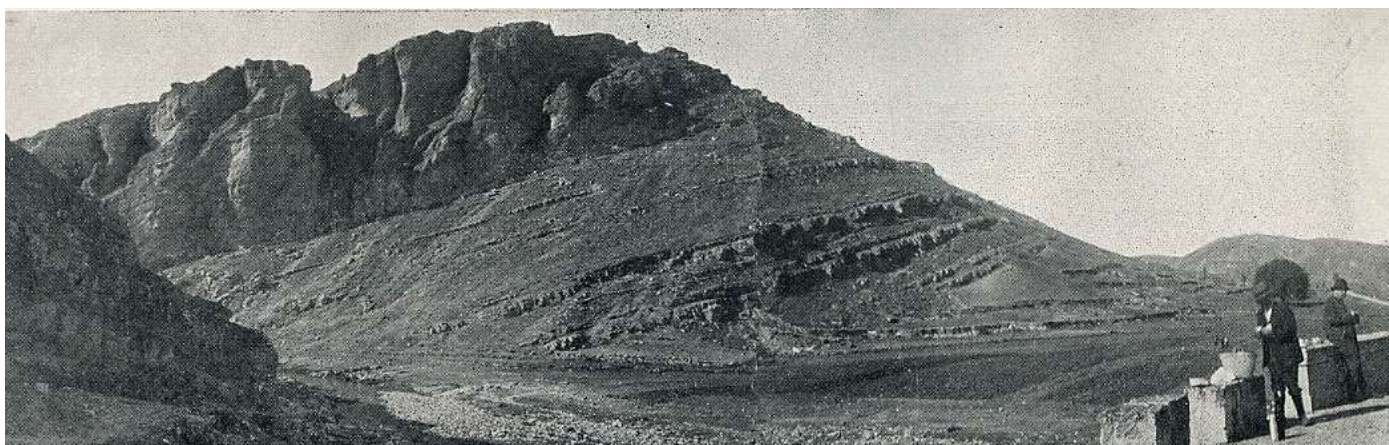




# V CONGRESO DEL CRETÁCICO DE ESPAÑA

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# FOSSIL CONTENT OF THE NEW VERTEBRATE SITES IN THE LOWER CRETACEOUS OF THE BETETA GORGES (CUENCA, SPAIN)

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The renowned Early Cretaceous continental deposits (Weald facies) in the northern of the province of Cuenca, which holds some of the best dinosaur sites in Spain, outcrops in the Beteta Gorges, where disperse vertebrate remains can be found (Ruiz-Galván et al., 2013). Recent research works have enabled to locate some outcrops with relatively high density of bone fragments. One of these sites is located in the surroundings of El Tobar and the other two are near Vadillos, where fragmentary dinosaur bones had been previously discovered (Curnelle, 1966; Lapparent et al., 1969). In these works the collected fossils were classified as Theropoda indet., Sauropoda indet., and *Iguanodon* sp. Unlike our remains, which come from grey mudstones, these fossils were said to come from undetermined levels of red clays and coarse gravels (Prieto et al., 2013). In the two sites near Vadillos (Vadillos-1 and Vadillos-2) different detached bones, some of them unbroken, have been found. They correspond to osteoderms, phalanges, ribs, vertebrae as well as other fragmentary remains, most of them assignable to dinosaurs. Among the smaller-sized remains, the abundance of bony fish teeth and scales is noteworthy. In Vadillos-1 and Vadillos-2, the grey fossiliferous clays include some lignites and are interbedded with some limestone levels. The third site (El Tobar) also shows an interval of grey clays with numerous fossils, but includes numerous sandy interbeds. Vertebrate remains are more abundant than in Vadillos-1 and Vadillos-2, but more fragmented. El Tobar also differs in its scarcer content in lignite and bony fish remains, whereas turtle shell bones are distinctly more abundant. Test sediment samples for microfossils were taken in these three outcrops, which after water-sieving with 0.5mm meshes, have yielded numerous ostracods and charophytes, which will provide precise chronological and paleoenvironmental information.

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