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1 **Pachycephalosaurs (Dinosauria: Ornithischia) from the Upper Cretaceous (upper**
2 **Campanian) of New Mexico: A reassessment of ‘*Stegoceras novomexicanum*’**

3
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10
11 ABSTRACT

12 Pachycephalosaurs, a group of ornithischian dinosaurs with distinctive cranial ornamentation and
13 skull domes, underwent dramatic changes in cranial morphology during ontogeny. This has
14 caused debate about whether some specimens belong to juveniles or adults, which impacts
15 studies of pachycephalosaur phylogeny and evolution. One such debate concerns a small skull
16 roof specimen from the Campanian (Upper Cretaceous) of New Mexico, NMMNH P-33898,
17 which was originally described as an indeterminate juvenile but later regarded as a mature adult
18 and erected as the holotype of a new small-bodied species, *Stegoceras novomexicanum*. We
19 restudied NMMNH P-33898 using computed tomography scanning, morphometric and
20 phylogenetic analyses, and comparisons to growth series of other pachycephalosaurs (*Stegoceras*
21 *validum*, *Pachycephalosaurius wyomingensis*). We conclude that two purported paratype
22 specimens of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* cannot be referred to the same taxon as the holotype,
23 that the holotype and controversial paratypes all belong to immature specimens and not aberrant

24 small-bodied adults, but that current evidence cannot clearly determine whether NMMNH P-
25 33898 is a juvenile belonging to its own diagnostic species (*S. novomexicanum*) or is a juvenile
26 of *Stegoceras validum*, *Sphaerotholus goodwini*, or another known taxon. We review the
27 pachycephalosaur record of New Mexico and demonstrate that pachycephalosaurs were
28 important components of dinosaur faunas in the southern part of Western North America during
29 the ~15 million years before the end-Cretaceous extinction, just as they were in roughly
30 contemporaneous northern localities.

31

32 **KEYWORDS**

33 ontogeny, juvenile, frontoparietal, morphometric analysis, phylogeny, biogeography

34

35

36 **1. Introduction**

37 Pachycephalosaurs are a highly distinctive group of bipedal ornithischian dinosaurs that
38 flourished during the latest Cretaceous (Maryańska et al., 2004). They are immediately
39 recognized by their thickened skull roofs, which in some taxa are ornamented with nodes and
40 horns and greatly expanded to form a rounded dome, which may have been used for display and
41 intraspecific combat (Goodwin & Horner, 2004; Peterson et al., 2013; Snively & Theodor, 2011).
42 Genera and species of pachycephalosaurs are primarily distinguished by differences in skull roof
43 morphology. However, this is problematic because it is now known that pachycephalosaurs
44 underwent extreme changes in cranial morphology during ontogeny, particularly in regards to the
45 size, shape, fusion, and ornamentation of the skull dome (Horner & Goodwin, 2009; Schott &
46 Evans, 2012; Schott et al., 2011; Williamson & Carr, 2002b). This has, in some cases, caused
47 considerable disagreement about whether particular specimens are juveniles or adults, and what
48 features can confidently diagnose species that undergo such radical changes during growth.

49 A prime example of such a disagreement concerns the interpretation and identification of
50 a small pachycephalosaur specimen from the Campanian (Upper Cretaceous) of New Mexico.
51 The specimen, NMMNH P-33898, consists of a portion of the skull roof, including the
52 frontoparietal dome. When first described, the specimen was regarded as an immature individual
53 of an indeterminate pachycephalosaur species, based on its small size and retention of classic
54 juvenile pachycephalosaur features such as the relatively poor development of a dome, large size
55 of the parietosquamosal shelf, and large size of the supratemporal fenestrae (Evans et al., 2011;
56 Williamson & Carr, 2002a), traits that are plesiomorphic within Marginocephalia (Butler et al.,
57 2011). It was later reinterpreted as a juvenile individual of the well-known taxon *Stegoceras*
58 *valdium* (Sullivan & Lucas, 2006). Most recently, Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) came to a radically

59 different interpretation, concluding that NMMNH P-33898 was a mature or near-mature
60 individual. They established it as the holotype of a new small-bodied species, *Stegoceras*
61 *novomexicanum*, to which they also referred two fragmentary paratype specimens from New
62 Mexico (SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790). Resolving whether *Stegoceras novomexicanum* is valid or
63 not is important, as this species has been included in phylogenetic analyses used to study
64 pachycephalosaur evolution (e.g., Evans et al., 2013a; Watabe et al., 2011) and the number of
65 pachycephalosaur taxa in latest Cretaceous North America has bearing on measures of taxonomic
66 and morphological diversity used to study dinosaur diversification patterns during the run-up to
67 their extinction at the end of the Cretaceous (e.g., Barrett et al., 2009; Brusatte et al., 2015;
68 Brusatte et al., 2012; Campione & Evans, 2011; Upchurch et al., 2011).

69 Here we re-evaluate the maturity, taxonomic validity, and identification of *Stegoceras*
70 *novomexicanum*, based on a restudy of the holotype specimen (NMMNH P-33898). This re-
71 study includes a new high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scan, morphometric
72 analyses of measurement data, a revised phylogenetic analysis, and comparison to recent work
73 on the ontogeny of other pachycephalosaurs, including *Stegoceras validum* and
74 *Pachycephalosaurius wyomingensis* (Horner & Goodwin, 2009; Schott et al., 2011). We come to
75 the conclusion that the *S. novomexicanum* paratypes cannot be confidently referred to the same
76 taxon as the holotype, that most or all purported specimens of *S. novomexicanum* belong to
77 immature individuals, that the original diagnosis of *S. novomexicanum* is problematic, and that
78 current evidence cannot conclusively determine whether the holotype belongs to its own valid
79 species-level taxon (*S. novomexicanum*) or is a juvenile of *Stegoceras validum*, *Sphaerotholus*
80 *goodwini*, or another known taxon.

81 Anatomical abbreviations: aso, contact surface for anterior supraorbital; f, frontal; f-f,

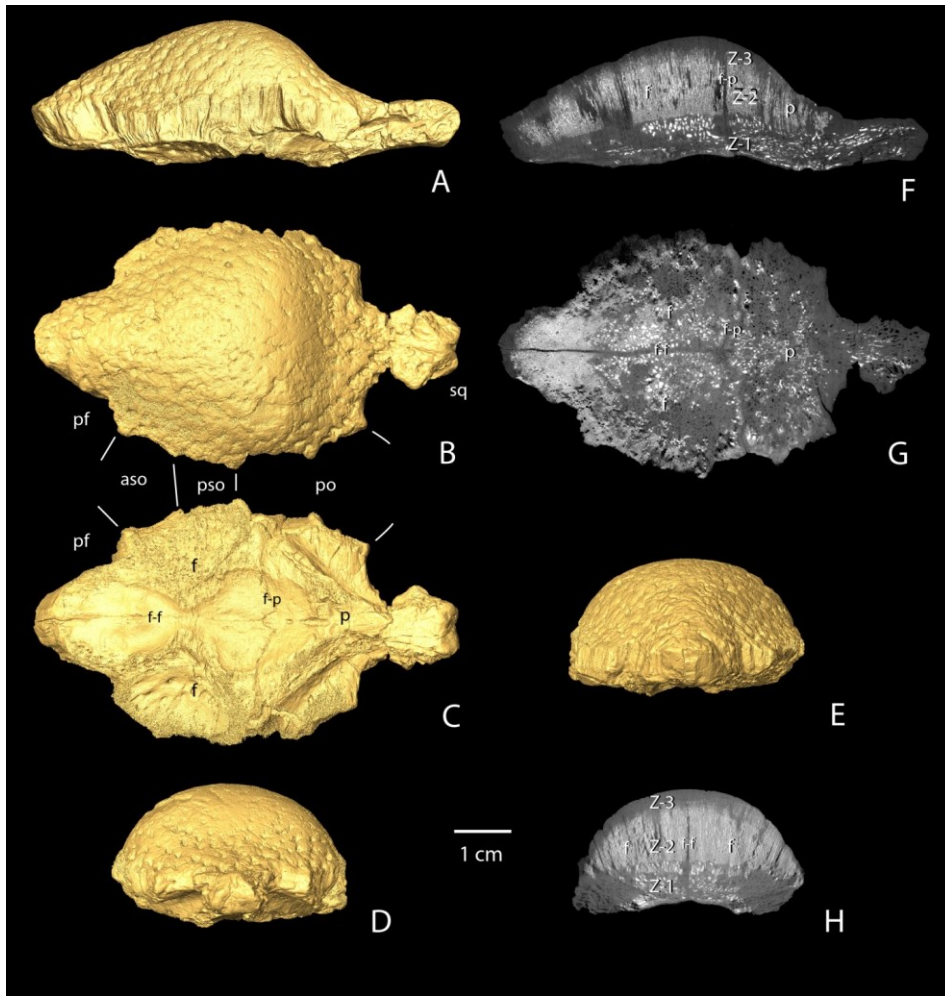
82 frontal-frontal suture; f-p, frontoparietal suture; H:aso/pso, height of the sutural surface at the
83 contact of the prefrontal and anterior supraorbital; H:n/n, height of the sutural surface at the
84 contact of the nasals; H:prf/aso, height of the sutural surface at the contact of the prefrontal and
85 anterior supraorbital; H:pso/po, height of the sutural surface at the contact of the posterior
86 supraorbital and postorbital; L:aso, length of the anterior supraorbital suture; L:fp, length of the
87 frontoparietal; n, contact surface for nasal; L:po, length of the postorbital suture; L:pso, length of
88 the posterior supraorbital suture; p, parietal; pf, contact surface for prefrontal; pso, contact
89 surface for posterior supraorbital; sq, contact surface for squamosal; T:fp, thickness of the
90 frontoparietal; W:f/p, width of the frontoparietal dome at the contact between the frontal and
91 parietal; W:prf/aso, width between the prefrontal and anterior supraorbital sutural contacts;
92 W:aso/pso, width between anterior and posterior supraorbital sutural contacts; W:pso/po, width
93 between the posterior supraorbital and postorbital sutural contacts; W:sq/sq, width between the
94 squamosal suture just ventral to the node row; Z-1 to Z-3, histological Zones I to III.

95 Institutional abbreviations: AMNH, American Museum of Natural History, New York;
96 CMN, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa; LACM, Los Angeles County Museum, Los
97 Angeles; NMC, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa; NMMNH, New Mexico Museum of
98 Natural History and Science, Albuquerque; ROM, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; SMP, State
99 Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; TMP, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, Drumheller;
100 UALVP, University of Alberta Laboratory of Vertebrate Paleontology, Edmonton, Alberta;
101 UCMZ, Museum of Zoology, University of Calgary, Calgary; UWBM, University of Washington
102 Burke Museum, Seattle.

103

104 **2. Historical review of *Stegoceras novomexicanum***

105 In a short note, Williamson & Carr (Williamson & Carr, 2002a) described a small
106 specimen of a pachycephalosaur from the Fruitland Formation (Fossil Forest Member, upper
107 Campanian, Upper Cretaceous) of New Mexico. The specimen, NMMNH P-33898, consists of a
108 nearly complete frontoparietal dome, a portion of the skull roof (Fig. 1A-E; note that NMMNH



109
110 *Figure 1. Surface model constructed from high-resolution CT (HRCT) images using Avizo v. 8.1*

111 visualization software and selected CT slices of the frontoparietal NMMNH P-33898, holotype of
112 *Stegoceras novomexicanum*. A, right lateral view (reversed); B, dorsal view; C, ventral view; D,
113 posterior view; E, anterior view; F, sagittal section right of midline (reversed); G, horizontal
114 section; H, coronal section at the contact of the posterior supraorbital and postorbital suture.

115 P-33898 has been erroneously listed under a variety of specimen numbers including NMMNH P-
116 33983 [e.g., Lucas & Sullivan, 2006, Jasinski & Sullivan, 2011, Watabe et al., 2011] and
117 NMMNH P-33893 [Lucas & Sullivan, 2006]. Williamson & Carr (2002a) regarded it as an
118 immature pachycephalosaur based on its small size and retention of several characters that are
119 present in the early ontogenetic stages of derived pachycephalosaurs, including large and open
120 supratemporal fenestrae and a flattened posteromedial extension of the parietals, which indicates
121 a prominent parietosquamosal shelf. These features are present in juveniles of *Stegoceras*
122 *validum* and *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis* (Horner & Goodwin, 2009; Schott et al., 2011;
123 Williamson & Carr, 2002b), taxa that develop high-domed skulls with small or closed
124 supratemporal fenestrae and a reduced parietosquamosal shelf as adults. Because of its juvenile
125 status and its lack of other portions of the skull that are highly diagnostic in pachycephalosaurs
126 (particularly the squamosals), Williamson & Carr (2002a) could not confidently identify the
127 specimen as belonging to a particular pachycephalosaur species. They tentatively suggested that
128 it may be a juvenile representative of a new taxon from the Kirtland Formation of New Mexico,
129 which they later named *Sphaerotholus goodwini* (Williamson & Carr 2002b), but they could not
130 be certain. Therefore, the specimen was regarded as Pachycephalosauridae indet.

131 The specimen was later reexamined by Sullivan & Lucas (2006), who came to a different
132 conclusion. They accepted that the specimen belonged to a juvenile, but concluded that it could
133 be referred to *Stegoceras validum*, because it possessed a flattened posteromedial extension of

134 the parietals (a pronounced parietosquamosal shelf) between the large and open supratemporal
135 fenestrae, as is found in specimens interpreted to be subadult individuals of *Stegoceras validum*
136 (Goodwin et al., 1998; Schott et al., 2011; Sullivan, 2003). *S. validum* is one of the best known
137 pachycephalosaur taxa, as it is represented by numerous individuals (mostly from the Campanian
138 of Alberta, Canada) that have allowed reconstruction of a growth series (Schott & Evans, 2012;
139 Schott et al., 2011). However, it is now understood that the pronounced parietosquamosal shelf
140 and large supratemporal fenestrae are general features of pachycephalosaur juveniles, not
141 restricted to juveniles of *S. validum* (e.g., Horner & Goodwin, 2009; Schott & Evans, 2012;
142 Schott et al., 2011; Williamson & Carr, 2002b).

143 More recently, Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) came to a radically different interpretation of
144 NMMNH P-33898. Based in part on comparisons to two new fragmentary pachycephalosaur
145 specimens from New Mexico (SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790), they concluded that NMMNH P-
146 33898 was a “near fully-grown” individual (Jasinski & Sullivan, 2011:210). This determination
147 was not based on study of NMMNH P-33898 itself, but rather on the similarity of the specimen
148 to the two new fossils, which Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) argued were mature or near-mature
149 based on: 1) the smoothness of the frontoparietal dome (in SMP VP-2555); 2) the interpretation
150 of a ‘capping histological layer’ of bone on the top of the dome suggesting the specimens had
151 finished growing (in SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790); and 3) partial fusion of the frontals on the
152 midline and the frontals and parietals posteriorly (in SMP VP-2555). Because these specimens
153 were identified as adults, but were much smaller than other pachycephalosaur adults (e.g., those
154 of *Stegoceras validum*), Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) concluded that they must represent a new
155 species of small-bodied pachycephalosaur. They named this species *Stegoceras novomexicanum*,
156 and erected NMMNH P-33898 as the holotype and SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790 as paratypes.

157 In erecting *Stegoceras novomexicanum* as a new taxon, Jasinski & Sullivan (2011:202)
158 provided a diagnosis that differentiated it only from *Stegoceras validum*. The following
159 combination of features was held to distinguish *Stegoceras novomexicanum* from *Stegoceras*
160 *validum*: “posteromedial extension of the parietal reduced and sub-rectangular; squamosal
161 sutural surface contacts of the posteromedial extension of the parietal roughly parallel;
162 supratemporal fenestrae more medial and enlarged; gracile and small adult size.” The rationale
163 for referring the two paratype specimens (SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790) to the same new taxon as
164 the holotype (NMMNH P-33898) was only briefly articulated, and was based on overall
165 similarity instead of possession of explicit synapomorphies.

166 Jasinski & Sullivan’s (2011) arguments that *Stegoceras novomexicanum* is a valid taxon
167 hinge on two things: 1) that the two referred specimens belong to the same diagnosable species
168 as the holotype (NMMNH P-33898), as it was the referred specimens that were argued to belong
169 to mature or near-mature adults; 2) that these specimens, particularly the holotype, are fully
170 grown or nearly fully grown, and not juveniles.

171

172 **3. Methods**

173 We provide three new lines of evidence that help to interpret the maturity and taxonomic
174 identity of the holotype of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* (NMMNH P-33898).

175 First, we subjected the holotype specimen of *Stegoceras novomexicanum*, NMMNH P-
176 33898, to a high-resolution computerized tomographic (HRCT) scan at the University of Texas
177 (Austin) High-Resolution X-ray Computed Tomography Facility. The following are the
178 parameters of the scan: NSI scanner. Feinfocus source, high power, 220 kV, 0.28 mA, one brass
179 filter, Perkin Elmer detector, 0.5 pF gain, 1 fps (999.911 ms integration time), no binning, no flip,

180 source to object 128 mm, source to detector 1000 mm, continuous CT scan, no frames averaged,
181 0 skip frames, 1800 projections, 8 gain calibrations, 5 mm calibration phantom, data range [-4,
182 52] (rescaled from NSI default), beam-hardening correction = 0.15. Voxel size = 0.0405 mm.
183 Total slices = 1847. The CT scan slices were then visualized and rendered into a 3D isosurface
184 model in Avizo v. 8.1 data visualization software.

185 Second, we added NMMNH P-33898 to two morphometric datasets: one presented by
186 Evans et al. (2013a), which includes 15 other pachycephalosaur specimens scored for several
187 morphometric measurements of the frontoparietal, and another presented by Mallon et al. (2015),
188 which includes 39 other pachycephalosaur specimens scored for four standard measurements
189 relating to the dimensions of the postorbital sutural surfaces. The New Mexico taxon
190 *Sphaerotholus goodwini* was added to the Mallon et al. (2015) dataset, and its measurements
191 were revised in the Evans et al. (2013a) dataset, based on restudy of the original specimen. We
192 measured the holotype specimen and obtained nearly identical values as Evans et al. (2013a),
193 with the exception of two measurements; we found a different value for the H:n/n (height of the
194 sutural contact at the contact of the nasals) 23.7 mm (estimated) versus 34.6 mm (Evans et al.,
195 2011). This surface is damaged near the dorsal surface of the frontals and is incomplete (as
196 indicated by italics, Table 1). Evans et al. (2011) did not indicate that their value is an estimate
197 and we find that the Evans et al. (2011) measurement of this contact is too high, possibly because
198 they misidentified the base of the n/n contact. They may have included a portion of the
199 mineralized olfactory turbinates preserved in this specimen (see Bourke et al., 2014) in their
200 measurement. There is also a small discrepancy in the values of L:ps0 (length of the contact for
201 the posterior supraorbital; 39.5 mm versus 34.8 mm, respectively; Table 1).

202 Both datasets were log-transformed and three missing values in the Mallon et al. (2015)
203

Commented [S1]: Just because 'significant' to me (and maybe other readers) signifies statistical significance.

204 dataset were replaced with the mean value for that column across all other specimens (Appendix
205 1). The datasets were then individually subjected to Principal Components Analysis (PCA) in
206 PAST v.2.17 (Hammer et al., 2001), using the correlation matrix for the Evans et al. (2013a)
207 dataset and the variance-covariance matrix for the Mallon et al. (2015) dataset, following the
208 original protocols of each analysis. For each dataset, PCA produces a multivariate morphospace.
209 The position of NMMNH P-33898 in this morphospace can be used to test its systematic
210 affinities, by determining whether it falls within the range of variation of another species
211 (evidence that it belongs to that species) or is an extreme outlier (evidence that it is a distinct
212 taxon).

213 Third, we updated the phylogenetic analysis of Evans et al. (2013a), which assessed the
214 phylogenetic relationships within Pachycephalosauria with an analysis of 16 ingroup taxa,
215 including *Stegoceras novomexicanum*, and 50 characters (see Evans et al., 2013a, supplementary
216 table S4). We rescored a number of taxa as follows: *Prenocephale prenes* is scored as “2”
217 for character 29; ; *Stegoceras validum* is scored as polymorphic (“0/1”) for character 28;
218 *Pachycephalosaurius* is scored as “1” for character 7, *Alaskacephale* is scored as “?” for
219 characters 18, 24, and 30; and *Stegoceras novomexicanum* is scored as “0” for character 42 (an
220 updated version of the data matrix is available as supporting information; Appendix 2). We
221 subjected the revised dataset to a parsimony analysis in TNT v. 1.1 (Goloboff et al., 2008) under
222 the ‘New Technology search’ option, using sectorial search, ratchet, tree drift, and tree fuse
223 options with default parameters. The minimum length tree was found in 10 replicates, with an
224 aim to sample as many tree islands as possible. The recovered trees were then analyzed under
225 traditional TBR branch swapping, a final step to more extensively explore each tree island.
226

227 **4. Are the paratypes of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* referable to the same taxon as the**
228 **holotype?**

229 Jasinski et al. (2011) referred two specimens to *Stegoceras novomexicanum* and
230 designated them as paratypes. One specimen consists only of a portion of the frontal (SMP VP-
231 2555 and the other (SMP VP-2790) consists of the anterior portion of a parietal, yet were
232 referred to the same taxon as the holotype, NMMNH P-33898. The rationale for referring the two
233 paratype specimens (SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790) to the same new taxon as the holotype
234 (NMMNH P-33898) was that the diagnostic combination of characters distinguishing NMMNH
235 P-33898 from *Stegoceras validum* were “either present or inferred to be present in the two
236 paratype specimens” (Jasinski & Sullivan, 2011:203) and that, at least in the case of SMP VP-
237 2555, it has “identical morphology of the ventral surfaces and similar size” to NMMNH P-33898
238 (Jasinski & Sullivan, 2011:207).

239 We find this rationale to be problematic. First, Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) did not list any
240 features of ventral surface of the frontal in their diagnosis for *Stegoceras novomexicanum*, so it is
241 unclear what exactly constitutes the “identical morphology” uniquely shared between SMP VP-
242 2555 and the holotype. Second, skull and dome size is highly variable in pachycephalosaurs and
243 clearly changes through ontogeny, so the similar size of SMP VP-2555 and the holotype is not a
244 strong sign of taxonomic equivalency. Third and most problematic, all the features, other than
245 size, explicitly listed in the diagnosis of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* concern the posterior part of
246 the parietals, which is not preserved in either paratype. Moreover, at least one of the paratype
247 specimens, SMP VP-2555, consists of a portion of the frontals that includes part of the articular
248 surfaces for the anterior supraorbital, prefrontal, and nasal. This specimen preserves a highly
249 transversely-convex frontal boss that is bordered laterally by a distinct groove, similar to what is

250 seen in *S. validum* and some other pachycephalosaur taxa (e.g., “*Prenocephale*” *brevis*,
251 *Colepiocephale lambei*, *Hanssuesia sternbergi*; Williamson and Carr, 2002b; Sullivan, 2003), but
252 unlike the holotype of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* (NMMNH P-33898). This difference between
253 SMP VP-2555 and NMMNH P-33898 may be evidence that these two specimens belong to
254 different taxa. However, it is likely that the differences are due to ontogeny because the
255 prominence of the frontonasal boss and the frontal grooves are variable within *S. validum*, and
256 are generally more poorly developed in specimens of early ontogenetic stages (e.g., AMNH
257 5450, and CMN 515) (Schott et al., 2011).

258 In summary, there is no explicit character evidence that supports the referral of the
259 paratypes SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790 to the same taxon as the *Stegoceras novomexicanum*
260 holotype, NMMNH P-33898. Therefore, any arguments about the maturity of *Stegoceras*
261 *novomexicanum* based on the paratype specimens are inconclusive.

262

263 **5. Are the putative specimens of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* mature or near-mature?**

264 The crux of Jasinski & Sullivan’s (2011) argument that *Stegoceras novomexicanum* is a
265 valid species is that all known material (the holotype and two controversial paratypes) belong to
266 mature or near-mature individuals. If this is the case, then the small size of these specimens
267 compared to other pachycephalosaur adults from the Late Cretaceous would indicate that the
268 New Mexico specimens belong to a distinct small-bodied species.

269 When discussing pachycephalosaur ontogeny and identifying the maturity stage of
270 individual specimens, there is a wealth of data to refer to. Understanding of pachycephalosaur
271 ontogeny comes from the study of relatively large samples of specimens that are thought to
272 represent a single taxon. These contain individuals that are from a variety of ontogenetic stages

273 and can be used to reconstruct a growth series. Such a growth series has been reconstructed for
274 *Stegoceras validum* based on large samples referred to that taxon from upper Campanian
275 deposits of the Dinosaur Park Formation (Schott & Evans, 2012; Schott et al., 2011) and has
276 been postulated for *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis* from the upper Maastrichtian of the
277 Lance and Hell Creek formations of the northern Rocky Mountain region (Horner & Goodwin,
278 2009). These provide compelling evidence that these pachycephalosaurs underwent relatively
279 extreme changes in cranial morphology during ontogeny.

280 Many authors, including Williamson & Carr (2002b), Goodwin & Horner (2004), Horner
281 & Goodwin (2009), Schott et al. (2011), and Schott & Evans (2012) used a suite of characters to
282 assess relative maturity in *Stegoceras validum* and/or *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis*.
283 Changes that the pachycephalosaur skull underwent through ontogeny include an increase in the
284 degree of sutural fusion between the paired frontals and between the frontals and parietal from
285 widely open sutures in juvenile specimens to total fusion between these bones in adults; an
286 increase in the overall size of the frontoparietal; an increase in the size and a change in shape of
287 the frontoparietal dome as it expanded vertically and horizontally, resulting in reduction of the
288 relative size of the parietosquamosal shelf and reduction or complete closure of the
289 supratemporal fenestra; changes in surface texture of the dome from small, rounded tubercles, to
290 larger, flat-topped platforms separated by sulci or depressions that develop as the underlying
291 dome expanded; a change in the external cortical dome surface from one that presented exposed
292 Sharpey's fibers to a blunt-shaped erosional or degraded surface; and a change in the internal
293 bone texture of the skull roof from one that is highly vascularized with vascular spaces oriented
294 primarily in a radial pattern to one that is dense with a highly reduced vascularization.

295 With this information to draw from, along with new data from our HRCT analysis of

296 NMMNH P-38898, we comment on the maturity of the New Mexico specimens referred to
297 *Stegoceras novomexicanum*. We individually discuss the features that Jasinski & Sullivan (2011)
298 held to be indicators of maturity (or near maturity) in the New Mexico specimens. Importantly,
299 we provide a clear assessment of the ontogenetic stage of the holotype (NMMNH P-38898),
300 which Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) only briefly discussed. Instead, their ontogenetic argument was
301 based on the referred paratypes, which is problematic because the holotype is the name-bearer of
302 *Stegoceras novomexicanum* and because the paratypes cannot be reliably referred to the same
303 taxon as the holotype (see Section 4 above).

304

305 *5.1 Texture of the dorsal surface of the frontoparietal dome*

306

307 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011:203) argued that the “smoothness of the frontoparietal dome”
308 in the paratype specimen SMP VP-2555 supported its mature or near-mature status. However, the
309 smoothness of the dome surface does not offer an effective way to clearly gauge relative maturity
310 in pachycephalosaurs because it is related to the relative inflation of the underlying skull roof.

311 Nodal ornamentation changes ontogenetically in pachycephalosaurs, coinciding with
312 inflation of the dome. In *S. validum*, the tubercular ornamentation on the domes typically exhibit
313 low relief compared to those on the skull roof perimeter, a difference that is related to the local
314 degree of dome inflation. This inflation is hypothesized to laterally expand surface tubercles that
315 overly the dome, resulting in an increase in the diameter of individual tubercles, and a reduction
316 in their vertical relief (Williamson & Carr, 2002b). Relatively unexpanded portions of the skull
317 roof, usually found near the perimeter of the skull roof, typically retain relatively small and high
318 tubercles. Indeed, the frontal fragment, SMP VP-2555 retains relatively small, high, and distinct

319 tubercles lateral to the high and inflated nasal boss (Jasinski & Sullivan, 2011, fig. 4c).

320 The dorsal surface of NMMNH P-33898 does exhibit tuberculate ornamentation that is
321 lower than typically observed in many immature specimens of *S. validum*. In particular, the
322 tubercular ornamentation of NMMNH P-33898 is distinctly subdued transversely across the apex
323 of the dome, over the approximate location of the frontoparietal sutures. However, it is unclear if
324 this indicates a greater relative maturity than these *S. validum* specimens, for two reasons. First,
325 the relative smoothness of the dome and subdued morphology of the tubercles may be due to
326 postmortem abrasion of the specimen. Second, even if this morphology is genuine, domes in
327 pachycephalosaurs typically show reduced tubercular ornamentation even in specimens that
328 represent early ontogenetic stages (Schott et al., 2011; Williamson & Carr, 2002b) and so
329 presence of a smooth surface over the domed portion of a frontoparietal does not necessarily
330 indicate that maturity has been reached.

331

332 *5.2 Histology of the frontoparietal dome*

333

334 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) argued that the histology of the frontoparietal dome of SMP
335 VP-2555 and SMP VP-2790 indicated that the specimens belonged to mature adults that had
336 stopped growing. Histological examination was based on gross observation of bone texture as
337 revealed through a natural break in the specimen (Jasinski & Sullivan, 2011:fig. 6), not
338 examination of thin sections or CT data. Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) regarded the more complete
339 SMP VP-2555 as exhibiting four distinct histological regions (“histomorphs” in their
340 terminology) that they interpreted to represent episodes of accelerated growth in the dome
341 interrupted by episodes of slower growth, akin to lines of arrested growth (LAGs). In addition,

342 they argued that the presence of “capping layer” composed of dense, avascular bone, near the
343 dorsal surface of SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790 indicated that both specimens had essentially
344 stopped growing.

345 There is a wealth of data on how frontoparietal histology changes during
346 pachycephalosaur growth, based on examination of large samples of *Stegoceras* and
347 *Pachycephalosaurus* (e.g., Goodwin & Horner, 2004; Schott et al., 2011). Goodwin & Horner
348 (2004) recognized histological zones termed Zones I, II, and III within the frontoparietal domes
349 of *Stegoceras validum* and *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis*. Zone I is a basal zone of
350 “typical” bone of endochondral origin that remains constant through ontogeny. Zone II is a zone
351 of vascular bone that decreases during ontogeny. Zone III is a zone of dense, sparsely
352 vascularized bone below the periosteal surface of the dome. Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) regarded
353 the dense outer h4 zone of SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790 to be equivalent to Zone III of Goodwin
354 & Horner (2004), and we agree. We also interpret the histological zones 1 (h1) and 3 (h3) of
355 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) to represent histological Zones I and II, respectively, of Goodwin &
356 Horner (2004), as their histological structure is nearly identical. We are not completely certain of
357 the identification of the narrow zone of more cancellous bone that Jasinski & Sullivan (2011)
358 identified as zone 2 (h2), which surrounds the tissue of zone 1. A similar zone has yet to be
359 reported in other pachycephalosaurs that have been studied.

360 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) used the histological structure of SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790
361 to make an argument about maturity, but this conclusion is at odds with the conclusions reached
362 by other workers based on study of *Stegoceras* and *Pachycephalosaurus* (e.g., Goodwin &
363 Horner, 2004; Horner & Goodwin, 2009; Schott, 2011). Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) argued that
364 the presence of the dense, poorly vascularized outer layer of the dome (equivalent to Zone III of

365 Horner & Goodwin [2004]) indicates that the specimens had stopped growing. However, in
366 *Pachycephalosaurus* and *Stegoceras*, Zone III appears early in ontogeny and its thickness
367 increases as an individual grows. It is present as a thin layer even in very early ontogenetic stages
368 of *S. validum* (UCMP 130049; Schott et al., 2011, fig. 5a). Therefore, the presence of this layer is
369 not an indicator of maturity, contra Jasinski & Sullivan (2011).

370 The entirety of Jasinski & Sullivan's (2011) histology argument is based on the two
371 referred specimens. Our restudy of the *Stegoceras novomexicanum* holotype (NMMNH P-
372 33898) provides histological evidence that the specimen is immature. HRCT slices through the
373 frontoparietal reveal details of the bone histology (Fig. 1F-H). In this specimen, many of the
374 vascular spaces are filled with a relatively x-ray opaque mineral and these show up as white in
375 the scans. The scans clearly reveal a distinct separation between a relatively thick and highly
376 vascularized layer with approximately vertically-aligned bony struts separated by vascular spaces
377 (Zone II, sensu Goodwin & Horner, 2004) sandwiched between an amorphous, but vascular,
378 basal zone (Zone I) and dense dorsal zone (Zone III) below the surface of the skull roof (Fig. 1F-
379 H).

380 Schott et al. (2011) assessed relative maturity of specimens of *Stegoceras validum* based
381 upon the relative amount of void space within the frontoparietal. In their study, they calculated
382 the percentage of void space from thresholded coronal CT slices of the skull roof at the
383 postorbital-squamosal contact. Void space is found primarily within Zone II and is reduced
384 through ontogeny as Zones I and III increase in relative thickness at the expense of Zone II (see
385 Schott et al., 2011, fig. 10). Unfortunately, the presence of relatively opaque minerals within the
386 void spaces of NMMNH P-33898 prevents us from obtaining a useful thresholded image of the
387 specimen. Nevertheless, the relative thickness of Zone II compared to Zones I and III can be

388 readily compared in CT slices (Fig. 1) and reveal a highly vascularized Zone II that is
389 significantly thicker than either Zone I or Zone III. The relative amount of void space within the
390 dome and relative thickness of Zone II is strongly similar to that in immature specimens of
391 *Stegoceras validum*, and is much thicker than in adult or near-mature specimens (see Schott et
392 al., 2011) and is a clear indication that NMMNH P-33898 represents a juvenile specimen.

393

394 5.3 Suture closure on the dorsal surface of the frontoparietal dome

395

396 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011:203) held that the “partial fusion” of the left and right frontals
397 and the frontals and parietals in SMP VP-2555 was a sign of maturity. Their concept of “partial
398 fusion” was the lack of visible sutural contacts between the frontals and the frontals and parietals
399 on the external surface of the specimen.

400 *Stegoceras* and *Pachycephalosaurus* close sutural contacts between the paired frontals
401 and between the frontals and parietals, as well as between other skull roof bones, during
402 ontogeny. In specimens that represent early ontogenetic stages, the frontoparietals remain
403 completely unfused, with sutures that are visible on the external surface of the specimens.
404 However as ontogeny ensues, the sutures between the frontals and parietals often become
405 indistinguishable on the dorsal surface even in subadult specimens, while remaining open
406 internally (Horner & Goodwin, 2009; Schott et al., 2011).

407 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) focused most of their attention on the sutural morphology of
408 SMP VP-2555 and did not discuss the condition in NMMNH P-33898 in much detail. In this
409 specimen, the frontal-frontal and frontoparietal sutures are not visible near the midline of the
410 external (dorsal) surface of the dome but remain distinct on the ventral surface. Moreover, the

411 frontal-parietal sutures are clearly visible on the lateral surfaces of the specimen and on the
412 dorsolateral surfaces of the dome. HRCT scans of NMMNH P-33898 (Fig. 1F-H) show frontal-
413 frontal and frontoparietal sutures as dark lines with little, or no, mineralization. These indicate
414 that the sutures between the frontals and between the frontals and parietals were open through
415 most of the skull height, closing only very close to the dorsal surface near the midline of the
416 skull. This is a strong indication that the specimen represents an immature individual, because
417 early in pachycephalosaur ontogeny the suture trace disappears from the external surface while
418 remaining open internally (Horner & Goodwin, 2009; Schott et al., 2011).

419

420 5.4 Additional features of the anatomy

421

422 In addition to the three explicit features that they used to argue for the maturity or near-
423 maturity of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* specimens, Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) also mentioned
424 some other characters that purportedly supported their assessment. They argued that NMMNH P-
425 33898 exhibits a degree of development of the dome, frontoparietal shelf, and supratemporal
426 fenestrae similar to the condition in specimens of *Stegoceras validum* that they held to be mature
427 or nearly mature, particularly CMN 515, the holotype of *S. validum*, and CMN 138, another
428 specimen that they regarded as approximately the same ontogenetic stage (although they
429 acknowledged that some features suggested it was not fully mature). These CMN specimens
430 possess a partially expanded dome with an extensive frontoparietal shelf and large, open
431 supratemporal fenestrae. In this regard, we agree that they are similar to NMMNH P-33898.
432 However, we note that Schott et al.'s (2011) comprehensive study of *S. validum* growth came to a
433 much different conclusion on the ontogenetic maturity of CMN 515 and 138. Unlike Jasinski &

434 Sullivan (2011), who considered these specimens to be mature, Schott et al. (2011) found both to
435 be in the middle portion of the *S. validum* growth series, approximately midway between the
436 earliest ontogenetic stage and the latest (see Schott et al., 2011, fig. 4). If Schott et al. (2011) are
437 correct, then the similarity between NMMNH P-33898 and the two CMN species would be
438 evidence that NMMNH P-33898 is also an immature individual far from being fully grown or
439 osteologically mature.

440

441 5.5 Summary

442

443 The suite of morphological features that are typically used to assess ontogeny in
444 *Stegoceras validum* and other pachycephalosaurs indicate that NMMNH P-33898 represents a
445 relatively early ontogenetic stage rather than a mature or nearly mature individual. Furthermore,
446 none of the features that Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) considered as supporting the maturity of
447 NMMNH P-33898 and the two controversial paratypes hold up to scrutiny. Therefore, all
448 evidence indicates that the specimens of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* are immature, and there are
449 no grounds to consider this pachycephalosaur to be an unusual small-bodied taxon.

450

451 6. Is *Stegoceras novomexicanum* a valid taxon?

452

453 The holotype and controversial paratype specimens of *Stegoceras novomexicanum*
454 belong to immature individuals, but of which species? It is possible that *Stegoceras*
455 *novomexicanum* may still be a valid taxon, albeit represented only by juvenile material.
456 Alternatively, there may be evidence that the *Stegoceras novomexicanum* specimens belong to

457 another pachycephalosaurid taxon, such as *Stegoceras validum* (as hypothesized by Sullivan &
458 Lucas 2006) or *Sphaerotholus goodwini* (which was raised as a possibility by Williamson & Carr
459 2002a), which is found in strata of similar age in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. We review
460 several lines of evidence bearing on this issue.

461

462 6.1 Original diagnosis

463

464 The starting point for this discussion is the original diagnosis of *Stegoceras*
465 *novomexicanum* from Jasinski & Sullivan (2011:202). They regarded the following characters as
466 diagnostic for *Stegoceras novomexicanum* relative to only one other taxon, *S. validum*: a reduced
467 posteromedial extension of the parietal that is sub-rectangular in shape, squamosal sutural
468 surfaces on the parietal that is roughly parallel (a result of the sub-rectangular shape of the
469 posteromedial extension of the parietal), supratemporal fenestrae that are large and medially
470 positioned, and small adult size.

471 We have issues with all of these characters. We discounted the latter two characters
472 (above), demonstrating that the enlarge fenestrae and small body size are juvenile features. The
473 other features considered diagnostic by Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) deserve further comment.

474 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011:210) made a distinction between the reduced and sub-
475 rectangular posteromedial parietal extension of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* with the relatively
476 wider, “more robust and trapezoidal” posterior process of the parietal in *S. validum*, which results
477 in more laterally positioned supratemporal fenestrae and “splayed” sutural surfaces for the
478 squamosal. Based in part on this description, the shape of the posteromedial (intrasquamosal)
479 process of the parietal has been incorporated into phylogenetic analyses, with two states, ‘non-

480 rectangular' and 'rectangular' (Watabe et al., 2011: ch. 47). However, we feel that the distinction
481 between these two conditions is not clear-cut, particularly as it has not been quantified in any
482 way. We argue that the posteromedial projection of the *Stegoceras novomexicanum* holotype
483 (NMMNH P-33898) is more trapezoidal than rectangular in shape when seen in dorsal view, as it
484 is wider transversely at the posterior margin of the supratemporal fenestra than at the anterior
485 sutural surface for the squamosal. In addition, the contact surfaces for the squamosals are not
486 parallel, but they converge posteriorly. These sutural surfaces are separated on the midline by the
487 subcutaneous surface of the parietal, which forms a narrow dorsoventrally aligned and ventrally-
488 widening groove on the posterior surface of the parietal (Fig. 1D). The parietosquamosal contact
489 surfaces, therefore, resemble those of *S. validum*, with the minor different that in NMMNH P-
490 33898 they face dorsolaterally and posteriorly rather than posterolaterally as in *S. validum* (see,
491 for example, Schott et al., 2011, fig. 7). Therefore, we see no clear, easy-to-define distinction
492 between *Stegoceras novomexicanum* and *S. validum* in these features.

493

494 6.2 Other discrete characters

495

496 Based on our restudy of NMMNH P-33898, we have identified some additional
497 characters that may have bearing on the taxonomic status of the specimen. One feature that may
498 set NMMNH P-33898 apart from *Stegoceras validum*, and a number of other pachycephalosuar
499 taxa (e.g., *Colepiocephale*, *Hanssuesia*, "*Prenocephale*" *brevis*) is the relatively low and more
500 shallowly transversely convex shape of the frontals between the contacts with the nasals,
501 prefrontals, and anterior supraorbitals (Fig. 1A-E). This frontal boss is much more strongly
502 transversely convex on specimens of *Stegoceras validum* that probably represent a similar

503 ontogenetic stage (see below; e.g., CMN 138, 8816, TMP 84.5.1; see Sullivan, 2003: fig. 2).
504 Moreover, in NMMNH P-33898, the dome flattens laterally from the frontal portion of the dome
505 as it nears the contact for the anterior supraorbitals. There is no indication of an abrupt break in
506 slope or grooving that is typically found in *Stegoceras validum*, and several other taxa (e.g.,
507 *Colepiocephale*, *Hanssuesia*, “*Prenocephale*” *brevis*) which have strongly vaulted doming of the
508 frontal dome between the prefrontals and a separate inflation of the dome laterally adjacent to the
509 anterior supraorbitals (the “lateral frontal lobes” of some workers). The frontal boss of CMN
510 128, and TMP 84.5.1, specimens that have approximately the same degree of dome development
511 as NMMN P-33898, have a more inflated frontal boss with distinct sulci, or break in slope,
512 separating the frontal boss from the laterally adjacent parts of the frontoparietal which have
513 undergone some inflation. In addition, the contact for the prefrontal in NMMNH P-33898 is
514 anteroposteriorly elongate between the anterior supraorbital and nasals, and more gently tapers
515 anteriorly toward the nasal contacts, than in *S. validum*, *Hanssuesia*, and “*Prenocephale*” *brevis*.
516 The frontals are elongate, but nearly parallel-sided between the prefrontals in *Colepiocephale*.

517 Schott et al. (2011) revised the diagnosis of *S. validum*, one one of the most likely taxa
518 that NMMNH P-33898 may belong to. Schott et al. (2011) noted that a number of features that
519 Sullivan (2003) considered to be diagnostic for *S. validum*, such as the extent of doming of the
520 skull roof, degree of closure of the supratemporal fenestrae, and degree of development of the
521 parietosquamosal shelf, were highly ontogenetically variable. In their emended diagnosis, Schott
522 et al. (2011:8) distinguished *S. validum* from all other pachycephalosaurs by the distinct
523 ornamentation of the parietosquamosal shelf (*S. validum* differs from all other pachycephalosaurs
524 in the presence of minute tubercles on the lateral and posterior sides of the squamosals, and in
525 having a single prominent row of five-to-eight dorsally projecting nodes on each side of the

526 parietosquamosal bar and a row of small, keel-shaped nodes on the dorsolateral margins of the
527 squamosal); by the less developed incorporation of peripheral elements, particularly the
528 supraorbitals, into the dome than in *Prenocephale*, *Sphaerotholus*, and *Pachycephalosaur*; the
529 absence of nasal ornamentation; a greatly reduced diastema in the upper tooth row; and a pubic
530 peduncle that is mediolaterally compressed and plate-like.

531 Unfortunately, NMMNH P-33898 does not preserve many of the features listed in this
532 diagnosis. NMMNH P-33898 lacks the squamosals and is a juvenile, and so it does not preserve
533 features of the parietosquamosal bar or other cranial ornamentation considered diagnostic for *S.*
534 *validum*. Because it is a juvenile, it retains a prominent parietosquamosal shelf and did not
535 incorporate peripheral skull elements into the dome, as presumably did the juveniles of all
536 domed taxa that have poorly developed peripheral elements into the dome as adults. Other bones
537 relevant to the diagnosis of Schott et al. (2011), such as the nasals, premaxillae and maxillae, and
538 ilium, are unknown in NMMNH P-33898. Therefore, it is currently difficult to assess whether
539 NMMNH P-33898 could belong to *S. validum* using the diagnosis of Schott et al. (2011).

540

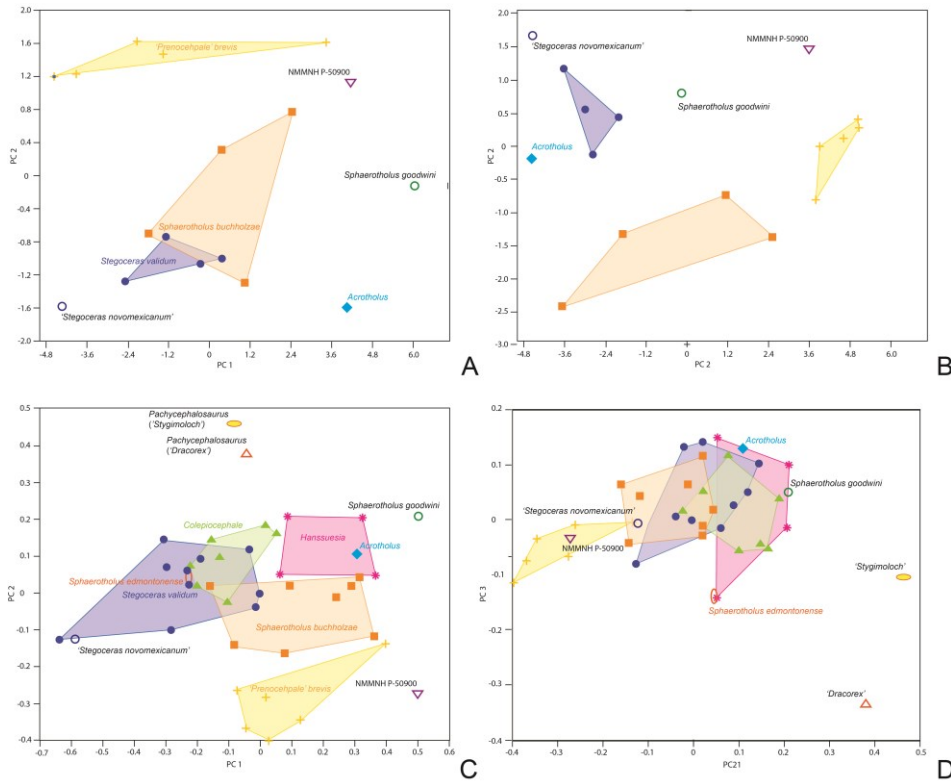
541

542 6.3 Principal component analyses

543

544 The PCA of the updated Evans et al. (2013) dataset (Tables 1 and 2; Appendix 1) returned
545 14 principal components, the first three of which account for 91% of the total variance. PC1,
546 which accounts for 72.6% of total variance, is strongly correlated with frontoparietal length, a
547 proxy for body size ($r^2=0.86$). PCs 2 and 3 are very weakly correlated with frontoparietal length
548 ($r^2<0.026$ in both cases), and therefore reflect variation that may be more phylogenetically

549 informative than that the mostly size-related variation encapsulated on PC1. The plot of PC1
 550 versus PC2 (Fig. 2A) shows that the *Stegoceras*



551
 552 Figure 2. Selected results of morphometric analysis of pachycephalosaur frontoparietal domes
 553 (based on measurements from Evans et al. 2013, supplementary table s1) and postorbitals (based
 554 on measurements from Mallon et al., 2015, appendix a) including measurements of NMMNH P-
 555 33898 (holotype of *Stegoceras novomexicanum*) and revised measurements of NMMNH P-27403
 556 (holotype of *Sphaerototholus goodwini*). Plots of PC1 versus PC2 (A) and PC2 versus PC3 (B)
 557 from frontoparietal measurements and PC1 versus PC2 (C) and PC2 versus PC3 (D) from
 558 postorbital measurements showing the placement of *Stegoceras novomexicanum* in morphospace

559 *relative to other pachycephalosaur taxa.*

560 *novomexicanum* holotype (NMMNH P-33898) is something of an outlier, as it does not fall
561 within the convex hulls of the three other taxa represented by multiple specimens in the analysis,
562 *Stegoceras validum*, *Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae*, and ‘*Prenocephale*’ *brevis*. However, NMMNH
563 P-33898 does plot within the 95% confidence ellipses of both *S. validum* and *S. buchholtzae*. A
564 similar pattern is seen in the plot of PC2 versus PC3 (Fig. 2B), as NMMNH P-33898 is not
565 placed within the convex hulls of the three other pachycephalosaurs, but does fall within the
566 confidence interval of *S. validum*, but in this case not *S. buchholtzae*.

567 The PCA of the updated Mallon et al. (2015) dataset returned four principal components,
568 the first three of which account for 98% of the total variance. PC1 accounts for 60.9% of the
569 overall variance, while PC2 accounts for 30.1% and PC3 7.4%. The plot of PC1 versus PC2 (Fig.
570 2C) shows that the *Stegoceras novomexicanum* holotype (NMMNH P-33898) is something of an
571 outlier, although it is immediately adjacent in morphospace to UCMZ (VP) 2008.001, a very
572 young individual of *Stegoceras validum*. Because of the close proximity of these two specimens,
573 NMMNH P-33898 falls within the convex hull of *S. validum*. Furthermore, it is within the 95%
574 confidence envelopes of *S. validum*, *Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae*, and *Hanssuesia sternbergi*. On
575 the plot of PC2 versus PC3 (Fig. 2D), NMMNH P-33898 is positioned within a dense cloud of
576 specimens, and is plotted particularly close to specimen of *S. validum* (CMN 1108A) and
577 ‘*Prenocephale*’ *brevis* (TMP 1987.050.0029). It falls within the convex hull of *Sphaerolitholus*
578 *buchholtzae* and immediately outside the convex hulls of *S. validum* and ‘*P.*’ *brevis*, and is
579 within the 95% confidence intervals of all taxa known from more than one specimen.

580 The large taxon sample in the Mallon et al. (2015) dataset allows us to conduct a
581 discriminant analysis in PAST v3.0 (Hammer et al. 2001). This analysis uses pre-determined

582 groups (in this case, pachycephalosaur species) to create a morphospace in which these groups
583 are maximally separated. Specimens whose identities are uncertain, such as NMMNH P-33898,
584 can then be classified according to which group they are most similar to in this discriminant
585 morphospace. In total, 70% of other pachycephalosaurs are classified correctly when they are
586 treated as having uncertain affinities and their measurements are used to classify them in
587 discriminant space, indicating that this exercise returns reasonable results. Our analysis classifies
588 NMMNH P-33898 as *Stegoceras validum*, and places it within the 95% confidence envelopes of
589 both *S. validum* and *Hanssuesia*.

590 PCA and discriminant analysis are tools that can help determine the most likely affinities
591 of specimens, but they require some interpretation. Our interpretation of the above results is that
592 *Stegoceras novomexicanum* may potentially be a distinctive taxon, given the outlier position of
593 its holotype in the morphospace generated from the Evans et al. (2013) dataset. A similar
594 rationale was used by Evans et al. (2013) as one line of evidence to support the taxonomic
595 distinctiveness of *Acrotholus*, a new species of pachycephalosaur they were describing. However,
596 the *Stegoceras novomexicanum* holotype does plot within the 95% confidence intervals of other
597 taxa in the Evans et al. (2013) morphospace, and within both the convex hulls and 95%
598 confidence intervals of other taxa in the Mallon et al. (2015) morphospace. In total, the strongest
599 and most consistent similarities are between NMMNH P-33898 and *S. validum*. The *Stegoceras*
600 *novomexicanum* holotype falls within the 95% confidence intervals of *S. validum* in plots of PC1
601 versus PC2 and PC2 versus PC3 of both datasets (Fig. 2). Furthermore, in the plot of PC1 versus
602 PC2 of the Mallon et al. (2015) dataset (Fig. 2A), NMMNH P-33898 nearly overlaps with a
603 specimen of juvenile *S. validum*. In total, these findings suggest that if *Stegoceras*
604 *novomexicanum* can be referred to another known taxon of pachycephalosaur, that species is

605 most likely *S. validum*. Additionally, the close correspondence in morphospace between
606 NMMNH P-33898 and the juvenile *S. validum* specimen is further evidence that the *Stegoceras*
607 *novomexicanum* holotype is immature.

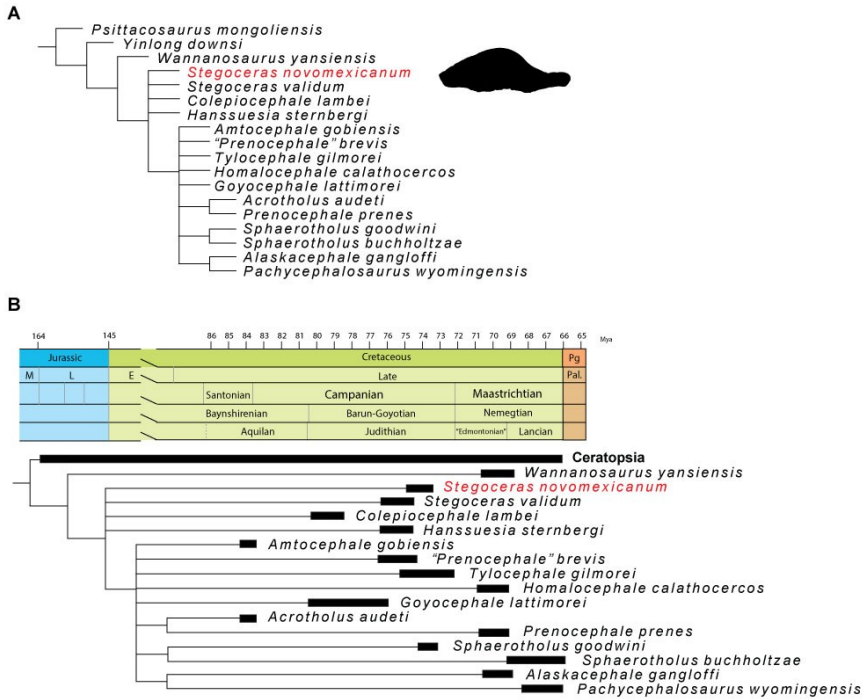
608 However, there is a caveat. Because NMMNH P-33898 is a juvenile specimen, it may be
609 expected to plot in morphospace with a taxon that is relatively plesiomorphic, and/or one that is
610 represented by some juvenile specimens in the dataset. *S. validum* fulfils both of these criteria It
611 is a relatively plesiomorphic taxon, closer to the root of pachycephalosaur phylogeny than other
612 potential candidates that NMMNH P-33898 could be referred to, such as '*Prenocephale*' *brevis*,
613 *Sphaerotholus buchholtzae*, and *Sphaerotholus goodwini*. Additionally, some of the *S. validum*
614 specimens in the datasets are juveniles. Other taxa based on, or probably based on, juvenile
615 specimens, such as *Wannanosaurus* and *Homalocephale* (Evans et al., 2011), are not included in
616 either dataset. For these reasons, we are hesitant to interpret the PCA and discriminant analysis
617 results as explicitly supporting the referral of NMMNH P-33898 to *Stegoceras validum*.

618

619 *6.4 Phylogenetic analysis*

620

621 A phylogenetic analysis of the revised Evans et al. (2013) dataset (Appendix 2) recovered
622 12 most parsimonious trees of 77 steps (Fig. 3; consistency index = 0.753, retention index =
623 0.796).



624
 625 Figure 3. Phylogeny of Pachycephalosauria. (A), Strict consensus of 12 most parsimonious trees
 626 with a shortest length of 77 steps resulting from a phylogenetic analysis consisting of 18
 627 pachycephalosaur taxa and two successive outgroups; Yinlong and Psittacosaurus and 50
 628 characters, after Evans et al. (2013). Analysis was run in TNT v. 1.1 (Goloboff et al., 2008);
 629 consistency index = 0.753, retention index = 0.796). (B), Temporally-calibrated phylogeny of
 630 Pachycephalosauria including NMMNH P-33898 (*Stegoceras novomexicanum*) showing
 631 approximate ranges of each taxon. Time scale is after Huang (2012) and ranges of
 632 pachycephalosaur taxa follow Evans et al. (2013).

633 *Wannanosaurus* was found to be the basal-most pachycephalosaur, followed by a polytomy
634 consisting of *Stegoceras novomexicanum*, *Stegoceras validum*, *Colepiocephale*, *Hanssuesia*, and
635 the lineage leading to all of the remaining pachycephalosaurs. This lineage collapses into another
636 large polytomy, the only resolution being the sister-taxon pairs of *Acrotholus* and *Prenocephale*
637 *prenes*, *Sphaerotholus goodwini* and *Sphaerotholus buccholtzae*, and *Alaskacephale* and
638 *Pachycephalosaurus*. These results are more poorly resolved than those of Evans et al. (2013,
639 supplementary fig. s8). Evans et al. (2013) placed *Stegoceras novomexicanum*, *Stegoceras*
640 *validum*, *Colepiocephale*, and *Hanssuesia* in their own clade of basal pachycephalosaurs, and
641 then recovered complete resolution among the more derived taxa.

642 The most important result of our re-analysis is that there is no longer a restricted subclade
643 that includes both *Stegoceras novomexicanum* and *S. validum* on the strict consensus tree (Fig.
644 3). This on its own does not say much about the taxonomic affinities of *Stegoceras*
645 *novomexicanum*, as the analysis can only speak to the relationships between OTUs and not the
646 diagnosability of the OTUs themselves. However, since *Stegoceras novomexicanum* and *S.*
647 *validum* no longer occupy a restricted subgroup on the phylogeny and our dataset returns less
648 resolution than previous analyses, we interpret this as a decrease in support for the hypothesis
649 that *Stegoceras novomexicanum* can be referred to *S. validum*.

650

651 6.5 Summary

652

653 The taxonomic affinities of NMMNH P-33898 are still unclear on the generic and
654 specific level. The original features that Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) used to diagnose the
655 specimen as a distinct taxon, *Stegoceras novomexicanum*, are problematic, but we have

656 identified additional features that could potentially support its taxonomic distinctiveness. The
657 PCAs and discriminant analysis suggest that, if NMMNH P-33898 belongs to a known taxon,
658 that taxon is most likely *Stegoceras validum*, but there are caveats regarding the data sampling of
659 these analyses that make this uncertain. The phylogenetic analysis also provides decreased
660 support for a close relationship between NMMNH P-33898 and *S. validum*. In sum, based on our
661 current state of knowledge, we are not certain whether *Stegoceras novomexicanum* is a valid
662 taxon or not, and if not, whether it is a juvenile of *S. validum* or perhaps another taxon like
663 *Sphaerotholus goodwini*. The only way to resolve this conundrum is with a larger comparative
664 sample of specimens of the same approximate ontogenetic stage as NMMNH P-33898. In
665 particular, unequivocal immature specimens of *Sphaerotholus goodwini* may be the critical
666 missing piece of the puzzle.

667

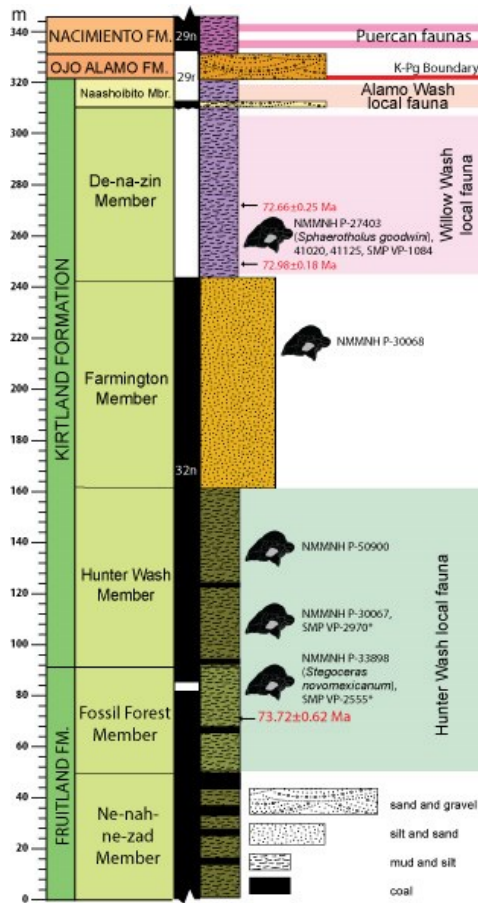
668 **7. Discussion**

669

670 *7.1 The New Mexico pachycephalosaur record*

671

672 All pachycephalosaur specimens recovered from the Campanian of New Mexico come
 673 from the Fruitland and Kirtland formations of the San Juan Basin. The Fruitland and Kirtland
 674 formations (exclusive of Naashoibito Member; Fig. 4) span only about two million years (from



675 *Figure 4. Generalized stratigraphic*
 676 *section for upper Campanian, Upper Cretaceous strata of the Bisti/De-na-zin Wilderness area,*
 677 *San Juan Basin, New Mexico modified after Fasset and Steiner (1997) and Fassett (2009)*
 678 *showing the approximate stratigraphic position of all Fruitland and Kirtland Formation*
 679 *pachycephalosaur specimens. Absolute dates are based on ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar dates from volcanic ashes*

680 (Fasset and Steiner, 1997) as recalibrated by Roberts et al. (2013). Magnetic polarity and
681 reversal boundaries are placed after Fassett (2009).

All pachycephalosaur specimens recovered from the Campanian of New Mexico come from the Fruitland and Kirtland formations of the San Juan Basin. *The Fruitland and Kirtland formations span about 75 Ma to 73.0 Ma; Fassett and Steiner, 1997; Roberts et al., 2013). Nearly all pachycephalosaur specimens from these units are from two local faunas: the Hunter Wash (Clemens, 1973) and Willow Wash (Williamson & Sullivan, 1998) local faunas, comprised of localities in the Fossil Forest Member of the upper Fruitland Formation and the Hunter Wash Member of the Kirtland Formation, and from the De-na-zin Member of Kirtland Formation, respectively (Fig. 4).*

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682 There are at least two pachycephalosaur taxa in the Hunter Wash and Willow Wash local
683 faunas, including an undescribed specimen that may represent a new taxon (NMMNH P-50900;
684 Hunter Wash local fauna) and *Sphaerotholus goodwini* (Carr & Williamson, 2002b; Willow
685 Wash local fauna). The specimen NMMNH P-50900 is currently under study by Williamson and
686 co-authors and will be described elsewhere, but it resembles *S. validum*, and several other
687 pachycephalosaur taxa, in having a high and laterally convex frontal boss.

688 Does '*Stegoceras novomexicanum*' represent a subadult of either of these taxa, or is it a
689 third distinct species? There is the possibility that NMMNH P-33898 represents an early
690 ontogenetic stage of *Sphaerotholus goodwini*, a prospect entertained by Williamson & Carr
691 (2002a), but dismissed by Sullivan & Lucas (2006) because NMMNH P-33898 possesses a
692 prominent parietosquamosal shelf, which is not present in known specimens of *Sphaerotholus*
693 *goodwini*. However, as discussed above, the strength of the parietosquamosal shelf is
694 ontogenetically variable and retention of a prominent shelf may be expected in domed

695 pachycephalosaurs of an early ontogenetic stage (e.g., Evans et al., 2011). Unfortunately, early
696 ontogenetic stages are not known for *Sphaerotholus*, or for a number of other pachycephalosaur
697 taxa for that matter. NMMNH P-33898 also lacks a high and laterally convex nasal boss found in
698 NMMNH P-50900 and specimens of *Stegoceras validum* that are of a similar ontogenetic stage.

699 A similar problem concerns the identities of the Asian flat-headed pachycephalosaurs
700 *Goyocephale lattimorei* and *Homalocephale calathoceros*, as the known specimens may
701 represent juvenile stages of domed taxa (Evans et al., 2011; Longrich et al., 2010) or adults that
702 possibly exhibit pedomorphosis in dome development (Bakker et al., 2006; Sullivan, 2007).
703 *Homalocephale* is found in the Nemegt Formation of Mongolia, in strata that have also yielded
704 the highly-domed *Prenocephale prenes*, and it has been suggested that it may be a subadult or
705 sexual dimorph of that taxon (Butler & Sullivan, 2009; Longrich et al., 2010). Evans et al. (2011)
706 considered that question and concluded that although *Homalocephale* likely was based on an
707 immature specimen, it is taxonomically distinct from *Prenocephale* based on its large size and
708 unique pattern of parietosquamosal ornamentation, features that appear not to change
709 significantly through ontogeny in *Stegoceras validum* (Evans et al., 2011; Schott and Evans,
710 2012; Schott et al., 2011). *Homalocephale* also differs from *Prenocephale* in other features such
711 as the pattern of tooth wear, shape of the maxillary tooth row, and tooth morphology (Evans et
712 al., 2011; Maryńska and Osmólska, 1974). If Evans et al. (2011) are correct; this is an example
713 of how a juvenile specimen may still be diagnostic and taxonomically distinct from a co-existing
714 taxon based on adult material.

715 Another pertinent case involves *Dracorex hogwartia* and *Stigymoloch spinifer*, which
716 wereregarded as a juveniles of *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis* by Horner and Goodwin
717 (2009), a conclusion tentatively accepted here. *Dracorex* has a flat skull roof and large

Commented [S3]: New paragraph, to break up this long section.

718 supratemporal fenestrae as in juvenile stages of other domed taxa. *Stygimoloch* has a relatively
719 small and narrow dome and the supratemporal fenestrae are closed, but it retains a distinct
720 parietosquamosal shelf and is posited to represent an ontogenetic stage intermediate between that
721 of *Dracorex* and the large-domed *Pachycephalosaurius* (Horner & Goodwin, 2009). All three
722 taxa are relatively large with relatively elongate skulls, possess similar distinctive nodal
723 ornamentation (e.g., clusters of nodes on the posterolateral corners of the squamosals and
724 pyramidal nodes over the rostrum) supporting their recognition as a single, ontogenetically
725 highly variable taxon. However, if this is correct, then the squamosal nodes are hypothesized to
726 first increase in size to form medium to large pointed horns (e.g., from the *Dracorex* to the
727 *Stygimoloch* stages of ontogeny), before shrinking through bone erosion to relatively shorter and
728 blunted structures in more mature stages (Horner & Goodwin, 2009), a somewhat extreme
729 change in cranial ornamentation not observed in other pachycephalosaur taxa.

Commented [S4]: Just because you use 'relatively' a few times above.

731 7.2 Discussion of a problematic specimen from New Mexico

732
733 One New Mexican pachycephalosaur specimen, a partial dentary associated with some
734 skull fragments (NMMNH P-30068), was discovered from the Farmington Member near the
735 head of Pinabete Arroyo at NMMNH locality L-3097, which is approximately contemporaneous
736 with the Hunter Wash or Willow Wash local faunas (Fig. 4). There has been some inaccurate
737 information in the literature regarding this specimen and the Upper Cretaceous stratigraphy of
738 the San Juan Basin, which we wish to correct.

739 First, Jasinski & Sullivan (2011, fig. 1) misplotted the location of L-3097. Precise locality
740 information is available to qualified researchers from the NMMNH. It is located between

741 Brimhall Wash and Pinabete Arroyo (“Pina Veta China Arroyo” of literature prior to 1966).

742 Second, to correct any misconceptions, the skull fragments and partial dentary of
743 NMMNH P-30068 were collected from NMMNH locality L-3097 along with NMMNH P-
744 25049, a specimen that was referred by Carr & Williamson (2010) to the tyrannosauroid
745 theropod *Bistahieversor sealeyi*. These specimens were indeed collected illegally, as stated by
746 Jasinski & Sullivan (2011), but we want to be clear that the illegal collection was not by
747 Williamson. Contra Jasinski & Sullivan (2011), the pachycephalosaur specimens were not found
748 with the holotype of *B. sealeyi* (NMMNH P-27469), which is from the Hunter Wash Member of
749 the Kirtland Formation within the Bisti/De-na-zin Wilderness Area.

750 Third, Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) stated (p. 207) that the pachycephalosaur specimen,
751 NMMNH P-30068, is “almost certainly from the Hunter Wash Member” and (p. 210) that
752 “exposures of the Farmington Member...crop out only in the eastern parts of the Bisti/De-na-zin
753 Wilderness area”. However, this is incorrect. Bauer (1916) gave the name ‘Farmington
754 Sandstone Member’ to a series of sandstone lenses that form a prominent bluff, “455 feet thick”
755 (about 140 m), on the San Juan River (Bauer, 1916, fig. 27; Plate LXVIII). Bauer (1916, Plate
756 LXV) shows in a series of stratigraphic sections along the Chaco Valley that the Farmington
757 Member thins, from over 400 feet in its type area, to a thickness of 87 feet in the area of the
758 Bisti/De-na-zin Wilderness. Jasinski & Sullivan (2011) argued that the area from where
759 NMMNH P-30068 was collected was mapped by Brown (1983) as Hunter Wash Member,
760 Kirtland Formation. However, L-3097 does not fall within the area covered by Brown’s geologic
761 map. NMMNH locality L-3097 is located about 10 km from the northwest corner of Brown’s
762 map and is close to the type section of the Farmington Sandstone Member. Therefore, this
763 specimen clearly comes from the Farmington Member, not the Hunter Wash Member (Fig. 4).

764

765 7.3 *The New Mexico pachycephalosaur record in a regional context*

766

767 Western North America contains some of the richest terrestrial Upper Cretaceous deposits
768 in the world. A number of remarkably fossiliferous units were deposited along the western
769 margin of the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway within a narrow interval of time between
770 about 80 and 73 Ma. The Dinosaur Park, Two Medicine, and Judith River formations to the north
771 and the Kaiparowits, Kirtland, Fruitland, and Aguja formations to the South all fall, at least
772 partially, within this interval and provide an exceptional window into late Campanian terrestrial
773 ecosystems (Gates et al., 2010; Roberts et al., 2013). They have provided a wealth of data for
774 analyzing large-scale biogeographic patterns of late Cretaceous dinosaur faunas of the western
775 interior (e.g., Gates et al., 2012; Gates et al., 2010; Loewen et al., 2013), and also give insight
776 into how dinosaurs were evolving during the run-up to the end-Cretaceous mass extinction (e.g.,
777 Brusatte et al. 2015).

778 Northern upper Campanian units, particularly the Dinosaur Park Formation, have yielded
779 a large number of late Campanian pachycephalosaur specimens. These constitute, by far, the
780 most abundant small-bodied ornithischian dinosaur fossils from Campanian faunas of North
781 America which is undoubtedly due to preservational biases that favor the fossilization of the
782 thick and durable skull roof (Evans et al., 2013a). At least three pachycephalosaur taxa
783 (*Stegoceras validum*, “*Prenocephale*” *brevis*, and *Hanssuesia sternbergi*) are recognized in the
784 upper Campanian Dinosaur Park Formation (Evans et al., 2013a; Ryan & Evans, 2005) and three
785 or more taxa (e.g., *Stegoceras validum*, *Colepiocephale lambei*, and “*Prenocephale*” *brevis*) are
786 known from the Judith River Formation of Montana (Goodwin, 1990; Schott et al., 2009).

787 Southern late Campanian faunas have not yet yielded anywhere as many specimens as the
788 northern units, but growing discoveries hint at a considerable diversity of pachycephalosaurs. At
789 least one taxon is known from the Aguja Formation of west Texas, (Lehman, 2010; Longrich et
790 al., 2010). A new pachycephalosaur taxon, *Texacephale langstoni* was named based on a
791 frontoparietal from the Aguja Formation (Longrich et al., 2010), although Jasinski & Sullivan
792 (2011) concluded that it is a nomen dubium, a decision that we agree with and is followed here.

793 Pachycephalosaurs are known from the upper Campanian Kaiparowits Formation of southcentral
794 Utah, but described specimens are too incomplete for generic identification (Evans et al., 2013b).

795 The Campanian faunas of the Fruitland and Kirtland formations of the San Juan Basin are
796 slightly younger than faunas from the northern Rocky Mountain area (Roberts et al., 2013), but
797 provide the only generically diagnostic pachycephalosaur specimens from the upper Campanian
798 of the southern part of the western interior. Specimens recovered from these units reveal the
799 presence of at least two pachycephalosaur taxa (see 7.1 above). All four pachycephalosaur
800 specimens from the De-na-zin Member of the Kirtland Formation of the San Juan Basin (Fig. 4;
801 Sullivan, 2000; Williamson and Carr, 2002b; Williamson and Carr, 2005) are probably referable
802 to *Sphaerotholus goodwini*, and no certainly referable specimens of *Sphaerotholus* have been
803 recovered from stratigraphically lower strata of the San Juan Basin (i.e., Fruitland Formation and
804 Hunter Wash and Farmington members, Kirtland Formation). Therefore it is possible that
805 *Sphaerotholus* is the sole pachycephalosaur present in the De-na-zin Member, Willow Wash local
806 fauna (Fig. 4).

807 *Sphaerotholus* is elsewhere found in the lower Maastrichtian Horseshoe Canyon
808 Formation of southern Alberta (*S. edmontonense*), a taxon that is tentatively considered valid
809 following Mallon et al. (2015), and the upper Maastrichtian Hell Creek and Frenchman

810 formations (*S. buchholtzae*) of Montana and Saskatchewan, respectively (Mallon et al., 2015;
811 Williamson & Carr, 2002b). The stratigraphic distribution of *Sphaerotholus* may indicate that it
812 arrived relatively late in the upper Campanian of the Western Interior compared to other
813 pachycephalosaur taxa such as *Stegoceras*, *Hannsuessia*, and “*Prenocephale*” *brevis*. However,
814 we urge caution in accepting this interpretation considering the small number of
815 pachycephalosaur specimens represented in many areas. Indeed, Evans et al. (2013a) suggested
816 that ghost lineages inferred from their phylogeny of pachycephalosaurs shows that the diversity
817 of pachycephalosaurs is seriously underestimated even in well sampled intervals of the middle
818 and upper Campanian of North America.

819 Our reassessment of NMMNH P-33898 as a juvenile that may be referable to one of a
820 number of existing taxa, as well as our reassessment of other taxa, allows us to conclude that late
821 Campanian pachycephalosaurs from the San Juan Basin of New Mexico are morphologically
822 similar, in terms of body size and skull roof shape, to those reported from approximately coeval
823 faunas throughout the Western Interior. Clearly, pachycephalosaurs were an important
824 component of the diverse terrestrial faunas in western North America during the penultimate
825 stage of dinosaur evolution, before the non-avian species disappeared at the end of the
826 Cretaceous.

827

828

829 **Conclusion**

830

831 Our reassessment of the described specimens of ‘*Stegoceras novomexicanum*’ leads to the
832 following conclusions: 1) the two fragmentary paratype specimens (SMP VP-2555 and VP-2790)

833 cannot be referred to the holotype (NMMNH P-33898) based on explicit synapomorphies or
834 other detailed character similarities; 2) the holotype and controversial paratypes belong to
835 juvenile individuals, not mature or near-mature adults as argued by Jasinski & Sullivan (2011);
836 3) there is therefore no evidence that '*Stegoceras novomexicanum*' was a peculiar small-bodied
837 pachycephalosaur species; 4) the original diagnosis of '*Stegoceras novomexicanum*' by Jasinski
838 & Sullivan (2011) is problematic, but it is currently unclear whether the holotype specimen does
839 belong to its own valid species-level taxon (*Stegoceras novomexicanum*) or is a juvenile of
840 *Stegoceras validum*, *Sphaerotholus goodwini*, or another taxon; 5) at least two valid diagnostic
841 pachycephalosaur species are known from the Campanian of New Mexico, indicating that
842 pachycephalosaurs were an integral component of latest Cretaceous dinosaur faunas in the
843 southern part of Western North America just as they were in roughly contemporaneous northern
844 localities.

845

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854 anonymous reviewer for helpful and constructive comments.

855

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1003
1004 **Figures**

1005 Figure 1. Surface model constructed from high-resolution CT (HRCT) images using Avizo v. 8.1
1006 visualization software and selected CT slices of the frontoparietal NMMNH P-33898, holotype
1007 of *Stegoceras novomexicanum*. A, right lateral view (reversed); B, dorsal view; C, ventral view;
1008 D, posterior view; E, anterior view; F, sagittal section right of midline (reversed); G, horizontal
1009 section; H, coronal section at the contact of the posterior supraorbital and postorbital suture.

1010

1011 Figure 2. Selected results of morphometric analysis of pachycephalosaur frontoparietal domes
1012 (A-B; based on measurements from Evans et al. 2013, supplementary table s1) and postorbitals (
1013 C-D; based on measurements from Mallon et al., 2015, appendix a) including measurements of
1014 NMMNH P-33898 (holotype of *Stegoceras novomexicanum*), revised measurements of
1015 NMMNH P-27403 (holotype of *Sphaerotherolus goodwini*), and 50900. Plots of PC1 versus PC2
1016 (A) and PC2 versus PC3 (B) from frontoparietal measurements and PC1 versus PC2 (C) and PC2
1017 versus PC3 (D) from postorbital measurements showing the placement of *Stegoceras*
1018 *novomexicanum* in morphospace relative to other pachycephalosaur taxa.

1019
1020 Figure 3. Phylogeny of Pachycephalosauria. (A), Strict consensus of 12 most parsimonious trees
1021 with a shortest length of 77 steps resulting from a phylogenetic analysis consisting of 18
1022 pachycephalosaur taxa and two successive outgroups; *Yinlong* and *Psittacosaurus* and 50
1023 characters, after Evans et al. (2013)(Appendix 2). Analysis was run in TNT v. 1.1 (Goloboff et
1024 al., 2008); consistency index = 0.753, retention index = 0.796). (B), Temporally-calibrated
1025 phylogeny of Pachycephalosauria including NMMNH P-33898 (*Stegoceras novomexicanum*)
1026 showing approximate ranges of each taxon. Time scale is after Huang (2012) and ranges of
1027 pachycephalosaur taxa follow Evans et al. (2013).

1028
1029 Figure 4. Generalized stratigraphic section for upper Campanian, Upper Cretaceous strata of the
1030 Bisti/De-na-zin Wilderness area, San Juan Basin, New Mexico modified after Fasset and Steiner
1031 (1997) and Fasset (2009) showing the approximate stratigraphic position of all Fruitland and
1032 Kirtland Formation pachycephalosaur specimens. The names *Sphaerotherolus goodwini* and
1033 *Stegoceras novomexicanum* are placed in parentheses below the holotype specimens. Specimens
1034 referred to *S. novomexicanum* are followed by an asterisk. Absolute dates are based on
1035 $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dates from volcanic ashes (Fasset and Steiner, 1997) as recalibrated by Roberts et al.
1036 (2013). Magnetic polarity and reversal boundaries are placed after Fasset (2009).

1037

1038 **Tables**

1039 Table 1. Measurements of pachycephalosaur frontoparietals from Evans et al. (2013) with
1040 measurements of NMMNH P-33898, revised measurements of NMMNH P-27403 and including
1041 measurements of NMMNH P-50900. All measurements are in mm.

Table 1

Taxon	Specimen	H:n/n	H:pfr/aso	H:aso/ps0	H:ps0/po	W:n/pfr	W:pfr/aso	W:aso/ps0	W:ps0/po
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	CMN 515	16.5	15.4	10.2	14.7	26.5	41.9	51.8	58.5
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	AMNH 5450	9.9	11.7	11.4	14.3	18.4	30.7	43.8	45.4
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	CMN 138	15.2	11.2	8.9	14.3	25.8	39.4	55.1	56.6
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	TMP 1984.005.0001	13.6	11.7	7.8	12.6	21.2	36.3	48.6	56.3
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1987.050.0029	22.5	22.4	16.9	27.8	26.5	42.8	69.9	82.4
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1991.036.0265	2.1	4.8	4.8	11	15.8	30.7	37.7	38.5
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1985.036.0292	6.8	8.5	7.4	17.2	16.9	27.6	47.7	50.4
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1999.055.0122	4.3	6	5.5	12.8	15.4	26.3	39.7	45.2
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	UALVP 8508	7.7	10.6	8.2	17.4	17.5	28.7	48.7	55.3
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	CMN 8830	10.9	11.3	10.4	18.7	19.5	38.7	53.7	64
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	TMP 1987.113.0003	19.8	15.7	12.1	28.9	22.2	50.6	60.3	77.6
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	UCMP 186026	10	10.5	8	15	18	37.2	43.8	48.4
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	LACM 64000	15.5	14.9	13	20.1	23.7	52	57	61.5
<i>Sphaerolitholus goodwini</i>	NMMNH P-27403	23.7	27.3	23.3	41.4	35.6	56.2	79.5	101.25
<i>Acrotholus audeti</i>	TMP 2008.045.0001	28.2	28	25.6	37	28.5	63.2	70	76.3
<i>Stegoceras novomexicanum</i>	NMMNH P-33898	7.7	7.1	9.7	8.2	13.3	30	40	43.2
X	NMMNH P-50900	29.7	28.6	26.3	31.4	27.9	52	75.4	78

Taxon	Specimen	W:f/p	W:Sq/Sq	L:aso	L:ps0	L:po	L:fp	T:f/p
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	CMN 515	57.5	8.4	9.4	20.2	35.8	93.5	35
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	AMNH 5450	39.2	4.3	10.1	15.5	24.5	82.3	20
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	CMN 138	53.1	6.2	12.1	16	33.9	84.2	34
<i>Stegoceras validum</i>	TMP 1984.005.0001	52.7	7.3	11.8	14.9	29.2	85.7	25
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1987.050.0029	84.1	20.5	17.6	33.7	28.3	95.1	53
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1991.036.0265	39.4	12.8	8.9	17.6	17.3	57.1	27
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1985.036.0292	49.3	13.9	12.8	22.7	18.3	66.8	26
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	TMP 1999.055.0122	44	10.7	10.5	18	16.2	61.1	24
<i>Prenocephale brevis</i>	UALVP 8508	56.4	14	12.3	22.8	20.3	70.3	31.6
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	CMN 8830	66	16.4	11.6	18.2	40.4	93	41
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	TMP 1987.113.0003	83.5	23.4	9.7	25.4	33.8	106.7	49
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	UCMP 186026	52.7	11.3	6.2	14.8	28	73.2	30.7
<i>Sphaerolitholus buchholtzae</i>	LACM 64000	62.7	17.5	4.6	17	41.1	84.4	40.9
<i>Sphaerolitholus goodwini</i>	NMMNH P-27403	101	7.4	16	39.5	62.4	133.4	75
<i>Acrotholus audeti</i>	TMP 2008.045.0001	70.1	7.4	8.6	25.1	44.2	104.7	59

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<i>Stegoceras novomexicanum</i>	NMMNH P-33898	26.8	3	10.6	14.1	22.1	70.7	21.4
X	NMMNH P-50900	81.8	15.7	27.1	23.4	25.5	111.8	63.2

1045

1046 Table 2. Measurements of pachycephalosaur postorbitals from Mallon et al. (2015, appendix a)
1047 with those of NMMNH P-27403 (holotype of *Sphaerotholus goodwini*), 33898 (holotype of
1048 *Stegoceras novomexicanum*), and 50900. All measurements are in mm.

1049

1050 **Table 2**

Taxon	Specimen	length dorsal	length ventral	anterior height	posterior height
<i>Hanssuesia</i>	CMN 9148	47	27	25	10
<i>Hanssuesia</i>	CMN 8817	46	39	22	25
<i>Hanssuesia</i>	CMN 8945	55	48	27	18
<i>Hanssuesia</i>	CMN 38079	46	46	25	10
<i>Prenocephale' brevis</i>	CMN 121	21	17	14	14
<i>Prenocephale' brevis</i>	CMN 8819	22	16	14	17
<i>Prenocephale' brevis</i>	TMP 1985.036.292	20	23	15.8	11.4
<i>Prenocephale' brevis</i>	ROM 31616	19.6	21	19.3	18
<i>Prenocephale' brevis</i>	TMP 2000.12.0001	21	23	16	14.7
<i>Prenocephale' brevis</i>	TMP 1987.050.0029	29.1	32	29.8	25.2
<i>Stegoceras</i>	CMN 515	34	34	13	7
<i>Stegoceras</i>	CMN 2369	30	32	NA	NA
<i>Stegoceras</i>	CMN 138	34	37	15	7
<i>Stegoceras</i>	CMN 38428	41	37	19	9
<i>Stegoceras</i>	CMN 1074	32	34	18	11
<i>Stegoceras</i>	ROM 803	35	38	15	5
<i>Stegoceras</i>	CMN 8816	28	33	NA	6
<i>Stegoceras</i>	ROM 64183 (cast)	29.8	26	15	5.2
<i>Stegoceras</i>	UCMZ (VP) 2008.001	21.3	24	6.7	4
<i>Stegoceras</i>	CMN 1108A	27	25	12	7
<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	UWBM 89701	30.8	32	18.3	7
<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	LACM 64000	36.5	34.8	19.9	13.1
<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	UCMP 186026	28.1	24.6	14.4	10.8
<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	ROM 53667	38.8	37.4	24.7	19.2
<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	ROM 53584	38.7	39.7	28.2	18.8

<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	TMP 87.113.03	33	36	28	16
<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	ROM 65563 (cast)	28.7	32.6	31.3	21.9
<i>Colepiocephale</i>	CMN 8818	33	34	17	6
<i>Colepiocephale</i>	TMP 1992.088.001	30.3	32.8	15.4	7
<i>Colepiocephale</i>	TMP 1986.146.0001	40.4	48.3	17.9	11.6
<i>Colepiocephale</i>	ROM <i>Colepiocephale</i>	35.3	40.3	13.9	8.7
<i>Colepiocephale</i>	ROM 59044 (TMP cast)	29.8	31.7	16.2	9
<i>Colepiocephale</i>	TMP 1987.046.0001	42.8	45.5	20.3	9.6
<i>Colepiocephale</i>	TMP 2009.37.0001	39.1	41.4	13.8	7.9
<i>Dracorex</i>	ROM Dracorex	57.9	74	9.5	12
<i>Stygimoloch</i>	ROM 61045	64	74	14	8
<i>Sphaerotholus edmontonensis</i>	CMN 8830	36	33	10	8
<i>Sphaerotholus buchholzae</i>	CMN 56510	27	25	22	13
<i>Acrotholus</i>	TMP 2008.045.0001	44.9	39.2	34.4	15.6
<i>Sphaerotholus goodwini</i>	NMMNH P-27403	62.4	46.3	38.1	23.1
<i>Stegoceras novomexicanum</i>	NMMNH P-33898	22.1	23.2	8.2	4.0
	NMMNH P-50900	25.5	25.9	31.5	34.3

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1052

1053 **Appendices**

1054 Appendix 1. Dataset used in PCA analyses and results of PCA analyses. Estimated measurements
1055 are in italics.

1056 Appendix 2. Nexus file of taxon-character matrix used in the phylogenetic analysis.