
Title – 16 point, bold typeface, calibri font, left aligned

Authors – 12 point, calibri font, left aligned, First name Initial. Last name, presenting author to be underlined, affiliations numbered in superscript

Affiliations – 11 point, calibri font, affiliation, WA postcode, Country, each affiliation on a new line

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The aim of this project was to document the marine reptile fauna of the Windalia Sand Member and to assess whether local palaeoclimatic conditions influenced the diversity and abundance of marine reptiles. A comparison with the coeval marine sedimentary units from Australia revealed a marine reptile assemblage that is distinct from the fauna in the Aptian units of the intracontinental Eromanga Basin. The difference in conditions between an open-shelf and an epeiric setting, along with water depth and temperature are interpreted as having played the predominate role in controlling the distribution and abundance of different marine reptile groups in Australia during the Early Cretaceous. The higher abundance of leptocleidids in the shallow marine Windalia Sand Member and Bulldog Shale relative to other plesiosaur groups, indicates a preference for shallow water habitats. In contrast, the scarcity of large pliosaurid material in all nearshore Early Cretaceous units in Australia but moderately high abundance in the more offshore Toolebuc Formation, is indicative of a predilection for deeper water habitats. The much higher abundance of ichthyosaurs in the Windalia Sand Member compared to the high southern latitude Bulldog Shale and Wallumbilla Formation, is tentatively interpreted as indicative of a lower tolerance for cold water conditions compared to plesiosaurs. These findings contribute to our understanding of Gondwanan marine reptile palaeobiogeography and highlight the important role environmental conditions played in controlling the distribution and diversity of marine reptiles in Australia.

Keywords: up to 6 key words e.g. palaeontology, tectonics, geochronology, palaeoecology

References:

[1] calibri size 10, name of the authors (year) name of the journal, volume: pages e.g. Collins, A.S. and Pisarevsky, S.A. (2005) Earth-Science Reviews 71(3-4): 229-270