United States II: Los Angeles, Pacific Section of the SEPM, p. 433-462.
- 16 Milner, A. R. C., BIRthisel, T. A., Kirkland, J. I., Breithaupt, B. H., Matthews, N. A., Lockley, M. G.,  
17 Santucci, V. L., Gibson, S. Z., DeBlieux, D. D., Hurlbut, M., Harris, J. D., and Olsen, P. E.,  
18 2012. Tracking Early Jurassic dinosaurs across southwestern Utah and the Triassic-  
19 Jurassic Transition: *in* J. W. Bonde, and A. R. C. Milner, editors, Field Trip Guide Book for  
20 the 71st Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Nevada State  
21 Museum Paleontological Papers, 1: 1-107.
- 22 Nesbitt, S. J., Brusatte, S. L., Desojo, J. B., Liparini, A., De Franca, M. A., Weinbaum, J. C., and  
23 Gower, D. J., 2013, Rausuchia: *in* S. J. Nesbitt, J. B. Desojo, and R. B. Irmis, editors,  
24 Anatomy, Phylogeny and Palaeobiology of Early Archosaurs and their Kin, Special  
25 Publication 379: 241-274. London: Geological Society of London.
- 26 Nesbitt, S. J., Sidor, C. A., Angielczyk, K. D., Smith, R. M. H., and Tsuji, L. A., 2014, A new  
27 archosaur from the Manda Beds (Anisian, Middle Triassic) of southern Tanzania and its  
28 implications for character state optimizations at archosauria and pseudosuchia: Journal  
29 of Vertebrate Paleontology, 34(6): 1357-1382
- 30 Padian, K., 1989, Presence of dinosaur *Scelidosaurus* indicates Jurassic age for the Kayenta  
31 Formation (Glen Canyon Group, northern Arizona): Geology, 17(5): 438-441.
- 32 Parrington, F. R., 1935, On *Prolacerta broomi*, gen. et sp. n. and the origin of lizards: Annals and  
33 Magazine of Natural History, 16: 197–205.

- 1 Peterson, F., and Pippingos, G., 1979, Principal Unconformities in Triassic and Jurassic Rocks,  
2 Western Interior United States - A Preliminary Study. United States Geological Survey,  
3 Professional Paper 1035-A. pp. 29
- 4 Riggs, N. R., and Blakey, R. C., 1993, Early and Middle Jurassic paleogeography and volcanology  
5 of Arizona and adjacent areas: *in* G. C. Dunne, and K. A. McDougall, editors, Mesozoic  
6 paleogeography of the western United States II: Los Angeles, Pacific Section of the  
7 SEPM, p. 347-373.
- 8 Rowe, T., 1989, A new species of the theropod dinosaur *Syntarsus* from the Early Jurassic  
9 Kayenta Formation of Arizona. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 9: 125-136.
- 10 Rowe, T., Brochu, C., Colbert, M., Kishi, K., and Merck, J., 2003, July 10, *Alligator*  
11 *mississippiensis*, American Alligator. Retrieved November 15, 2013, from Digital  
12 Morphology: [http://www.digimorph.org/specimens/Alligator\\_mississippiensis/adult/](http://www.digimorph.org/specimens/Alligator_mississippiensis/adult/)
- 13 Stocker, M. R., and Butler, R. J., 2013, Phytosauria: *in* S. J. Nesbitt, J. B. Desojo, and R. B. Irmis,  
14 editors, Anatomy, Phylogeny and Palaeobiology of Early Archosaurs and their Kin,  
15 Special Publication 379: 91-118. London: Geological Society of London.
- 16 Sues, H.-D. 1986, *Dinnebitodon amarali*, a new tritylodontid (Synapsida) from the Lower Jurassic  
17 of western North America: *Journal of Paleontology*, 60(3): 758-762.
- 18 Sues H.-D., Clark J. M., and Jenkins F. A. Jr., 1994, A review of the Early Jurassic tetrapods from  
19 the Glen Canyon Group of the American Southwest: *in* N. C. Fraser, and H.-D. Sues,  
20 editors, *In the Shadow of the Dinosaurs: Early Mesozoic Tetrapods*: 284–294. New York,  
21 NY: Cambridge University Press.
- 22 Tykoski, R. S., Rowe, T. B., Ketcham, R. A., and Colbert, M. W., 2002, *Calsoyasuchus valliceps*, A  
23 new crocodyliform from the Early Jurassic Kayenta Formation of Arizona: *Journal of*  
24 *Vertebrate Paleontology*, 22(3): 593-611
- 25 Welles, S. P., 1954, New Jurassic dinosaur from the Kayenta formation of Arizona: *Bulletin of*  
26 *the Geological Society of America*, 65(6): 591-598.
- 27

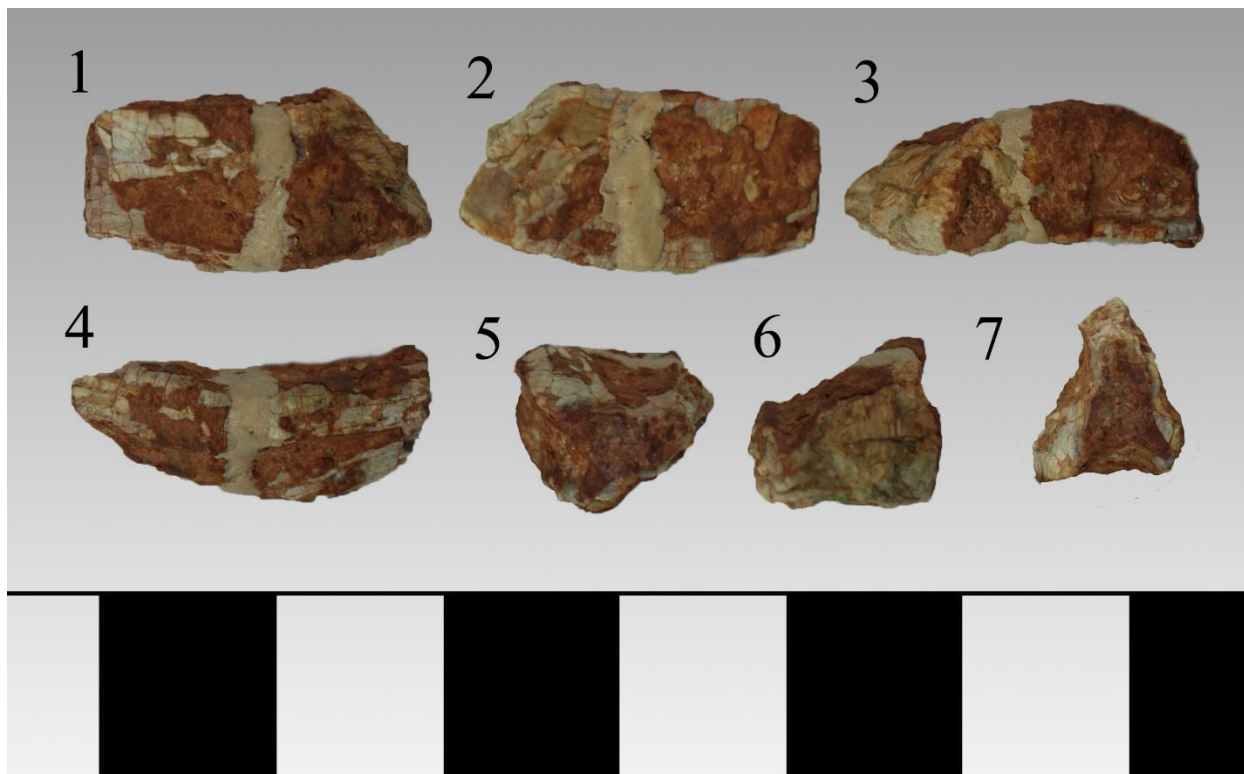


1  
2 Figure 1: Location of Warner Valley within the state of Utah.  
3



1  
 2 Figure 2: Overview of the geology of Warner Valley, showing the stratigraphic location of UMNH VP  
 3 21923 within the 'Silty Facies' of the lower Kayenta Formation.  
 4

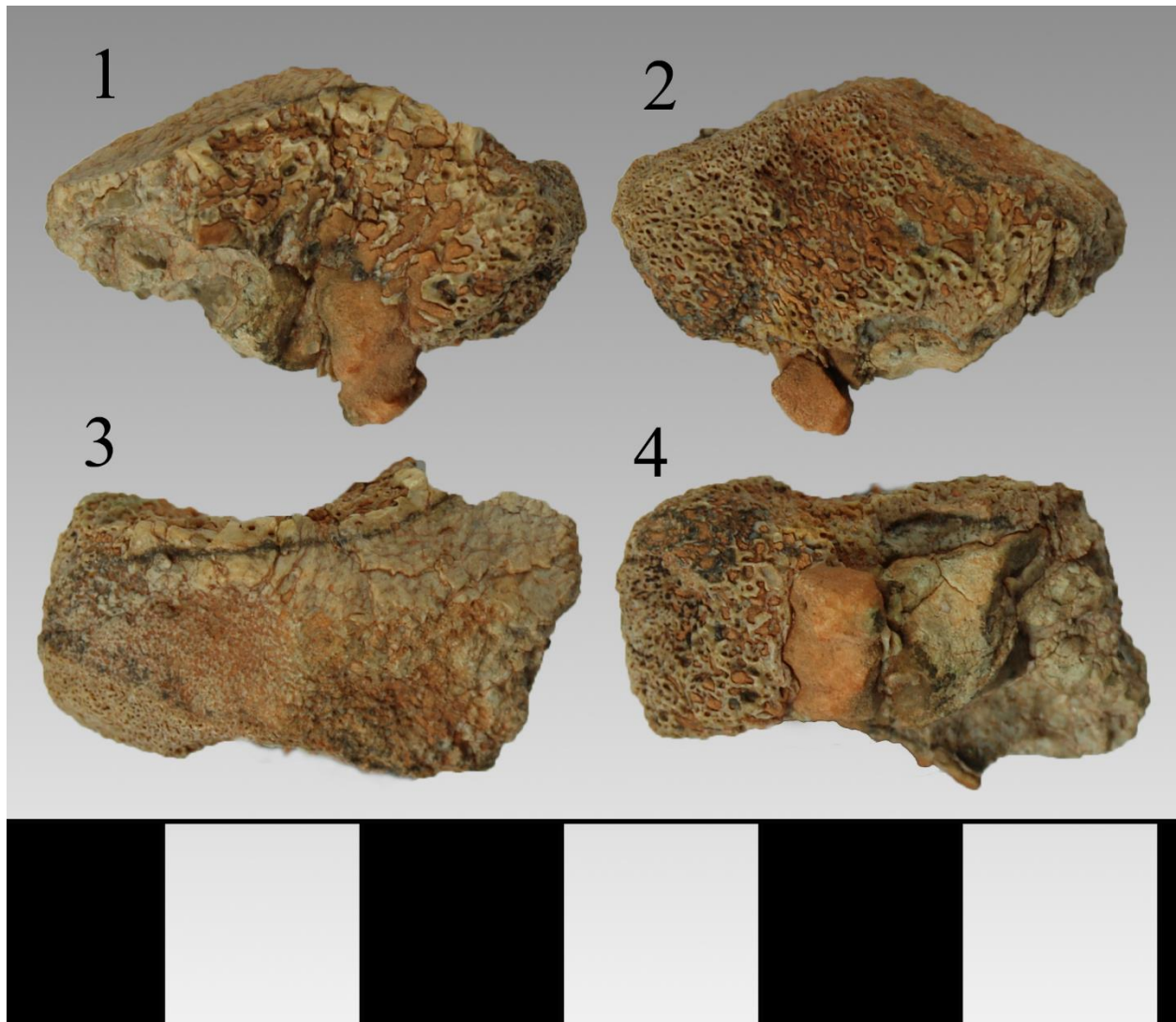




1  
2 Figure 3: Skull Fragment A, possible quadrate in 1) medial, 2) lateral, 3) ?posterior 4) ?anterior, 5-7)  
3 cross-section views. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.  
4



1  
2 Figure 4: Skull Fragment B, possible postorbital in 1) dorsal, 2) ventral, 3) lateral, 4) medial views. Scale:  
3 1 box = 1 cm.  
4



1

2 Figure 5: Skull Fragment C, possible occipital in 1) posterior, 2) anterior, 3) dorsal, 4) ventral views. Scale:  
3 1 box = 1 cm.

4



1  
2  
3

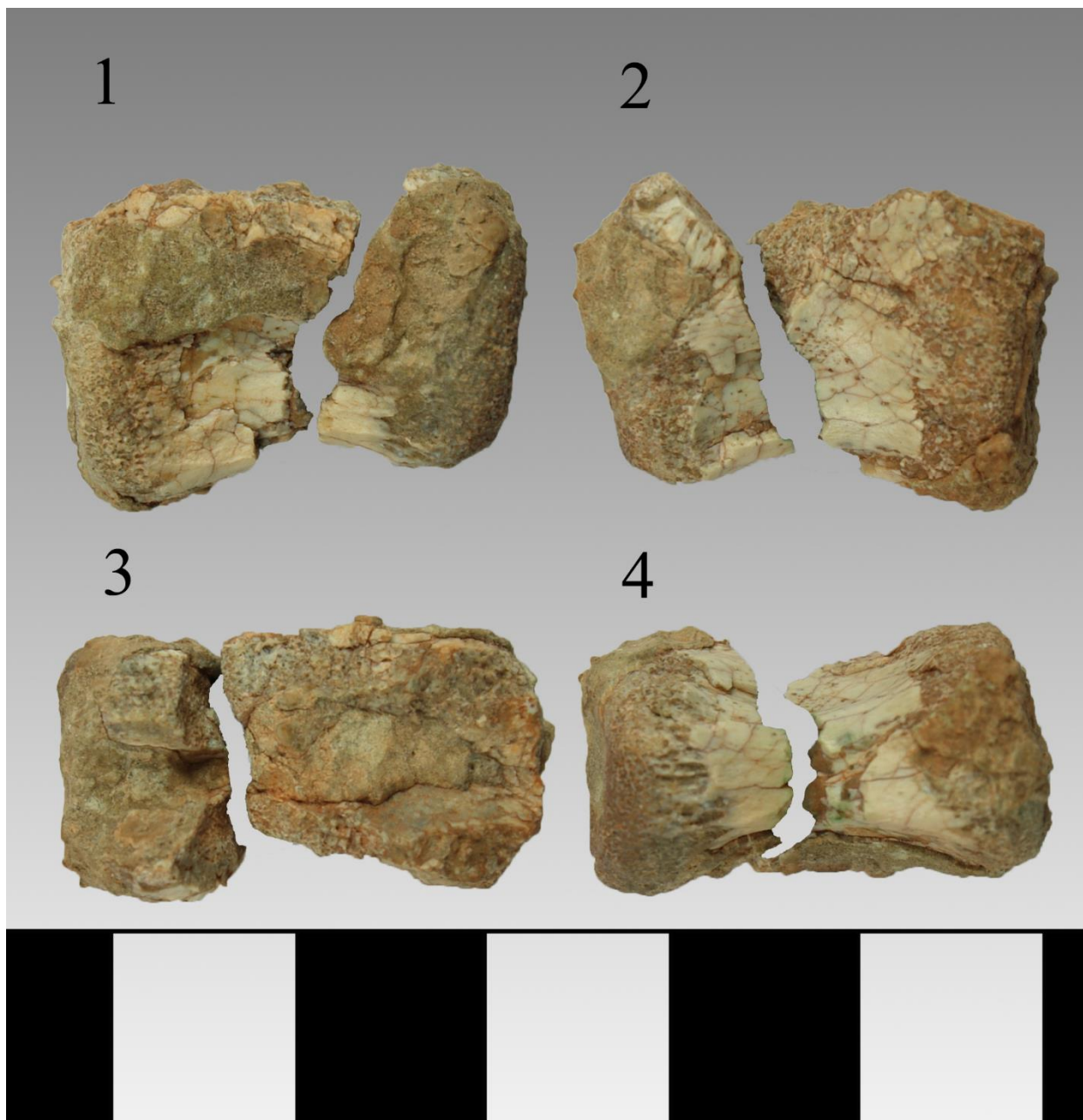
Figure 6: Tooth Fragment. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.



1  
2 Figure 7: Cervical vertebra in 1) anterior, 2) dorsal, 3) right lateral, 4) ventral, 5) left lateral, 6) posterior  
3 views. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.

4



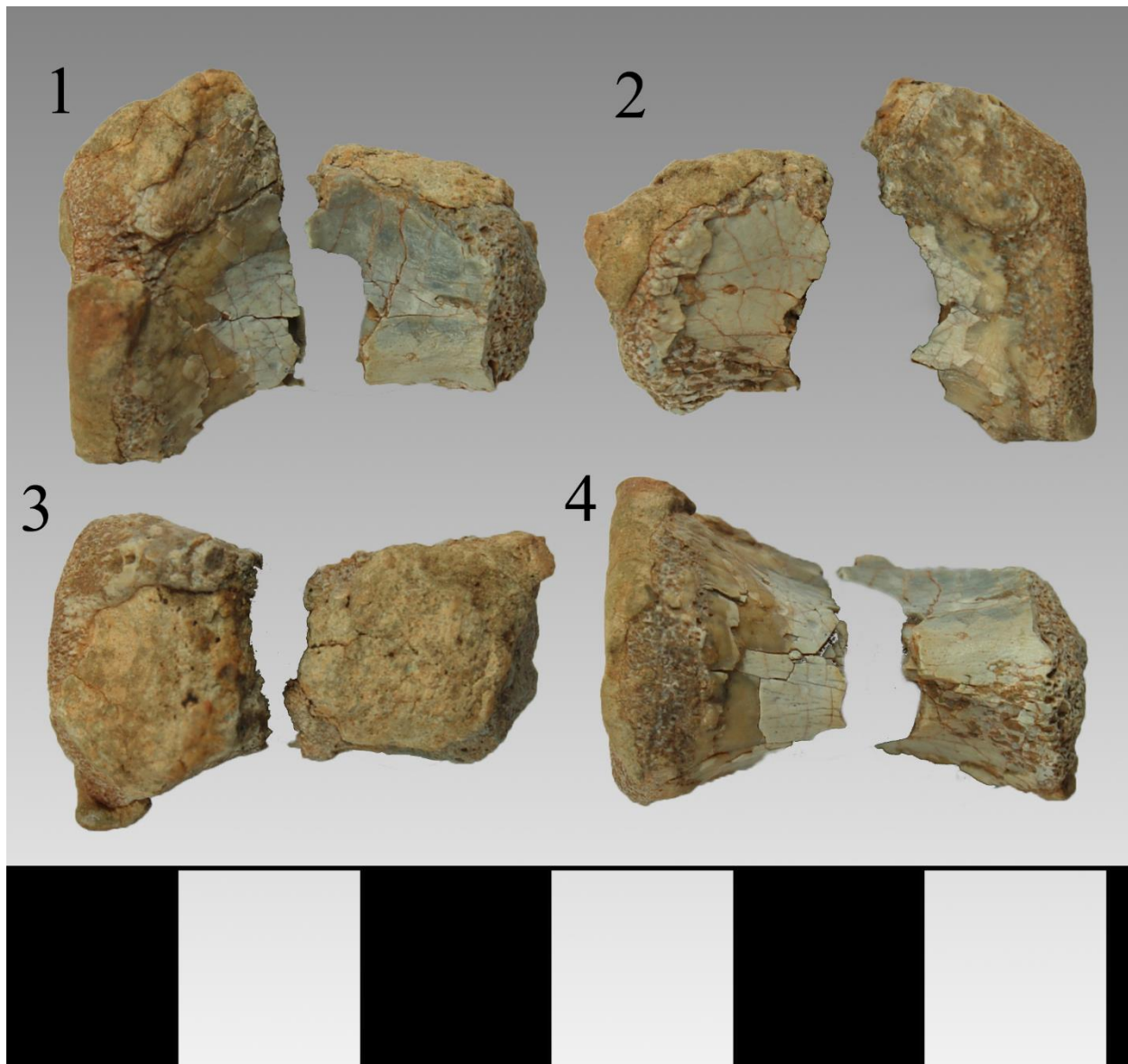


1

2 Figure 8: Dorsal Vertebra A in 1) right lateral, 2) left lateral, 3) dorsal, 4) ventral views. Clay  
3 support/reconstruction digitally removed. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.

4





1

2 Figure 9: Dorsal Vertebra B in 1) right lateral, 2) left lateral, 3) dorsal, 4) ventral views. Clay  
3 support/reconstruction digitally removed. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.

4

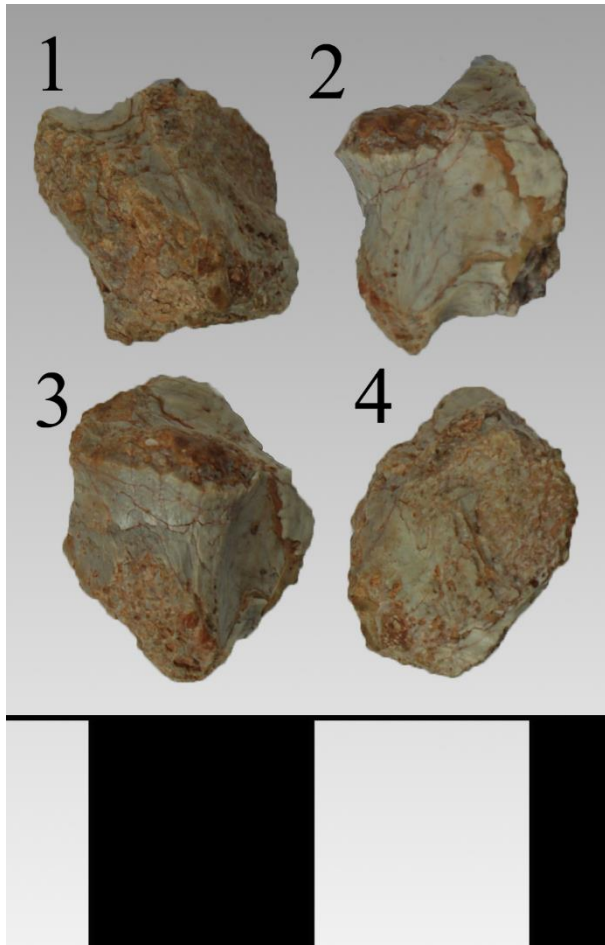


1  
2 Figure 10: Dorsal Vertebra C in 1) ?right lateral, 2) articular, 3) ?left lateral, 4) transverse, 5) dorsal, 6)  
3 ventral views. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.  
4



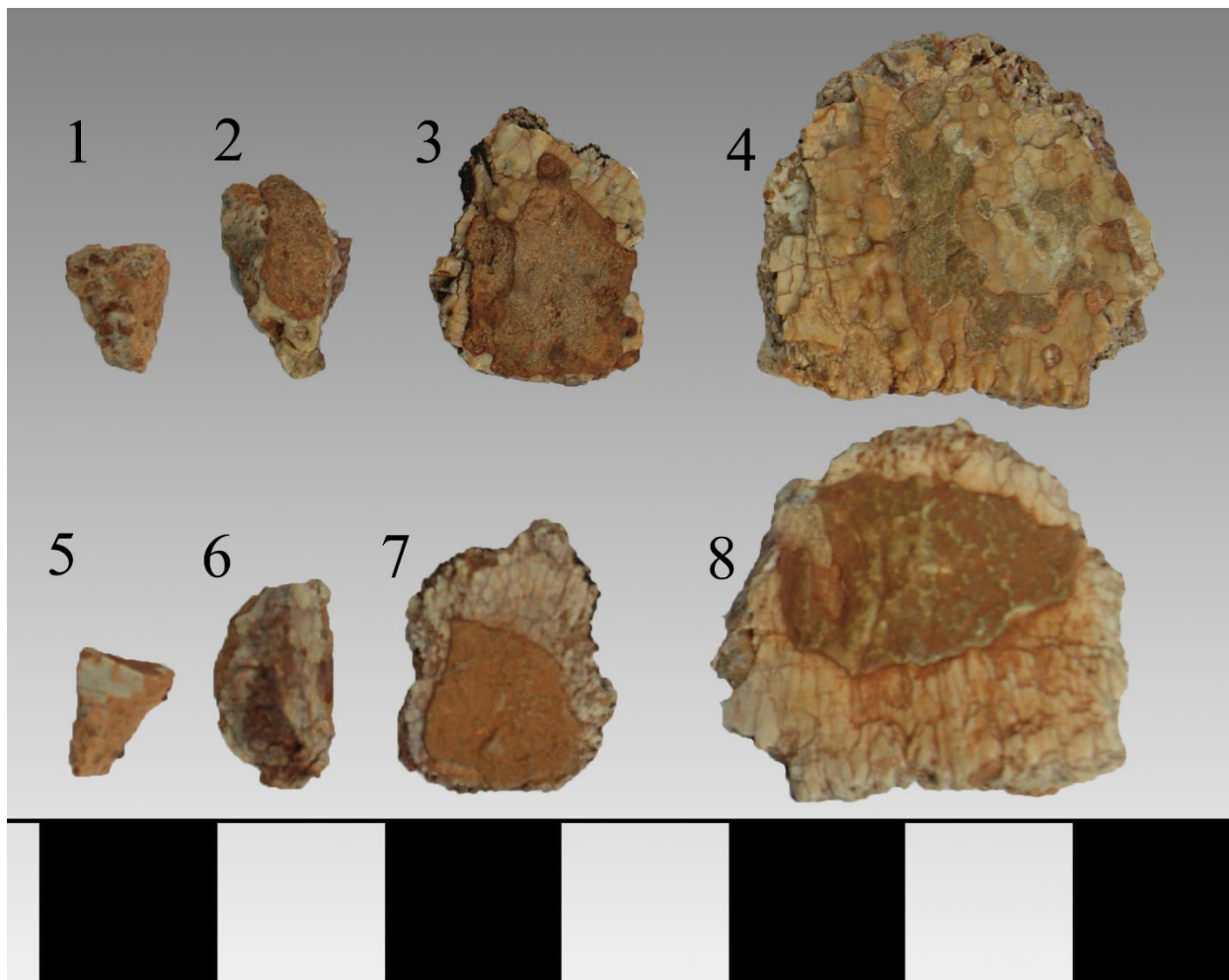
1  
2  
3

Figure 11: Dorsal Vertebra D in lateral view. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.



1  
2  
3

Figure 12: Possible neural arch fragment in four views. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.



1  
2 Figure 13: Four flat osteoderms in 1-4) lateral/dorsal, 5-8) medial/ventral views. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.

3



1

2 Figure 14: Two arched osteoderms in 1-2) lateral/dorsal, 3-4) medial/ventral views. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.

3



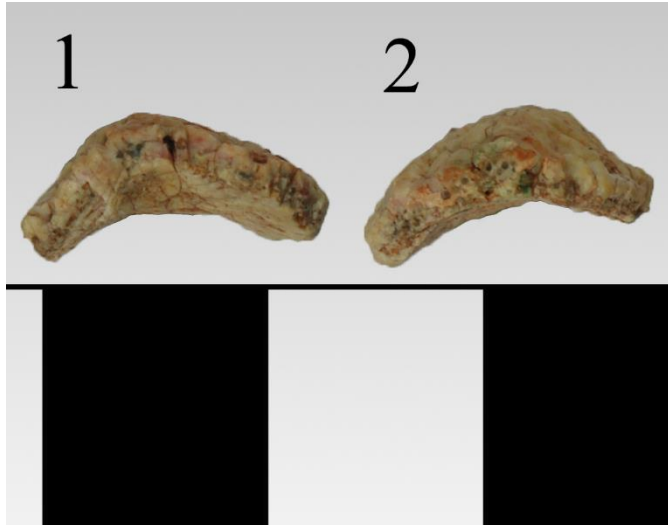


1

2 Figure 15: Osteoderm 1/3 from Figure 14 in 1-2) transverse, 3) dorsolateral, 4) ventrolateral views.

3 Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.

4



1

2

3

Figure 16: Osteoderm 2/4 from Figure 14 in transverse views. Scale: 1 box = 1 cm.