



Mike Taylor &lt;sauropoda@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Proof of the manuscript (APP-01105-2023-02)**

---

Mike Taylor &lt;sauropoda@gmail.com&gt;

22 December 2023 at 01:28

To: "daniel.barta@okstate.edu" &lt;daniel.barta@okstate.edu&gt;

Cc: Aleksandra Szmielew &lt;szmielew@twarda.pan.pl&gt;, Mathew Wedel &lt;mathew.wedel@gmail.com&gt;

Hello again, Daniel and Aleksandra.

Thank you for the v2 proof. I am pleased to say that the great majority of the changes I requested have been implemented. Here are my remaining issues, and my comments on *your* remaining issues!

**Page 3**

- In the caption to Figure 2, we have clumsy wording due to the addition of locality and age information. It now reads: "Sauropod dinosaur *Brachiosaurus altithorax* Riggs, 1903, holotype FMNH PR 25107 from Dinosaur Quarry No. 13 near Grand Junction, Colorado, and dates to the Kimmeridgian–Tithonian ages of the Late Jurassic". The "... and dates from ..." doesn't really make sense. We could probably most easily fix this by changing to "... and dating from ...". But since that gives us a very long opening statement, I think parentheses would be better, like so:
  - Fig. 2. Sauropod dinosaur *Brachiosaurus altithorax* Riggs, 1903, holotype FMNH PR 25107 (from Dinosaur Quarry No. 13 near Grand Junction, Colorado, dating to the Kimmeridgian–Tithonian ages of the Late Jurassic), right dorsal rib "Rib A" in posterior view with proximal to the left.

**Page 4**

- The caption to Figure 3 has exactly the same clumsy wording, and can be fixed in the same way.

**Page 6**

- The authority for *Rukwatitan bisepultus* is Gorscak et al., 2014 — not Gorscak and O'Connor 1019. This confusion arose because I gave the incorrect reference for this citation. The correct reference (Gorscak et al. 2014) is already in the bibliography.

**Page 7**

- At the top of the page, we now have "Riggs's ((1901, 1903, 1904)) descriptions". Please remove the double parentheses.

**Page 8**

- At the top of the page, we refer to "the seven-location schema of Wedel and Taylor". We have now posted the in-revision manuscript as a preprint at Zenodo, so this should now say "the seven-location schema of Wedel and Taylor (2013)", and the following reference should be added: Wedel, Mathew J., and Michael P. Taylor. 2013. Blood vessels provided the template for vertebral and costal pneumatization in sauropod dinosaurs. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10420716>
- At the bottom of column 1, we have: "one or two ribs in a given individual,". Please replace the comma with a colon.
- Thank you for the update to Colin Boisvert's affiliation. (I have checked this with him, and you were right.)
- Thank you for correcting your own affiliation locality!

**Caption to Figure 5**

I here provide locality and age information for every specimen included in Figure 5, even though there is literally not a single reader anywhere in the world who both (A) would want to know this information but (B) would not also want to look at the original paper. Your journal, your rules.

- *Brontosaurus excelsus*: Como Bluff, Wyoming; Kimmeridgian—Tithonian (Late Jurassic)
- *Giraffatitan brancai*: Tendaguru, Tanzania; Kimmeridgian—Tithonian (Late Jurassic)
- *Apatosaurus louisae*: Dinosaur National Monument, Utah; Kimmeridgian—Tithonian (Late Jurassic)
- *Malawisaurus dixeyi*: Karonga District, northern Malawi; Aptian (Early Cretaceous)

- *Brontomerus mcintoshi*: Grand County, eastern Utah; Aptian—Albian (Early Cretaceous)
- *Rapetosaurus krausei*: Mahajanga basin, northwestern Madagascar; Maastrichtian (Latest Cretaceous)
- *Rukwatitan bisepultus*: Rukwa Rift Basin, southwestern Tanzania; Aptian—Cenomanian (middle Cretaceous)

### Figures 2 and 3, and their captions

Finally, I have reluctantly prepared new versions of the illustrations of *Brachiosaurus* rib material, including scalebars, and sent them to you via WeTransfer. Hopefully you have these by now.

Please add the following to the caption for Figure 2:

- Scale bars provide only a rough indication of the size of the elements: see the text for measurements. Part A: scale bar = 50 cm; part B: scale bar = 10 cm; part C: scale bar = 5 cm.

And add the following to the caption for Figure 3:

- Scale bars provide only a rough indication of the size of the elements: see the text for measurements. Part A: scale bar = 20 cm; parts B and C: scale bar = 10 cm.

I think that's everything.

-- Mike.

[Quoted text hidden]