

POSTER: FIRST RECORD OF A FOSSIL SERIEMA (CARIAMIFORMES: CARIAMIDAE) FROM CHILE

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Extant seriemas (Cariamiformes: Cariamidae) are cursorial birds endemic from South America. Two living species are recognized forming the crown group of a diverse clade with extensive Cenozoic fossil record, including bathornitids, idiornithids and phorusrhacids. Despite of this, fossil cariamids are scarce and restricted to few findings in the Neogene of Argentina. The present study describes the first fossil record of a seriema in Chile. The material consists in a distal fragment of a left tarsometatarsal from Early Miocene (Burdigalian) levels of the Santa Cruz Formation which crops out in the northern part of the Sierra Baguales, Magallanes Region in Patagonia. The fossil-bearing levels contain abundant remains of fossil mammals of “notohippidian” age (Bostelmann et al., 2013). The specimen studied preserves the portion between the *fossa metatarsi* I and the base of the trochleae, which is absent. The periosteal surface is smooth and lacks visible sutures between the metatarsals, being consistent with an adult individual. The shaft is triangular-shaped in dorsal view and the cross-section is oval. There is an extensor sulcus in the lateral half of the dorsal surface which ends in an oval-shaped *foramen vasculare distale*. The *fossa metatarsi* I is well delimited by a ventro-lateral border. The plantar surface is concave and triangular-shaped. The same general morphology is observed in the clades Cariamidae and Psilopterinae, however, in the last group the tarsometatarsus has a poorly developed *fossa metatarsi* I. The portion preserved in the Chilean fossil is indistinguishable from the living seriemas *Cariama cristata* and *Chunga burmeisteri*, as well as from the fossils *Chunga incertus* from the Pliocene of Buenos Aires (Tonni, 1974), and *Noriegavis santacruzensis* from the Early Miocene of Santa Cruz (Noriega et al., 2009). Due to the absence of diagnostic traits we refer the material to Cariamidae indet. The living seriemas inhabit a variety of landscapes from grasslands savannas to semi-arid woodlands. The presence of fossil seriemas in Sierra Baguales is congruent with the inferred depositional environment for the Santa Cruz levels, with extended meandering rivers and floodplain lakes.

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