Lower Jurassic dinosaur footprints from Gliniany Las, northern slope of the Holy Cross Mountains, Poland

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With 9 figures and 1 table in the text


Abstract: An incompletely analyzed site of Early Liassic footprints in the Holy Cross Mountains area supplied new material which supplemented and emended earlier information about the unknown Lower Jurassic dinosaur fauna of this part of Europe. Those footprints were identified to the ichnogenus Moyenisauropus sp. (ichnofamily Anomoepodidae) and most probably belonged to pro-iguanodontid dinosaurs, adapted to marsh-lake lagoon environments.

Key words: footprints, ornithopod, swimming, systematic, Bohemia, environment.


1. Introduction

The footprints were found in a small quarry (lying upon the private property of the Misztal family) near the village of Gliniany Las. This village lies about 20 km to the northwest from the city of Kielce. The deposits from Gliniany Las were believed to belong to the bottom part of the Ostrowiec Formation – Lower Sinemurian (KARASZEWSKI 1975, PIĘNKOWSKI 1983, 1984, 1985). Now, according to PIĘNKOWSKI (oral communication) these deposits should be included in the upper part of the Przysucha Ore-bearing Formation – Upper Hettangian. Liassic deposits of the northern slope of the Holy Cross Mountains represent the easternmost margin of the Liassic basin in Europe (PIĘNKOWSKI 1985 p. 37).