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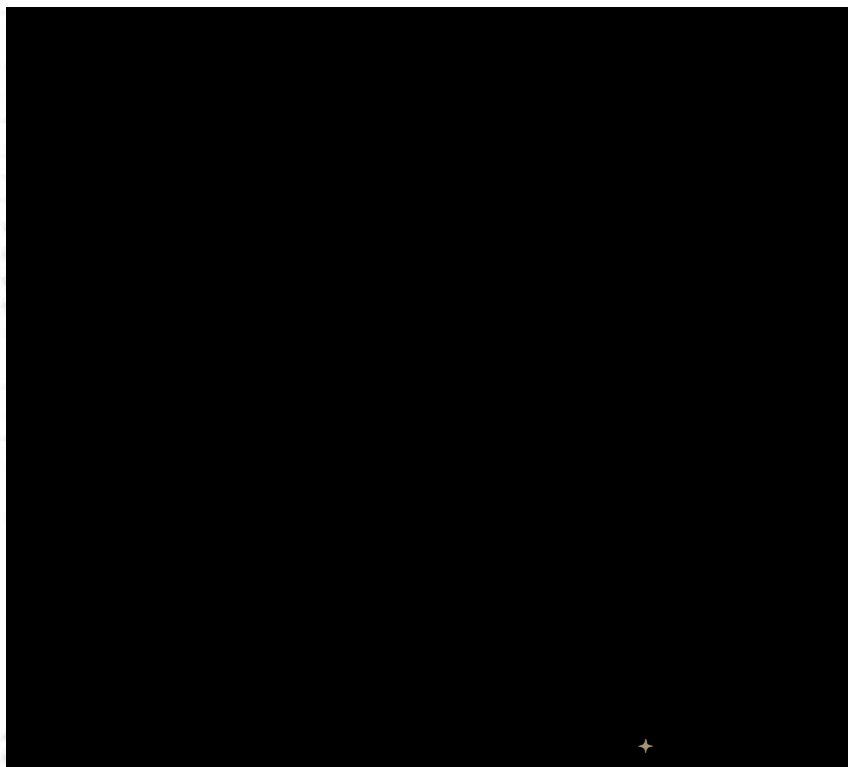
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A PROBABLE NEW SPECIES OF ARARIPEMYDIDA CHELONIAN FROM THE APTIAN OF ARARIPE BASIN

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In the Araripe Basin (Santana Formation, Crato Member), the Aptian succession shows a wide biota diversity. In these deposits it was collected a chelonian (UFRJ DG 693R) that allow to include it within the Araripemydidae family. The most common species of this group are *Araripemys bar-*

reto Price, 1973 and *Laganemys tenerensis* Sereno & ElShafie, 2003. However, the anatomic details of the skull and shell of the new specimen from Araripe Basin suggests a new species from those that have already been described for this family. The specimen consist of a skull without a lower jaw, a shell (plastron and internal portion of the carapace), the anterior and posterior left members. That ones on the right side are fragmentary. There are also some elements of the caudal series and four preserved cervical vertebrae. The neck is long, and plastron is reduced, which includes an reversed V-shape entoplastron and a J-shape epiplastron. These are common aspects in the family Araripemydidae. Compared to *A. barreto*, the specimen UFRJ DG 693R presents a skull twice longer than wide, absence of mesoplastron and a fenestra between the plastron and the carapace. They are joined by small bridges in the hypoplastron and hyoplastron. The general shape is rounded. In *A. barreto* the skull is square shaped, do not present a gap between shell and plastron, and the carapace morphology is more oval. Compared with *L. tenerensis*, it is characterized by the absence of a mesoplastron, present in the fossil described from Niger. The size proportion of the skull are similar. As it is difficult to visualize the limits of entoplastron and epiplastron, as well as the whole xifoplastron, it is necessary new approaches to confirm this specimen as a new species of the Araripemydidae family.

