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This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/151538> since 2015-12-05T21:36:23Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1111/zoj.12195

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(Article begins on next page)



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

This is an author version of the contribution published on:

Questa è la versione dell'autore dell'opera:

J.E. Martin; T. Smith; F. de Lapparent de Broin; F. Escuillié; M. Delfino, 2014. Late Paleocene eusuchian remains from Mont de Berru, France and the origin of the alligatoroid Diplocynodon. ZOOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY – 172: 867-891.

DOI:10.1111/zoj.12195

ISSN:0024-4082 vol. 172

The definitive version is available at:

La versione definitiva è disponibile alla URL:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/zoj.12195/abstract>

Late Paleocene eusuchian remains from Mont de Berru, France and the origin of the alligatoroid *Diplocynodon*

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Crocodylian remains from the late Paleocene continental locality of Mont de Berru (Marne, France) offer the opportunity to reassess the taxonomic identity of the oldest diplocynodontid from Europe. Due to significant morphological differences with previously described species of *Diplocynodon*, which include the presence of a splenial symphysis, the new species *Diplocynodon remensis* is erected. Its inclusion into a phylogenetic framework for Eusuchia leads to its inclusion as a derived member of diplocynodontids. Diplocynodontidae are viewed as a basal alligatoroid taxon, and, because morphological affinities with the Late Cretaceous-early Eocene North American genus *Borealosuchus* were mentioned, a comparison between *D. remensis*, *Leidyosuchus* and *Borealosuchus* spp. is presented. Although *D. remensis* is the geologically oldest diplocynodontid, according to our result, it is not the phylogenetically most primitive. Other morphological discrepancies are highlighted indicating that the topology recovered here is only tentative. From a biogeographic point of view, the appearance of *Diplocynodon* in Europe prior to the Paleocene/Eocene boundary indicates that it did not disperse with North American taxa that reached Europe around the PETM time. Actually, a pre-PETM dispersal from North America, therefore at the same times as other vertebrates with clear North American affinities also occurring in the Paleocene of Europe, cannot be excluded. The description of *Diplocynodon remensis* adds substantial new, albeit conflicting, information, highlighting the need for a better phylogenetic framework with a revision of other critical taxa (*Menatalligator*, *Borealosuchus*) from the Paleocene of Europe and North America.

ADDITIONAL KEYWORDS: biogeography – *Borealosuchus* – *Diplocynodon* – Eusuchia – Paleocene

INTRODUCTION

The fossil record of the extinct alligatoroid crocodylian *Diplocynodon* Pomel, 1847 is very abundant and limited to Europe. Recent phylogenetic results recover a close relationship to basal globidontans and to *Leidyosuchus canadensis* Lambe 1907, implying a North American origin for the genus *Diplocynodon* (e.g. Brochu, 1999; Martin, 2010; Martin & Gross, 2011; Delfino & Smith, 2012) but when and how *Diplocynodon* dispersed to Europe is still unresolved. As recently summarised by Martin (2010) and Delfino & Smith (2012), there are eight species currently considered as valid in the age range from the early Eocene to the middle Miocene. The ancestor of *Diplocynodon* should therefore have lived earlier than the early Eocene (Martin & Buffetaut, 2008) and, actually, Lambe (1907) already noticed a morphological resemblance between *Diplocynodon* and *Leidyosuchus canadensis* Lambe 1907 from the Late Cretaceous of North America. No Diplocynodontidae have been detected so far in the Cretaceous rocks of Europe (Martin & Delfino, 2010), or anywhere outside Europe.

The modern phylogenies (Brochu, 1999, and all those deriving from it as, among others, Brochu, 2004, 2006; Delfino et al., 2005, 2008a, b; Martin, 2007; Martin & Buffetaut, 2008; Martin & Lauprasert, 2010; Martin, 2010; Martin & Gross, 2011; Brochu et al., 2012) indicate that the immediate outgroup of the clade including *Diplocynodon* and Globidonta is the most basal alligatoroid *Leidyosuchus* Lambe, 1907 from North America. Close relationships between the European *Diplocynodon* (now including *Baryphracta* Frey, Laemmert & Riess, 1987; see Delfino & Smith, 2012) and the North American *Leidyosuchus* and *Borealosuchus* Brochu, 1997 have been underlined, among others, by Gilmore (1910) and Rauhe and Rossmann (1995). Moreover, a possible shared ancestry between the oldest—and yet undescribed—alleged *Diplocynodon* from the late Paleocene of Cernay-les-Reims (a locality otherwise called Berru or Mont de Berru; see Ginsburg & Bulot, 1997; Pereda-

Suberbiola et al., 1999; Hua, 2004) and *Borealosuchus* has been recently proposed by Martin (2008) and Martin et al. (2012).

Borealosuchus has been coined by Brochu (1997) to incorporate basal eusuchians from North America previously included in the alligatoroid genus *Leidyosuchus*. There are currently six recognized species of *Borealosuchus*. *B. sternbergii* (Gilmore, 1910) and *B. threensis* Brochu et al., 2012, spread through the Cretaceous (but no older than late Maastrichtian, although an undescribed species was recently reported from the Campanian of Alabama (Brochu et al. 2012) to the middle Eocene. *B. wilsoni* (Mook, 1959) is from the Wasatchian (early Eocene). The remaining species, *B. acutidentatus* (Sternberg, 1932), *B. formidabilis* (Erickson, 1976), and *B. griffithi* Wu et al., 2001, are all Paleocene in age (Brochu, 1997; Wu et al., 2001; Brochu et al., 2012). The genus *Leidyosuchus* is now monospecific (Brochu, 1997), including only the Late Cretaceous *Leidyosuchus canadensis* Lambe, 1907.

The acknowledged European endemic status of *Diplocynodon* (Martin, 2010) and its hypothetical North American origins do not appear trivial, because to a few Paleocene exceptions and particularly during the early Eocene, faunal similarities are strongest between North America and Europe; this is especially remarkable with mammals, birds and squamates (Smith, 2009; Mayr, 2009; Rage, 2012). However, that is disputed for turtles (Godinot & Lapparent de Broin, 2003) and also crocodylians (Martin & Lauprasert, 2010), although few data are available regarding crocodylian dispersals in the Palearctic around the Paleocene-Eocene boundary. Following a brief review of Palearctic Paleocene crocodylians, we provide a description of a new *Diplocynodon* species from the late Paleocene (MP6) locality of Mont de Berru, analyze its phylogenetic relationships and, being it the oldest member of the genus and the first pre-PETM *Diplocynodon*, discuss its relevance in the context of the late Paleocene/early Eocene crocodylian biogeography.

PALEOCENE EUSUCHIANS FROM THE PALEARCTIC

North America certainly holds the largest published number of Paleocene eusuchians. A few of them are known from complete gavialoid cranial material from marine deposits with the genus *Thoracosaurus* Leidy, 1852 primarily from Cretaceous deposits (see the review in Brochu, 2004b) or the genus *Eosuchus* Dollo, 1907 from late Paleocene deposits (Brochu, 2006). The fossil record of freshwater ecosystems of North America is rich and yielded close to the Cretaceous-Paleocene boundary mandibular remains of the basal eusuchian *Borealosuchus threeensis* from New Jersey (Brochu et al., 2012). In the Paleocene, more taxa were reported including the relatively complete skull of the alligatorine *Navajosuchus mooki* Simpson, 1930 from New Mexico, another alligatorine *Wannagosuchus brachymanus* Erickson, 1982 from North Dakota, the skull of the basal eusuchian *Borealosuchus griffithi* from Alberta (Wu et al., 2001) and abundant remains of *Borealosuchus formidabilis* Erickson, 1976 from North Dakota. A fragmentary taxon, *Bottosaurus* Agassiz, 1859, is also signalled from the Williamsburg Formation of the Paleocene of South Carolina (Erickson, 1998; Brochu, 1999). Planocraniids are also reported on the basis of fragmentary occurrences in Paleocene deposits of North America (Brochu, 2013). In comparison, the Paleocene Asiatic fossil record is more fragmentary (see Martin & Lauprasert, 2010) with poorly known taxa known only from freshwater settings of China such as the crocodyloid *Asiatosuchus nanlingensis* Young, 1964. *Eoalligator chunyi* Young, 1964 is considered as a junior synonym of *Asiatosuchus nanlingensis* Young, 1964 (Brochu, pers. comm. 2014) and *Eoalligator huiningensis* Young, 1982 certainly needs a reappraisal. Other Paleocene eusuchians from Asia are represented by two species of the genus *Planocrania* (see details in Brochu, 2013).

Europe does not stand as a better supply for Paleocene localities and it can be qualified as scarce, especially during the earliest Paleocene, when it mainly consists of gavialoid taxa found in near shore environments such as *Thoracosaurus* sp. from Poland (Zarski et al., 1998)

or *T. isorhynchus* (Pomel, 1847a) from Mont-Aimé, Champagne-Ardenne, France. In the late Paleocene, the marine record is represented by the gavialoid *Eosuchus lerichei* Dollo, 1907 (Delfino et al., 2006) from northern France. Such a bias in the non-marine eusuchian fossil record is linked to the fact that early Paleocene continental deposits from Europe are rare (Godfriaux & Thaler, 1972; Thaler, 1977; Peláez-Campomanes et al., 2000; Domingo et al., 2007; De Bast & Smith, 2013) and have only yielded a few eusuchian remains from the early Paleocene locality of Hainin in Belgium (Groessens-Van Dyck, 1986). The second oldest occurrence of a freshwater crocodylian in the European Cenozoic, might be from the late Paleocene of Menat, Massif Central, France where a single specimen lacking most of the skull but preserving a nearly complete postcranium was given the name *Menatalligator bergouniouxii* Piton, 1940. The description mentions a dorsal and a ventral shield with imbricated elements, features compatible in Europe with *Diplocynodon*. However, the specimen is now considered lost. A last European Paleocene locality has been mentioned several times in the literature for its crocodylian fauna: Mont de Berru (also known as Cernay-les-Reims), a freshwater deposit of the upper Thanetian (MP6) of the Paris Basin, located in northeastern France. An *Asiatosuchus*-like crocodyloid (Vasse, 1992, 1993; Delfino & Smith, 2009) together with mandibular remains regarded as the earliest occurrence of the alligatoroid genus *Diplocynodon* (Ginsburg & Bulot, 1997; Pereda-Suberbiola et al., 1999; Hua, 2004) were signalled from this locality. Here we report on several specimens from this locality, including complete skulls and mandibles referable on a morphological basis to the same taxon previously mentioned on the basis of mandibular fragments (Hua, 2004). In Europe, the diplocynodontid lineage extends back beyond the mid-Eocene, being reported from the early Eocene of France, Portugal and Belgium (Buffetaut, 1985; Godinot et al., 1978; Hua, 2004; Telles-Antunes & Russell, 1981; Smith et al. 2014); the knowledge of the precise relationship of the diplocynodontid lineage with earliest crocodylian faunas suffers from a gap covering most of the Paleocene. The present study aims at reducing these phyletic and temporal gaps.

Anatomical abbreviations: an: angular; ar: articular; boc: basioccipital; boc.s., basioccipital suture of the basisphenoid; bsph: basisphenoid; ch: choanae; cqg: cranioquadrate groove; den: dentary; ec: ectopterygoid; emf: external mandibular fenestra; en, external nares; exo: exoccipital; f: frontal; fa: foramen aëreum; fv: foramen vagi; if: incisive foramen; j: jugal; l: lacrimal; lt: laterosphenoid; ltf: lower temporal fenestra; mg: meckelian groove; meu: median Eustachian canal; mx: maxilla; n: nasal; na: naris; oc: occipital condyle; of: occipital foramen; op: occlusal pit; or: orbit; p: parietal; pa: palatine; pfr: prefrontal; pmx: premaxilla; pmx.r., premaxillary recess; po: postorbital; pob: postorbital bar; pt: pterygoid; pro: prootic; q: quadrate; qj: quadratojugal; soc: supraoccipital; sof: suborbital fenestra; sp: splenial; sym: symphysis; stf: supratemporal fenestra; soc: supraoccipital; sq: squamosal; sur: surangular; 3, 4, 5: tooth or alveolus position in the maxilla or dentary.

Institutional Abbreviations—IRSNB, Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique; MHNL, Musée des Confluences de Lyon, Lyon, France; MGPT, Museo di Geologia e Paleontologia of the University of Torino; MNHN F BR, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle – Berru collection, Mourras quarry of Mont de Berru, Paris, France; MNHN F CRL, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle – Conglomérat de Cernay of Lemoine collection and quarry of Mont de Berru, Paris, France; CE, Collection Eldonia, Gannat, France.

Other abbreviations: Nam: North America; Eu: Europe; PETM: Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum; EECO: early Eocene Climatic Optimum.

SYSTEMATIC PALAEOLOGY

ORDER CROCODILIA GMELIN, 1789 SENSU MARTIN AND BENTON, 2008

SUBORDER EUSUCHIA HUXLEY, 1875

SUPERFAMILY ALLIGATOROIDEA GRAY, 1844

FAMILY DIPLOCYNODONTIDAE HUA, 2004

GENUS *DIPLOCYNODON* POMEL, 1847

Emended diagnosis: The following character combination is diagnostic of the genus *Diplocynodon* (plesiomorphies indicated with an asterisk): a pair of enlarged maxillary (four and five) and confluent dentary (three and four) alveoli*; lacrimal longer than prefrontal*; ectopterygoid adjacent to the posteriormost maxillary alveoli*; dorsal margin of the infratemporal fenestra formed by the quadratojugal, preventing the quadrate from reaching the fenestra; 16-17 maxillary alveoli. Autapomorphies recovered from phylogenetic analyses diagnose *Diplocynodon* with: axial hypapophysis located toward the centrum; proatlas with tall dorsal keel, dorsal margin of the iliac blade rounded in shape, with a smooth border and a very deep posterior tip of the blade; lingual foramen for the articular artery and alveolar nerve perforates surangular/angular suture; quadrate-ptyergoid suture linear from basisphenoid exposure to foramen ovale.

***DIPLOCYNODON REMENSIS* SP. NOV.**

Derivatio nominis: The species name refers to the Gallic natives: the Remes who inhabited the region of Reims from where the fossil was recovered.

Holotype: MHNH F BR 4020, a nearly complete skull (Fig. 1C,D).

Type locality: Mont de Berru, Mourras quarry, between Cernay-les-Reims and Berru villages, Département de la Marne, Champagne-Ardenne, northeastern France (see map in Russell, 1964).

Type horizon: A fossiliferous level intercalated in sands, between Sables de Rilly and lacustrine blue-grey Marls (Russell, 1964), approximate continental equivalent of the Châlons-sur-Vesles marine Formation (see Aubry et al., 2005), Paris Basin. Upper Thanetian,

Late Paleocene, MP6 reference-level of the mammalian biochronological scale for the European Palaeogene (Biochron, 1997).

Referred specimens: from the type locality Mourras quarry and Lemoine quarry (same level), Mont de Berru, Département de la Marne, Champagne-Ardenne, northeastern France: skull (incomplete): MNHN F BR 4020, 13105 (Fig. 2A-D); skull and associated mandibles (complete): CE 00001 (Figs. 2-5); skull fragment (posterior region): MNHN F BR 13106; premaxilla: MNHN F BR 3501, 13202, 15012, 15142; maxilla: MNHN F BR 1960, 2632, 2634, 2636, 2637, 3486, 13207, 13228, 13229, 13231, 13679, 13711, 15013, 54435, MNHN F CRL 13099, IRSNB Vert 29857-7; nasals: MNHN F BR 3488, 13200, 13201, 15079; prefrontal: MNHN F BR 3490; lacrimal: MNHN F BR 1694; postorbital: MNHN F BR 2628, 3505, 3526; squamosal: MNHN F BR 2619, 2621, 3425, 13210, 13211, 15260; jugal: MNHN F BR 2620, 3500, 3507, 3511, 3527, 3595, 13212, 13213, 13214, 13215, 15049, 15477, IRSNB Vert 29857-8 to 9; frontal: MNHN F BR 2616, 3297, 3489, 3496, 3497, 13208, 13209, 13676, 13677, 13681, IRSNB Vert 29857-10 to 12; frontal + parietal + prefrontal + supraoccipital: MNHN F BR 3591; exoccipital + quadrate: MNHN BR 3513, 4139; exoccipital + frontal + laterosphenoid (?) + parietal + quadrate + supraoccipital: MNHN BR 2622; quadrate: MNHN F BR 3493, 3504, 3510, 13189, 13190, 13191, 13192; basioccipital: MNHN F BR 4119; palatine: MNHN F BR 13205; pterygoid: MNHN F BR 15200, 15476; ectopterygoid: MNHN F BR 1645; dentary: MNHN F BR 1974, 2617, 2618, 2629, 3503, 3506, 3523, 4021, 4037, 13056, 13216, 13217, 13218, 13219, 13220, 13221, 13222, 13223, 13224, 13225, 13226, 13227, 13237, 15198, 15230, 15231, 15232, 15471, 15472, MNHN F CRL 13097, 13098, IRSNB Vert 29857-13 to 15; splenial: MNHN F BR 4153, 10271, 13203, 15150; angular: MNHN F BR 1673, 1963, 1973, 2635, 3499, 3508, 3608, 13193, 13194, 13195, 13196, 13198 (= 3502), 13199, 15166, 15187, 15247, 15473, 15474, IRSNB Vert 29857-16 to 18; surangular: MNHN F BR 1675, 2623, 3487, 13206, MNHN F BR no number; articular: MNHN F BR 3596, 10146, 10527, 12456, 12485, MNHN F BR no

number, MNHN F CRL 13051; several isolated teeth (unnumbered MNHN); osteoderm: MNHN F BR 2654, 2653, 3432, 3456, 3465, 3467, 3470, 3471, 13712, 15084, 15176, 15478, 15480, 15481, 17412, 17413 and about 300 unnumbered osteoderms), IRSNB Vert 29857-19 to 40; IRSNB R289 (IG 26857), two partial dentaries in connection (Fig. 7A, B); MGPT-PU 132047, STL file of the CT scan of the skull and mandible of CE 0001.

Diagnosis: *Diplocynodon remensis* differs from all other species of *Diplocynodon* by possessing two parallel ridges creating a recess on the lateral wall of the premaxillary notch; and in having a splenial participating in the mandibular symphysis.

DESCRIPTION

General description: *Diplocynodon remensis* is a medium-sized crocodylian (see Table 1 for skull measurements) that may not have exceeded two meters in total length. The skull shows the platyrostral condition, with a narrow snout. Nearly all skull remains suffered from dorsoventral crushing. Though many small fractures run across the bones, the quality of preservation offers nicely preserved morphological details. A ‘net’ of pits with well-delimited narrow ridges rather uniformly covers the dorsal surface of the skull. Pit size is variable, the skull table displaying the largest ones whereas pits near the margin of the jaws tend to become smaller or absent. In dorsal view, the shape of the skulls is elongated and the premaxillary-maxillary region is characterized by a pronounced lateral embayment at the level of the suture between these two elements. On the external surface, canthii rostralii or preorbital ridges are not developed but a marked spectacle is present in the interorbital area: it consists of a transverse step crossing the frontal at or just anteriorly to the posterior end of the fronto-prefrontal suture and by two symmetric depressions running along the antero-medial edges of the orbits, medially delimited by a thin continuous ridge (such depressions are like elongated

pits of the skull ornamentation; MNHN F BR 3591 and CE 00001 clearly preserve a complete “spectacle”). A tubercle-like structure is present on the lacrimal at the anterior tip of the orbit.

SKULL

Premaxilla: The premaxilla is about 1.5 times longer than wide. Dorsally, the anterior portion is smooth, whereas pits densely cover the posteromedial portion. The premaxilla completely surrounds the external nares. The dorsally facing nares are large, roughly rounded and positioned closer to the anterior margin of the premaxilla than of the premaxillary-maxillary notch. The posterior premaxillary process extends behind the level of the premaxillary-maxillary notch to the level of the second maxillary tooth. The snout profile can be described as deeply notched, contrary to what is observed in diplocynodontids or in globidontans. Here, posteriorly in the notch, the lateral margin of the premaxilla becomes perpendicular to the sagittal plan. On the ventral side, the incisive foramen is slightly longer than wide. It is excluded from the tooth row. As also shown by the isolated premaxillae, as well as by the right maxilla MNHN F BR 15013, the premaxilla-maxillary suture is approximately rectilinear on the palatal surface (only modestly convex anteriorly), therefore remaining far from the incisive foramen and not extending posteriorly to the first maxillary alveolus. The premaxilla bears five alveoli. The first, second and fifth alveoli are the smallest of all and are of same size. The third and fourth are three times larger. A large occlusal pit is located between the first and second alveoli. A second occlusal pit is three times smaller and positioned between the third and fourth alveoli. Small foramina are usually present medially to the alveoli. Behind the last premaxillary alveolus, the premaxilla is deeply notched for reception of the double caniniform dentition of the dentary. Here, the smooth surface of the premaxilla bears two parallel longitudinal ridges (Fig. 3 and Fig. 6H, I, J) that are well marked in the large MNHN F BR 4020 and MNHN F BR 3501 but barely visible in the

smaller MNHN F BR 15012. Such notch is mostly developed on the premaxilla because only the posterior sector involves the maxilla.

Maxilla: The maxilla is craniocaudally elongate. Dorsally, it is densely covered with pits. In dorsal view, the lateral profile of the maxilla in CE 00001 and MNHN F BR4020 is progressively extending laterally from the notch until the level of the fourth and fifth double caniniform maxillary teeth. A concave wave affects the tooth row to the level of the eighth maxillary tooth and then the lateral edge of the maxilla becomes straight for the rest of the bone. The suture with the nasal is almost straight. The posteromedial maxillary suture extensively contacts the lacrimal. In the maxillae of CE 00001, eighteen alveoli are visible and this is confirmed on the CT scan. The tooth row preserves seventeen alveoli in the right maxilla of the skull MNHN F BR 4020 (the left one is not entirely preserved) and in the isolated left maxilla MNHN F BR 13207 (Fig. 6F), but the same count is likely to be correct also for MNHN F BR 2636 (Fig. 6E) and MNHN F BR 2637 whose distal region is slightly damaged and misses the last two alveoli. The tooth row nearly reaches the posterior end of the maxilla. The first maxillary alveolus is as small as the fifth premaxillary tooth. The second and third alveoli increase in diameter. Next, the fourth and fifth alveoli, corresponding to the double caniniform teeth are even larger and of same size and nearly confluent. Posteriorly, the remaining alveoli are of similar diameter, although a slight increase in diameter affects the twelfth alveolus together with an obvious festoonation of the posterior maxillary tooth row. The last four alveoli are slightly mediolaterally compressed. The largest interalveolar space is usually the seventh and it corresponds to a large pit. The foramen for the palatine ramus of the fifth cranial nerve is present and smaller than the alveoli but not tiny (best seen in MNHN F BR 2636 where it is about 5 mm long); several other small foramina are aligned medially to the tooth row. Along the suborbital fenestra, the area medial to the tooth row (and anterior to the overlap surface with the ectopterygoid) is modestly but clearly expanded in medial

direction giving to the lateral rim of the fenestra a slightly convex shape (Figs. 1, 6E-G): this character is slightly variable being nearly not present in MNHN F BR 13207 (however, the weak expansion is not visible in dorsal view because of the deformation of the specimen) but evident in MNHN F BR 2636, MNHN F BR 2637, MNHN F BR 4020, MNHN F BR 13105 and MNHN F BR 13679. Unlike in some other alligatoroids, there is no maxillary shelf separating the posterior maxillary tooth row from the ectopterygoid and although the condition is not exactly comparable to that of *Crocodylus*, it is clear that, as in other species of *Diplocynodon*, the last two maxillary alveoli are in contact with the ectopterygoid (e.g. Martin, 2010). The state of preservation does not allow assessing with confidence the presence or absence of pits in the narial canal, however MNHN F BR 3486 preserves a portion of the canal without pits disrupting the medial wall of the maxillary cavichoncal recess.

Nasal: The nasals are very elongate, covering most of the snout length. They do not enter the naris being widely separated from it (in CE 00001 more than two centimetres of premaxillary surface). They are densely covered with rounded pits but, the dorsal ornamentation slightly varies between the proximal and the distal end: the proximal sector shows elongated ridges delimiting furrows conjoining the pits, whereas pits are isolated in the median and distal sectors. The nasals have a somehow constant width and they become abruptly narrow toward their anterior end. The nasals are medially separated in their posterior region by a slender anterior frontal process. The posterior nasal process reaches the medial side of the lacrimal and of the right prefrontal (Fig. 2) with an oblique and short suture.

Lacrimal: The lacrimal participates in the anteriormost portion of the orbital rim. The bone is longer than wide. The anterior limit of the lacrimal reaches a more anterior position than that of the prefrontal and therefore it extensively contacts the posterior end of the nasal. The

preorbital ridge terminates on the posteromedial corner of the lacrimal. The right lacrimal MNHN F BR 1694 has a smooth triangular surface and preserves the anterolateral orbital margin. A small but evident knob is present at the anterior tip of the smooth triangular surface (such structure is also present on the lacrimals of the two skulls MNHN F BR 4020, 13105). The lacrimal duct is located medially to the anterior rim of the orbit, close to the suture with the prefrontal, and opens anteriorly on the ventral surface of the element, with a large aperture.

Prefrontal: The prefrontal is very elongate, shorter and narrower than the lacrimal and forms the anteromedial portion of the orbital rim. Its anterior tip does not surpass the anterior tip of the frontal process (see MNHN F BR 3591). Its anterior portion inserts between the nasal and lacrimal. The orbital margin is inflated at the level of this bone and consists of the lateral branch of the preorbital ridge. The suture with the lacrimal is almost straight. Prefrontal pillars are not preserved except in the skull MNHN F BR 4020 where the left pillar is visible in dorsal view, and the right one seems to be antero-posteriorly expanded at its dorsal end; the medial process is broken off.

Jugal: The jugal makes the lateral margin of the orbital rim as well as the lateral margin of the infratemporal fenestra. The orbital portion of the jugal is wide whereas it becomes thin in the distal region. In ventral view, the posterior extension of the ectopterygoid extends along the jugal. Extension of the jugal on the postorbital bar is obscured by crushing. In all the jugals, the postorbital bar is inset from the lateral jugal surface, but in the area anterior to the postorbital bar, the lateral wall is weakly developed dorsally (in particular, not as developed as in *D. ratelii*). The medial jugal foramen is always present: when only one foramen is present, its size is large (MNHN F BR 13215, 15477, 2620, 3595, 13214; both the jugals of skull MNHN F BR 13105) but when more foramina are present, their size varies from

medium (MNHN F BR 3511, 3527, 13213) to small (as in the case of the three foramina of the large jugal MNHN F BR 13212). Some jugals (MNHN F BR 3500, 3507, 15049) show a damaged area for the foramina: it is possible that the presence of a large foramen renders the area rather fragile. The posterior extension of the jugal on the quadratojugal does not reach the level of the quadrate condyle. The quadratojugal suture is not obvious but seems to attain the caudal angle of the infratemporal fenestra. MNHN F BR 15049 and MNHN F BR 2620 show along the medial surface of their posterior end (not completely preserved) the sutural area for a rather long process that the quadratojugal sends along the lower temporal bar.

Frontal: In CE 00001, the frontal contacts the parietal in front but close to the supratemporal fenestrae, although the left frontal seems to intersect the fenestrae. In BR13105, the frontoparietal suture enters the anterior margin of the supratemporal fenestra. The frontoparietal suture is slightly undulating. Postorbital and parietal retain a small contact on the anterior margin of the supratemporal fenestra. The dorsal surface of the frontal is completely flat on the skull table and between the orbits; it is not elevated along the rims of the orbits nor along the supratemporal fenestrae. The parietal forms the anteromedial margin of supratemporal fossae, because the frontoparietal suture is not entirely developed on the skull table, but it enters the fossae below. The interorbital region is wide. At this level, the frontal becomes constricted between the prefrontals and sends a long and slender anterior process, which projects far beyond the anterior orbital level, as well as beyond the anterior level of the prefrontal. The anterior frontal process eventually divides the paired nasals in their posterior region.

Postorbital: The postorbital makes the anterolateral border of the supratemporal fenestra. The anterior region does not extend very much medially and the bone is more elongate than wide. The supratemporal border is vertical. The dorsal surface of the bone is flat. The postorbital

bar is thick but it is not as massive as in *Gavialis*. It is laterally directed respect to the dorsal surface of the element, so that it can be seen in dorsal view (MNHN F BR 2628).

Parietal: The parietal is entirely flat supra and is constricted between the supratemporal fenestrae. The space between the supratemporal fossae is barely narrower than the interorbital space. The parietal contribution on the posterior border of the skull table is limited by the supraoccipital, which is exposed on the skull roof dorsal surface. The suture with the squamosal does not extend far laterally and gives to the outline of the parietal a continuous parasagittal orientation. The lateral margin overhangs the fenestra with various degrees of development, as observed in the different specimens available. No ridge delimits the supratemporal border. The posterior surface of the supratemporal fenestra is perforated by the orbitotemporal foramen. The organization around this foramen can be seen from the left temporal cavity of CE 00001 and in BR13105. Here, parietal and squamosal are in contact, preventing the ascending quadrate process from reaching the ventral margin of the foramen.

Squamosal: The squamosal makes the posterolateral corner of the supratemporal fenestra. As any other bone from the skull table, the squamosal dorsal surface is flat. The squamosal is wide, occupying most of the posterior surface of the skull table. Squamosal prongs are developed but they do not reach the lateral tip of the paroccipital processes (best preserved in MNHN F BR 4020) and thus do not project far posteriorly. The caudal margin of the otic aperture is long and continuous with the paroccipital process, unlike the condition seen in derived eusuchians, where the otic aperture is deeply inset from the paroccipital process (Fig. 3). On the isolated elements MNHN F BR 2619 and MNHN F BR 15260, the sutural area with the quadrate considerably extends in anterodorsal direction indicating that the squamosal constitutes only the uppermost dorsal section of the posterior rim of the otic recess. On the lateral sides of squamosals, the rims of the groove for the musculature connected to the

external otic aperture are approximately parallel; the dorsal rim is extremely well ornate (as the dorsal surface) whereas the ventral one regularly shows a lateral expansion (approximately in the middle).

Palatine: The paired palatines comprise the median walls of the suborbital fenestrae and project rostrally within the maxillae to the level of the eighth and ninth alveoli. Caudally, until half of their length, the palatines have parallel margins. At this level, there is no lateral flaring of the bone. They eventually become wider from their second halves and start to expand laterally to contribute for about one third to the anterior suborbital margin. The palatine projection within the maxillae is rather long and wide. The palatine-pterygoid suture is located well ahead of the posterior corner of the suborbital fenestra as clearly seen in CE 00001, MNHN F BR 4020, MNHN F BR 13105, and MNHN F BR 15200.

Ectopterygoid: the ectopterygoid contacts the posteriormost portion of the maxillary tooth row by its dorsal anterior process, which is short. Its real anterior extension is unclear but it might have reached at least the last two alveoli. There is no outgrowth of the maxilla preventing the ectopterygoid from touching the posterior tooth row. The dorsal posterior process of the ectopterygoid is twice longer than the anterior process; it runs along the medial jugal margin, therefore participating at least in the anteroventral infratemporal margin. The ventral ectopterygoid process is massive and does not project all the way to the tip of the pterygoid wing. Instead, it stops at more than half the distance. The contact with the pterygoid is difficult to assess because of deformation. This suture is curved with the ectopterygoid being overlapped by the pterygoid. Pterygoid ramus of ectopterygoid is bowed medially so that the posterolateral margin of the suborbital fenestra is concave.

Pterygoid: The pterygoid edge contributing to the posterior rim of the suborbital fenestra does not show any notch. The choanae open in the central region of the pterygoids, forming a rounded canal, the margins of which are slightly deformed. Its lateral margins form a collar, the pterygoid being depressed lateral to it (particularly visible in MNHN F BR 15200). From the anterior border of the choanae, a well-developed septum invaginates in the canal. The pterygoid posteromedial process forms a distinct and developed notch. The posteromedial pterygoid process extends more caudally than the pterygoid wings. The pterygoid wings are massive with a thick margin for reception of the ectopterygoid. These wings are wider than long.

Quadrate: The quadrate does not participate in the infratemporal fenestra. Its exposed surface is smooth. It does not project far posteriorly beyond the skull table level. From an occipital point of view, the medial quadrate hemicondyle is very diminutive compared to the lateral one. On the dorsal surface of the bone, the foramen aëreum is medially placed (Fig. 6A-D). In ventral view, the quadrate is well exposed. Its surface is smooth and is only elevated by a faint muscle scar (scar B of Iordansky, 1973). Anteriorly, the quadrate penetrates in the ventral margin of the supratemporal fenestra.

Quadratojugal: The quadratojugal makes the dorsal margin of the infratemporal fenestra where it is free of sculptural pits. It laterally contacts the posteriormost extension of the quadrate and displays well developed pits. Dorsally, the rostralmost process of the quadratojugal does contact the postorbital bar, thus excluding the quadrate from the lower temporal fenestra. No spina quadratojugal was detected in any quadratojugal, but its presence cannot be completely rejected or confirmed.

Supraoccipital: The unpaired supraoccipital is massive and extends within the parietal on the dorsal surface of the skull table. It however does not exclude the lateral margins of the parietal to contact the posterior margin of the skull table. In most cases, the supraoccipital corresponds to a weak depression on the skull table and from an occipital view, the dorsal surface of the supraoccipital is concave. Its lateralmost extension plunges below the skull table surface and sends a process within the squamosal. The dorsal surface of this element is well developed in posterior direction (it extends posteriorly to the concave posterior rims of the parietals) and markedly overhangs the occipital skull surface contributing, with the parietals, to the overall convex shape of the median sector of the posterior edge of the skull table. A strong-keeled descending process penetrates between the paired exoccipital but does not prevent them from meeting completely. The supraoccipital medially delimits the posttemporal fenestrae but information on their detailed morphology is not available in any remain.

Exoccipital: The exoccipital makes an extensive participation in the occipital region. The otoccipital process is long and in its central and lateral part overhangs the cranioquadrate canal. This canal is enclosed laterally by the quadrate and bound medially by the exoccipital. The exoccipital extends more laterally than the squamosal. The descending process of the exoccipital does not project along the lateral side of the basioccipital plate, but instead is short and stops near the level of the condyle. The exoccipitals form the dorsal and lateral rim of the foramen magnum and extend laterally below the squamosal prongs forming the paroccipital processes. The occipital surface of such processes is rather concave and its ventral edge is somewhat straight. No boss is developed on the paroccipital processes but a weak ridge is present medially to the opening of the cranioquadrate passage. The group of foramina placed on the ventral projections of the exoccipitals, laterally and lateroventrally to the foramen magnum, is not preserved in any of the available specimens. The rather small foramen vagi is visible on the left exoccipital of MNHN F BR 4020, whereas the foramen for cranial nerve

XII could be represented by a tiny pore and the lateral carotid foramen by a much larger opening located below them; in MNHN F BR 13106 both the lateral carotid foramina are placed at the level of the ventral edge of the missing condyle (as well as at the dorsal edge of the basisphenoid). The ventral projections of the exoccipitals along the lateral sides of the basioccipital do not reach the weakly developed basioccipital tubera.

Basioccipital: The basioccipital makes the occipital condyle and more ventrally, the basioccipital plate. The basioccipital has the shape of a truncated trapezoid pointing ventrally, with a prominent sagittal crest developed in the ventral sector of the occipital surface. The condyle is entirely developed in this element: it is neither massive nor large relative to the rest of the element. The two preserved condyles (MNHN F BR 4020, MNHN F BR 4119) show a distinct sagittal depression at their dorsal edge. The location of the lateral Eustachian canal corresponds to an evident notch in the lateral profile of the basioccipital. In the skull MNHN F BR 13105, the basioccipital seems to develop a knob instead of the sagittal crest and the two tubercle-like structures, placed laterodorsally to such knob, do not have an equivalent in the other available specimens (the surface is however markedly altered and not clearly visible).

Basisphenoid: The basisphenoid is best preserved in MNHN F BR13105. The expansion of the basisphenoid ventral to the medial Eustachian foramen is well visible from a posterior view. This bone expands ventrally and sends a broad sheet on the pterygoid. It connects anteriorly with the pterygoid and more laterally contacts the quadrate and even the medioventral tip of the exoccipital. On the lateral side of the braincase, the basisphenoid is anteroposteriorly wide and its dorsal edge is at the level of the lateral carotid foramen (best seen in MNHN F BR 4020). The lateral carotid foramina open dorsally relative to the median Eustachian foramen.

Prootic: The prootic is visible from the left side of CE 00001 but is not visible in other skulls from MNHN F due to crushing of the area. Although visible on the ventral and posterior margin of the foramen ovale, its exposure remains limited. The pterygoid contacts the ventral surface of this foramen. The quadrate makes the posterior margin of the foramen ovale and extends further ventrally to meet the pterygoid. The dorsal margin of the foramen ovale is occupied by the quadrate, which projects anteriorly to meet the laterosphenoid.

Laterosphenoid: The laterosphenoid is visible also from the left side. It makes the anteriormost margin of the foramen ovale. The bone widens in its anterodorsal portion. It is however largely fragmented despite that its general shape remains visible.

MANDIBLE

Dentary: The dentary is elongate and represents more than two third the mandibular length. It contributes to the anterior portion of the external mandibular fenestra. It also comprises the anterodorsal portion of this fenestra contacting the surangular near the middle of the fenestra. In lateral view, the tooth row is not linear but is gently festooned. The first concavity occurs between the first and third alveoli and is short. Long and gentle (i.e. longer than deep) concavities expand between the fourth and the tenth alveoli, then behind the fourteenth alveolus for a similar length. The dentary symphysis is long and attains the level of fourth alveolus in MNHN F BR 4021 and the fifth alveolus in CE 00001, MNHN F BR 2617 and MNHN F BR 13216. The anterior portion, lateral to the symphysis is, together with the symphysis profile, almost horizontal. The dentary hosts twenty alveoli, the last two being crushed and obscured medially in CE 00001, but clearly preserved in MNHN F BR 2617 and 13216. The first alveolus is large and is separated from the next one by a diastema. The third and fourth alveoli are of same size and confluent. Their margin is elevated relative to the tooth

row. Alveoli 5 to 10 are slightly smaller and of similar size. Alveoli 11 and 12 are as large as the first alveolus and the confluent teeth. They are followed by nine alveoli, which diameters progressively decrease caudally. The last alveoli tend to become mediolaterally compressed. At least in CE 00001, the medial rim of the posteriormost alveoli receive a contribution of the splenial. Lateral to alveoli 15, 16 and 17 are occlusal pits affecting the surface of the dentary of CE 00001. In MNHN F BR 13216, evident pits are located lateral (but the first one significantly develops also in the medial sector of the interalveolar space) to alveoli from thirteen to sixteenth. Similar conditions are shown by MNHN F BR 4021 and MNHN F BR 15230 and, at least for the preserved anterior sector, MNHN F BR 13218 and MNHN F BR 15198. The nicely preserved dentary MNHN BR 2617 is distinctly smaller than the others (nearly completely preserved - total length 15 cm) and shows just the hint of an occlusal pit laterally to the fourteen and fifteen alveoli. It is therefore likely that the development of this character is related to body size. No trace of occlusal pits could be detected elsewhere on the dentary. The occlusion of maxillary teeth took place labially to the mandible with the posteriormost dentition tending to occlude closer to the mandibular tooth row, with the exception of the maxillary interalveolar space between the seventh and eighth alveoli, and possibly the adjacent ones, that occlude in line.

Splenial: The splenial clearly forms part of the symphysis of the lower jaw (Figs. 5, 7A, B, E, F) and frames the Meckelian groove (foramen for cranial nerve V branch) by sending a ventral and a dorsal process of both similar anterior extensions (visible in several specimens including MNHN F BR 15150 (Fig. 7E,F) and CE 00001 (Fig. 5)). Medially, the splenial almost hides the dentary. Even if the foramen for the mandibular ramus of cranial nerve V is not entirely surrounded by the splenial, such element is here considered as anteriorly perforate. Caudally, the splenial becomes elevated and eventually builds the medial alveolar

wall from the level of the fifteenth alveolus. From the thirteenth alveolus to its posterior end, the splenial is thickened where it is in contact with the last alveoli.

Coronoid: These elements are not preserved either in connection with other elements or isolated. All the related characters cannot be assessed because even the scars on the surrounding elements are not visible with confidence.

Surangular: The lateral profile of the surangular is low and gives to the posterior mandibular ramus a low profile as well. The anterodorsal process of the surangular is forked and is almost free of sculptural pits. It does not reach far anteriorly and stops well before the level of the posterior tooth row. The medial process of the fork tapers slightly more anteriorly than the lateral process. The posterolateral area of the surangular is densely covered with large pits. The surangular meets the dentary on the dorsal portion of the external mandibular fenestra. The suture with the angular occurs at the posterior level of the same fenestra. The surangular sends a posterior process to the tip of the retroarticular process (Fig. 8). This is supported by the sutural surface of isolated articulars that develops nearly entirely on the articular edge, indicating that the surangular nearly reached the tip of the process. It also sends a dorsal lamina that nearly reached the tip of the lateral wall of the glenoid fossa. A shallow fossa lies ventrally to this lamina. From an occlusal view, the area for insertion of the *M. adductor mandibulae superficialis* and *medius* is wide. The lingual foramen for articular artery and alveolar nerve is not visible in the medial surface of four of the five available surangulars; the fifth (MNHN F BR 1675) has a small perforation.

Angular: The angular makes all the posteroventral portion of the mandible. It participates in most of the ventral and posterior margin of the external mandibular fenestra. This fenestra is quite large but not large enough to allow viewing the medial process of the angular. On the

medial side, the angular participates in the ventral and dorsal margin of the foramen intermandibularis caudalis (Fig. 5), the dorsal tip being shorter than the ventral tip. Therefore the splenial only contacts this foramen anteriorly.

Articular: The articular is remarkable: the construction of the retroarticular process is similar to that of *Leidyosuchus* but unlike that of many extant crocodylians. The process is long and is slightly concave and thus projects somehow posterodorsally. However, it is located in a ventral position relative to the jaw joint. This condition is not as extreme as in some basal short snouted alligatorines such as *Arambourgia gaudryi* de Stefano, 1905, *Hassiacosuchus haupti* Weitzel, 1935 or *Krabisuchus siamogallicus* Martin & Lauprasert, 2010 where the process originates from the ventral portion of the articular. The articular lateral fossa is three times wider than the medial one for reception of the lateral and smaller medial quadrate condyles. The angular and surangular meet dorsally to the anterior process of the articular. The articular-surangular suture along the medial wall of the lower jaw is not developed inside a groove because the articular surface is flush against the medial surface of the surangular. The lingual foramen for the articular artery and alveolar nerve does not pierce the articulators and probably opens along such suture as indicated by the half depression in MNHN F BR 10146. In MNHN F BR 1675, MNHN F BR 13206 and CE 0001, the surangular is pierced by this lingual foramen close to the articular suture. The descending ramus of the articular does not spread anteriorly on the medial surface of the surangular (in MNHN F BR 1675 it is not significantly directed in anterior direction dorsally to the foramen). The foramen aereum (Fig. 7I) is placed along the posterior rim of the glenoid surface (on the crest that separates it with the retroarticular cavity) and markedly set in from the medial edge of the articular.

DENTITION

A large number of isolated teeth have been collected from Cernay-les-Reims and can be assigned to *Diplocynodon remensis* based on the characteristics described below. In some cases, a single individual preserves most of the teeth and therefore it is possible to evaluate the variation in tooth morphology. This is the case for CE 00001, where teeth are present in most alveoli. The premaxillary and maxillary teeth show a similar morphology. They are of the classic conical shape bearing carinae on the mesiodistal surface and are all curved lingually. Their surface is smooth (although a hint of longitudinal ridges is present). The posterior maxillary teeth have smaller crowns but remain conical. In all teeth assignable to *Diplocynodon remensis*, the passage from crown to root is underlined by a faint constriction (Fig. 9). The crown can display numerous transverse lines representing the continuous growth lines of the tooth. The colour of these lines alternates from light to dark. As far as the MNHN F collection is considered, a limited number of teeth is preserved on the teeth bearing bones. Nearly no complete teeth are preserved on the two skulls BR 13105 and BR 4020 or in the lower jaws (Figs. 1, 2, 7B), but an informative sample of tooth morphologies is offered by the isolated maxillae. The fragmentary maxilla BR 13711 preserves three teeth from the anterior region (second, third and fifth) showing a rather slender, variably curved and pointed shape: the largest tooth (the fifth but the size of fourth alveolus is approximately the same as that of the fifth) has a crown 15 mm tall and 7.8 mm wide at the base (mesiodistal diameter). The mesiodistal ridges are smooth and well developed: they delimit a small lingual and large labial surface. Posterior teeth are less elongated, not curved and rather stout (the twelfth tooth of specimen BR 13207 is 5.8 mm tall –it is slightly worn apically- and 6.8 mm wide at the base) but both the keels and the surfaces are nearly smooth (a hint of longitudinal ridges is sometimes present). Both the anterior and posterior teeth show a weak but evident constriction at the base of the crown (Fig. 9).

Pattern of occlusion: With only one exception, occlusal pits are hardly visible on the maxillae from Mont de Berru. In the anterior region, small and shallow pits are present in the median sector (and partly medially to it) of at least interalveolar spaces two and five of BR 13711, whereas specimen BR 13207 has pits more developed and more medially placed corresponding to interalveolar space two, five and six. A well-marked pit is however present between alveoli seven and eight in all the best-preserved maxillae (CRL 13099, BR 3486, BR 2636, BR 13207; in the left maxilla of the skull BR 4020 interalveolar pits are present before and after alveolus seven -the condition is not assessable for the right element due to preservation). In the posterior region, only specimen CRL 13099 shows a modest pit slightly medial to the interalveolar space nine. Maxilla BR 13207, has a shallow depression placed in the medial sector of the interalveolar space after the eight tooth and partly medial to it; medially to the following two or three interalveolar spaces, the shallow depressions (separated by irregular convexities) could possibly represent occlusal pits weakly defined. The same could be said for the pits visible medially to interalveolar spaces eight and nine in the left maxilla of the skull BR 4020 (the posterior region is not preserved). More convincing evidence for the occlusal pattern of the Mont de Berru crocodylian is offered by the lower jaws. Evident pits are located lateral (but the first one significantly develops also in the medial sector of the interalveolar space) to alveoli from thirteen to sixteenth in the best preserved specimen BR 13216. Similar conditions are shown by specimens BR 4021 and BR 15230 and, at least for the preserved anterior sector, BR 13218 and BR 15198. The nicely preserved dentary BR 2617 is distinctly smaller than the others (nearly completely preserved - total length 15 cm) and shows just the hint of a pit laterally to the fourteen and fifteen alveolus. It is therefore likely that the development of this character is related to body size.

The occlusion pattern shown by the Mont de Berru crocodylian is therefore the one in which all the dentary teeth occlude lingually to the maxillary ones with the exception of the

one corresponding to the seventh maxillary interalveolar space and possibly the adjacent ones that occlude in line.

OSTEODERMS

Numerous (about 300) isolated osteoderms have been collected in Mont de Berru. Their ornamentation is, as in the skull elements described above, made of a uniform and dense net of deep and well-delimited pits surrounded by narrow ridges. They sample all the different regions of the dermal armour. The cervical elements (as MNHN F BR 3432) are characterised by a longitudinal ridge (not placed in the center of the osteoderm) that represents a line of ventral bent. The dorsal elements (Fig. 10A-C) are usually markedly keeled and rectangular in shape; according to their medial or lateral position, they show sutures along both lateral and medial edges or simply on the medial edge. The cranial end of all the dorsal osteoderms shows a well visible articular facet. Here, the anterior margin is concave, a wide anterolateral process is visible in most specimens (Fig. 10A-C). The ventral osteoderms are bipartite and suture together (Char 39-2 in Brochu et al. 2012), both types are rather flat and devoid of any keel: the anterior ones (Fig. 10D-F) are broad and anteroposteriorly narrow, with a smooth anterior surface usually developed on more than half of the surface; the sutural surface (at the lateral and caudal edges) are slightly inclined, and therefore partly visible in external view, being the external (ornate) surface of the osteoderm slightly smaller than the internal (smooth) one. The posterior ventral (Fig. 10G-I) elements are characterised by having a ventral surface completely ornate; the anterior edge regularly shows a well-developed sutural surface.

PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS

METHODS

Diplocynodon remensis was scored and included in the data matrix of Brochu et al. (2012) for

eusuchians representing a total of 97 taxa and 179 characters (Supplemental information available online). The most complete species of *Diplocynodon* are therefore part of this data matrix and include 7 species with *D. darwini*, *D. deponiae*, *D. hantoniensis*, *D. ratelii*, *D. muelleri*, *D. tormis*, and now *D. remensis*. Another analysis was conducted and includes two more, albeit less complete species of *Diplocynodon*, *D. elavericus* and *D. ungeri*, which were included in previous analyses (Martin, 2010; Martin and Gross, 2011) and are presently recoded to fit in the data matrix of Brochu et al. (2012). Character 103 concerning the ectopterygoid-maxillary suture was updated for all species of *Diplocynodon* according to previous work on diplocynodontid phylogeny (Martin and Gross, 2010; Delfino and Smith, 2012). Replicates of 1000 random addition sequences were performed under TNT (Goloboff et al., 2003). *Bernissartia fagesii* was defined as the outgroup taxon as in Brochu (2012). For clarity of reading, the strict consensus tree presented here (Fig. 11) has been simplified for some clades (i.e. Gavialoidea, Globidonta and Crocodyloidea). Character codings are presented in Appendix.

RESULTS

The analysis retained 30 trees (best tree length = 656, CI = 0.3410; RI = 0.8087). The retrieved topology follows the one by Brochu et al. (2012). Previous analyses recovered a polytomy between *D. deponiae*, *D. darwini*, *D. hantoniensis* and a clade containing *D. ratelii*, *D. muelleri* and *D. tormis* (Brochu et al. 2012). The present result recovers *D. darwini* as the basalmost diplocynodontid followed by *D. deponiae*, followed by *D. remensis*, by *D. hantoniensis* and by *D. ratelii*, and then by the couple *D. muelleri* and *D. tormis*. A Bremer decay analysis requires two steps longer than the optimal tree to collapse Crocodyloidea and Alligatoroidea (other indexes are reported on the simplified Figure 11). Diplocynodontidae are especially well supported with a Bremer decay value of 1. On the other hand, basal

members of the crown group (i.e. Gavialoidea and Borealosuchus) are fairly well supported with a Bremer decay value of 2.

The second analysis involving the less complete species of *Diplocynodon* (*D. elavericus* and *D. ungeri*) shows the same arrangement as the above analysis to the exception of a polytomy involving all Diplocynodontidae and *Deinosuchus* sp. Here, a strict consensus of 30 trees yields a best tree length of 689 steps (CI = 0.3295; RI = 0.799).

DISCUSSION

EARLIEST DIPLOCYNODONTIDS

The Paleocene fossil record of eusuchians is far from being complete, with *Diplocynodon remensis* representing the most complete material from Europe. The inclusion of a set of nearly complete skulls and mandibles from a single late Paleocene locality of Europe in the most updated phylogenetic framework of the Eusuchia (Brochu et al., 2012) led to the hypothesis that this material represents the oldest diplocynodontid member. *Diplocynodon* was erected by Pomel (1847) on the basis of material from the Miocene of Saint-Gérard le Puy, Allier, France. Then several occurrences of the genus were subsequently reported from Cenozoic but also Cretaceous localities in North America (Mook, 1960; Parris et al., 1997). All these North American finds were eventually assigned either to *Leidyosuchus* or to *Borealosuchus* (Brochu, 1997). Brochu (1999) considered the presence of double caniniforms in maxillary and dentary dentition as a plesiomorphic character, an interpretation supported by its presence in the outgroup to Eusuchia, the Goniopholididae (e.g. Schwarz, 2002; Brochu, 2004b). On the basis of this plesiomorphic character, several authors referred the fragmentary material from the MP6 of Mont de Berru to *Diplocynodon* sp. or aff. *Diplocynodon* sp. (Ginsburg & Bulot, 1997; Pereda-Suberbiola et al., 1999; Hua, 2004). The previously recognized oldest remains of *Diplocynodon* were reported from the earliest Eocene (MP7) of Silveirinha (Telles-Antunes & Russell, 1981), Dormaal (Godinot et al., 1978;

Buffetaut, 1985) and Le Quesnoy (Hua, 2004). As is the case for Cernay, the latter attribution was based on isolated dentary bones bearing two confluent alveoli, enlarged and subequal in size and although this character is present in *Diplocynodon*, more material is needed to test whether they really belong or not to that genus. The above description of numerous remains from Mont de Berru together with the phylogenetic results, seem to support the occurrence of *Diplocynodon* at the locality of Mont de Berru, but as highlighted below, this result is not clear-cut. The nesting of *Diplocynodon remensis* within the clade Diplocynodontidae does not have stratigraphic congruence, because being the oldest representative of that group, *D. remensis* could be expected to fall as the basalmost member. Instead, it sits in an intermediate position. This is perplexing given that *D. remensis* has a peculiar morphology that clearly differentiates it from other diplocynodontids: it is the only member of Diplocynodontidae possessing a splenial participating in the mandibular symphysis. Nevertheless, it is not the first time that stratigraphic incongruence with phylogenetic results is observed for *Diplocynodon* (Martin, 2010; Martin and Gross; 2011; Delfino and Smith, 2012). Future work should address this.

COMPARISON OF *D. REMENSIS* WITH BASALMOST ALLIGATOROIDS

D. remensis shares with all members of the genus *Diplocynodon* the following character combination diagnostic of this group (Martin, 2010, 2011): a pair of enlarged maxillary (four and five) and confluent dentary (three and four) alveoli, the extent of the lacrimal, which is longer than the prefrontal, the ectopterygoid adjacent to the posteriormost alveoli, and the dorsal margin of the infratemporal fenestra formed by the quadratojugal, preventing the quadrate from reaching the fenestra. Between 17 and 18 maxillary alveoli are also present in all these taxa. Nevertheless, *D. remensis* differs in the participation of the splenial into the dentary symphysis, which has never been documented for any member of the genus *Diplocynodon* (see Delfino and Smith, 2012, for a discussion of the splenial in *D. deponiae*).

To the exception of the maxillary alveolus count and to the extent of the lacrimal, the characters mentioned above in the diagnosis of *Diplocynodon* are also present in the genus *Borealosuchus*.

Diplocynodon remensis and *Leidyosuchus canadensis* are similar in many (non exclusive) respects, the most striking being the position of the foramen aëreum (a derived character diagnosing Alligatoroidea) and the exclusion of the anterior process of the nasal from the external nares (as seen on other species of *Diplocynodon*). Other similarities (compare with the detailed illustrations in Wu et al., 2001) include the general outline of the skull, both being mesorostral forms, a maxillary count of 18 alveoli (17-18 in *Diplocynodon*), the possession of double caniniform dentary alveoli occluding in a marked notch at the level of the premaxillary-maxillary suture, the long mandibular symphysis, extending to the level of the 5th dentary alveolus and other general patterns such as ornamentation, size of orbits, supratemporal fenestra, relative position of lacrimal and prefrontal, involvement of the splenial in the dentary symphysis or position of the retroarticular process. However, substantial differences distinguish these two taxa. As such in *Leidyosuchus*, the external mandibular fenestra is much smaller, the pterygoid does not project anteriorly between the suborbital fenestrae, the anterior palatine process is long and rectangular in shape.

Identification in alligatoroids of a lateral pit or a notch at the level of the premaxillo-maxillary suture has received particular attention. This character allows distinguishing extant crocodyloids from alligatoroids, the latter having a pit for the reception of the occluding fang-like dentary tooth, which sometimes can erode the lateral wall of the rostrum at the premaxillary-maxillary suture (e.g. Norell et al. 1994, Brochu, 1999). An interesting case is Owen (1849-1884) who erected two separate species, *Crocodylus hastingsiae* and *Alligator hantoniensis* based on the presence/absence of this feature, which later revealed to be from the same species: *Diplocynodon hantoniensis*. Therefore, until recently, all the species of the genus *Diplocynodon* were thought to display this ontogenetic variation of a pit becoming a

notch, as testified by rich ontogenetic series of at least *D. ratelii* and *D. darwini* (see among others, Brochu 1999; Delfino & Sánchez-Villagra 2010). However, in *Diplocynodon remensis*, the morphology of the lateral edge of the snout at the premaxillary-maxillary suture can be confidently viewed as a notch for several reasons. The notch is deep, larger than the diameter of a single caniniform tooth. The morphology in *Diplocynodon remensis* does not resemble the condition sometimes observed in *Caiman*, where a pit becomes a notch as the result of occluding erosion. In the small specimen MNHN F BR15012, the notch is already present and well delineated indicating that early in ontogeny this feature already had the morphology of a notch in *Diplocynodon remensis*.

COMPARISON OF *D. REMENSIS* WITH *BOREALOSUCHUS*

Previous preliminary studies on the taxon described in the present work gave controversial results and assigned this material to *Borealosuchus* (Martin, 2008), or recognised a close relationship with some members of *Borealosuchus* (Martin et al., 2012). Nevertheless, the most current phylogenetic hypotheses (including this one) recover *Borealosuchus* as a distantly-related group to *Diplocynodon*. None of us had the opportunity to examine specimens referred to *Borealosuchus* first-hand and for this reason, comparisons are solely made upon published accounts and might need update with future revisions. Comparison of *Diplocynodon remensis* with species of *Diplocynodon* and *Borealosuchus* reveals some similarities in these two distantly related lineages (currently understood as homoplasies). Highlighting these characters may prove useful when revising or describing species of *Borealosuchus* in the future. *Diplocynodon remensis* displays features absent from the other *Diplocynodon* species but which have so far been viewed as unique features of the genus *Borealosuchus*, or of some species of *Borealosuchus*. The anterior extent of the nasals is broadly separated from the naris by a substantial portion of the premaxillae in *D. remensis* and in all species of *Borealosuchus* (Brochu, 1997; 1999; Wu et al., 2001). On the other hand,

the nasals almost contact the naris in some species of *Diplocynodon* (e.g. *D. darwini* in fig. 32 of Brochu, 1999). The surangular of *D. remensis* extends to the posterior end of the retroarticular process, a condition identical to the genus *Borealosuchus* according to the diagnosis of Brochu (1997) and Wu et al. (2001). The wall of the premaxillary-maxillary notch of *D. remensis* bears a recess (Fig. 6H, I, J) as in *B. griffithi* (Wu et al., 2001, fig. 11A). This feature has never been documented in other species of both *Borealosuchus* and *Diplocynodon*.

Some other characters indicate that *D. remensis* shares features only with certain particular species of *Borealosuchus*. For example, the splenial of *D. remensis* participates in the posterior region of the mandibular symphysis as in *B. sternbergii* (Gilmore, 1910), *B. formidabilis* (Erickson, 1976) and *B. griffithi* (Wu et al., 2001) but unlike in *Borealosuchus* sp. from Black Peaks (Brochu, 2000), *B. wilsoni* and *B. threeensis* (Brochu et al., 2012). The extent of the lacrimal varies in the genus *Borealosuchus*. Wu et al. (2001) report that the relative position of the anterior tips of prefrontal and lacrimal is more similar in *B. griffithi* and *B. sternbergii* than it is in other species of *Borealosuchus*. The condition in *D. remensis* (although the skulls suffered from compression that may have impacted the suture positions) with the prefrontal shorter than the lacrimal but still tapering relatively far anteriorly, recalls the condition of *B. griffithi* (see fig. 2 in Wu et al., 2001) and *B. sternbergii* (according to Wu et al., 2001). It should also be noted that the shape of the retroarticular process and of the external mandibular fenestra in *D. remensis* closely resembles the morphology in *B. sternbergii* and *B. formidabilis*, but not the morphology of *B. wilsoni* or *B. threeensis* (see comparative fig. 5 in Brochu et al., 2012). *D. remensis*, *B. sternbergii* and *B. formidabilis* all have relatively large external mandibular fenestrae and a short retroarticular process whereas *B. wilsoni* and *B. threeensis* have an almost closed external mandibular fenestra and a posterodorsally expanded retroarticular process. The retroarticular process is unknown in *B.*

griffithi, but the external mandibular fenestra is comparable in size and shape to that of *D. remensis*, *B. sternbergii* and *B. formidabilis*.

Brochu (2001) and Brochu et al. (2012) pointed out the presence of an anterolateral process in dorsal osteoderms of *Borealosuchus* sp. from Black Peaks, *B. threeensis* and in general in the genus *Borealosuchus*. Brochu et al. (2012) interpreted the combination of such osteoderms with the presence of double caniniform dentary dentition as characteristic of *Borealosuchus* and stated that this character is unique to the genus *Borealosuchus* (Brochu et al., 2012; p. 110). Our description reveals that although the pattern of cupular ornamentation is more pronounced in *D. remensis* than in *Borealosuchus*, the osteoderms of this taxon also display an anterolateral process, as in *Diplocynodon* (JEM and MD, Pers. Obs.) but also recalling that described in *Borealosuchus* (Brochu et al., 2012), and to some extent the morphology for basal crocodyloids or even tomistomines (Brochu, Pers. Comm., 2014).

BIOGEOGRAPHY OF EARLIEST DIPLOCYNODONTIDS

The presence of the crocodylian *Diplocynodon remensis* in the late Paleocene of Mont de Berru indicates that the genus *Diplocynodon* already occurred in Europe before the Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM). This European occurrence contrasts with that of modern placental mammals and most North American immigrants that reached Europe later, around the PETM time and which belong to the same lineages as Northern European species (Smith et al., 2006). As a comparison, several groups of archaic placental mammals such as phenacodontids, nyctitheriids, apatemyids and pantodonts, known from the Paleocene in North America, first occurred in Europe during the earliest Eocene and presumably dispersed from North America. This mammalian dispersal took place around the PETM about 56 mya, and is correlated with the first occurrences of the earliest modern placental mammals such as primates, perissodactyls and artiodactyls that appeared suddenly on all three continents of the Northern Hemisphere (Smith et al., 2006). Some North American groups of lizards and birds

share strong similarities with European ones during the early Eocene (Mayr, 2009; Smith, 2009; Rage, 2012). Paleocene continental localities in Europe are indeed limited, but their faunistic content is rich for some groups and well studied. For example, turtle taxa are more numerous in Mont de Berru than other vertebrate groups, as well as at Eocene times, in France. They show a faunal turnover after the Paleocene at the PETM. Most belong to laurasiatic cryptodiran families present as well in Asia and North America, but their genera are different, endemic, showing an Asiatic origin (Lapparent de Broin, 2001; Hervet, 2004a, b, 2006). Moreover, as concerns other crocodylians, the locality of Mont de Berru also includes an *Asiatosuchus*-like taxon (Vasse, 1992, 1993; Delfino & Smith, 2009) unknown from North America but bearing possible Asiatic affinities.

On the other hand, the co-occurrence in Mont de Berru of the plesiadapid *Plesiadapis*, the Arctocyonid *Arctocyon*, and the multituberculate *Neoplagiaulax*, three genera well-known from the Paleocene of North America, does not exclude a pre-PETM dispersal from North America in the late Paleocene, anterior to Mont de Berru and Menat for associated faunas including a form closely allied to *Diplocynodon*. The capacity for mammals to disperse by land is greater than that of freshwater vertebrates due to their locomotor capacity. But this dispersal capacity cannot be excluded for freshwater crocodylians, able to perform high-walk (Zug, 1974) to search for new drainages.

A second hypothesis is that *Diplocynodon* would have been endemic to Europe already before the late Paleocene, a possibility already suggested by previous phylogenetic results (e.g. Martin & Buffetaut, 2008) and to be further tested if the lost *Menatalligator bergouniouxii* Piton, 1940 from the middle/late Paleocene of Auvergne, France could be located. Favouring this last hypothesis, another group with North American affinities recently recovered in the Paleocene of Menat (?Selandian-?Thanetian) and previously known in the Late Paleocene of Mont de Berru under the name of *Compsemys* (Late Cretaceous-Middle

Paleocene of North America) is the paracryptodiran turtle *Berruchelus russelli* Pérez-García, 2012.

In conclusion, even if according to the results of this research diplocynodontids were present in Europe already in the late Paleocene, therefore before the PETM, the precise timing of their dispersals, or that of their ancestor in case a local evolution is assumed, remain unsettled. A better knowledge of the Paleocene alligatoroids from North America and, above all, a direct comparison with their European contemporaries would help in clarifying these issues.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

B. Battail, R. Allain (MNHN) and A. Folie (IRSNB) provided access to fossil crocodylian collections and assisted us while studying the collections under their care. G. Lenglet (IRSNB) kindly provided extant comparative materials. A. Pérez-García (Madrid) discussed with us the geographical affinities of the chelonian taxa from Berru. M. Pavia (Torino) provided relevant literature. JEM also thanks E. Buffetaut for earlier discussions, D. Berthet (Musée des Confluences de Lyon) for providing access to specimens and G. de Ploëg for advices during mechanical preparation of CE 0001. Financial support for this research was received from Le Conseil Général de l'Allier (Ph.D. funding to JEM), the Federal Science Policy Office of Belgium (projects MO/36/020 and BR/121/A3/PALEURAFRICA to TS), Spanish Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad (CGL2011-28681 to MD), "Fondi ex-60%" (University of Torino to MD) and the SYNTHESYS Project (<http://www.synthesys.info/>), the latter of which is funded by European Community Research Infrastructure Action under the FP6 and FP7 'Structuring the European Research Area' Programme (BE-TAF 2788 to JEM and FR-TAF 967, BE-TAF 4907, GB-TAF-3097 to MD). The reviewers M. Rabi and C.A. Brochu provided constructive comments and criticisms that

significantly improved the quality of this work. Finally, we warmly thank S. Cedolin for organising the acquisition of the CT scan of CE 0001.

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APPENDIX

Character coding for *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov.

Character list (179 discrete morphological characters) and definitions as in Brochu *et al.* (2012).

????????? ?????????? ?????????? ???????10? ?20???0100 2000?????0 1110?00011
1001???00 ?20?000000 0131000000 100???1??? 0000001101 0001010000 1?1100???0
1000000010 10110100?? ?1?1??0100 110010001

Diplocynodon elavericus

????????? ?????????? ?????????? ???????10? ?20???0?10 2??1?? ???? ?1?????0?1
???1?????1? 1??????10? 1131??000? ?00??????? 1001100101 10?101?0?0 1?1?0?????
?10?1110?0 0021?110?? ?0???11?0? ?0?11????0

Diplocynodon ungeri

????????? ?????????? ?????????? ???????1?? ??????0110 210100?010 0010101???
110?????0? 120??00000 0?3000000? ?20??????? 0001110011 ???1010000 111?00?100
010??11200 0??1?112?? ?0????0?0? ???01???1

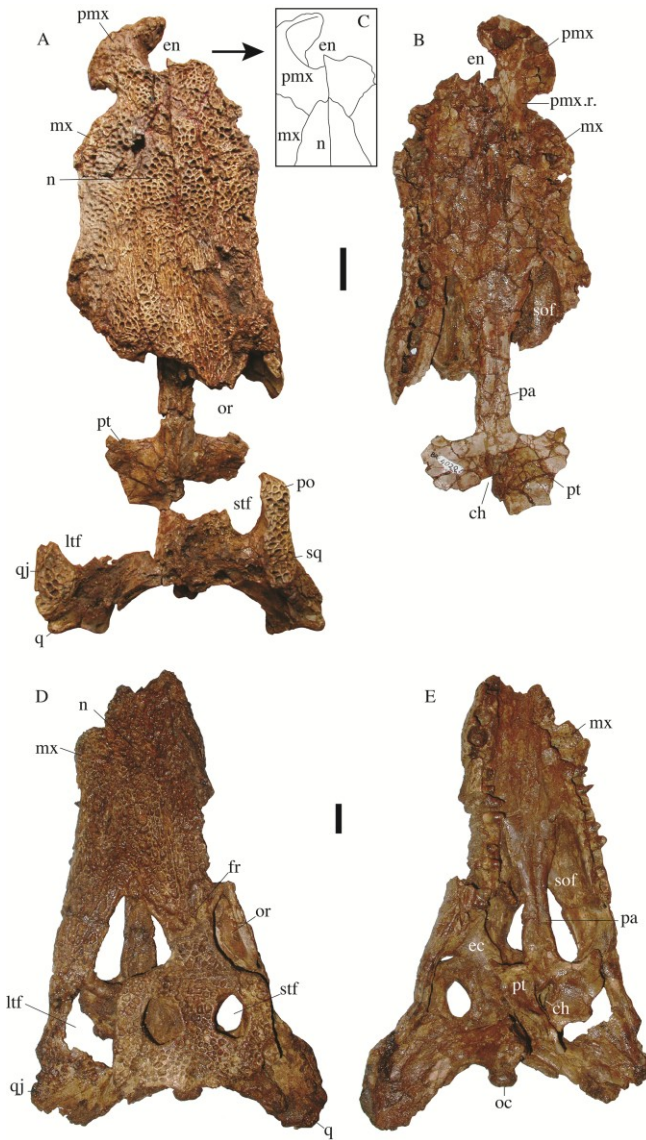


Figure 1. Skulls of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. from the Late Paleocene of Mont de Berru. MNHN F BR 4020 (holotype) in A, dorsal and B, ventral views; most sutures were imperfectly observed and are therefore not indicated to the exception of the anterior portion of the rostrum of the holotype MNHN BR 4020 showing in C, the exclusion of the nasals from the posterior margin of the external nares by the medially connecting premaxillae, as seen in other species of *Diplocynodon*; MNHN F BR 13105 in D, dorsal and E, ventral views; Scale bars equal 2 cm.

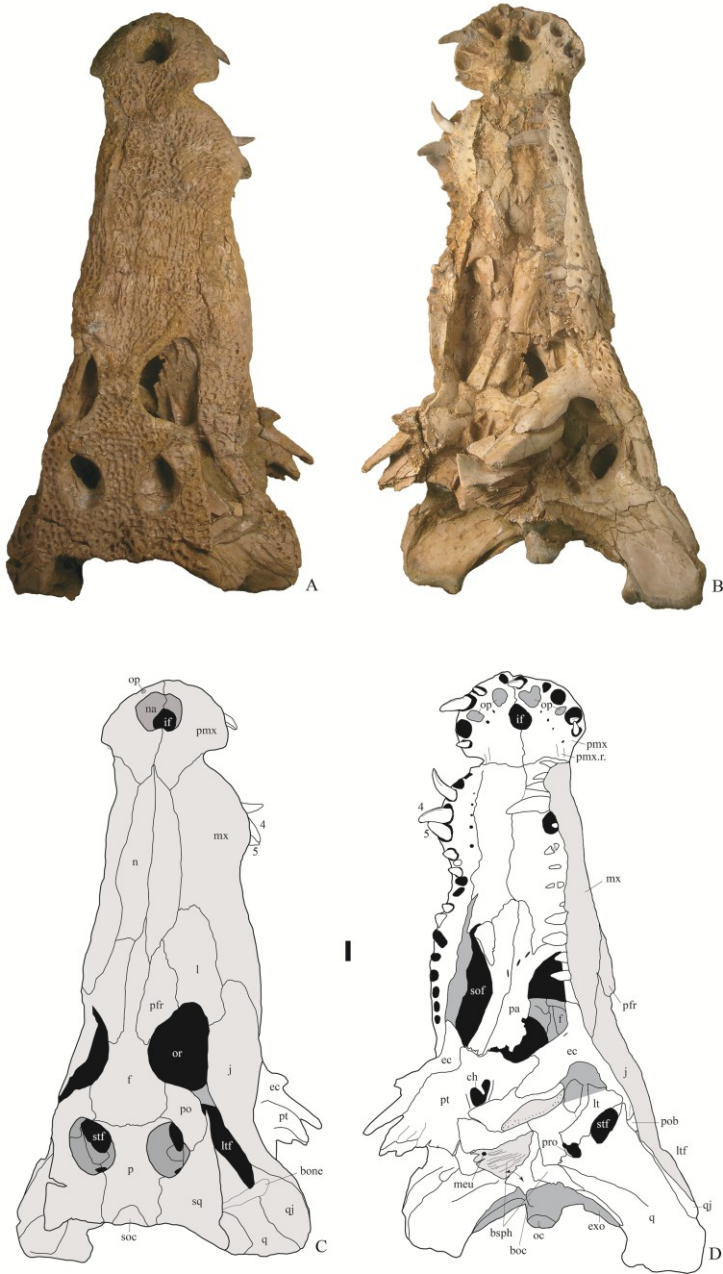


Figure 2. Photographs and line drawings of the skull of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. (CE0001) from the Late Paleocene of Mont de Berru in dorsal (A, C) and ventral views (B, D). Scale bar equals 1 cm.

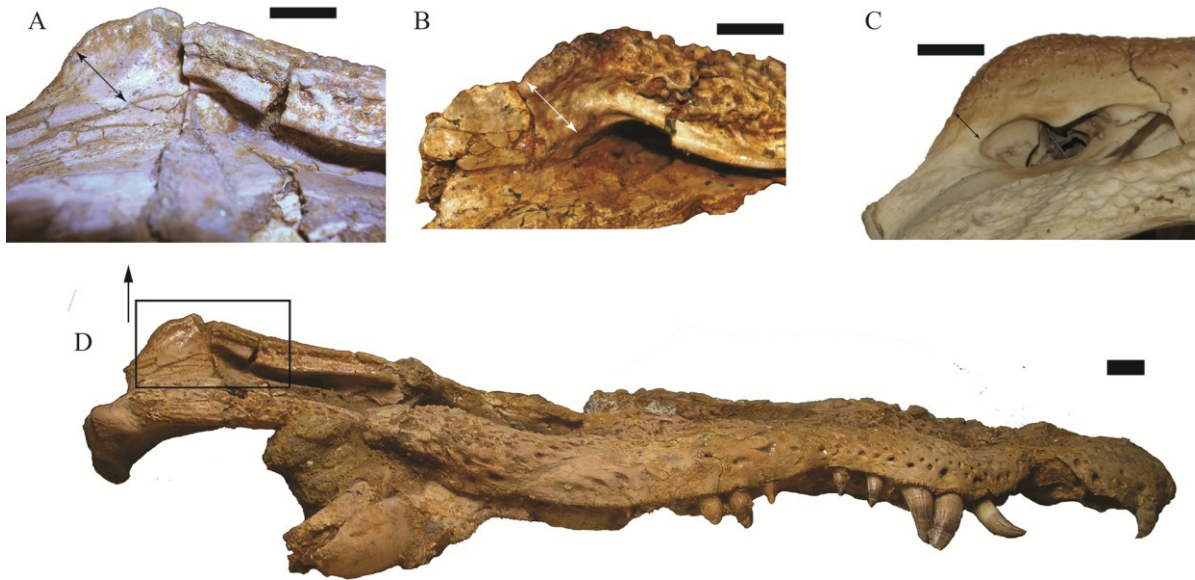


Figure 3. Comparison of the otic area in *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. and other crocodylians: A, detail of the right otic area of CE 0001 and comparison with the same area from B, MNHN F BR 4020 and C, an adult skull of *Crocodylus niloticus* (MHNL 50.001388); D, Right lateral view of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. (CE 0001) from the Late Paleocene of Mont de Berru. The small double arrows allow comparing the relative width of the squamosal behind the otic aperture. All scale bars equal 1 cm.

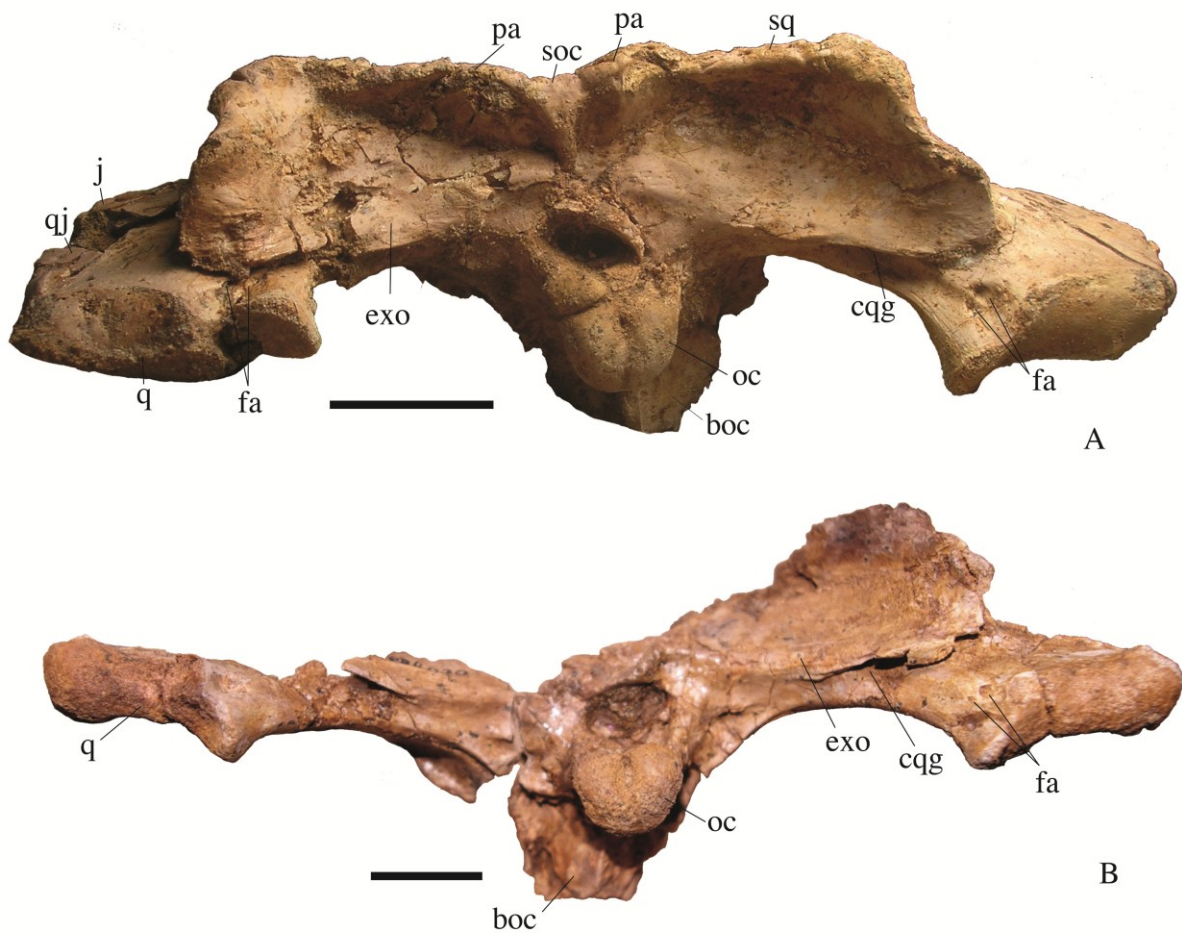


Figure 4. The skull of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. in occipital view from specimens A, CE 0001 and B, the holotype MNHN F BR 4020. Scale bars equal 2 cm.

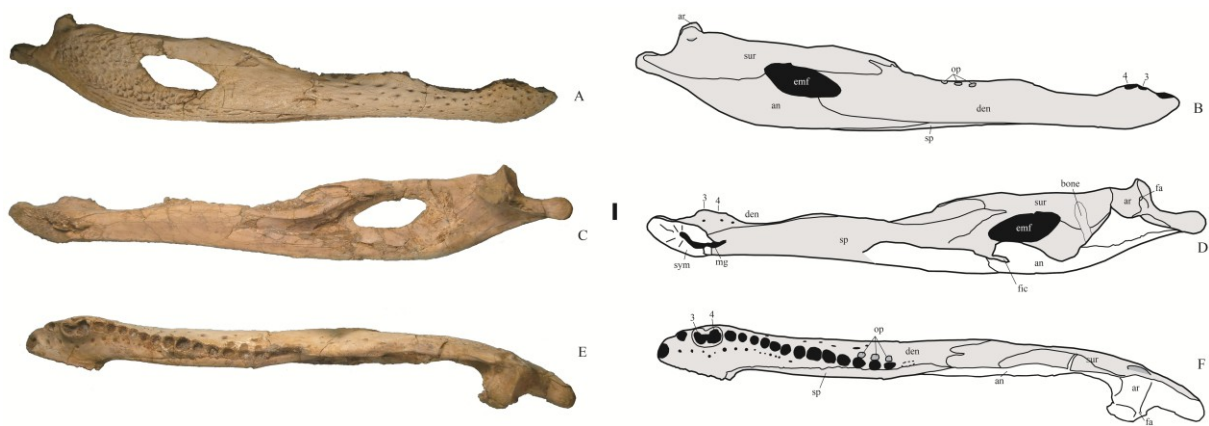


Figure 5. Photographs and line drawings of the right mandible of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. (CE) from the Late Paleocene of Mont de Berru in lateral (A, B), medial (C, D) and dorsal views (E, F). Scale bar equals 1 cm.

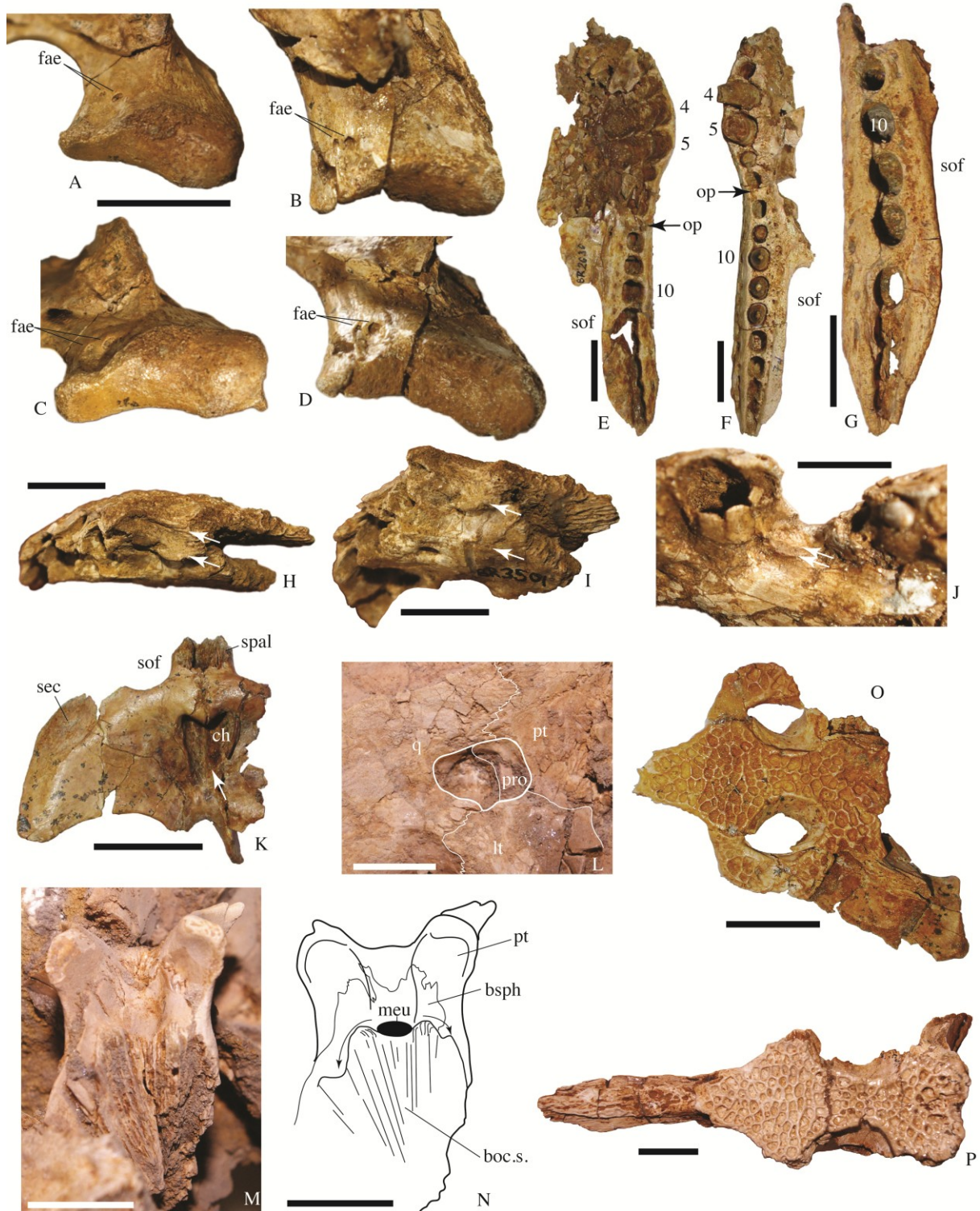


Figure 6. Selected skull details of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. A-D, quadrates in dorsal (A, B) and posterodorsal (C, D) views of MNHN F BR 3513 (A,C) and MNHN F BR 4020 (B-D), note the double perforation; E-G, maxillary tooth rows of MNHN F BR 2636 (E), MNHN F BR 13207 (F), MNHN F BR 13679 (G); H-J, details of left premaxillary-maxillary notches in lateral and ventral views of MNHN F BR 3501 (H and I with slightly different

views) and MNHN BR 4020 (J), the double arrows point to the double longitudinal recess; K, pterygoid plate in ventral view of MNHN F BR 13100, the arrow indicates the septum; L, details of the left prootic area in CE 0001; M, the basisphenoid of CE 0001 in posterior view and N, associated reconstructed sutures, the two arrows follow the gutter leading to the lateral Eustachian openings; O, skull table of MNHN F BR 13106; P, partial skull table and frontal of MNHN BR 2622 showing the frontoparietal suture. All scale bars equal 2 cm except 1 cm in L, M and N.

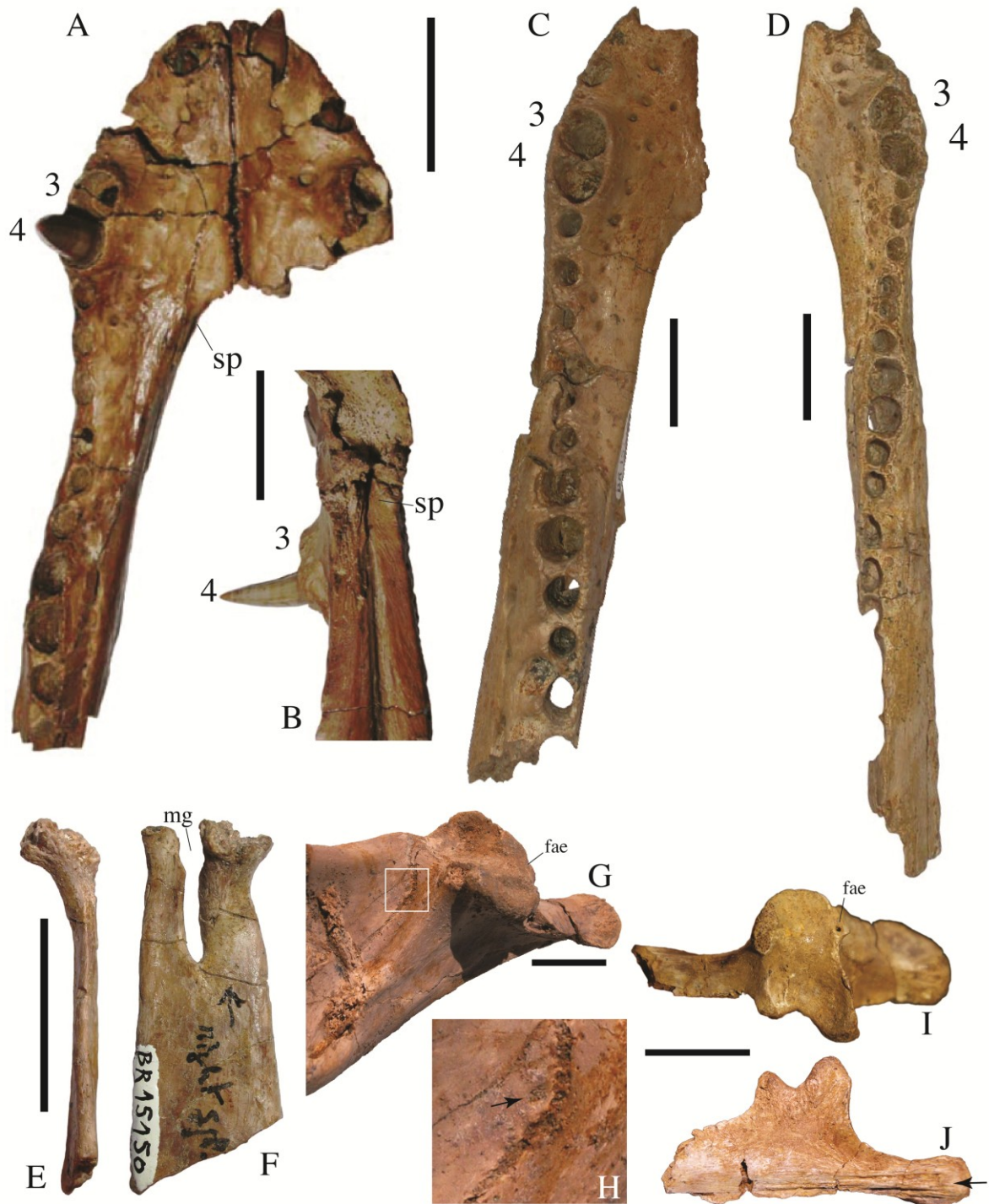


Figure 7. Anatomical details of the mandible of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. from the Late Paleocene of Mont de Berru, Marne, France. Left and partial anterior right ramus of IRSNB R289 in A, dorsal and B, medial views with an emphasis on the splenial symphysis. Scale bars equal 2 cm. Left and right dentaries in dorsal view of C, MNHN F BR 15198, and D, MNHN F BR 13216; E-F, right splenial of MNHN F BR 15150; G, lingual foramen of CE

0001; H, close-up; I, left articular in dorsal and J, lateral views (MNHN F BR 3596), the arrows shows the posteriormost area suturing with the surangular; scale bars equal 2 cm.

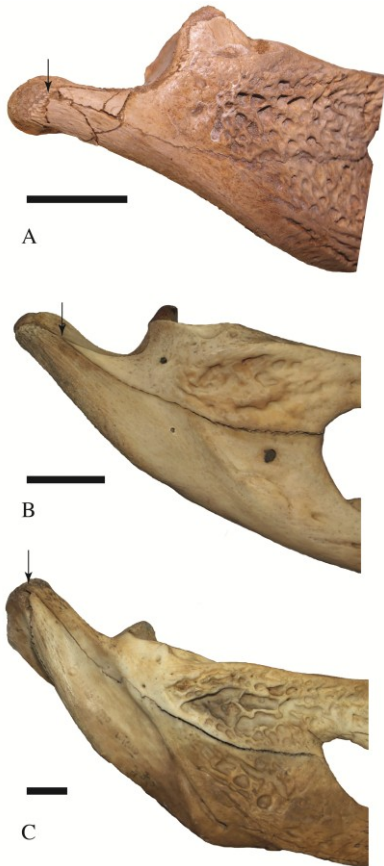


Figure 8. Comparison of the sutural extent of the surangular (indicated by an arrow) on the posterior tip of the retroarticular process, in right lateral view in A, *Diplocynodon remensis* (CE 0001); B, *Alligator mississippiensis* (MHNL 50.001396) and C, *Crocodylus niloticus* (MHNL 50.001387). Note that in (A), the posteriormost tips of the surangular and angular are damaged but their extension is indicated by the sutural area visible on the articular. Scale bars equal 2 cm.

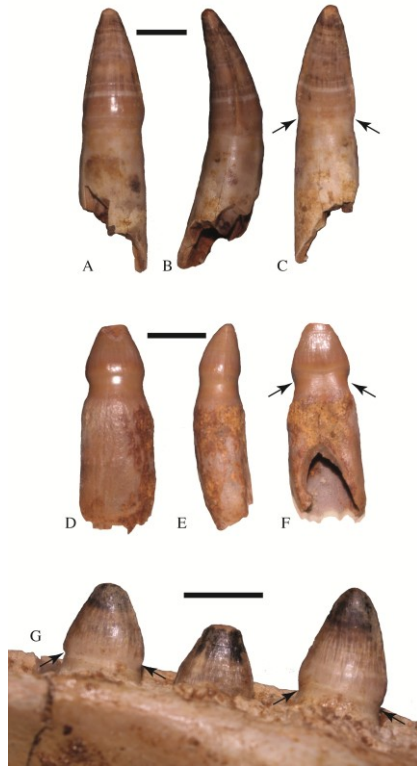


Figure 9. The dentition of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. (unnumbered MNHN specimens). Isolated tooth from the anterior region of the dentition in A, labial, B, mesial and C, lingual views; Isolated tooth from the posterior region in D, labial, E, mesial, and F, distal views. G, Detail of the posterior maxillary teeth of MNHN F BR 13207 in lingual view. Arrows indicate the crown/root constriction, from where the mesiodistal carinae of the crown begin to expand. All scale bars are 0.5 cm.

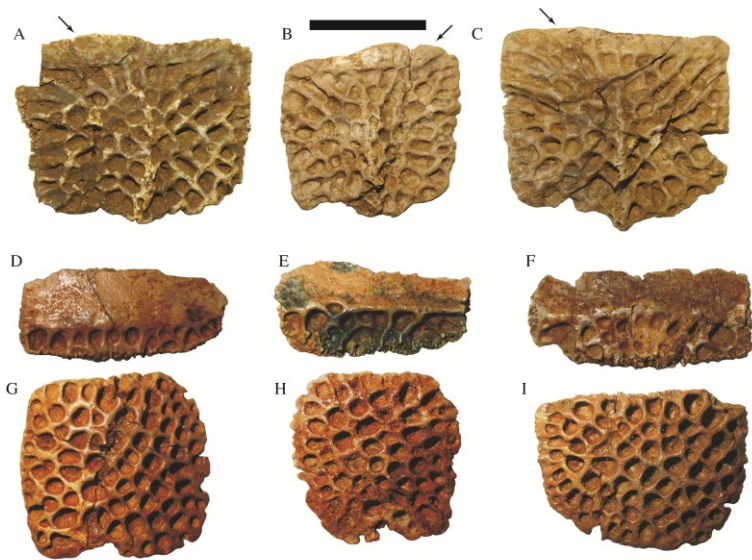


Figure 10. Selected osteoderms attributed to *Diplocynodon remensis* nov. sp. Dorsal osteoderms showing the anterolateral process (arrows): A, MNHN F BR 3466; B, MNHN F BR 15106 and C, MNHN F BR 2658. Bipartite ventral osteoderms: anterior half: D, MNHN F BR 154176, E, MNHN F BR 17412, and F, MNHN F BR 3467: posterior half: G (MNHN F BR 15481), H (MNHN F BR 15084) and I (MNHN F BR 15480). Scale bar equals 2 cm.

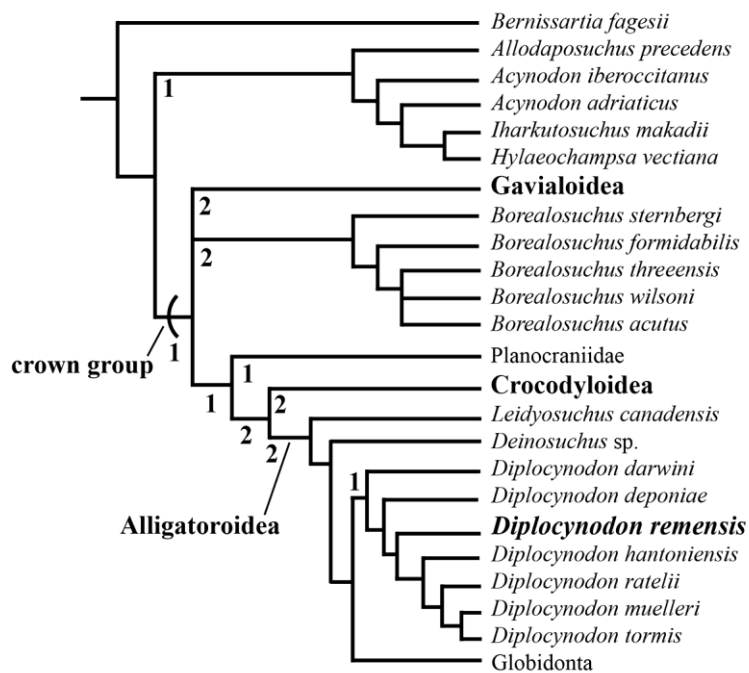


Figure 11. Strict consensus tree resulting from the inclusion of *Diplocynodon remensis* sp. nov. in the framework of the Eusuchia.

Supplementary material.

Supp-file1, Movie 1: Digitally-rendered skull of *Diplocynodon remensis* obtained from a CT scan of CE 0001

Supp-file2, Movie 2: Digitally-rendered mandible of *Diplocynodon remensis* obtained from a CT scan of CE 0001

Supp-file3, Data matrix used in the phylogenetic analysis