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PRELIMINARY NOTE ON A SPECIMEN OF PROLACERTIFORMES (REPTILIA)
FROM THE NORIAN (LATE TRIASSIC) OF PREONE (UDINE, NORTH-EASTERN ITALY)

*DESCRIZIONE PRELIMINARE DI UN PROLACERTIFORME (REPTILIA)
DAL NORICO DI PREONE (UDINE, ITALIA NORD-ORIENTALE)*

Abstract - A new Prolacertiform (Reptilia) from the Norian (Late Triassic) of Preone (Udine, North-Eastern Italy) is described. It is a reptile of medium size, vertebral column composed of ?9 cervical, ?14 thoracic, 2 sacral and more than 13 caudal vertebrae; the cervical vertebrae are elongate. The dentition includes a typical elongate tooth with a flat multicusped crown. The specimen is preliminarily allocated to the genus *Langobardisaurus*, with the specific denomination *tonelloi*.

Key words: *Langobardisaurus*, Reptilia, Norian, Friuli, Italy.

Riassunto breve - Viene descritto un nuovo Prolacertiforme (Reptilia) proveniente dai depositi del Norico di Preone (Udine, Italia Nord-Orientale). Si tratta di un rettile di media taglia; la colonna vertebrale è composta da ?29 vertebre cervicali, ? 14 toraciche, 2 sacrali ed almeno 13 caudali. La dentizione include un caratteristico dente allungato, multicuspidato. Allo stato attuale degli studi si ritiene opportuno assegnare questo esemplare preliminarmente al genere *Langobardisaurus*, con la denominazione specifica *tonelloi*.

Parole chiave: *Langobardisaurus*, Reptilia, Norico, Friuli, Italia.

Introduction

At the end of 1989 Mr. Ruggero Tonello from Montenars donated a fossil which came from the vicinity of Preone (Udine) to the Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale in Udine. The fossil was a reptile, preserved on two blocks of light brown dolomite: it appeared to be preserved mainly on the bigger slab and only partly on the smaller one. Most of the skeleton was covered by dolomite and it was obvious that complex preparation was necessary to clean and consolidate the specimen.

Because of the importance and uniqueness of this find, the specialist staff of the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde of Stuttgart was assigned the task of preparation. Dr. Wild of Stuttgart Museum and the author agreed that the best option would be to glue the two blocks together again and to prepare them in full relief, paying particular attention to the skull. Before preparing the fossil in this way, full photographic documentation was undertaken, as

