

1 **New pterosaurian remains from the Late Cretaceous (Santonian) of Hungary (Iharkút,**  
2 **Csehbánya Formation)**

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1  
2 **Abstract** – The Late Cretaceous (Santonian) continental vertebrate locality of Iharkút,  
3 western Hungary has provided numerous azhdarchid pterosaur remains including the recently  
4 described, *Bakonydraco galaczi*. Since the first report of these fossils, additional remains have  
5 been discovered that improve considerably our knowledge of some aspects of the anatomy of  
6 azhdarchid pterosaurs. New cranial material described here indicates an edentulous, non-  
7 crested premaxillary rostrum in *Bakonydraco* similar to that of *Quetzalcoatlus* and reveals  
8 that this rostrum was considerably thinner and more lightly built than the relatively massive,  
9 pointed mandibular symphysis. In addition, the contact surface of the upper and lower jaws of  
10 *Bakonydraco* at least in the symphyseal region was more similar to *Tapejara wellnhoferi* than  
11 to other azdarchids: the contact is irregular and the premaxilla does not fit closely the rostral  
12 part of the mandible. Among the postcranial material the atlas–axis complex possessing  
13 lateral pneumatic foramina is of great importance because it further supports the notion of  
14 interspecific variability of vertebral pneumaticity among pterosaurs.

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16 We describe new azhdarchid pterosaur remains from the Late Cretaceous of Hungary.

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24 **1. Introduction**

1 Remains of azhdarchid pterosaurs are among the rarest vertebrate fossils, nevertheless they  
2 inform us about some of the largest known flying creatures in the history of life. Although  
3 most of this record consists of incomplete material (Witton and Naish, 2008), it indicates a  
4 cosmopolitan occurrence of the group (Fig. 1, Barrett et al., 2008). Only two genera  
5 (*Quetzalcoatlus* and *Zhejiangopterus*) are represented by abundant (several individuals in  
6 each genus) and relatively well preserved cranial and mandibular material (Kellner and  
7 Langston, 1996; Cai and Wei, 1994; Unwin and Lü, 1997). Other azhdarchid genera such as  
8 *Hatzegopteryx* (fragmentary occipital region and quadrate, humerus, Buffetaut et al., 2002;  
9 2003), *Azhdarcho* (lower jaw tips, premaxilla fragments, premaxilla–nasal fragment,  
10 fragmentary quadrates, Nessov, 1984; Buffetaut, 1999, Averianov 2010), *Bakonydraco*  
11 (complete lower jaw, symphyseal tips, Ósi et al., 2005; premaxilla [described here]), *Alanqa*  
12 (lower jaw tip, Ibrahim et al., 2010), *Volgadraco* (lower jaw tip, Averianov et al., 2008),  
13 *Aralazhd Draco*, (jugal, Averianov, 2004; 2007) and *Montanazhdarcho* (lower jaw tip, wing  
14 bones, vertebrae, Padian et al., 1995; McGowen et al., 2002) possess only scanty and  
15 fragmentary cranial remains, thus comparative work on most of them has proven to be quite  
16 difficult. *Eoazhdarcho* from the Early Cretaceous of China was originally referred to the  
17 Azhdarchidae (Lü and Ji 2005) but recent cladistic analyses indicated its more basal position  
18 within the Azhdarchoidea (Lü et al. 2008, Witton and Naish 2008). Besides the material  
19 described at generic level, some additional lower jaw tips have been referred to Azhdarchidae  
20 (Wellnhofer and Buffetaut, 1999; Averianov et al., 2008).

21       Regarding postcranial material, isolated or sometimes associated cervical vertebrae are  
22 among the most frequently found diagnostic elements (see e.g. Lawson, 1975; Currie and  
23 Russell, 1982; Nessov, 1984; Frey and Martill, 1996; Company et al., 1999; 2001; Buffetaut,  
24 1999; 2001; Buffetaut et al., 1997; Kellner, 2003; Pereda Suberbiola et al., 2003; Godfrey and  
25 Currie, 2005; Ósi et al., 2005; Henderson and Peterson, 2006; Averianov et al., 2008; Vremir

1 et al., 2009; Watabe et al., 2009). In addition, isolated remains of part of the notarium,  
2 pectoral girdles and limb elements have been described from various Cretaceous localities  
3 (for an overview see Barrett et al., 2008).

4 In the first report on Hungarian pterosaurs Ósi et al. (2005) described a complete  
5 mandible (MTM Gyn/3) and 21 symphyseal fragments of *Bakonydraco galaczi*, and some  
6 isolated postcranial elements referred to as Azhdarchidae indet., including four cervicals  
7 (MTM Gyn/448–451), a fragmentary right radius (MTM Gyn/452), a second phalanx of the  
8 wing finger (MTM Gyn/453, reinterpreted here as the distal end of an ulna?), and the  
9 proximal half of a first phalanx of the wing finger (MTM V.2002.04). Here, we describe  
10 additional pterosaur remains from the Late Cretaceous (Santonian) of Iharkút, western  
11 Hungary that, although fragmentary and isolated, improve our knowledge of this poorly  
12 known group of pterosaurs. All pterosaur material has been collected from the Upper  
13 Cretaceous Csehbánya (Santonian) Formation (for a detailed geological setting see Ósi and  
14 Mindszenty, 2009). The material is housed in the Hungarian Natural History Museum in  
15 Budapest.

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17 Institutional Abbreviations— **BSPG**, Bayerische Staatsammlung für Paläontologie und  
18 Geologie, Munich, Germany; **MPC**, Mongolian Paleontological Center, Mongolian Academy  
19 of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; **MTM**, Magyar Természettudományi Múzeum  
20 (Hungarian Natural History Museum), Budapest, Hungary; **TMP**, Royal Tyrrell Museum of  
21 Palaeontology, Drumheller, Canada.

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## 24 **2. Systematic Palaeontology**

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Pterosauria Kaup, 1834

1 Pterodactyloidea Plieninger, 1901

2 Azhdarchoidea Nesso, 1984

3 Azhdarchidae Nesso, 1984 (emend. Padian 1986)

4 *Bakonydraco* Ösi, Weishampel et Jianu, 2005

5 *Bakonydraco galaczi* Ösi, Weishampel et Jianu, 2005

6 *Holotype*: MTM 2007.110.1 (originally Gyn/3 in Ösi et al., 2005), nearly complete  
7 mandible.

8 *Paratype*: MTM 2007.111.1 (originally Gyn/4 in Ösi et al., 2005), 21 symphyseal  
9 fragments of the dentary.

10 *Referred material*: fragmentary premaxilla (MTM V 2010.80.1.), 22 symphyseal  
11 fragments of the dentary (MTM V 2010.74.1–22.).

12 *Description and comparisons*

13 *Premaxilla*. The pointed, edentulous premaxilla (Fig. 2A–C) with a preserved anteroposterior  
14 length of 114 mm is triangular in cross section with a more or less flat ventral (occlusal)  
15 surface. Opposing premaxillae are fused at the midline and no suture can be observed between  
16 them. The premaxilla can be easily distinguished from the beak-like edentulous mandibular  
17 symphysis on the basis of the following features: 1) the lateral edges of the premaxilla are not  
18 as sharp as those of the lower jaw tips, especially in its anterior part; 2) the dorsal margin of  
19 the premaxilla is keeled (but not crested) and not rounded as the ventral margin of the  
20 mandibular tips; 3) the angle between the dorsal and ventral margins of the premaxillary  
21 anterior tip is 10° (Fig. 2A, B) in contrast to the 15° angle of the mandibular tip; 4) the  
22 internal structure of the premaxillary rostrum is distinct from that of the mandibular tip in  
23 having a single, median channel with an oval or drop-shaped cross section (for details of the  
24 inner structure of the mandibular tip see Ösi et al., 2005:fig. 3); 5) the occlusal surface of the  
25 premaxilla bears approximately six pairs of small and elongate slit-like foramina in two rows

1 (Fig. 2C) in contrast to the 10 pairs present in the mandible. Small nutritive foramina are also  
 2 seen on the lateral surfaces of the premaxilla, similarly to *Azhdarcho* (Averianov 2010). The  
 3 ventral surface bears a very shallow median ridge resembling that seen on the dorsal surface  
 4 of mandibular tip., A similar shallow, median ridge is also present in *Azhdarcho* (Averianov  
 5 2010). There is no indication of a sagittal crest on the dorsal part of the premaxilla. The  
 6 preserved part of the dorsal margin is straight, similar to *Quetzalcoatlus* (Kellner and  
 7 Langston, 1996) and *Zhejiangopterus* (Cai and Wei, 1994) and contrary to *Tapejara*  
 8 (Wellnhofer and Kellner, 1991). Posteriorly, the premaxilla is crushed thus the position of the  
 9 anterior margin of the nasoantorbital fenestra is ambiguous. In dorsal aspect, the rostrum of  
 10 the azhdarchoid *Lacusovagus magnificens* anterior to the nasoantorbital fenestra (Witton,  
 11 2008) appears to be wider lateromedially than in *Bakonydraco*.

#### 13 Azhdarchidae indet.

14 *Referred material*: atlas–axis complex (MTM V 2010.82.1.), posterior part of a mid-  
 15 cervical vertebra (MTM V 2010.81.1.), glenoid region of a scapulocoracoid (MTM V  
 16 2010.79.1.); distal fragment of a humerus (MTM V 2010.77.1.), distal fragments of two ulnae  
 17 (MTM V 2010.78.1. and MTM V 2010.75.1.=Gyn/453); ?third or ?fourth wing phalanx  
 18 (MTM V 2010.83.1.); proximal tibia fragment (MTM V 2010.76.1.).

19 In addition, four cervical vertebrae (MTM V 2010.100.1.=Gyn/448 in Ósi et al., 2005, MTM  
 20 V.01.51.=Gyn/449, MTM V 2010.101.1.=Gyn/450, MTM V. 2003.21.=Gyn/451) a right  
 21 radius (MTM V 2010.102.1.=Gyn/452), and the proximal half of a first wing finger phalanx  
 22 (MTM V.2002.04.) were assigned to Azhdarchidae by Ósi et al. (2005),but are not considered  
 23 here.

24 *Remarks*: Except for the posterior part of a mid-cervical vertebra (MTM V 2010.81.1.),  
 25 none of the elements listed above possesses diagnostic features of the Azhdarchidae (Kellner,

1 2003; Unwin, 2003), thus they are assigned to this lineage on the basis of comparison with  
2 other specimens referred to azhdarchids.

### 3 *Description and comparisons*

4 *Atlas–axis complex.* The atlas and the axis are strongly fused but a weak suture can be  
5 observed between their centra on the left lateral side (Fig. 2D). The neural arch is broken.  
6 Anteriorly the deep, circular cotylus has a distinct margin and it is oriented anteroventrally at  
7 an angle of 57° against the ventral surface of the centrum. The ventral surface of the complex  
8 is flat posteriorly and slightly convex anteriorly. The massive and divergent postexpophyses  
9 have a posteroventral orientation (Fig. 2D, E) and are almost twice as high dorsoventrally as  
10 wide lateromedially. Only a small part of the original articular surface of the condyle is  
11 preserved which indicates a wider than high, oval condyle, similarly to that of *Anhanguera*  
12 (Wellnhofer, 1991), *Pteranodon* (Howse, 1986), and azhdarchids such as *Azhdarcho* (Nessov,  
13 1984), *Aralazhdarcho* (Averianov, 2007) and the Mongolian azhdarchid “Burkhant  
14 specimen” (MPC-Nd 100/302, Watabe et al., 2009). Laterally the centrum of the axis  
15 possesses one pair of pneumatic foramina (3 mm in diameter, Fig. 2D) similarly to that of the  
16 Central Asian azhdarchids (Nessov, 1984; Averianov, 2007) but in contrast to the Mongolian  
17 azhdarchid MPC-Nd 100/302 (Watabe et al., 2009). This foramen presumably opens into the  
18 centrum.

19 *Mid-cervical vertebra.* The posterior half of a mid-series cervical (MTM V 2010.81.1.) is  
20 slightly compressed dorsoventrally due to compaction. Most of its features including its  
21 position in the cervical series appear to be identical with those described in MTM V  
22 2010.101.1. (Ősi et al., 2005). The estimated length/width ratio is approximately 2.0 similarly  
23 to MTM V 2010.101.1. However, this specimen bears the best preserved condyle among the  
24 cervicals from Iharkút, and is 2.5 times wider than high. A possible intraspecific or  
25 ontogenetic difference appears in the dimensions of the oval depression below the condyle.

1 On the new specimen this depression is as deep as on MTM V 2010.101.1. (Ósi et al.,  
2 2005:fig. 5).

3 *Scapulocoracoid*. MTM V 2010.79.1. is a partial left scapulocoracoid (Fig. 2G–I) preserving  
4 only the most robust area immediately around the glenoid. This specimen is slightly  
5 compressed and it is very similar to a scapulocoracoid fragment (TMP 81.16.182) from the  
6 Late Cretaceous of Canada (Godfrey and Currie, 2005: fig. 16.6A). The scapula and the  
7 coracoid are completely fused and no suture can be seen. The glenoid is saddle-shaped and is  
8 bordered anteriorly by the robust coracoid tubercle (Fig. 2G) and towards the scapula by a  
9 shallow ridge that is slightly eroded. Similarly to TMP 81.16.182, the glenoid extends more  
10 anteriorly on the dorsal than on the ventral side. In this dorsal part a pneumatic foramen  
11 invades the coracoid (Fig. 2I) as in the coracoids of TMP 81.16.182 (Godfrey and Currie,  
12 2005) and of *Montanazhdarcho* (McGowen et al., 2002). The medial side of the glenoid area  
13 is crushed but this dorsoventrally wide surface appears to have been slightly concave. Only a  
14 1.5 cm long piece is preserved from the scapula that is more extensive lateromedially than  
15 dorsomedially.

16 *Humerus*. The distal fragment of a right humerus (MTM V 2010.77.1.) has preserved only a  
17 short segment of the partial diaphysis and the medial part of the distal epiphysis (Fig. 2J–L).  
18 The humerus is characterized by a complex distal articulation similar to the smaller,  
19 fragmentary humeri described by Godfrey and Currie (2005:fig. 16.6F, G) from the Late  
20 Cretaceous of Canada. The medial condyle has a well developed, rounded and obliquely  
21 oriented surface ventrally and partly distally (Fig. 2K). It is separated from the slightly eroded  
22 medial epicondyle by a 3 mm wide shallow ridge.

23 *Ulna*. Of the two fragmentary ulnae (MTM V 2010.78.1. and MTM V 2010.75.1.=Gyn/453)  
24 MTM V 2010.75.1. has been referred to as the proximal end of the second or third phalanx of  
25 the wing finger by Ósi et al. (2005). Here, we reassess this element and consider it as a distal



1 part of the right ulna based on the presence of the fovea carpalis (Bennett, 2001) and a slightly  
2 eroded but remarkable tubercle dorsally. MTM V 2010.78.1. is a left and more complete one  
3 (Fig. 2M–P) possessing a relatively well preserved distal epiphysis. The dorsal condyle is  
4 well developed but is slightly eroded posterodorsally and anteriorly. A wide and slightly  
5 concave ridge separates this condyle from the tubercle (Fig. 2N, P). The tubercle is slightly  
6 eroded but must have been quite pronounced as in *Pteranodon* (Bennett, 2001) and  
7 *Santanadactylus* (Wellnhofer, 1985). It borders the deeply concave and circular fovea carpalis  
8 dorsally (Fig. 2N, P). Posteriorly, proximal to the tubercle no pneumatic foramen occurs in  
9 contrast to the condition in *Pteranodon*, *Santanadactylus*, and *Montanazhdarcho* (Wellnhofer,  
10 1985; Bennett, 2001; McGowen et al., 2002). On the posterior surface of both ulnae a shallow  
11 groove is present proximodistally just below the fovea carpalis.

12 *Tibia*. The proximal end of a left tibia (MTM V 2010.76.1., Fig. 2Q–S) is compressed  
13 anteroposteriorly. The proximal articular surface is slightly concave anteroposteriorly (Fig.  
14 2S), similar to that of *Pteranodon* (Bennett, 2001). In anterior view, a deep groove is present  
15 (Fig. 2Q) between the shallow cnemial crest of the tibia and the lateral process for the  
16 attachment of the fibula (Fig. 2R). Possibly, this lateral process is the co-ossified fibula. This  
17 groove continues distally becoming progressively shallower.

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19 Pterodactyloidea indet.

20 *Referred material*: Left articular region of a lower jaw (MTM V 2010.98.1.), metacarpal  
21 IV (MTM V 2010.99.1.).

22 *Description and comparisons*:

23 *Mandible*. The posterior end of the mandible (MTM V 2010.98.1., Fig. 3A, B) is compressed  
24 lateromedially due to diagenetic events. It has a well developed glenoid which appears not to  
25 be as wide lateromedially as that of *Bakonydraco*. Due to its preservation, however, the exact

1 lateromedial width and also the presence or absence of an intercotylar ridge as seen in  
2 *Quetzalcoatlus* (Kellner and Langston, 1996) or in *Pteranodon* (Bennett, 2001) are unclear  
3 (Fig. 3B). The anterior margin of the deep glenoid is high (Fig. 3A) indicating the articulation  
4 of a steeply inclined quadrate corresponding to the general condition in pterodactyloids. The  
5 ventral side of the jaw fragment is straight and rounded lateromedially. The retroarticular  
6 process is short; a fossa depressoria is not recognizable in contrast to *Bakonydraco*. Due to its  
7 fragmentary nature, it is not clear whether this specimen belongs to an azdarchid or rather  
8 represents a non-azhdarchid pterosaur.

9 *Metacarpal IV*. A possible distal end of a fourth metacarpal (MTM V 2010.99.1., Fig. 3C–E)  
10 is strongly compressed dorsoventrally. The diaphysis is flattened and the condyles are slightly  
11 rotated relative to their original plane. In the intercondylar groove a rounded crest can be  
12 observed (Fig. 3C, E) that is not present in azhdarchids but a similar structure has been  
13 reported in *Santanadactylus* (Wellnhofer, 1985:fig. 21; Wellnhofer, 1991:fig. 30). Proximal to  
14 the intercondylar groove a small depression is present but no pneumatic foramen can be  
15 observed as is the case in *Pteranodon* (Bennett, 2001). The anterior surface of the epiphysis is  
16 strongly compressed so the presence of a pneumatic foramen as seen on the azdarchid wing  
17 metacarpal described by Godfrey and Currie (2005) is ambiguous. The dorsal condyle is in a  
18 better condition than the ventral one and it is not as developed and crest-like as that on the  
19 azhdarchid metacarpal illustrated by Godfrey and Currie (2005:fig. 16.9). The ventral condyle  
20 appears to have had a ventrally oriented knob-like process. The dorsal condyle of *Pteranodon*  
21 (Bennett, 2001:fig. 89) differs from that of the Hungarian specimen because it has a massive  
22 condyle with a wide articular surface.

23 *Wing phalangx*. The distalmost part of a third or fourth phalanx (MTM V 2010.83.1.) of the  
24 wing finger is missing. The anteroposteriorly slightly bowed bone is needle-like, appears to  
25 be pointed distally and is widest at its proximal epiphysis. Its cross section is not T-shaped but

1 rather oval with a more keeled anterior edge. Here, the proximal articular surface is shallow,  
2 circular and concave and is bordered anteriorly by a thicker bony margin probably for the  
3 attachment of ligaments of the interphalangeal joint.

### 6 **3. Discussion**

#### 7 3.1 *The rostrum of Bakonydraco*

8 Although azhdarchid remains have been reported from various localities and indicate a  
9 more or less cosmopolitan occurrence of the group at least during the Late Cretaceous (Barrett  
10 et al., 2008), cranial material is extremely rare (Witton and Naish, 2008). Thus, the cranial  
11 remains of *Bakonydraco* are of significance because the complete lower jaw (holotype, Ósi et  
12 al., 2005) along with the premaxilla (MTM V 2010.80.1.) described herein improve our  
13 knowledge of the rostral portions of the cranium and mandible of azhdarchid pterosaurs (Fig.  
14 4). Wellnhofer and Buffetaut (1999) described a pointed premaxilla (BSPG 1993 IX 338)  
15 from the Kem Kem beds of Morocco and referred to it as a member of Pteranodontidae.  
16 Ibrahim et al. (2010) reinterpreted this bone as an azhdarchid and assigned it to *Alanqa*. The  
17 latter authors may be right, however, this rostral part of pteranodontids and azhdarchids  
18 shows numerous common features, thus, until more complete specimens are described, we  
19 regard the taxonomic position of this specimen as doubtful. Otherwise, some unpublished  
20 postcranial material from this horizon further supports the presence of pteranodontids  
21 (Buffetaut, in prep.), thus the coexistence of pteranodontids and azhdarchids in this area  
22 seems to be valid. Besides the North American *Quetzalcoatlus* and the Chinese  
23 *Zhejiangopterus*, *Azhdarcho* (Averianov 2010) and *Bakonydraco* are the only azhdarchid  
24 pterosaurs in which the rostral region of both the upper and lower jaws is known.

1 Reconstruction of the rostral region (i.e. matching the premaxillary fragment with the  
2 mandible, Fig. 4) in *Bakonydraco*, however, raises some interesting questions. The ventral  
3 surface of the premaxilla is straight (at least on the 114 mm long preserved part) as in  
4 *Quetzalcoatlus* (Kellner and Langston, 1996), *Zhejiangopterus* (Cai and Wei, 1994) and the  
5 azhdarchoid *Lacusovagus* from the Early Cretaceous of Brazil (Witton, 2008), and not  
6 concave as in tapejarids (i.e. “rostral end [of the skull] downturned” used as a diagnostic  
7 character by Kellner and Campos, 2007). The mandibular symphysis of *Bakonydraco*,  
8 however, has an anteroposteriorly concave occlusal surface that is followed by a transverse  
9 ridge seen both on the holotype and on various isolated symphyseal fragments. This feature  
10 does not occur in any other known azhdarchid mandibles (Averianov et al., 2008:fig. 2) where  
11 the occlusal surface, including the symphyseal region, remains straight along the entire length  
12 of the mandibular rami. A similar transverse ridge, although with different dimensions  
13 dorsally, is more characteristic of tapejarids (e.g. in different species of *Tapejara*,  
14 *Tupandactylus*, *Sinopterus*, Lü et al., 2007; Fig. 4). On the other hand, concerning the  
15 interpretation of the actual shape and possible functional mechanism of the pterosaurian jaws,  
16 the presence of a keratinous rhamphotheca should always be taken into account. Direct (soft  
17 part preservation, Frey et al., 2003a) and indirect (nutritive foramina on the surface of the  
18 jaws, Buffetaut, 1999; Ósi et al., 2005) evidence of such a keratinous covering has led Frey et  
19 al. (2003b) to conclude that this feature was probably present in all edentulous pterosaurs,  
20 including *Bakonydraco* where the surface of both the premaxillary fragment and the rostral  
21 portion of the mandible has numerous openings interpreted as nutritive foramina. Thus, what  
22 is questionable is probably not the presence of a rhamphotheca in *Bakonydraco*, but rather its  
23 exact shape and extent. For example, the thickness and structure of the cutting-edge of the  
24 keratinous covering on the occlusal surface or its extent beyond the bony tip anteriorly are  
25 practically unknown in *Bakonydraco* and most other azhdarchoid taxa (in all azhdarchids and

1 most tapejarids, e.g. *Tapejara wellnhoferi*, *Tupandactylus imperator*). These are exactly those  
2 features that would contribute to our knowledge of the functional aspects of jaw mechanics  
3 and possible feeding strategy of these animals, similarly to birds with a highly developed  
4 rhamphotheca (Fig. 5). Based on the available cranial material it appears that the contact  
5 surface of the jaws of *Bakonydraco* was more similar to that of *Tapejara wellnhoferi* than to  
6 those of other azhdarchids, in the manner of an irregular contact (Fig. 4) where the premaxilla  
7 is not the exact counterpart of the mandible rostrally. By contrast, in other azhdarchids there  
8 is an apparently extensive and uninterrupted contact present along most of the dorsal edge of  
9 the mandible. This conspicuous diversity in form and structure of the rostrum may be related  
10 to different feeding strategies adopted by different toothless pterosaurs. They could have  
11 equally been “stork- or ground hornbill-like generalists foraging for small animals and  
12 carrion” (Witton and Naish, 2008) or frugivores (Wellnhofer and Kellner, 1991; Ősi et al.,  
13 2005).

14

### 15 3.2 Remarks on vertebral pneumaticity

16 The presence or absence of a pneumatic foramen on a cervical vertebra does not  
17 necessarily reflect taxonomical differences. Based on a newly described specimen of  
18 *Rhamphorhynchus muensteri*, Ősi and Prondvai (2009) pointed out that as in extant birds  
19 (Hogg, 1984) the occurrence of pneumatic foramina is characterized by both inter- and  
20 intraspecific variability. The atlas–axis complex described here as well as the atlas–axis  
21 complexes from Central Asia (Nesov, 1984; Averianov, 2007) possess a lateral pneumatic  
22 foramen in contrast to the apneumatic Mongolian azhdarchid specimen MPC-Nd 100/302  
23 (Watabe et al. 2009).

24

## 25 4. Conclusions

1       The new Santonian pterosaur material from Hungary described here has on the one hand  
2 answered some open questions, on the other raised some new ones. With the rostral part of the  
3 previously unknown premaxilla of *Bakonydraco galaczi* it is clear that the upper jaw of the  
4 Hungarian azhdarchid was similar in shape to that of other azhdarchids. However, owing to the  
5 structure of the lower jaw which is so different from the general azhdarchid condition and  
6 more resembles that of tapejarids, the occlusion of the jaws appears to be imperfect with  
7 pronounced gaps being present between the occluding surfaces. This construction makes  
8 functional interpretations of jaw mechanics and thus feeding habits very difficult; at the same  
9 time it gives rise to different interpretations of the functional relevance of a keratinous  
10 rhamphotheca.

11       The preserved parts of the mid cervical vertebra, scapulocoracoid, humerus, ulnae, wing  
12 phalanx and tibia all assigned to Azhdarchidae have provided new information on  
13 morphological attributes thus expanding our general knowledge of azhdarchid anatomy. The  
14 comparison of the state of pneumaticity of the atlas–axis complex among azhdarchids has  
15 confirmed the notion of interspecific variability in this feature at family level. The  
16 morphological differences between the articular region of the indeterminate Pterodactyloidea  
17 mandible and that of *Bakonydraco galaczi* and the peculiar metacarpal IV which shows a  
18 mixture of characteristics of different pterosaur clades raises the question of whether  
19 pterosaurs were represented by more than one family, the Azhdarchidae, in this area during  
20 the Santonian.

21  
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### 13 **Figure captions:**

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15 Figure 1. Geographic distribution of azhdarchid pterosaur remains (data from Barrett et al.,  
 16 2008).

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18 Figure 2. Azhdarchid pterosaur remains from the Upper Cretaceous (Santonian) Csehbánya  
 19 Formation, Iharkút, western Hungary. A, premaxillary rostrum of *Bakonydraco galaczi*  
 20 (MTM V 2010.80.1.) in right lateral, B, left lateral, C, occlusal views. D, Azhdarchidae indet.  
 21 atlas–axis complex (MTM V 2010.82.1.) in left lateral, E, ventral, F, anterior views. G, partial  
 22 left scapulocoracoid (MTM V 2010.79.1.) in lateral, H, ventral, I, dorsal views. J, distal  
 23 fragment of a right humerus (MTM V 2010.77.1.) in posterior, K, ventral, L, distal views. M,  
 24 distal fragment of a left ulna (MTM V 2010.78.1.) in dorsal, N, posterior, O, ventral, P, distal  
 25 views. Q, proximal end of a left tibia (MTM V 2010.76.1.) in anterior, R, lateral, S, proximal

1 views. Abbreviations: aso, articular surface for occipital condyle; cc, cnemial crest; ct,  
2 coracoid tubercle; dc, dorsal condyle; fc, fovea carpalis; fo, foramen; g, groove; gl, glenoid;  
3 lpf, lateral process for the fibula; mc, medial condyle, pex, postexapophysis; pf, pneumatic  
4 foramen; r, ridge; s, suture; sc, scapula; t, tubercle; vsnc, ventral surface of the neural canal

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7 Figure 3. Pterodactyloidea indet. remains from the Upper Cretaceous (Santonian) Csehbánya  
8 Formation, Iharkút, western Hungary. A, posterior end of a left mandible (MTM V  
9 2010.98.1.) lateral, B, dorsal views. C, distal end of a fourth metacarpal? (MTM V  
10 2010.99.1.) in posterior, D, dorsal, E, distal views. Abbreviations: dc, dorsal condyle; gl,  
11 glenoid; ig, internal groove; rp, retroarticular process; vc, ventral condyle

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14 Figure 4. Anterior part of the rostrum and mandible in edentulous pterosaurs. Scale bars equal  
15 5 cm.

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17 Figure 5. The rhamphotheca and its attachment area in *Ramphastos sulfuratus*. A,  
18 *Ramphastos sulfuratus* skull without horny rhamphotheca, B, *Ramphastos sulfuratus* skull  
19 with rhamphotheca. Note the serrated lateral margin of the horny rhamphotheca. Courtesy of  
20 Natural History Musum, London. Photo taken by Joanne H. Cooper.