

Cervicodorsal, Dorsal and Sacral Vertebrae of Titanosauria (Sauropod Dinosaurs) Discovered from the Latest Cretaceous Dinosaur Beds/Vitakri Member of Pab Formation, Sulaiman Foldbelt, Central Pakistan

M. Sadiq Malkani

Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch, Geological Survey of Pakistan, Sariab Road, Quetta, Pakistan.

The vertebral count in most titanosaurids is not known. However in most Argentinian *Saltasaurus loricatus*, there are about 23 presacral and about 35 caudal vertebrae. In Indian titanosaur *colberti*, the exact vertebral count also remains unknown. Present paper is based on fragmentary 2 cervicodorsals, 13 dorsals and 6 sacrals (three coossified pair) vertebrae, which are newly collected by me from central Sulaiman fold and thrust belt. The dorsal centra are divided in to three morphological categories. The first morphology represents short and broad opisthotic centra with smooth ventral surface as characterised by the first cervicodorsal vertebrae. The second morphology represents short and circular centra. It may be in the transition between the anterior and posterior dorsals from hemispherical to cylindrical shape of centra. The third type is tall, relatively long and has sagittal ventral ridge/keel, and slit like pleurocoels. Deep slit like pleurocoels occur on the lateral surfaces just below the neural arches on the tall centra. Posterior concavity seems to be larger than anterior convexity. All these three morphologies may belong to three different taxa or may be variable due to positions; it will clear after finding articulated skeleton. The centrum length increases from the first cervicodorsal vertebrae but throughout series remain unknown due to fragmentary nature however with possible close findings I can say that the length increase in the anterior dorsals and then decrease up to sacral. From morphology I can guess that the tranversely hemisphericity decreases up to mid dorsal. In posterior dorsal the tranversely hemisperity shifted to the ventrodorsally hemisperity. In dorsals, the broadness is going to be low ie tranverse ellipticity is going to be low as going backward. The neural canal is subrounded. There is no hyposphene-hypantrum in any of the collected dorsals. The neural spine is undivided. Anteriormost sacral cone is convex ie opisthotic. It lacks pleurocoels. The sacral centra are short and slightly broad having ventral keel/ridge (no ventral smooth surface), and less tall than wide. It have posterior amphiplan surface. The bones are pneumatic/somphospyndalous. Sacral vertebrae have ribs forming cavity between ribs in the proximal portion and seem to be fused forming sacricoastal yoke. The anterior most rib belonging to anteriormost sacral vertebra is separate and may combine with preacetabular process of ilia. Fragmentary partial ribs pieces are collected. The tuberculum and capitulum are of subequal size, subrounded capitulum and oval to suboval toberculum and are marked with a notch in between. There is a marked ridge running along the length of the rib shaft bifurcating just before the proximal notch and terminating toward the end of the capitulum and tuberculum. Medially there is a marked depression running anteriorly. The proximal part of the rib is spongy and concavo-convex in cross section and distally massive and plano-convex.

Key words; Cervicodorsal, dorsal and sacral vertebrae, Titanosauria, Late Cretaceous, Sulaiman foldbelt, Pakistan.

Corresponding Author:

E. Mail: Malkanims@yahoo.com

Introduction

The Sauropoda is diagnosed on the basis of very large body size, relatively small skulls, long necks, long tails, skull with large dorsally placed nares, greatly reduced jugal usually excluded from the ventral border of the skull, large quadratojugal, relatively small endocranial capacity, highly vaulted palate with large pterygoids, presacral centra lightened by deep pleurocoels and/or cancellous bone, neural arches and spines largely reduced to a complex of thin laminae, 12 to 19 cervicals, 8 to 14 dorsals, scapula oriented more nearly horizontal than vertical, ilium with broadly expanded preacetabular process and with pubic peduncle much longer than ischial, limb bones robust and solid, no notch between head and greater trochanter in femur, carpus and tarsus reduced to one or two elements each in all but perhaps the earliest forms, metacarpals longer than metatarsals, number of phalanges greatly reduced in manus, digit 1 alone retaining a claw, number of phalanges reduced in digits IV and V of pes (McIntosh, 1990).

To increase strength while minimizing increase in weight in animals the size of the sauropods, the centra are greatly lightened by the development of paired pleurocoels, which in extreme cases (e.g., the dorsals of the *Camarasaurus* and *Brachiosaurus*), occupy most of the interior of centrum. Pleurocoels are not found in the caudals except in *Diplodocus*. The more common method of lightening the arches in the cervical, but more particularly in the dorsals, is to reduce them to little more than a complex of thin laminae extending from one structure to another (McIntosh, 1990). The laminae are well described and named by Janensch (1929) and Wilson (1999).

So far India was the only source of dinosaur assemblage (Hislop, 1864; Falconer, 1868; Lydekker, 1877, 1879; Huene and Matley, 1933; Jain & Bandyopadhyay, 1997; Wilson & Sereno, 1998; Powell, 2003). Gingerich et al. (2001) reported Tertiary mammals from Pakistan. But now Pakistan has produced well preserved dinosaur fossils scoring useful anatomical features for taxonomy and paleobiogeography. First dinosaurs from Pakistan were discovered by me from the Late Cretaceous Pab Formation of Vitakri area, Barkhan District, Balochistan during 2000. Until now total about three thousand fragmentary bones/pieces of bones/fossils have been collected by author from the terrestrial strata of latest Cretaceous (Maestrichtian) Dinosaur beds/Vitakri member of upper part of Pab Formation from Central Sulaiman foldbelt. The caudal vertebrae of Pakistani titanosaurs tell five tales like three genus and species (*Pakisaurus balochistani*, *Sulaimanisaurus gingerichi* and *Khetransaurus barkhani*) of herbivorous pakisaurid=titanosaurid, and two genus and species (*Marisaurus jeffi* and *Balochisaurus malkani*)

of herbivorous Balochisaurids/Saltasaurids (Malkani, 2004a, 2005, 2006a). One genus and species (*Vitakridrinda sulaimani*) of carnivorous abelisaur theropods have already established (Malkani, 2004a, 2005, 2006a). One genus and species (*Pabwehshi pakistanensis*) of Mesoeucrocodylia are diagnosed (Wilson, et al. 2001, Malkani, 2004b). A genus and species (*Brohisaurus kirthari*) of Late Jurassic/Early Cretaceous Titanosauria (Malkani, 2003c) have been discovered from Kirthar foldbelt, Pakistan. In addition to this four armor bones (Malkani, 2003b), one braincase (Wilson, Malkani and Gingerich, 2005, Malkani, in process), of titanosaurian dinosaurs have been discovered by me. New discoveries like new *Marisaurus*, a rostrum of *Vitakridrinda* Theropod, a rostrum of *Balochisaurus*, appendicular elements, and an atlas-axis complex of titanosaurian sauropod dinosaurs have been reported (Malkani, 2005, Malkani, in press). Presently the collections of cervicodorsal, dorsal and sacral vertebrae of titanosaurian sauropod dinosaurs from Pakistan are being described here.

Geological and Stratigraphic setting

The study area of Sulaiman fold belt is located in the Central part of Pakistan (Figure-1). Latest Cretaceous (Maestrichtian) dinosaurs are hosted by the Pab Formation of Sulaiman fold belt. The Latest Cretaceous sediments in the study area underwent considerable tectonic deformation during the collision of Asian and Indo-Pakistan continental plates that commenced in the Late Cenozoic. As a result dinosaur beds along with other formations have been folded. The lateral extension of dinosaur beds of the Pab formation have been observed in the major four anticlinoria named as Vitakri-Mari Bohri, Dhaola-Andari, Phulali-Pikal-Siah Koh, and Fort Munro anticlinoria, generally trending NNE to SSW, however the western part of Dhaola and Mari Bohri anticlines trend E-W forming lobate belts.

The Sulaiman foldbelt consists of sedimentary rocks ranging in age from Jurassic to Pleistocene (Table-1). The rocks comprising of shale, limestone, sandstone, siltstone, marl and conglomerate in different lithological units in ascending order as; Jurassic Sulaiman group representing Spingwar, Loralai and Chiltan formations, Cretaceous Parh group representing Sember, Goru and Parh formations, newly proposed Fort Munro group (type and reference sections are Rakhi Gaj section in toposheet 39 K/1 and Shadani section in toposheet 39 J/4) representing Mughal Kot, Fort Munro and Pab formations; Paleocene Ranikot Group representing Khadro, Rakhi Gaj and Dungan formations; Eocene Ghazij Group represents Shaheed Ghat, Toi, Drug and Baska formations; Kirthar group

represents Habib Rahi, Domanda, Pir Koh and Drazinda formations, Oligocene-Pliocene newly proposed Vahova group (type section the Vahova Rud in toposheet 39 I/4,8) group represents Chitarwata,

Vahova, Litra and Chaudhwan formations, Pleistocene Dada Formation, Subrecent and recent fluvial, eolian and colluvial deposits conceal the bed rock at places (Malkani, 2004c, 2006b)(Table -1)

Table 1. STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE OF SULAIMAN FOLDBELT

<u>Age</u>		<u>Formation</u>	<u>Lithology</u>	
Q U A T E R N A R Y	Recent	Modern channel deposits	Gravel, sand, silt and clay	
		Sand, silt and clay deposits (cultivated lands)	Sand, silt and clay with minor gravel	
	and	Sand, silt and clay deposits (non-cultivated lands)	Sand, silt and clay with minor gravel	
		Colluvium deposits	Boulder, pebbles, cobbles, with sand silt and clay.	
		Fan gravel deposits	Poorly consolidated gravel, sand, silt and clay.	
	Sub-Recent	Terrace gravel deposits	Poorly consolidated gravel, sand, Silt and clay.	
	----- Angular Unconformity -----			
		Pleistocene	Dada Formation	Conglomerate, sandstone and clays.
	----- Angular Unconformity -----			
	T	Pliocene	Chaudhwan Formation	Clays, conglomerate and sandstone
Litra Formation			Sandstone, clays and conglomerate	
E	Miocene	Vihova Formation	Clays, sandstone and conglomerate	
	Oligocene	Chittarwata Formation	Clays, conglomerate and sandstone	
----- Disconformity -----				
R T I A R Y	Eocene	Drazinda Formation	Shale with minor coquina.	
		Pir Koh Formation	Limestone, marl and shale.	
		Domanda Formation	Shale with minor coquina and gypsum.	
		Habib Rahi Formation	Limestone, marl and shale.	
		Baska Formation	Gypsum, shale with minor silty dolomite.	
		Drug Formation	Rubbly limestone and mudstone / shale.	
		Toi Formation	Sandstone, shale, rubbly limestone and coal.	
Y	Paleocene	Shaheed Ghat Formation	Mainly shale with minor marl / limestone and siltstone.	
		Dungan Formation	Limestone, marl and shale	
		Rakhi Gaj Formation	Shale, mudstone, siltstone, sandstone & lime.	
----- Disconformity -----				
C R E T A C E O U S	Late	Pab Formation	Sandstone with subordinate shale	
		Fort Munro Formation	Limestone, shale and coquina beds	
		Mughal Kot Formation	Shale with minor marl/limestone and coquina beds	
O U S	Early	Parh Formation	Limestone with minor marl and shale	
		Goru Formation	Shale and marl with minor limestone	
		Sembar Formation	Mainly shale with minor marl and mudstone	
----- Disconformity -----				
JURASSIC	Middle Early	Chiltan Formation	Mainly Limestone.	
		Loralai Formation	Limestone with insignificant shale	
		Spingwar Formation	Shale, marl and limestone.	

Materials and Methods

Present paper provide the description of newly discovered materials including cervicodorsal, anterior dorsals, posterior dorsals and sacral vertebrae of Pakistani titanosaurs collected from the central Sulaiman foldbelt (Figure1), Pakistan. There are 2 cervicodorsal vertebrae, sample nos MSM-120-2 and MSM-133-4 collected from Bor Kali Kakor and Kinwa Kali Kakor localities respectively belong to the Vitakri region (Figure-1). There are 13 dorsal vertebrae, sample nos MSM-121-2 to MSM-125-2 found from Bor Kali Kakor locality of Vitakri area, MSM-131-16 to MSM-132-16 found from Top Kinwa locality of vitakri area, MSM-134-8 found from Nala locality of Gumbrak area belongs to Dhaola range, and MSM-126-15 to MSM-130-15 found from Mari Bohri locality belongs to eastern plunge of Mari Bohri-Mawand anticlinorium. There are six (three pair) sacral vertebrae, sample nos MSM-135-2, MSM-136-4, and MSM-137-16 found from Bor Kali Kakor, Kinwa Kali Kakor and Top Kinwa Kali Kakor localities of Vitakri area. The important fact of these collections is the four associations belonging to four localities.

All of these vertebrate assemblages of terrestrial ecosystems of Sulaiman Latest Cretaceous Park are found in the red muds/clays rich horizon of Vitakri member/Dinosaur beds (upper member) of Late Cretaceous Pab Formation in the central Sulaiman foldbelt of central Pakistan. Late Cretaceous Pab Formation of Vitakri region has been divided in to three members like Lower Dhaola member, middle Kali member and upper Vitakri member/Dinosaur beds. The environment and vertebrate assemblages of Sulaiman fold belt Cretaceous Park show a model of medium to large bodied Pakisaurids/titanosaurids and Balochisaurids/saltasaurids, and theropods habitat along with the possible earlier mammals on the over bank fluvio-lacustrine environments, crocodile habitat in the rivers and lakes, and walking and flying birds on the land and air. The discovery of saltasaurids, abelisaurid and baurusuchid from Pakistan broadens the distribution of saltasaurids, abelisaurid and baurusuchid, and indicating close affinity with South America and Madagascar of Gondwanaland.

The method applied here is the paleontological methods representing description, interpretation, discussion and conclusions.

Description of cervicodorsal, dorsal and sacral vertebrae of titanosaurian sauropod dinosaurs from the Latest Cretaceous Pab Formation of Suliman foldbelt.

The following description is based on 2 cervicodorsals, 13 dorsals and 6 sacrals (three coosified pair) vertebrae.

Cervicodorsal vertebrae; There are 2 cervicodorsal vertebrae in this collection. Sample no, MSM-120-2 and sample no MSM-133-4 collected from Bor Kali Kakor and Kinwa Kali Kakor localities respectively. Parapophyses are located on the anterior of pleurocoel. Centra are broad and short i.e., height is less than width. The length is more than width. The centra are strongly opisthotic and have single pleurocoel and ventral flat surface. The broken vertebrae represent the spongy/pneumatic texture.

The measurements of cervicodorsal centra are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Measurement of Cervicodorsal centra in centimeters

Sample no	Length	Width	Height
MSM-120-2	14	11	6.5
MSM-133-4	16	15	10

Dorsal vertebrae

There are 13 dorsal vertebrae (Table 3) in this collection. Sample no, MSM-121-2 to MSM-125-2 from Bor Kali Kakor locality, MSM-126-15 to MSM-130-15 from Mari Bohri locality, MSM-131-16 to MSM-132-16 from Top Kinwa locality and MSM-134-8 from Nala locality are collected. The centra are opisthocoelous. The dorsal centra are divided in to three morphological categories (Figure 2-5). The first morphology represents short and broad opisthotic centra with smooth ventral surface as characterised by the first cervicodorsal vertebrae. The second morphology represents short and circular centra. It may be in the transition between the anterior and posterior dorsals are hemispherical to cylindrical centra are found. The third type are tall, relatively long and have sagittal ventral ridge/keel, and slit like pleurocoels. Deep slit like pleurocoels occur on the lateral surfaces just below the neural arches on the tall centra. Posterior concavity seems to be larger than anterior convexity. All these three morphologies may belong to three different taxa or may be variable due to positions; it will clear after finding articulated skeleton.

The ventrolateral smooth surfaces form the V-shape ridge on meeting on ventral axial plane represented on some dorsals may belong saltasaurids synapomorphies. In addition the ventrolateral surface below the pleurocoel is small. The posterior concavity seems to be larger than anterior convexity. The centrum length increases from the first sacrodorsal vertebra but throughout series remain unknown due to fragmentary nature however with possible close findings I can say

that the length increase first and then decrease up to sacral. From morphology I can guess that the transversely hemisphericity decreases up to mid dorsal. In posterior dorsal the transversely hemisphericity shifted to the ventrodorsally hemisphericity.

The anterior dorsals are broad, short and have smooth ventral surface and open wide pleurocoels while the posterior dorsals are tall, relatively long and have sagittal ventral ridge and slit like pleurocoels. Deep slit like pleurocoels occur on the lateral surfaces just below the neural arches. The neural canal is subrounded. The transverse processes are robust and directed laterally and little upward. The width across the transverse processes is larger in the anterior dorsals but reduce in the mid dorsal region. The articular facets are quite prominent in all the dorsals. There is a gradual change in the position of the parapophyseal facets from the anterior to mid dorsals. Parapophyses come close to diapophyses in mid dorsals. The two articular facets, which are quite widely spaced in the anterior dorsals, move closer in the mid dorsals. These are more or less the same size. There are three laminae on the transverse processes. The centro diapophyseal laminae, post zygapophyses and spine laminae. The centro diapophyses lamina extends from the diapophyses downward and joins with the infrapostzygapophyseal lamina, which again extends from the postzygapophyses downward to the floor of the neural canal. The postzygapophyseal lamina is directed backward to the postzygapophysis and the supradiapophyseal lamina is directed upward to the spine. The prezygapophyseal lamina is not prominent in any of the dorsals. The centrodiaepophyseal, postzygapophyseal and infrapostzygapophyseal laminae together form the strong, deep lateral infradiapophyseal cavity. The supradiapophyseal lamina together also constitute the deep supradiapophyseal cavity. The prezygapophyses and postzygapophyses are placed quite wide in anterior dorsals while placed close in posterior dorsals. There is no hyosphene-hypantrum in any of the collected dorsals. The neural spine is undivided. The spine is directed perpendicular to the neural canal and slightly inclined backward. The anterior and posterior nature is mostly judged from the study of Spanish titanosaurs (Sanz, et al. 1999) i.e. the parapophyses are located on the anterior of pleurocoel. Anterior dorsals are short, broad, flat ventral surface, opisthotic and have pleurocoels while the posterior dorsals broadness is going to be low i.e. transverse ellipticity is going to be low as going backward. Posterior centra are tall and relatively long and having ventral sagittal ridge. Keel/ridge may be transition from dorsal to sacral. The broken dorsal vertebrae represent the spongy/ pneumatic texture. The measurements of dorsal centra are shown in Table 3.

Thoracic Ribs

Fragmentary partial ribs pieces are collected. The tuberculum and capitulum are of subequal size, subrounded capitulum and oval to suboval tuberculum and are marked with a notch in between. There is a marked ridge running along the length of the rib shaft bifurcating just before the proximal notch and terminating toward the end of the capitulum and tuberculum. Medially there is a marked depression running anteriorly. The proximal part of the rib is spongy and concavo-convex in cross section and distally massive and plano-convex.

Table 3. Measurement of Dorsal centra in centimeters

Sample no	Length	Width	Height
MSM-121-2	15	11	7
MSM-122-2	17	13	8
MSM-123-2	12	11	10.5
MSM-124-2	20	12	10
MSM-126-15	17	14	9
MSM-127-15	20	15	10
MSM-128-15	-	17	12
MSM-129-15	18	13	-
MSM-130-15	14	9	8
MSM-131-16	15	14	10
MSM-132-16	-	12	10
MSM-134-8	12	12	10

Sacral Vertebrae

Total 6 sacral (Partial, three coossified pairs) vertebrae are collected. Anteriormost sacral cone is convex i.e. opisthotic. It lacks pleurocoels. The sacral centra are short and slightly broad having ventral keel/ridge (no ventral smooth surface), and less tall than wide (Table 4). It has posterior amphiplatan surface (Figure 2-5). The bones are pneumatic/ somphospyndalous. Sacral vertebrae have ribs forming cavity between ribs in the proximal portion and seem to be fused forming sacrocaostal yoke. The anterior most rib belonging to anteriormost sacral vertebra is separate and may combine with preacetabular process of ilia. Posterior articular surface of last sacral shows axial keel surrounded by rectangular/subrounded groove. The broken part of sacral vertebrae represent the indication of some spongy/ pneumatic texture.

The measurements of sacral centra are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Measurement of Sacral centra in centimeters

Sample no	Length	Width	Height
MSM-135-2	10+(4=cone)	16	11
MSM-136-4	9	13.5	9
MSM-137-16	10	13.5	10

Discussion

The anatomy of Pakistani Titanosauria represents the subdivision of caudal vertebrae in to five, dorsal vertebrae in to three, limb bones in to two and cranial elements possibly in to three morphologies.

The vertebral count in most titanosaurids is not known. However in most Argentinian *Saltasaurus loricatus*, there are about 23 presacral and about 35 caudal vertebrae (Powell, 2003). In Indian titanosaur *colberti*, the exact vertebral count also remains unknown (Jain and Bandyopadhyay, 1997). The following description is based on 2 cervicodorsals, 13 dorsals and 6 sacrals (three coosified pair) vertebrae.

Vertebral laminae are structural elements for resisting stress generated by the elongate neck and enormous thorax in sauropods. Their fuction for large sauropod seems to be structural supports. Ball and socket joint of vertebrae are significant for support. Presacral vertebrae with sponge/ large open cell and many laminae in neural arches represent weight lightening.

The dorsal centra are divided in to three morphological categories. The first morphology represents short and broad opisthotic centra with smooth ventral surface as characterised by the first cervicodorsal vertebrae. The second morphology represents short and circular centra. It may be in the transition between the anterior and posterior dorsals from hemispherical to cylindrical shape of centra. The third type is tall, relatively long and has sagittal ventral ridge/keel, and slit like pleurocoels. Deep slit like pleurocoels occur on the lateral surfaces just below the neural arches on the tall centra. Posterior concavity seems to be larger than anterior convexity. All these three morphologies may belong to three different taxa or may be variable due to positions; it will clear after finding articulated skeleton. The centrum length increases from the first cervicodorsal vertebrae but throughout series remain unknown due to fragmentary nature however with possible close findings I can say that the length increase in the anterior dorsals and then decrease up to sacral. From morphology I can guess that the transversely hemisphericity decreases up to mid dorsal. In posterior dorsal the transversely hemisperity shifted to the ventrodorsally hemisperity. In dorsals, the broadness is going to be low ie transverse ellipticity is going to be low as going backward. The neural canal is subrounded. There is no hyposphene-hypantrum in any of the collected dorsals. The neural spine is undivided. Anteriormost sacral cone is covex ie opisthotic. It lacks pleurocoels. The sacral centra are short and slightly broad having ventral keel/ridge (no ventral smooth surface), and less tall than wide. It have posterior

amphiplan surface. The bones are pneumatic/somphospyndalous. Sacral vertebrae have ribs forming cavity between ribs in the proximal portion and seem to be fused forming sacrocoastal yoke. The anterior most rib belonging to anteriormost sacral vertebra is separate and may combine with preacetabular process of ilia.

Fragmentary partial ribs pieces are collected. The tuberculum and capitulum are of subequal size, subrounded capitulum and oval to suboval toberculum and are marked with a notch in between. There is a marked ridge running along the length of the rib shaft bifurcating just before the proximal notch and terminating toward the end of the capitulum and tuberculum. Medially there is a marked depression running anteriorly. The proximal part of the rib is spongy and concavo-convex in cross section and distally massive and plano-conyex.

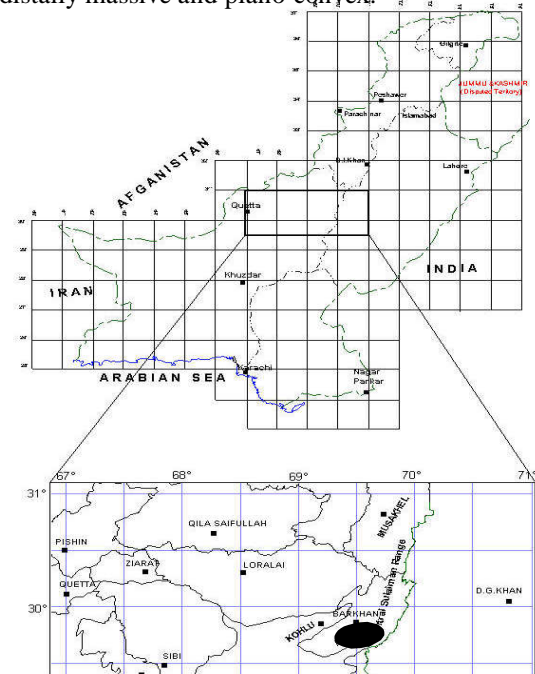


Figure 1. Index map of Pakistan showing the Vitakri and vicinity area, which is the host of newly discovered cervicodorsals, dorsals and sacral vertebrae of Titanosaurian Sauropod dinosaurs. Black oval represents the study area.



Figure 2. Vertebrae of Pakistani Titanosaurian Sauropod Dinosaurs uncovered from Vitakri and Mari Bohri areas of Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.

First (upper or top row); 6 dorsal vertebrae; left laterodorsal view

MSM-120-2 (cervicodorsal), MSM-121-2, MSM-122-2, MSM-123-2, MSM-124-2, MSM-125-2

Second row; 5 dorsal vertebrae; left laterodorsal view
MSM-126-15, MSM-127-15, MSM-128-15, MSM-129-15, MSM-130-15,

Third row; 4 dorsal vertebrae; left laterodorsal view
MSM-131-16, MSM-132-16, MSM-133-4(cervicodorsal), MSM-134-8

Fourth (lower) row 3 pair / 6 sacral vertebrae; left laterodorsal view

MSM-135-2, MSM-136-4, MSM-137-16.

Scale is in centimeter (cm). Every black digit is 1 cm.



Figure 3. Vertebrae of Pakistani Titanosaurian Sauropod dinosaurs uncovered from Vitakri and Mari Bohri areas of Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.

First (upper or top row); 6 dorsal vertebrae; anterodorsal view
MSM-120-2 (cervicodorsal), MSM-121-2, MSM-122-2, MSM-123-2, MSM-124-2, MSM-125-2

Second row; 5 dorsal vertebrae; anterodorsal view
MSM-126-15, MSM-127-15, MSM-128-15, MSM-129-15, MSM-130-15,

Third row; 4 dorsal vertebrae; anterodorsal view
MSM-131-16, MSM-132-16, MSM-133-4(cervicodorsal), MSM-134-8

Fourth (lower) row 3 pair / 6 sacral vertebrae; anterodorsal view
MSM-135-2, MSM-136-4, MSM-137-16,

Scale is in centimeter (cm). Every black digit is 1 cm.



Figure 4. Vertebrae of Pakistani Titanosaurian Sauropod dinosaurs uncovered from Vitakri and Mari Bohri areas of Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.

First (upper or top row); 6 dorsal vertebrae; posterodorsal view
MSM-120-2 (cervicodorsal), MSM-121-2, MSM-122-2, MSM-123-2, MSM-124-2, MSM-125-2

Second row; 5 dorsal vertebrae; posterodorsal view
MSM-126-15, MSM-127-15, MSM-128-15, MSM-129-15, MSM-130-15,

Third row; 4 dorsal vertebrae; posterodorsal view
MSM-131-16, MSM-132-16, MSM-133-4(cervicodorsal), MSM-134-8

Fourth (lower) row 3 pair / 6 sacral vertebrae; posterodorsal view
MSM-135-2, MSM-136-4, MSM-137-16,

Scale is in centimeter (cm). Every black digit is 1 cm.



Figure 5. Vertebrae of Pakistani Titanosaurian Sauropod dinosaurs uncovered from Vitakri and Mari Bohri areas of Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.

First (upper or top row); 6 dorsal vertebrae; anteroventral view

MSM-120-2 (cervicodorsal), MSM-121-2, MSM-122-2, MSM-123-2, MSM-124-2, MSM-125-2

Second row; 5 dorsal vertebrae; anteroventral view
MSM-126-15, MSM-127-15, MSM-128-15, MSM-129-15, MSM-130-15,

Third row; 4 dorsal vertebrae; anteroventral view
MSM-131-16, MSM-132-16, MSM-133-4(cervicodorsal), MSM-134-8

Fourth (lower) row 3 pair / 6 sacral vertebrae; anteroventral view

MSM-135-2, MSM-136-4, MSM-137-16,

Scale is in centimeter (cm). Every black digit is 1 cm.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mirza Talib Hasan, Director General, Geological Survey of Pakistan for his continued keen interest in this study and inducement to the working scientists. I am thankful to Akhtar Ahmad Kakepoto, Director, Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch for encouragement and for his keen interest in this study. I am also thankful to Professor Dr. Philip D. Gingerich and Dr. Jeffery Wilson of the University of Michigan,

USA and Professor Ismar S. Carvalho, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, dept. de Geologia/CCMN, Cidade Universitaria-Ilha do Fundao, 21.949-900, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for providing very useful literature on dinosaurs. I acknowledge Mr Joozer Marzban of GSP for help in preparation of figures. I am thankful to Mr. Ghulam Qadir Thingani for providing facility of digital camera. Last but not least I am thankful to Mr. Zahid Hussain of GSP, Quetta for providing the GPS and printer facility for this work.

References

- Bonaparte, J. F. (1996). *Dinosaurios de America del Sur*. Impreso en Artes Graficas Sagitario Iturri, Buenos Aires, 174 pp.
- Bonaparte, J. F. (1978). *El Mesozoico de America del sur y sus tetrapodos*. Opera Lilloana. 26:1-516.
- Cracraft, J. (2001). Avian evolution, Gondwana biogeography and the Cretaceous-Tertiary mass extinction event. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B*, 268: 459-469.
- Falconer, H. (1868). Memorandum of two remarkable vertebrae, sent by Dr. Oldham from Jubbulpur-Spilsbury's bed. *Paleontological memoirs and Notes of the late Hugh Falconer*. 1: 418-419
- Gingerich, P. D., Haq, M. U., Zalmout, I. S., Khan, I. H., and Malkani, M. S. (2001). Origin of whales from early artiodactyls: Hands and feet of Eocene Protocetidae from Pakistan, *Sci*. 293:2239-2242.
- Hay, W. W., Deconto, R. M., Wold, C. N., Wilson, K. M., Voigt, S., Schulz, M., Wold-rossby, A., Dullo, W. C., Ronov, A. B., Balukhovskiy, A. N. and soedling, E. (1999). Alternative global Cretaceous paleobiogeography. *Special paper 332; evolution of the Cretaceous ocean climate system*, *Spec. Pap. Geol. Soc. Am.* 332: 1-47.
- Hislop S. (1864). 'Extracts from letters relating to the further discovery of fossil teeth and bones of reptiles in Central India', *Quarterly journal of the Geological Society of London*. 20:280-282.
- Huene, F. v., and Matley, C. A. (1933). Cretaceous Saurischia and Ornithischia of the central provinces of India, *Paleontologia Indica*, 21: 1-74.
- Jain, S. L. and Bandyopadhyay, S. (1997) New titanosaurid (Dinosauria: Sauropoda) from the Late Cretaceous of Central India; *Jour. Vert. Paleontol.* 17:114-136.
- Janensch, W. (1929). *Die Wirbelsaule der Gattung Dicraesaurus*, *paleontographica*, supplement. 2(1): 27-93.
- Lydekker, R. (1877). Notes of new and other vertebrata from Indian Tertiary and Secondary rocks. *Record Geological Survey of India*. 10:30-43.
- Lydekker, R. (1879). Indian pre-tertiary vertebrata. Part 3. Fossil reptilia and batrachia. *Paleontologia Indica*. 4(1):325-326.
- Maisy, J. G. (2000). Continental breakup and the distribution of fishes in western Gondwana during the Early Cretaceous. *Cretaceous Research*. 21: 281-314.
- Malkani, M. S. (2003a). Discovery of Partial Skull and Dentary of Titanosauria (Sauropod dinosaur) from the Late Cretaceous Pab Formation of Vitakri area, Barkhan district, Balochistan, Pakistan. *Geol. Bull. Univ. Peshawar*. (36): 65-71.
- Malkani, M. S. (2003b). Pakistani Titanosauria are armoured dinosaurs? *Geol. Bull. Univ. Peshawar*. 36: 85-91.
- Malkani, M. S. (2003c). First Jurassic dinosaur fossils found from Kirthar range, Khuzdar district, Balochistan, Pakistan. *Geol. Bull. Univ. Peshawar*. Vol.36. pp. 73-83.
- Malkani, M. S., (2004a), Saurischian dinosaurs from Late Cretaceous of Pakistan. In Hussain, S. S., and Akbar, H. D., eds., *Fifth Pakistan Geological Congress*, 14-15 April, Islamabad, National Geological Society of Pakistan, Pakistan Museum of Natural History (Pakistan Science Foundation), Islamabad. pp. 71-73.
- Malkani, M. S., 2004(b), First diagnostic fossils of Late Cretaceous Crocodyliform (Mesoeucrocorylia) from Pakistan. In Hussain, S. S., and Akbar, H. D., eds., *Fifth Pakistan Geological Congress*, 14-15 April, Islamabad, Abstracts volume, National Geological Society of Pakistan, Pakistan Museum of Natural History (Pakistan Science Foundation), Islamabad. pp. 68-70.
- Malkani, M. S. (2004c). Stratigraphy and Economic potential of Sulaiman, Kirthar and Makran-Siah Ranges, Pakistan. In Hussain, S. S., and Akbar, H. D., eds., *Fifth Pakistan Geological Congress*, 14-15

- April, Islamabad, Abstracts volume, National Geological Society of Pakistan, Pakistan Museum of Natural History (Pakistan Science Foundation), Islamabad. pp. 63-66.
- Malkani, M. S. (in process). First Rostrum of Carnivorous *Vitakridrinda* (Abelisaurids Theropoddinosaur) found from the Latest Cretaceous Dinosaur beds (Vitakri) Member of Pab Formation, Alam Kali Kakor Locality of Vitakri area, Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.
 - Malkani, M. S. (in process). Discovery of a Rostrum of *Balochisaurus* Titanosauria from the latest Cretaceous Dinosaur beds/Vitakri Member of Pab Formation, Kinwa Kali Kakor Locality of Vitakri area, Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.
 - Malkani, M. S. (in process). Discovery of an Atlas-axis complex of Titanosauria (Sauropod Dinosaur) from the Latest Cretaceous Dinosaur beds/Vitakri Member of upper part of Pab Formation, Vitakri area, Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.
 - Malkani, M. S. (in process). New *Marisaurus* (Titanosauria, Sauropoda, Dinosauria) uncovered from the Latest Cretaceous Dinosaur beds (Vitakri) Member of Pab Formation, Alam KaliKakor Locality of Vitakri area, Barkhan District, Balochistan, Pakistan.
 - Malkani, M. S. 2005. Saurischian dinosaurs from the Late Cretaceous Pab Formation of Pakistan. Geological Survey of Pakistan, Information Release No. 823; 1-117.
 - Malkani, M. S. 2006(a). Diversity of Saurischian dinosaurs from Pakistan. In 1st International Conference on Biotechnology and Informatics, 10th - 12th April, 2006, Quetta, Pakistan, Additional abstracts volume, Faculty of Biotechnology and Informatics, Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences, Quetta, Pakistan, pp. 103.
 - Malkani, M. S. 2006(b). Lithofacies and Lateral extension of Latest Cretaceous Dinosaur beds from Sulaiman foldbelt, Pakistan. Sindh University Research Journal (Science Series). 38 (1):1-32.
 - Malkani, M. S., and Anwar, C. M., 2000, Discovery of first dinosaur fossil in Pakistan, Barkhan District, Balochistan. Geological Survey of Pakistan Information Release. 732: 1-16.
 - McIntosh, J. S. (1990). Sauropoda. In: Weishampel DB, Dodson P., Osmolska H., eds. The Dinosauria, Berkeley, University of California Press, 345-401.
 - Owen, R. (1841). Report on British fossil reptiles, pt. II. Reptiles. Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. 1841: 60-204.
 - Powell, J.E. (2003). Revision of South American dinosaurs: Paleobiological, Paleobiogeographical and Phylogenetic aspects. Records of the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston.
 - Sanz, J. L., Powell, J.E., Le Loeuff, J., Martinnez, R., and PeredaSuberbiola, X. (1999). Sauropod remains from the Upper cretaceous of Lano (Northcentral Spain). Titanosaur phylogenetic relationships. Estudios del Museo de Ciencias Naturals de nova 14: 235-255.
 - Sereno, P. C., Wilson, J. A. and Conrad, J. L. (2004). New dinosaur link southernlandmasses in the mid-Cretaceous. Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B (2004) 271, 1325-1330.
 - Smith, A.G., Smith, D.G. and Funnell, B. M. (1994). Atlas of Mesozoic and Cenozoic coastlines, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 99pp.
 - Wilson, J. A. (1999). A nomenclature for vertebral laminae in sauropod and other saurischian dinosaurs. JVP, 19(4): 639-653.
 - Wilson, J. A., Malkani, M. S. and Gingerich, P. D. (2001). New Crocodyliform (Reptilia, Mesoeucrocodylia) from the upper Cretaceous Pab Formation of Vitakri, Balochistan (Pakistan), Contributions from the Museum of Paleontology, The University of Michigan. 30 (12): 321-336.
 - Wilson, J. A., Malkani, M. S. and Gingerich, P. D. (2005). A sauropod braincase from the Pab Formation (Upper Cretaceous, Maastrichtian) of Balochistan, Pakistan. Gondwana. Geological Magazine, special volume. 8: 101-109.
 - Wilson, J. A. and Sereno, P.C. (1998). Early evolution and higher level phylogeny of Sauropod dinosaurs. Journal of verterbrate paleontology 18(3, supplement): 1-68.
 - Malkani, M. S., Wilson, J. A., and Gingerich, P. D. (2001). First Dinosaurs from Pakistan (Abstract). Jour. Vert. Paleontol. (USA). 21; 77A.