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3 *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov., a new lonchidiid shark (Chondrichthyes, Hybodontiforms)
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5 from the Late Triassic of Spain with remarks on lonchidiid enameloid
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3 Lonchidiidae Herman, 1977 represents one of the most diverse and controversial
4 family of Hybodontiformes, the sister group of Neoselachii (i.e., modern sharks, skates
5 and rays). It was initially erected as a monogeneric family including only *Lonchidion*
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10 Estes, 1964, a genus of small euryhaline hybodonts from the Mesozoic. Recently
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12 Cappetta (2012) recognized up to eight genera within the family: *Baharyodon*,
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14 *Diplolonchidion*, *Vectiselachos*, *Hylaeobatis*, *Isanodus*, *Parvodus*, *Lissodus* and
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16 *Lonchidion*, although the content of the family is still under discussion (see by example
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18 Rees, 2008; Khamha et al., 2016). Major discrepancies concern the phylogenetic
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20 relationships between *Lonchidion* and *Lissodus* and the taxonomic status of the latter.
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22 Thus, based on the general similarity of their teeth, Duffin (1985, 2001) considered
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24 *Lonchidion* as a junior synonym of *Lissodus*. Subsequently, Rees and Underwood
25
26 (2002) restored *Lonchidion* as a valid genus, closely related to *Lissodus*, within the
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28 family Lonchidiidae (together with *Vectiselachos*, *Parvodus* and *Hylaeobatis*). This
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30 interpretation has been followed by several authors (e.g. Fischer, 2008; Cappetta, 2012;
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32 Johns et al., 2014). Contrarily, Rees (2008) consider *Lonchidion* and *Lissodus* not so
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34 closely related to each other, excluding genus *Lissodus* from Lonchidiidae.
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39 The majority of *Lonchidion* species has been described on the basis of
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41 disarticulated teeth, and complete or partial articulated skeletons has been known only
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43 recently from juvenile specimens, assigned to *Lonchidion* sp., from the inland lacustrine
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45 Konservat-Lagerstätten outcrop of Las Hoyas (Lower Cretaceous, Spain) (Soler-Gijón
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47 et al., 2016). Currently, the stratigraphic distribution of the genus ranges from the
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49 Middle-Upper Triassic (Fischer et al., 2011; Johns et al., 2014) to the Late Cretaceous
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51 (Estes, 1964).
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55 In the present study we describe a new species assigned to Lonchidiidae,
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57 *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov. based on distinctive isolated teeth from the Late Triassic
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3 (Carnian) of Spain, representing the earliest well-documented occurrence of the genus
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5 in Europe.
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10 GEOLOGIC SETTING AND AGE 11

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16 The material studied here was collected from the Boyar Section near the cities of
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18 Ubrique and Grazalema, in the province of Cádiz, southern Spain (Fig. 1A). The section
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20 is located in the southwest part of the Betic Ranges (36° 44' 49" N 5° 25' 12" O, see
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22 Martín-Algarra et al., 1995 for more detailed the geographical and geological setting).
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24 The Boyar Section is subdivided in 4 main units comprising strata belonging to the
25
26 upper Muschelkalk and Keuper facies (Fig. 1B), which has been dated as Carnian
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28 (Upper Triassic) in age one the basis of the contained bivalve, conodont and pollen
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30 assemblages (Martín-Algarra et al., 1995). All teeth were recovered as isolated elements
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32 after dissolution in 5-10% formic acid of carbonate rocks (samples around 10 kg.) from
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34 the middle part of the lower unit (Muschelkalk facies). After dissolution, the residues
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36 were screened with sieves meshes of 2, 0.125 and 0.063 mm respectively. Apart of the
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38 teeth of *Lonchidion*, conodonts and teeth and scales of other chondrichthyans and
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40 actinoptergians were also recovered. This middle part is characterised by platy
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42 limestone interbedded with grey marls and some sporadic dolomitic levels. The
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44 presence of pollen in the marly levels has been interpreted as evidence in favour of the
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46 entire sequence being deposited in very shallow waters in close proximity to continental
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48 areas. The recovered teeth were photographed using a Scanning Electron microscope at
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50 the University of Valencia (Spain). In order to study tooth histology, and following the
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52 methodology described in the literature (Botella et al., 2009b; Gillis and Donoghue,
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2007; Manzanares et al., 2014) several specimens were embedded in a transparent

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3 polyester resin and subsequently sectioned along transverse or longitudinal planes,
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5 polish and then etched using 0.1M HCl for 5–10 s. Each sample was repolished and
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7 etched as many times as necessary to elucidate the enameloid microstructure. The
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9 material is housed in the Museum of Geology at the University of Valencia (MGUV).
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16 SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

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21 Class CHONDRICHTHYES Huxley, 1880

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24 Subclass ELASMOBRANCHII Bonaparte, 1838

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27 Order EUSELACHII Hay, 1902

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30 Superfamily HYBODONTOIDEA Owen, 1846

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33 Family LONCHIDIIDAE Herman, 1977

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36 *LONCHIDION* Estes, 1964

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38 **Type Species**—*Lonchidion selachos* Estes, 1964, Maastrichtian, Lance
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40 Formation, Eastern Wyoming, U.S.A.

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43 *LONCHIDION DERENZII* sp. nov.

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49 **Etymology**—Named after Emeritus Professor Miquel de Renzi from the
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51 Universitat de València (Spain) for his contribution to the development of paleobiology
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53 in Spain.
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3 **Type Locality**—Boyar Section, near the cities of Ubrique and Grazalema, in the
4 province of Cádiz, Spain.
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8 **Holotype**—MGUV–27.744 (Fig. 2A–C).
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11 **Additional Material**—10 teeth; figured specimens (Fig. 2D–F, G–I, J–L
12 MGUV–27.745, 27.746 and 27.747 respectively, Fig. 3A–C MGUV–29994). Rest of
13 the specimens (MGUV–27.748).
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18 **Occurrence**—Middle part (level 92–A–40) of the lower Unit (Muschelkalk
19 facies) of the Boyar Section, dated as Carnian (Upper Triassic).
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23 **Diagnosis**—A species based on isolated teeth. One parallel-sided to slightly
24 triangular protruding labial peg at the crown shoulder; peg ornamented by a small
25 cusplet and a well-developed labial crest that reaches the principal cusp; crown-root
26 junction very constricted representing half the width of the crown.
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33 **Description**—Elongated and gracile teeth, measuring 0.5 to 0.4 mm
34 mesiodistally, 0.3 to 0.2 mm apicobasally, and 0.3 to 0.2 mm labiolingually, with a low
35 coronal profile and the presence of very low lateral cusplets. In occlusal view, some
36 teeth have a slight V-shape (Fig. 2E, H) with the main cusp situated in the centre of the
37 apex of the V, while others show a straighter shape (Fig. 2B). Main central cusp small,
38 rounded to triangular in shape, and labially inclined (Fig. 2E, F, H). Commonly 2–3
39 pairs of lateral cusplets, that appear very abraded in our specimens (Fig. 2D–L), with
40 the most distal cusplets of a height similar to the principal cusp giving the crown a very
41 distinctive “whale tail”-shape in labial view (Fig. 2A, G). Labial peg very prominent
42 and narrow, developed above the crown-root junction, parallel-sided in occlusal view,
43 with one small accessory cusplet on the labial crest (Fig. 2A–F; J–L). Occlusal crest
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well developed, mesiodistally expanded, reaching the last lateral cusplet and descending

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3 from the principal cusplet to the labial peg. Lingual face slightly convex below the
4 principal cusp. Crown-root junction very constricted, half the width of the crown, with
5 all the bases absent except in one partial specimen (Fig. 2A). The low number of
6 specimens does not allow us to differentiate clearly between different morphotypes or
7 position in the jaw.
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14 Etched sections in 10% HCl for a few seconds revealed a layer of single
15 crystallite enameloid (SCE), where individual crystallites are well discernible (Fig. 3A–
16 C). Crystallites are around 2 μm in length, and randomly arranged near the
17 enameloid/dentine junction, whereas in the rest of the enameloid layer, they appear
18 more compacted and preferentially oriented perpendicular to the crown surface.
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26 **Comparisons**—The gracile and labio-lingually narrow crown of our teeth, along
27 with the well-developed peg, clearly identify them as *Lonchidion*. Apart from those
28 features, the minimal coronal ornamentation characteristic of this morphologically very
29 conservative genus makes the differentiation among *Lonchidion* species difficult (Rees
30 and Underwood, 2002). Notwithstanding, the combination of a very prominent and
31 narrow peg with an accessory cusplet and a ridge that reaches the principal cusp along
32 with the severe constriction of the crown-root junction set *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov.
33 apart from other contemporary Middle–Upper Triassic species of the genus. *Lonchidion*
34 *derenzii* sp. nov. teeth differ from *L. ferganensis* (Middle–Upper Triassic of Central
35 Asia, Fischer et al., 2011) by the lack of the characteristic nodes at shoulder height
36 labially. In addition, *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov. does not show the vertical striation
37 and crown shoulder nodes that commonly ornament *L. estesi* teeth from the Late
38 Triassic of India (Prasad et al., 2008). On the other hand, notwithstanding that the
39 simple crown of *L. derenzii* sp. nov. resembles those of *L. paramillonensis* from the
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Middle–Upper Triassic of Argentina (Johns et al., 2014), the latter shows a more

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3 triangular shape in labial view and the number of accessory cusplets is higher than in *L.*
4 *derenzii* sp. nov. In addition, *L. derenzii* sp. nov. have a strongly developed labial peg
5 and the constriction of the crown-root junction is more severe than in *L.*
6 *paramillonensis*. A well-developed labial peg and the severe constriction of the crown-
7 root junction also appear in *L. humblei* from the Upper Triassic of North America
8 (Heckert et al., 2007), but this species lacks the accessory cusplet surmounting the labial
9 peg as well as the lateral cusplets that are present in *L. derenzii* sp. nov.
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22 DISCUSSION

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28 The lack of detailed studies on chondrichthyan faunas from the Triassic of the
29 Iberian Peninsula has led paleontologist, for some time, to the mistaken perception that
30 chondrichthyans were rare or absent in the region (e.g., Chrzastek, 2008). Nevertheless,
31 during recent years, several works have indicated the presence of a rich and diverse
32 chondrichthyan fauna from different localities of the Iberian ranges (Botella et al.,
33 2009a; Pla et al., 2013). The report now of *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov., shows that
34 Triassic chondrichthyan remains are common not only in sediments of the Iberian
35 ranges but also in other Triassic outcrops of the Iberian Peninsula. *L. derenzii* sp. nov.
36 represents the earliest record of the genus in Spain, considering its Carnian age (Upper
37 Triassic) according to the bivalve, conodonts and pollen assemblages (Martín-Algarra et
38 al., 1995).
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51 Moreover, although Patterson (1966) in his description of the Early Cretaceous
52 taxon *Lonchidion breve breve* from England (United Kingdom), mentioned the presence
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of teeth from the Muschelkalk (Ladinian) of Craislheim in Germany “*which are almost*

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3 *indistinguishable from Lonchidion breve breve*” (1966:331), neither a description, nor
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5 figures of these teeth were provided. Therefore, *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov. can also be
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7 considered as the oldest unequivocal record of the genus in Europe.

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10 *Lonchidion* has been proposed as an euryhaline genus living preferably in
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12 freshwater or brackish environments (Rees and Underwood, 2002; Heckert et al., 2007;
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14 Fischer et al., 2011; Johns et al., 2014). In this sense, although Boyar Section represents
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16 marine environments, and other Triassic marine sharks have been found in several
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18 levels through the whole section (pers. observation), the record of *Lonchidion derenzii*
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20 sp. nov. is limited to a particular level that represents a very shallow marine platform
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22 with close continental influence (Martín-Algarra et al., 1995).

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26 Noticeably, other earliest (Middle–Late Triassic) records of the genus occur in
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28 freshwater facies from widely geographically separated localities (i.e., *L.*
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30 *paramillonensis* from South-America, *L. ferganensis*, *L. estesi*, *L. incumbens* from Asia,
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32 and *L. humblei* from North-America). As noted by Johns et al. (2014), this requires a
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34 dispersion based on a pattern of coastal migrations, but, in our opinion, it also
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36 necessarily indicate a more ancient origin of *Lonchidion*.

41 42 43 **Lonchidiidae Enameloid Microstructure**

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45 The enameloid of chondrichthyan teeth consist of elongated fluorapatite
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47 ($\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{F}$) crystallites embedded in an organic matrix, which contains mainly
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49 collagen and amelogenin-like proteins (see Gillis and Donoghue, 2007; Enax et al.,
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51 2014; Manzanares et al., 2016 and references therein). While in neoselachian sharks
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53 (Reif, 1973) and some batoids (Enault et al., 2015; Manzanares et al., 2016) crystallites
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appear organized in bundles (or fibers according Reif's 1977 terminology), in all major

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3 stem-chondrichthyan groups crystallites are individualized (SCE), usually randomly
4 oriented, lacking any degree of higher microstructural differentiation (Gillis and
5 Donoghue, 2007; Botella et al., 2009b). However, in Hybodontiforms although many
6 species present a homogeneous layer of SCE (e.g., Reif, 1973; Gillis and Donoghue,
7 2007; Cuny et al., 2009; Pla et al., 2013; Enault et al., 2015) some Mesozoic taxa with
8 crushing dentitions developed a distinct two-layered enameloid consisting of an outer
9 compact single-crystallite layer and an inner layer with some crystallites organized into
10 short, loosely defined bundles (Cuny et al., 2001; Pla et al., 2013; Enault et al., 2015).
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21 Johns et al., (2014) described an enameloid showing fibrous structure in
22 *Lonchidion paramillonensis*. Nevertheless, the supporting images show clearly a layer
23 of randomly oriented individual crystallites without any superior microstructural
24 differentiation -i.e., bundles or fibres- (Johns et al., 2014: fig. 9). Our analysis of
25 *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov. enameloid demonstrates the presence of SCE (Fig. 3A-C).
26 Individualized crystallites appear randomly arranged near the enameloid/dentine
27 junction (Fig. 3B), whereas in the rest of the enameloid, the crystallites seem to be more
28 preferably oriented perpendicular to the crown surface (Fig. 3C). Previous studies on
29 the enameloid microstructure of other Lonchidiidae taxa also have reported the presence
30 of a homogeneous SCE layer in *Lissodus angulatus* (Błażejowski, 2004); *Lissodus*
31 *minimus* (Cuny and Risnes, 2005) and *Lissodus* aff. *L. lepagei* (Pla et al., 2013; Fig.
32 3D). Therefore, a single crystallite enameloid without any kind of arrangement into
33 fibres (or bundles) is the widespread condition among Lonchidiidae.
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- Submitted May 23, 2016; accepted Month DD, YYYY.

FIGURE CAPTIONS

FIGURE 1. **A**, map of the Iberian Peninsula showing the location of studied Boyar section in the Betic Ranges and **B**, the biostratigraphic column of the section with indication of levels sampled (thin arrows) and the level that yielded the material described in this work (black head arrow). Modified from Plasencia (2009). [planned for 2/3 of a whole page width]

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3 FIGURE 2. *Lonchidion derenzii* sp. nov., **A–C**, holotype in labial, occlusal and lateral
4 view respectively, MGUV–27744; **D–E**, paratype in labial, occlusal and lateral view
5 respectively, MGUV–27745; **F–H**, paratype in labial, occlusal and lateral view
6 respectively, MGUV–27746; **I–K**, paratype in labial, occlusal and lateral view
7 respectively, MGUV–27747. Scale bar equals 100 µm. [planned for page width]

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14 FIGURE 3. **A–C**, Scanning electron micrograph of *Lonchidion derenzii* nov. sp.
15 enameloid, MGUV–29994, etched with 10% HCL for 5s. **A**, overview of tooth in
16 longitudinal section showing a well-defined enameloid layer with an irregular
17 enameloid-dentine junction; **B**, detail of the general aspect of the inner part enameloid
18 layer, close the enameloid/dentine junction; **C**, detail of the individualized crystallites in
19 the outer part of the enameloid layer; **D**, general aspect of the whole enameloid layer of
20 *Lissodus* aff. *lepagei*, MGUV–25863 (from the Jaraf-3 Section in the Iberian Range,
21 Spain). [planned for a whole page width]

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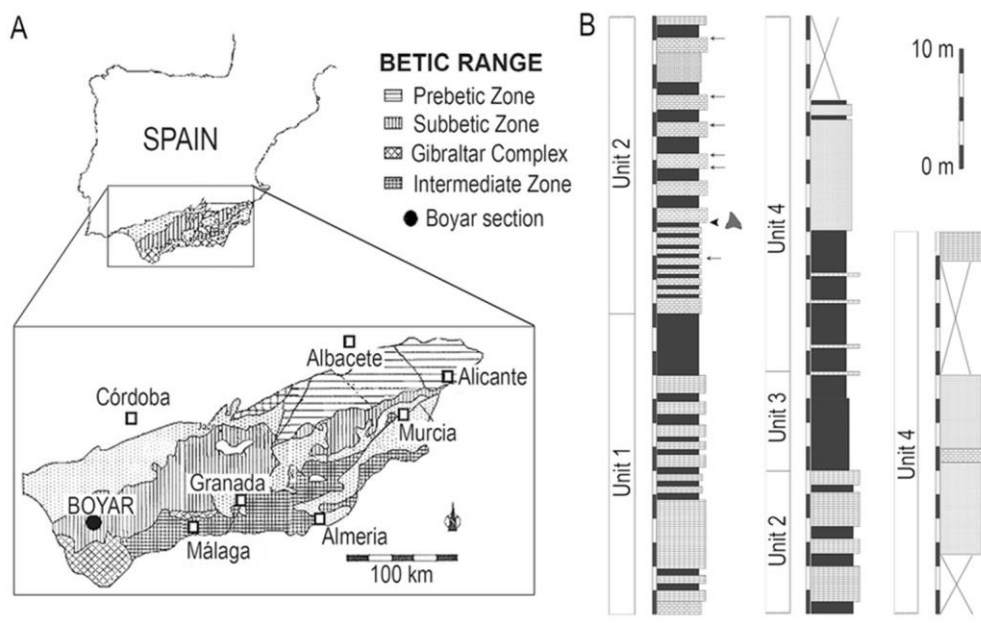


FIGURE 1. A, map of the Iberian Peninsula showing the location of studied Boyar section in the Betic Ranges and B, the biostratigraphic column of the section with indication of levels sampled (thin arrows) and the level that yielded the material described in this work (black head arrow). Modified from Plasencia (2009).

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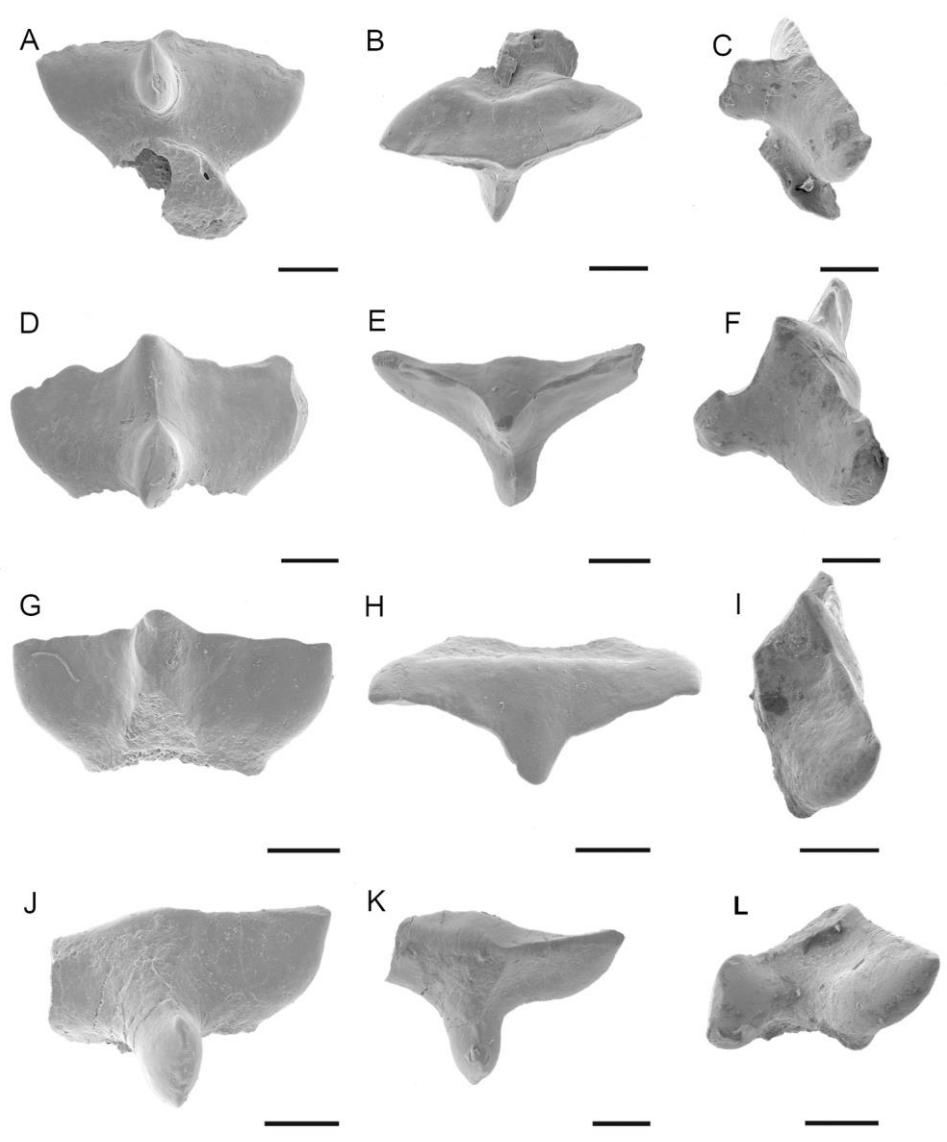


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229x290mm (300 x 300 DPI)

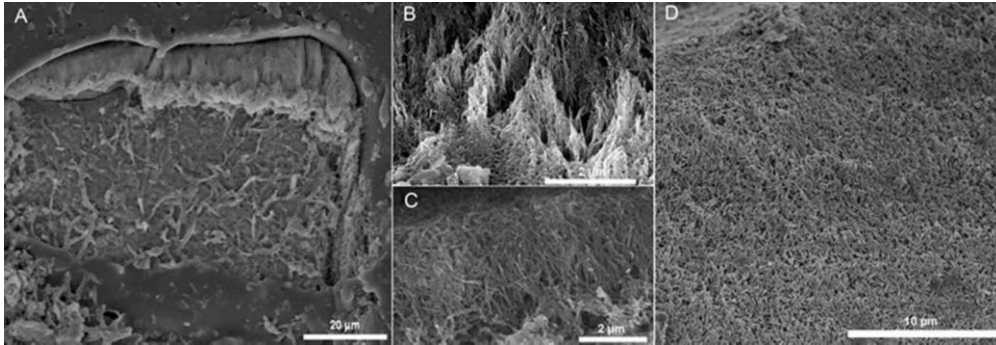


FIGURE 3. A–C, Scanning electron micrograph of *Lonchidion derenzii* nov. sp. enameloid, MGUV–29994, etched with 10% HCL for 5s. A, overview of tooth in longitudinal section showing a well-defined enameloid layer with an irregular enameloid-dentine junction; B, detail of the general aspect of the inner part enameloid layer, close the enameloid/dentine junction; C, detail of the individualized crystallites in the outer part of the enameloid layer; D, general aspect of the whole enameloid layer of *Lissodus* aff. *lepagei*, MGUV–25863 (from the Jaraf-3 Section in the Iberian Range, Spain).

62x21mm (300 x 300 DPI)