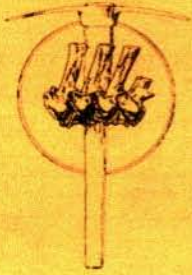


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SKULL MORPHOLOGY OF *CANDIDODON ITAPECURUENSE* (CROCODYLORHINUS, MESOEUCROCODYLIA) FROM THE CRETACEOUS OF BRAZIL.

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Candidodon itapecuruense is a mesoeucrocodylian from the Paraíba Basin, Brazil. It was found in fine-grained sandstones of Albian age (Itapecuru Formation) interpreted as fluvial deposits. Previously it was known from a single mandible and isolated molariform, pre-molariform and incisoriform teeth. The present study describes the first complete skull of *Candidodon itapecuruense*.

The skull of this crocodyliform shows a short rostrum, of tubular shape. It is slightly compressed between the maxillar and premaxillar region. The external nares are anterior and subvertical. The orbits are lateral, three times the size of the temporal fenestrae. The antorbital fenestrae is small and oval-shaped. The skull surface is sculptured with small and irregular rugosities. The skull roof is rectangular shape, dorsally plain. The supratemporal fenestrae are oval and slightly laterally positioned. The quadrate is backward inclined. The pterygoids are big. The internal nares are oval-shaped, narrow and are located between the palatines and pterygoids. In the premaxilla are three conical pointed teeth with different sizes. In the maxilla there are two small pointed and spatulated teeth, and a hypertrophied caniniform tooth. After a small diastema, there are four molariform teeth that have a main spatulated cusp surrounded by small denticles on the crowns base.

Candidodon itapecuruense has a specialized teeth pattern showing a possible omnivorous diet. Its lateral orbits, with anterior and verticalized external nares are evidences of terrestrial habits.