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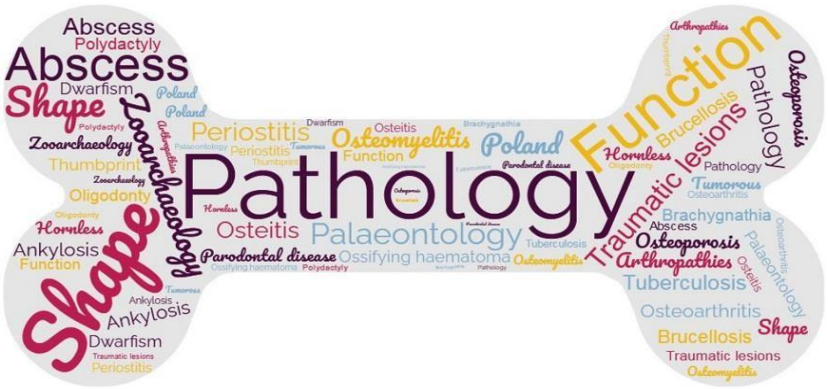

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Pathological growth of interclavicles of *Metoposaurus krasiejowensis* (Amphibia, Temnospondyli) from the Late Triassic of Krasiejów (S-Poland)

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Abstract

Metoposaurus krasiejowensis was a temnospondyl amphibian, well known from the Late Triassic continental deposits of Southern Poland. Isolated bones of these animals, very common at the documentary site "TRIAS" in Krasiejów, show a high morphological variability, which may be explained in part by pathological growth. Such disturbances have been evidenced in 40% of 34 interclavicles (dermal bone connecting clavicles), and they are expressed first of all by inferred bite marks (impact zones or series of holes overgrown by abnormal bone being interpreted as healed wounds, which occur on the ventral side of the bones), both shape and ornamentation asymmetry associated with the injuries (another growth rate or direction, rough/fine ornamentation), and by irregular occurrence/absence of the "primo foramen" (main vascular canal on the dorsal side of an interclavicle).
All disturbances occur in interclavicles classified as belonging to semi-adult or adult animals, while none of their features indicate the time of pathological events. *M. krasiejowensis* had at least two potential natural enemies in its near-bottom environment (another temnospondyl *Cyclotosaurus* and a reptile *Parasuchus*), therefore, mechanical bone damage might be related to unsuccessful predation; however, cannibalism or intraspecific fights of any reason were also possible.

Keywords: dermal bones, asymmetry, injury, ornamentation, healing process