

# Could Late Cretaceous sauropod tooth morphotypes provide supporting evidence for faunal connections between North Africa and Southern Europe?

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The Cretaceous Kem Kem beds of Morocco and equivalent beds in Algeria have produced a rich fossil assemblage, yielding, amongst others, isolated sauropod teeth, which can be used in species diversity studies. These Albian-Cenomanian (~113 - 93.9 Ma) strata rarely yield sauropod body fossils, therefore, isolated teeth can help to elucidate the faunal assemblages from North Africa, and their relations with those of contemporaneous beds and geographically close assemblages. Eighteen isolated sauropod teeth from three localities (Erfoud and Taouz, Morocco, and Algeria) are studied here, to assess whether the teeth can be ascribed to a specific clade, and whether different tooth morphotypes can be found in the samples. Two general morphotypes are found, based on enamel wrinkling and general tooth morphology. Morphotype I, with mainly rugose enamel wrinkling, pronounced carinae, lemon-shaped to (sub)cylindrical cross-section and mesiodistal tapering towards an apical tip, shows affinities to titanosauriforms and titanosaurs. Morphotype II, characterized by more smooth enamel, cylindrical cross-section, rectangular teeth with no apical tapering and both labial and lingual wear facets, shows similarities to rebbachisaurids. Moreover, similarities are found between these northwest African tooth morphotypes, and tooth morphotypes from titanosaurs and rebbachisaurids from both contemporaneous finds from north and central Africa, as well as from the latest Cretaceous (Campanian-Maastrichtian, 83.6Ma – 66.0Ma) of the Ibero-Armorican Island. These results support previous hypotheses from earlier studies on faunal exchange and continental connections between North Africa and Southern Europe in the Cretaceous.

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Could Late Cretaceous sauropod tooth morphotypes provide supporting evidence for 2 faunal connections between North Africa and Southern Europe? 3 Femke M. Holwerda\*1,2,3, Verónica Díez Díaz<sup>4,5</sup>, Alejandro Blanco<sup>2,6</sup>, Roel Montie<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Jelle 4 5 W.F. Reumer<sup>1</sup> 6 7 <sup>1</sup> Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, Princetonlaan 8a, 3584 CB Utrecht, The 8 Netherlands; 9 <sup>2</sup> Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayerns (SNSB), Bayerische; Staatssammlung 10 für Paläontologie und Geologie, Richard Wagnerstrasse 10, 80333 Munich, Germany; 11 <sup>3</sup> Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and GeoBioCenter, Ludwig Maximilians 12 Universität, 80333 Munich, Germany; 13 <sup>4</sup> Museum für Naturkunde, Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions-und Biodiversitätsforschung, 14 Invalidenstraße 43, 10115 Berlin, Germany; 15 <sup>5</sup> Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany; 16 <sup>6</sup> Centro de Investigacións Científicas Avanzadas (CICA), Facultade de Ciencias, Universidade 17 da Coruña, 15071 A Coruña, Spain 18 19 \*Corresponding author: f.m.holwerda@gmail.com 20 21 **ABSTRACT** 22 The Cretaceous Kem Kem beds of Morocco and equivalent beds in Algeria have produced a rich

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species diversity studies. These Albian-Cenomanian ( $\sim$ 113 – 93.9 Ma) strata rarely yield
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North Africa, and their relations with those of contemporaneous beds and geographically close
assemblages. Eighteen isolated sauropod teeth from three localities (Erfoud and Taouz, Morocco,
and Algeria) are studied here, to assess whether the teeth can be ascribed to a specific clade, and
whether different tooth morphotypes can be found in the samples. Two general morphotypes are
found, based on enamel wrinkling and general tooth morphology. Morphotype I, with mainly
rugose enamel wrinkling, pronounced carinae, lemon-shaped to (sub)cylindrical cross-section
and mesiodistal tapering towards an apical tip, shows affinities to titanosauriforms and
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similarities to rebbachisaurids. Moreover, similarities are found between these northwest African
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between North Africa and southern Europe in the Cretaceous.

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 43 The early Late Cretaceous of northwestern Africa is well-known for its rich vertebrate fauna,
- 44 many taxa having been described in particular from the Albian–Cenomanian ( $\sim$ 113 93.9 Ma)
- 45 Kem Kem beds of Morocco, and the Albian-Cenomanian equivalent continental intercalaire of
- 46 Algeria. The Moroccan Kem Kem beds include aquatic fauna such as sharks, lungfish,



47 coelacanths, bony fish, amphibians, turtles, crocodylomorphs, as well as terrestrial vertebrates 48 such as squamates, pterosaurs, sauropods, and an abundance of theropods (Lavocat, 1954; Russell, 1996; Sereno et al., 1996; Wellnhofer & Buffetaut, 1999; Cavin et al., 2010; Richter, 49 50 Mudroch & Buckley, 2013; Läng et al., 2013; Mannion & Barrett, 2013). Despite this large 51 diversity, most fossil material consists of isolated elements from theropods and chondrichthyans 52 (e.g. Spinosaurus, Carcharodontosaurus, Onchopristis, Läng et al., 2013; C. Underwood 53 pers.comm.). Läng et al. (2013) attributed this to the deltaic palaeoenvironment being unsuitable 54 for the setting of stable terrestrial vegetation. Because of this, the herbivorous fauna has not 55 received much attention thus far, and sauropod material is rare (C. Underwood, pers. comm., but 56 see McGowan & Dyke, 2009). Studies of sauropod material from this region thus far found 57 Rebbachisaurus garasbae, and other rebbachisaurids (Lavocat, 1954; de Lapparent & Gorce, 58 1960; Russell, 1996; Mannion & Barrett, 2013; Wilson & Allain, 2015) as well as several 59 titanosauriform remains, and also a possible titanosaurian (De Broin, Grenot & Vernet, 1971; 60 Kellner & Mader, 1997; Mannion & Barrett, 2013; Lamanna & Hasegawa, 2014; Ibrahim et al., 61 2016). De Lapparent & Gorce (1960) also mentioned brachiosaurid finds, however, this claim is 62 considered to be invalid (Mannion, 2009; Mannion & Barrett, 2013). 63 Sauropod body fossils are restricted to mostly isolated elements, or, if associated, material is not 64 as numerous as with theropod material (see e.g. Mahler, 2005; Novas, Dalla Vecchia & Pais, 65 2005; Cau & Maganuco, 2009). Sauropod teeth, however, are preserved in relative abundance. 66 One isolated sauropod tooth had already been reported on by Kellner & Mader, 1997. Sauropod 67 teeth are commonly preserved in the fossil record due to their hardness, resilience against 68 weathering, and due to their high tooth replacement rates (see e.g. Calvo, 1994; Erickson, 1996; 69 García & Cerda, 2010). Studying isolated teeth has previously been applied to assessing



70	theropod species diversity in North Africa (Richter, Mudroch & Buckley, 2013). Sauropod teeth
71	can be used for a similar purpose as well, as morphological classifications based on shape, size
72	and position of wear facets (Calvo, 1994; Salgado & Calvo, 1997; Chure et al., 2010; Mocho et
73	al., 2016; Carballido et al., 2017), and enamel wrinkling patterns (Carballido & Pol, 2010; Díez
74	Díaz, Suberbiola & Sanz, 2012; Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013; Holwerda, Pol &
75	Rauhut, 2015) have classified tooth assemblages into morphotypes or even to a taxonomic level.
76	Mannion & Barrett (2013) suggested that the Cretaceous North African titanosauriforms may no
77	be closely related to southern African forms, as the lineages were cut off from each other by the
78	trans-Saharan seaway. Moreover, close relations are suggested between Cretaceous North
79	African sauropods and Italian sauropods (Zarcone et al., 2010; Dal Sasso et al., 2016), and
80	Iberian sauropods (Sallam et al., 2018; Díez Díaz et al., submitted). More specifically, close
81	relations between Egyptian and European sauropods (Sallam et al., 2018) and between Tunisian
82	and European sauropods (Fanti et al., 2015) have been found. These studies proposed faunal
83	exchanges during the Late Cretaceous between northern Africa and southern Europe. Several
84	migratory routes have been suggested, such as the 'Apulian route' during the Early Cretaceous
85	(Dalla Vecchia, 2002; Canudo et al., 2009). Continental connections would have been made
86	possible by peri-Adriatic carbonate platforms in the Mediterranean, connecting North Africa
87	with Adria, throughout the Cretaceous, making migration possible between the northern African
88	and southern European islands and peninsulas (Zarcone et al., 2010). Indeed, these carbonate
89	platforms contain numerous tetrapod footprints, including those of sauropods (Zarcone et al.,
90	2010). The hypothesis of a faunal exchange during the Cretaceous is not new; Late Cretaceous
91	abelisaurid theropods and titanosaurian sauropods from France are found to have Gondwanan
92	affinities, indicating migration from Gondwana to Europe, an event which could already have





93	taken place in the Early Cretaceous (Buffetaut, Mechin & Mechin-Salessy, 1988; Buffetaut,
94	1989). Next to sauropods, Early Cretaceous abelisaurid and carcharodontosaurid theropods were
95	found with Gondwanan affinities, as well as other terrestrial fauna, such as amphibians, snakes,
96	and ziphodont crocodyliforms (Le Loeuff, 1991; Vullo et al., 2005; Vullo, Neraudeau & Lenglet,
97	2007; Pereda-Suberbiola, 2009). Ösi, Apesteguía & Kowalewski, (2010) found Santonian
98	theropods from the Mediterranean region to have both Gondwanan and North American
99	affinities. Dalla Vecchia & Cau (2011) added a notosuchian from the Late Cretaceous of Italy,
100	and Rabi & Sebök, (2015) a sebecosuchian to this faunal assemblage with Gondwanan affinities.
101	Reviewing undescribed North African Cretaceous sauropod material could add information on
102	both the biogeographical patterns of the Euro-Gondwanan area, as well as on sauropod species
103	diversity in northwestern Africa.
104	Here, we present a morphological and quantitative analysis of a sauropod tooth assemblage from
105	the Cenomanian of Morocco and Algeria. Teeth are categorized into two morphotypes, which are
106	then eompared to contemporaneous Cretaceous sauropod tooth morphotypes, including sauropod
107	teeth from Africa and southern Europe.
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110	Institutional abbreviations:
111	BSPG: Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Geologie, Munich, Germany
112	FAM: Fox-Amphoux-Métisson, France
113	MB.R.: Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany
114	MCCM-HUE: Museo de las Ciencias de Castilla-la Mancha, Spain
115	MHN-AIX-PV: Natural History Museum Aix-en-Provence, France



116 MPCA-Pv: Museo Provincial "Carlos Ameghino", colección de paleovertebrados, Río Negro, 117 Argentina 118 PIMUZ: Palaeontological Institute and Museum, University of Zürich, Switzerland 119 120 **GEOLOGICAL SETTING** 121 Fourteen of the teeth studied here are from the Kem Kem beds of Morocco, and four were 122 supposedly found in the Late Cretaceous Continental Intercalaire of Algeria. Four of the 123 Moroccan sample are labeled as originating from 'Taouz, Algeria' and four are labeled 'Kem Kem Morocco'. Taouz, Algeria, might actually mean Taouz, Morocco, which is the southern part 124 125 of the Kem Kem beds, and ten samples are labeled as originating from Erfoud, Morocco, which 126 is the more northern part of the Kem Kem beds (Figure 1). The Kem Kem area is located in the 127 south-east of Morocco (Figure 1). Here, the Kem Kem beds form an escarpment around the 128 eastern end of the Anti-Atlas, from near Goulmima in the northwest (C. Underwood pers. comm; 129 see Figure 1) past Erfoud in the north (Wellnhofer & Buffetaut, 1999; Cavin & Forey, 2004) and 130 along the east, parallelling the Algerian border (C. Underwood pers. comm.). The Kem Kem 131 ends to the west, south of Taouz, thereby in total stretching to about 300 km of outcrop (C. 132 Underwood pers. comm.; see Figure 1). The Kem Kem is usually mentioned to be Cenomanian 133 in age, as it has been found to match the Lower Cenomanian ammonites from Bahariya, Egypt 134 (Le Loeuff et al., 2012). However, the age range could span over the Albian–Cenomanian (C. 135 Underwood, pers. comm.), which is closer to the age given to the Algerian Cretaceous Continental Intercalaire (Lefranc & Guiraud, 1990; Le Loeuff et al., 2012) and to the fossil-rich 136 137 Cretaceous 'Continental Intercalaire' beds of Tunisia (Fanti et al., 2016) as well as sauropod

bonebeds from Niger (Sereno & Wilson, 2005). The Kem Kem beds are considered to be made



139	up of two formations (see Figure 1): the fossil-rich lower Ifezouane Formation and the upper
140	Aoufous Formation, rich in ichnofossils (Cavin et al., 2010; Belvedere et al., 2013); also named
141	the lower sandy unit (a braided fluvial system) and the upper marly unit (a coastal lagoon),
142	respectively (Cavin et al., 2010, Belvedere et al., 2013, Mannion & Barrett, 2013; Ibrahim et al.,
143	2014). Practically all fossil vertebrates originate from the lower Ifezouane Formation (Cavin et
144	al., 2010, C. Underwood pers. comm.). The Continental Intercalaire of Algeria is less studied
145	than the Kem Kem, and the age ranges from Barremian to Turonian. However, most authors set
146	the age of the beds close to the Moroccan border (where our Algerian specimens are supposedly
147	from), to Albian-Cenomanian-Turonian, with the Cenomanian layers being the most fossil-rich
148	(Läng et al., 2013; Benyoucef et al., 2015; Meister et al., 2017). As said before, the labeling,
149	however, of 'Taouz, Algeria' is most likely not correct, as Taouz is situated in Morocco, south of
150	Erfoud, where many fossils from the southern Kem Kem exposures, towards Ouzina, are
151	collected over a broad expanse, usually in mines around Bagaa (M. Dale, C. Underwood, pers.
152	comm.; Figure 1). Indeed, Taouz, Morocco, is indicated as the fossil locality in other Kem Kem
153	fossil vertebrate studies (e.g. Wellnhofer & Buffetaut, 1999; Cavin et al., 2010; Forey, López-
154	Arbarello & MacLeod, 2011; Richter, Mudroch & Buckley, 2013). As the Kem Kem outcrops at
155	present run parallel to the border, the labelling of 'Algeria' is probably still be correct, as the
156	'Kem Kem' beds extend out across the border (Alloul et al., 2018), however, the specific
157	provenance of these teeth is unclear.
158	Next to the labelling, the colour of the fossils likely confirms the provenance on the labels, as
159	fossils from Bagaa (Taouz) are chocolate brown in colour, and fossils from north of Erfoud show
160	a range of colours, usually shades of beige and black (C. Underwood, pers. comm), matching the
161	provenance on the collection reference (see Description).



As most of the fossils retrieved from the Kem Kem and equivalent beds from Algeria are found via mining, the provenance is unfortunately usually unclear and only traceable to a regional provenance (Forey & Cavin, 2007; Rodrigues et al., 2011; C. Underwood, pers.comm).

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#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this study, eighteen isolated sauropod teeth from the Kem Kem beds and Continental Intercalaire are studied for shape, size, position of wear facets (where applicable) and enamel wrinkling. The four teeth from around Taouz (Morocco) are BSPG 1993 IX 331A, BSPG 1993 IX 331B, BSPG 1993 IX 331C, and BSPG 1993 IX 313A, see Figure 2A-D. The ten teeth from Erfoud (Morocco) are labeled PIMUZ A/III 0823, and are given the additional labeling of a, b, c, etc., for convenience, see Figure 3A-J. The four Algerian specimens are BSPG 1993 IX 2A, BSPG 1993 IX 2B, BSPG 1993 IX 2C, and BSPG 1993 IX 2D, see Figure 2E-H. Measurements were taken with a caliper to mm scale. For imaging, the teeth were photographed using normal and macro settings. SEM pictures were taken of the Munich sample at the Zoologisches Institut in Munich to obtain a detailed view of the enamel wrinkling patterns. SEM images were unfortunately not possible for the Zürich sample. The specimens were gently cleaned where necessary, then mounted on SEM-stubs and examined using a LEO 1430VP SEM. In this study, the proposed dental orientations of Smith and Dodson (2003) are followed. The Slenderness Index (SI, sensu Upchurch, 1998) was measured for each crown tooth by dividing the apicobasal length by the mesiodistal width in the middle of the crown. The Compression Index (CI, sensu Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013) was measured for each tooth by dividing the labiolingual width by the mesiodistal width in the middle of the crown. The abrasion stages of the functional





185	dentition proposed by Saegusa & Tomida (2011) and Wiersma & Sander (2016) will be assessed
186	for each tooth. The angles of the wear facets were measured with respect to the labiolingual axes
187	of the teeth. See Table 1 for all tooth measurements.
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189	The studied sample was compared with teeth from other sauropod taxa in a quantitative
190	approach. The comparative tooth sample is measured by first hand observations (i. e., the Lo
191	Hueco, Massecaps, Ampelosaurus, Fox-Amphoux-Métisson sample, Patagosaurus,
192	Lapparentosaurus) as well as from literature, where SI and CI were reported or could be
193	confidently measured or estimated, and a minimum sample size of three tooth specimens was
194	reached (Upchurch & Barrett, 2000; Barrett et al., 2002; Carpenter & Tidwell, 2005; Apesteguía,
195	2007; Freire, Medeiros & Lindoso, 2007; Díaz et al., 2012; Díaz, Suberbiola & Sanz, 2012; Díez
196	Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013; Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014; Holwerda, Pol & Rauhut,
197	2015; França et al., 2016; Averianov & Sues, 2017). Taxa from different periods and
198	palaeobiogeographic origins were included where possible. A total of 102 teeth were grouped by
199	taxon, if possible, or sorted by morphotype, finally creating 17 different groups. See
200	Supplementary Table for this data. Differences in SI and CI ratios were tested amongst groups
201	through statistical analyses. The shape of the cross section and the number, angle and size of the
202	wear facets were not considered for this purpose because these features may be more related to
203	other functional factors (i.e., tooth position, stage of tooth wear) rather than a taxonomic factor.
204	Due to the small sample size, the non-normal distribution and the non-homoscedastic variances
205	amongst sample groups, the non-parametric multivariate one-way PERMANOVA test was
206	performed, followed by post-hoc tests assessing differences for each pair of groups (Hammer &
207	Harper, 2006). The analysis was implemented using PAST v3.20 (Hammer, Harper & Ryan,



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208 2001). Finally, the tooth groups were depicted in a dispersion plot, together with additional taxa 209 for which sample size was too small to be included in the statistical analyses (see Discussion). 210 211 **RESULTS** 212 213 Morphological description 214 215 **Moroccan sample: Taouz** 216 BSPG 1993 IX 331A (Figure 2A) 217 The crown of this chocolate to reddish-brown coloured, apicobasally elongated tooth is more or 218 less cylindrical. It tapers towards the apex, both mesiodistally and labiolingually. The labial side 219 is strongly convex, the lingual side is straight to concave. The convexity increases towards the 220 apex as the distal 1/3rd bends more strongly towards the lingual side. The tooth has an almost 221 circular cross section at the base of the crown, becoming slightly more flattened in the 222 labiolingual direction apically. It has a SI of 4.31 and a CI of 0.85 (see Table 1). Two distinct 223 wear facets are present on the lingual and the apical side of the tooth (F2 abrasion stage). The 224 lingual wear facet has an angle of almost 90 degrees with respect to the labiolingual axis. As no 225 mesial and distal wear facets are present this tooth was probably located anteriorly in the upper 226 jaw (premaxilla). A polished surface is found on the labial side of the crown. Either damage or 227 wear is present on the mesial and distal edges on the carinae, exposing the dentine. The enamel

wrinkling pattern is more pronounced on the labial side than on the lingual side of the tooth (see

Figure 4A-B). On the labial as well as the lingual side, the pattern is more pronounced in the

middle of the tooth, and fades out slightly toward the apex and the base. The labial enamel



wrinkling pattern consists of frequently anastomosing, sinuous grooves and crests of varying width with a general apicobasal orientation. Grooves and crests are discontinuous; crests are often interrupted by pits and islets. The crests are rounded to triangular in shape. The distribution of crests and grooves is roughly equal. Compared to the other teeth, excepting BSPG 1993 IX 331B, the crests protrude sharply, and the grooves are relatively deep. On the lingual side, more pits are present, and the grooves and crests appear slightly less rounded in shape, but retain their apicobasal orientation. The grooves appear more shallow on the lingual side.

# BSPG 1993 IX 331B (Figure 2B)

This unworn tooth has the same colour and enamel texture as BSPG 1993 IX 331A. It curves towards the lingual side, with the labial side slightly more convex on the upper half, resulting in a labiolingually tapering apex. The tooth crown is convex toward the distal side, tapering to a mesiodistally narrow apex. The tooth is generally distally inclined, however the apex curves slightly towards the mesial side. It has an oval cross section at the base, which becomes "lemon-like" (sensu Díez Díaz et al., 2013) at the apex due to the presence of pronounced carinae on the mesial and distal edges. Its SI is 2.61 and the CI 0.77, see Table 1. The carina on the distal side is slightly more pronounced and continues further basally than the one on the mesial side. The apex contains a polished surface on the mesial side.

The wrinkling is similar to BSPG 1993 IX 331A, however, due to the unworn state of BSPG 1993 IX 331B, it is more pronounced. The enamel wrinkling pattern consists of sharply protruding, angular, narrow and discontinuous grooves (see Figure 4C-D). The wrinkling on the lingual side is more pronounced than the labial side, and also appears slightly more rounded.

Although it is fully developed, the crown lacks wear facets, and the root does not seem to have





any resorption, as in the F1 abrasion stage proposed by Wiersma & Sander (2017). This, together with the coarse enamel pattern of the crown (Figure 4C-D), with no signs of abrasion by occlusion, indicates that this was probably a recently erupted tooth. Due to this we cannot hypothesize the placement of this tooth in the jaw. This specimen differs from the other teeth in this study by the strong curvature of the crown, and its low SI ratio. This can be attributed to a distal (posterior) placement of the tooth in the jaw, as for example is seen in the nearly complete tooth row of *Giraffatitan* (MB.R.2181.21). In addition, and because of its size, it probably belonged to a juvenile individual.

# BSPG 1993 IX 331C (Figure 2C)

This chocolate to reddish-brown coloured tooth differs from the first two Kem Kem teeth, in that it is rather straight both labially and lingually, shows little tapering and has a distinctive enamel wrinkling pattern. The apex shows tapering due to labial and lingual wear facets, and only a slight apical mesiodistal tapering is present. A slight curvature towards the lingual side is present. The base and middle of the tooth is oval in cross section; the apex shows a slightly more elliptical shape. It has a SI of 4.11 and a CI of 0.83, see Table 1.

Four wear facets are present on the tooth, one on each of the labial, lingual, mesial, and distal surfaces, respectively. The lingual wear facet is angled at around 60 degrees with respect to the labiolingual axis. The labial wear facet is angled at almost 90 degrees with respect to the labiolingual axis. Both the mesial and distal wear facets are more pronounced on the lingual side, and are positioned basal to the lingual wear facet. They appear almost parallel to the tooth's main axis. The number and development of the wear facets indicate that this tooth is between the F4 and F5 abrasion stages, with an important tooth-to-tooth contact. The food-to-tooth contact





seems to not be as important, as the crown enamel is not as worn as in other specimens of this
sample (see e.g. BSPG 1993 IX 313A). Due to the higher development of the lingual wear facet
and the placement of the mesial and distal ones, this tooth was probably located in the maxilla.
The enamel of BSPG 1993 IX 331C is ornamented with thick mesiodistally oriented sharply
protruding ridges and relatively wide grooves. At about two thirds of the apicobasal height, the
grooves slope towards the base from the mesial and distal edges at an angle of about 45 degrees,
and meet in the midpoint. Towards the base, the ridges become more horizontally positioned.
Some grooves seem to be connected, forming a chevron-like morphology. This wrinkling pattern
is also seen in PIMUZ A/III 0823j. Some pits are visible in the apex, probably due to a diet with
some grit content.
The four wear facets of BSPG 1993 IX 331C are not seen in similar shapes in any of the other
teeth. Moreover, the deep grooves of the enamel wrinkling on the labial and lingual sides of the
tooth do not resemble any taphonomic patterns as described by King et al. (1999), but this does
not rule out taphonomic processes completely. However, the peculiar pattern is also seen in
PIMUZ A/III 0832j, therefore, it is probably natural.
BSPG 1993 IX 313A (Figure 2D)
The upper half of this chocolate-brown coloured, worn tooth crown is inclined towards the
lingual side, with the labial side curving convexly, and the lingual side curving concavely. The
apex tapers mesiodistally, and the mesial side of the tooth inclines distally, creating a convex

mesial apical end. The tooth has an oval cross-section at the base, becoming more "lemon-like"

(sensu Díez Díaz et al., 2013) towards the apex due to the presence of protruding carinae on the





299	mesial and distal edges. The carina on the distal edge continues further towards the base than the
300	carina on the mesial edge. Its SI and CI are 3.35 and 0.76, respectively, see Table 1.
301	The apex contains one wear facet on the lingual side, angled at around 75 degrees with respect to
302	the labiolingual axis of the tooth. The presence of only one wear facet, the occlusal one, groups
303	this tooth within the F2 abrasion stage. Due to this, this tooth was probably placed anteriorly in
304	the upper jaw (premaxilla).
305	The enamel appears smooth, except for thin apicobasally-oriented discontinuous grooves, (see
306	Figure 4E-F).
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308	Moroccan sample: Erfoud
309	PIMUZ A/III 0823a (Figure 3A)
310	This reddish-brown worn tooth crown is apicobasally straight in lingual and labial view. Only at
<ul><li>310</li><li>311</li></ul>	This reddish-brown worn tooth crown is apicobasally straight in lingual and labial view. Only at the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and
311	the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and
311 312	the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and distal views, the tooth is seen to curve towards the lingual side, showing a moderate convexity on
<ul><li>311</li><li>312</li><li>313</li><li>314</li></ul>	the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and distal views, the tooth is seen to curve towards the lingual side, showing a moderate convexity on the labial side, and an equally moderate concavity on the lingual side; also seen in BSPG 1993
<ul><li>311</li><li>312</li><li>313</li><li>314</li></ul>	the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and distal views, the tooth is seen to curve towards the lingual side, showing a moderate convexity on the labial side, and an equally moderate concavity on the lingual side; also seen in BSPG 1993 IX 331A. The width at the base is only slightly higher than at the middle of the crown, showing a
311 312 313 314 315	the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and distal views, the tooth is seen to curve towards the lingual side, showing a moderate convexity on the labial side, and an equally moderate concavity on the lingual side; also seen in BSPG 1993 IX 331A. The width at the base is only slightly higher than at the middle of the crown, showing a moderate mesiodistal tapering towards the apex. The cross-section of the tooth is oval to
311 312 313 314 315 316	the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and distal views, the tooth is seen to curve towards the lingual side, showing a moderate convexity on the labial side, and an equally moderate concavity on the lingual side; also seen in BSPG 1993 IX 331A. The width at the base is only slightly higher than at the middle of the crown, showing a moderate mesiodistal tapering towards the apex. The cross-section of the tooth is oval to elliptical at the base, to oval to possibly lemon-shaped at the apex. The carinae are not
311 312 313 314 315 316 317	the apex, in labial view, does the tip taper very slightly to the distal side. In both mesial and distal views, the tooth is seen to curve towards the lingual side, showing a moderate convexity on the labial side, and an equally moderate concavity on the lingual side; also seen in BSPG 1993 IX 331A. The width at the base is only slightly higher than at the middle of the crown, showing a moderate mesiodistal tapering towards the apex. The cross-section of the tooth is oval to elliptical at the base, to oval to possibly lemon-shaped at the apex. The carinae are not pronounced on this tooth, therefore the apical lemon-shaped cross-section is not clear. The





320 Labiolingual tapering towards the apex is caused by the presence of a round to oval lingual wear 321 facet (meaning a F2 abrasion stage). This could mean that this tooth could have been a 322 premaxillary one. 323 The enamel wrinkling pattern is not well-preserved, possibly due to abrasion of the tooth. Only 324 faintly reticulate wrinkling is seen on mostly the labial side of the tooth. This pattern could be a 325 worn enamel wrinkling type similar to that of the more unworn BSPG 1993 IX 331A and BSPG 326 1993 IX 331B. No protruding ridges or deep prominent grooves are present in the enamel 327 wrinkling pattern of this tooth. 328 329 PIMUZ A/III 0823b (Figure 3B) 330 This worn, grey to beige coloured tooth displays a unique morphology amongst the tooth sample, 331 as it is a relatively apicobasally short, mesiodistally wide tooth, with a D-shaped cross-section, 332 representing more a general eusauropod tooth shape (Barrett and Upchurch, 2005; Holwerda et 333 al., 2015) than titanosauriform. In labial and lingual view, the tooth is apicobasally straight at its 334 lower half, showing a similar mesiodistal width at the base as at the middle. The tooth then 335 tapers mesiodistally at its upper half, and also tapers slightly towards the distal side. Moreover, 336 in lingual view, the upper half of the crown, towards the apex, is slightly mesiodistally 337 constricted, giving the tooth a pear-shaped appearance. In mesial and distal view, the tooth 338 curves towards the lingual side, creating a convex labial and concave lingual side. The cross-339 section is oval at the base, to D-shaped at the apex. The SI is 2.38 and the CI 0.69, see Table 1. 340 Both carinae are worn, exposing dentine on both sides, and a prominent oval wear facet is 341 present on the lingual side (F2 abrasion stage). This tooth could have been a premaxillary one.





342 Another worn surface is present on the apex of the labial surface, where the enamel is worn away 343 to expose the dentine. The enamel wrinkling consists of rugose, protruding, continuous anastomosing ridges, which are 344 345 flattened by wear and/or abrasion. Between these ridges, discontinuous grooves and pits are 346 visible. 347 348 PIMUZ A/III 0823c (Figure 3C) 349 The crown of this well-preserved, unworn tooth is black, whilst the root is cream-coloured to 350 beige. The crown is more or less apicobasally straight in labial and lingual view, however a faint 351 convexity is seen on the medial side, showing a curvature of the entire tooth, from root to apex, 352 towards the distal side. Towards the apex the crown tapers sharply, creating a triangular apical 353 tip. In mesial and distal view, there is only a faint convexity visible on the labial side, whereas 354 the lingual side remains apicobasally straight. The cross-section at the base is oval, and the cross-355 section at the apex is lemon-shaped (sensu 356 Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013). It presents a SI of 3.78 and a CI of 0.67, See Table 1. 357 As no wear facets are present, this tooth has a F1 abrasion stage. No more information about its 358 placement in the jaw can be deduced. Both carinae are well-preserved as sharply protruding 359 ridges, where the distal carina is more pronounced than the mesial, and shows a faint sinusoidal 360 curvature. Furthermore, the distal carina shows ridges inclining from the apicobasally oriented 361 wrinkling towards the carina, creating denticle-like structures, or 'pseudodenticles'. The enamel wrinkling consists of rugose, discontinuous, sinusoidal, rounded protrusions and islets, which 362 363 are intersected by shallow but broad anastomosing grooves and pits. The enamel is most 364 pronounced on the lingual side, whilst the labial side shows a polished surface on the upper half





of the crown, where the wrinkling is worn away. This tooth was probably used before it was lost, despite the lack of wear facets, because of its labial polished surface (indicating food-to-tooth contact).

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## PIMUZ A/III 0823d (Figure 3D)

This reddish to chocolate-brown, worn and polished tooth crown is apicobasally straight in labial and lingual view. In labial view, the tooth is more rectangular in shape, whilst in lingual view, the mesiodistal width increases from the base towards the middle, after which it tapers towards the apex. The apex of the crown inclines slightly towards the distal side, especially in lingual view. In labial view, two grooves are present, the distal of which is slightly displaced towards the middle of the tooth. In mesial and distal view, the labial side is mildly convex, and the lingual side is more apicobasally straight. The cross-section from base to apex remains similar, being oval to elliptical, without protruding carinae on mesial and distal sides. The SI is 2.33 and the CI 0.67, see Table 1. Symmetrical, oval wear facets are present on the lingual and labial apices. The presence of both labial and lingual wear facets in the same tooth is an interesting feature that has not been considered in the five abrasion stages (Wiersma & Sander, 2017). García and Cerda (2010) described several apical wear patterns from a sample of titanosaurian teeth from Argentina, and the morphology of the crown and wear facets of PIMUZ A/III 0823d is highly similar to the tooth MPCA-Pv-55 (fig. 5.4). The apex of these teeth (with both labial and lingual apical wear facets) is usually straight and perpendicular to the apicobasal axis of the crown, and the inclination and development of both wear facets is normally different. García & Cerda (2010) suggested that the presence of both a labial and a lingual wear facet on the same tooth could be



related to the position of the teeth on the tooth row, the occlusal pattern, and the replacement of the opposite teeth (see García & Cerda, 2010, fig. 7, for a more graphic explanation of this hypothesis). The absence of mesial and distal wear facets suggests that it was probably anteriorly located in the dentary or (pre)maxilla (it is not possible to be more accurate, as both wear facets are equally developed). The mesial and distal sides of the apex do not taper, which further adds to the rectangular appearance of the tooth. The mesial and distal carinae are worn down to smooth, polished ridges, however, the dentine is not exposed.

The enamel wrinkling pattern is mostly polished away by (food-to-tooth or taphonomic) abrasion, and only at the base of the labial and lingual sides a faint wrinkling is present. This consists of rounded, anastomosing protrusions, giving a pebbly textural shape, with wide but shallow grooves and pits in between. At the base of the carinae, the wrinkling becomes slightly more rugose, showing angular protrusions angling at ~30 degrees with respect to the apicobasal axis, towards the carinae, with deep wide grooves running parallel to these.

## PIMUZ A/III 0823e (Figure 3E)

The crown of this greyish-brown tooth tapers gently towards the apex in labial and lingual view, and inclines slightly towards the distal side. In labial and lingual view, the tooth crown is apicobasally straight. In mesial and distal view, the tooth is labially strongly convex, but lingually only mildly concave. The apex tapers to a point labiolingually. The cross-section at the base is elliptical to cylindrical, whilst the apex is more D-shaped to elliptical. It has a SI of 4.11 and a CI of 0.78, see Table 1. Both carinae are worn, showing marginal grooves where dentine almost appears through the enamel.



A large oval wear facet is present on the lingual apical side. However, the labial side also shows a less pronounced wear facet, symmetrically placed to that of the lingual side. This tooth was probably placed anteriorly in the upper part of the mouth (premaxilla), as can be deduced from the more developed lingual wear facet and the absence of mesial and distal facets. The poor development of the labial wear facet indicates that its lower new opposite tooth probably erupted only shortly prior to its loss. We consider a F2 abrasion stage to be appropriate for this tooth, due to the poor development of the labial wear facet, and its placement in the premaxilla (because of the absence of mesial and distal wear facets).

The enamel wrinkling pattern is finely reticulate, with a symmetrical distribution of small rounded protrusions surrounded by thin grooves. However, at the base of the crown, the enamel shows deep continuous grooves interspersed with pits, whilst the protrusions are worn away. Part of the enamel at the root is damaged or gone.

## PIMUZ A/III 0823f (Figure 3F)

This black, smooth, tooth crown shows traces of red sediment. In labial and lingual views, the lower half of the tooth crown is straight, after which it shows a strong inclination towards the distal side, giving the mesial apical half a convex, and the distal apical half a straight to concave, shape. In mesial and distal views, the tooth is rather apicobasally straight, only a faint labial convexity and lingual concavity is seen. The cross-section at the base is round to elliptical, and more cylindrical to a very faint lemon-shape (due to the carinae) at the apex. Apically, the tooth tapers to a sharp tip which is inclined distally. The SI is 4.75 and the CI is 0.88. Both mesial and distal carinae show a prominent but smooth ridge protruding towards mesial and distal sides on the apical half of the crown, the lower half of the crown does not show carinae.





As no apical wear facets are present we consider this tooth to show a F1 abrasion stage. Due to this, the placement of this tooth in the snout cannot be hypothesized. The enamel is completely smooth, suggesting, together with the lack of clear wear facets, that this tooth was relatively unused and unworn.

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# PIMUZ A/III 0823g (Figure 3G)

This grey to reddish brown tooth crown follows the same general morphology as PIMUZ A/III 0823f, in that the lower half of the crown is apicobasally straight in both labial and lingual views, as well as in mesial and distal views. The upper half of the crown bends towards the distal side, providing the mesial side with a convex curvature. The apex tapers to a sharp tip in labial and lingual view, as well as in mesial and distal view. Both mesial and distal carinae are present, which are prominently but smoothly protruding at the apical half of the crown. The cross-section is elliptical at the base to strongly lemon-shaped at the apex. This tooth has a SI value of 4.83 and a CI value of 0.83, see Table 1. An apicobasally-elongated, mesiolabially-oriented wear facet, as well as an equally elongated, distallingual wear facet is present, giving the apical half of the crown a more constricted shape, and creating a faint buttress at the base of the mesial and distal constriction. Finally, a faint, small, round apical wear facet is present. The presence of these three wear facets place this tooth in a F4 abrasion stage, as the apex is already gently rounded. This tooth probably was placed in the maxilla. The slight displacement of both mesial and distal wear facets indicate that this tooth was rotated. The enamel is completely smooth, however, apicobasal striations are present on the labial apical side of the tooth.





456	PIMUZ A/III 0823h (Figure 3H)
457	The smallest tooth of the sample, this reddish-brown crown shows a similar morphology to
458	PIMUZ A/III 0823f and PIMUZ A/III 0823g. The crown is straight in labiolingual and
459	mesiodistal views, with only the mesial apical end inclining towards the distal side in
460	labiolingual view. The apex tapers to a sharp tip. The cross-section is elliptical to cylindrical at
461	the base and at the apex. The SI is 4.33 and the CI is 0.75, see Table 1.
462	The tooth is completely smooth and nearly unworn; only a small, circular, apical wear facet is
463	present (F1-F2 abrasion stage). This information is not sufficient to propose its likely placement
464	in the snout. Due to its small size and unworn state, this tooth probably originates from a
465	juvenile.
466	
467	PIMUZ A/III 0823i (Figure 3I)
468	This rectangular, red tooth is the second smallest of the Erfoud sample. It has a rectangular
469	shape, showing almost no tapering in labial and lingual view, and only a slight apical tapering in
470	mesial and distal view. In mesial and distal view, the labial side is mildly convex and the lingual
471	side is mildly concave. The cross-section is oval at the base to oval to lemon-shaped at the apex.
472	It has a SI of 3.82 and a CI of 0.73, see Table 1.
473	The labial apical side shows a high-angled, oval wear facet, whilst a low-angled elongated wear
474	facet is present on the lingual side, which stretches to halfway down the apicobasal length of the
475	crown. This tooth presents the same condition as PIMUZ A/III 0823d, with both labial and
476	lingual apical wear facets. As the apical labial wear facet is more developed, this tooth may have
477	been placed in the lower jaw. The absence of mesial and distal wear facets suggests that it was
478	probably anteriorly located in the dentary. The enamel of the tooth is completely smooth.



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480	PIMUZ A/III 0823j (Figure 3J)
481	This dark brown to black tooth tapers gently towards the apex from the base, whilst being
482	slightly mesiodistally constricted at around the middle. The labial side is convex, whilst the
483	lingual side remains apicobasally straight. Both mesial and distal carinae are present as smooth
484	ridges which do not protrude. The cross-section is elliptical, both at the base as well as at the
485	apex. It presents a SI value of 3.78 and a CI value of 1.11, see Table 1.
486	The upper half of the tooth crown is polished. However, only on the lingual side, a low angled
487	wear facet is present. Both at the mesial and distal apical sides, a low-angled, oval, polished
488	surface is present as well, indicating tooth overlapping (F4 abrasion stage, as the crown apex is
489	rounded). The location and development of these three wear facets indicate that this tooth was
490	probably located in the maxilla.
491	The enamel wrinkling pattern is only visible at the base of the tooth, as, similar to BSPG 1993 IX
492	331C, there is a mesiodistally-positioned, chevron-like pattern of deep wide grooves and ridges,
493	which disperse towards the carinae.
494	
495	Algerian sample
496	BSPG 1993 IX 2A (Figure 2E)
497	The tooth is covered in black enamel, and has a reddish-brown base. The crown is apicobasally
498	straight. The mesial and distal sides, as well as the labial and lingual sides, taper towards the
499	apex. The mesial side, however, shows a slight convexity, and curves towards the distal side,
500	which is straight apically. The tooth is mesiodistally widest at the middle, after which it tapers
501	towards the apex. Carinae are present on the mesial and distal edges of the upper third of the





502	crown, as smooth protruding ridges. The carina on the distal side shows a slightly sinusoidal
503	curvature at about halfway of the apicobasal length of the tooth, which is also seen in PIMUZ
504	A/III 0823c. The distal carina reaches slightly further basally. The cross-section at the base is
505	oval, becoming lemon-like at the apex due to the carinae (sensu Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff,
506	2013). The SI is 4.35 and the CI 0.78, see Table 1.
507	A wear facet is present on the lingual side, angled at around 50 degrees with respect to the
508	labiolingual axis. The presence of only one wear facet, the occlusal one, groups this tooth within
509	the F2 abrasion stage. As this facet is located lingually, and there are no mesial and distal wear
510	facets, this tooth was probably placed in the maxilla.
511	The apical part of the labial side also shows a polished surface, as in PIMUZ A/III 0823c. The
512	enamel wrinkling pattern on both the labial and lingual sides consists of apicobasally-oriented
513	grooves and ridges, which are less broad and more sinuous on the labial side than on the lingual
514	side (see Figure 4G-H). While unworn, was probably similar to the crown enamel of BSPG 1993
515	IX 2B (Figure 4I-J), but it has been worn by tooth-to-food contact (like BSPG 1993 IX 313A,
516	Figure 4E-F). The enamel on the labial side is slightly thicker than on the lingual side.
517	
518	BSPG 1993 IX 2B (see Figure 2F)
519	This worn tooth is grey to beige in colour. The tooth is curved lingually, with the labial side
520	convex, and the lingual side concave. This curvature increases towards the apex. A very slight
521	mesiodistal tapering can be seen at the apical part of the crown, however the tooth appears
522	rectangular when observed from the labial and lingual side. Labiolingual tapering appears due to
523	the presence of a labial and lingual wear facet intersecting at the apex. The lingual side of the
524	tooth is relatively flat in the mesiodistal direction when compared to the labial side. This gives





525	the tooth an oval cross section at the base, becoming D-shaped toward the centre, and more
526	cylindrical to lemon-shaped apically due to the presence of carinae. Carinae are present on the
527	mesial and distal edges, although the distal carina is more pronounced and continues further
528	basally. It has a SI of 3.65 and a CI of 0.71, see Table 1.
529	Two distinct wear facets are present on BSPG 1993 IX 2B, one on the labial and the other on the
530	lingual side. The labial wear facet is larger (almost 15 mm in apicobasal length), and angled
531	toward the mesial side. The labial wear facet is angled at around 72 degrees with respect to the
532	labiolingual axis of the crown. The lingual wear facet is smaller. It cuts the labiolingual axis at
533	almost 90 degrees. This tooth presents the same condition as PIMUZ A/III 0823d and PIMUZ
534	A/III 0823i, with both labial and lingual apical wear facets. As the apical labial wear facet is
535	more developed in BSPG 1993 IX 2B, this tooth may have been placed in the lower jaw. The
536	absence of mesial and distal wear facets let us think that it was probably anteriorly located in the
537	dentary.
538	The enamel wrinkling pattern consists mainly of apicobasally-oriented, sinuous grooves and
539	ridges. The ridges are sharply protruding and are triangular in shape (see Figure 4I-J). The ename
540	wrinkling pattern of BSPG 1993 IX 2B appears quite similar to BSPG 1993 IX 331A, BSPG
541	1993 IX 331B, and the labial side of BSPG 1993 IX 2A. The enamel wrinkling of BSPG 1993
542	IX 331A and of BSPG 1993 IX 331B is slightly more pronounced than the enamel wrinkling of
543	BSPG 1993 IX 2B, a difference perhaps caused by greater wear on the latter. A noteworthy
544	difference between the enamel wrinkling patterns of this tooth and all other teeth from this
545	sample is that the enamel wrinkling is more pronounced on what seems to be the lingual side,
546	instead of the labial side.





548	BSPG 1993 IX 2C (Figure 2G)
549	This grey to beige coloured tooth is badly preserved and largely covered with reddish sediment.
550	The crown is fairly straight apicobasally, and tapers apically (mesiodistally as well as
551	labiolingually). The mesial apical side shows a curvature towards the distal side, as seen in
552	BSPG 1993 IX 2A. From the base to the middle, the width of the crown expands slightly
553	labiolingually, after which it tapers to the apex. This expansion mainly seems to occur on the
554	convex (probably labial) side, and is also seen in BSPG 1993 IX 2A. The distal edge shows faint
555	traces of a carina but that cannot currently be accurately determined. The cross-section at the
556	base is slightly oval, becoming almost circular at the middle of the crown, and then becoming
557	more lemon-like apically due to the presence of carinae. The SI is 4.09 and the CI is 0.87, see
558	Table 1.
559	A possible wear facet can be seen on the labial side, cutting the labiolingual axis of the crown at
560	a low angle (35 degrees), so it was probably at a F2 abrasion stage. The absence of mesial and
561	distal wear facets, and the labial position of the one present, indicate that this tooth probably
562	belonged to the anterior part of the dentary. Because of the damaged state of this tooth, no SEM
563	pictures were taken.
564	
565	BSPG 1993 IX 2D (Figure 2H)
566	This reddish-brown coloured crown tapers mesiodistally towards the apex, as well as
567	labiolingually, resulting in a sharp apical tip. The labial side is convex, whilst the lingual side is
568	more concave. The upper third of the crown shows stronger mesiodistal tapering on the mesial
569	side. Distinctly protruding carinae are present on the mesial and distal edges of the crown. The
570	mesial carina is slightly more distinct due to the curvature of the mesial apical part, however, it





571	only runs halfway along the tooth towards the base, whereas the distal carina continues further
572	basally, to about 3/4th along the tooth. The tooth has an oval cross section at the base, becoming
573	strongly lemon-shaped apically due to the distinct carinae. It presents a SI of 3.62 and a CI of
574	0.71, see Table 1.
575	Wear facets are not present (F1 abrasion stage), so its position on the snout cannot be deduced.
576	The enamel is smooth except for some pits (see Figure 4K-L). This feature is interesting, not
577	only because this tooth is the one that has the most worn crown enamel, but also for the presence
578	of pits on it. The individual probably fed on low vegetation, with a significant quantity of grit.
579	This tooth had clearly been used for feeding, but occlusion features are not present, so it was
580	probably located anteriorly in the snout, with its opposite tooth unerupted throughout its
581	functional life.
582	
583	DISCUSSION
584	
585	Systematic discussion and comparisons
586	The tooth sample from northwestern Africa shares the presence of mesial and distal margins
587	extending parallel to each other along almost the entire length of the crown with neosauropodan
588	(titanosauriform and diplodocoid) sauropods, together with the absence of a mesiodistal
589	expansion at the base of the crown (Calvo, 1994; Upchurch, 1995, 1998; Salgado & Calvo, 1997;
590	Wilson & Sereno, 1998; Upchurch & Barrett, 2000; Barrett et al., 2002; Wilson, 2002;
591	Upchurch, Barrett & Dodson, 2004). These teeth also share with diplodocoids and titanosaurs the
592	loss of some plesiomorphic features of Sauropoda, which are retained in some, but not all, basal





titanosauriforms (e.g. Giraffatitan, Euhelopus), such as the presence of a lingual concavity with a 594 median ridge, and labial grooves (Upchurch, 1998; Barrett et al., 2002). 595 596 The general crown outline is similar in all the teeth of the sample: parallel-sided crowns showing 597 slight labiolingual compression with mesial and distal carinae, which express a higher amount of 598 protrusion in BSPG 1993 IX 331B, BSPG 1993 IX 2A, BSPG 1993 IX 2D, PIMUZ 0823c and 599 PIMUZ A/III 0823h. The labiolingual compression (seen in apical view) is more conspicuous in 600 the Algerian teeth, though PIMUZ A/III 0823a from Erfoud, Morocco, also shows this amount of 601 compression. BSPG 1993 IX 331B and BSPG 1993 IX 2D, PIMUZ A/III 0823d, PIMUZ A/III 602 0823h, PIMUZ A/III 0823i present a different crown morphology from the rest of the sample. 603 However, this difference in the crown morphology between these teeth and the rest of the sample 604 could be due to different positions in the tooth row, as occurs in most eusauropods and other sauropodomorphs (e.g. Carballido & Pol, 2010; Holwerda et al., 2015; Mocho et al., 2016, 605 Carballido et al., 2017; Wiersma & Sander, 2017). Lingual buttresses seen in titanosauriforms 606 607 from the Lower Cretaceous of Japan (Barret et al., 2002), South Korea (Lim, Martin & Baek, 608 2001), in Giraffatitan (Janensch, 1935), and in Astrodon (Carpenter & Tidwell, 2005), or circular 609 bosses as seen in Euhelopus (Barrett & Wang, 2007; Poropat & Kear, 2013) and an unknown 610 (possible euhelopodid) titanosauriform from the Barremian of Spain (Canudo et al., 2002) are 611 not seen in any of the Moroccan or Algerian tooth samples. Neither do the Algerian and 612 Moroccan tooth samples show mesial and distal buttresses such as in an isolated tooth from the 613 Santonian of Hungary (Ösi, Csiki-Sava & Prondvai, 2017). Moreover, diplodocoid pencil-like or 614 needle-like teeth as in Limaysaurus (Calvo & Salgado, 1995; Salgado et al., 2004) are not found 615 in this sample either. In addition, two further enamel types can be found in the sample: rugosely





616	or reticulately wrinkled (BSPG 1993 IX 331A, 331B, 331C, PIMUZ A/III 0823a,b,c,e, BSPG
617	1993 IX 2B and 2C) or smooth (BSPG 1993 IX 313A, PIMUZ A/III 0823d,f,g,h,i, BSPG 1993
618	IX 2A, and 2D) enamel. The differences between more rugose and more reticulate wrinkling in
619	the enamel ornamentation could be due to the wear of the tooth and the diet of the individual
620	animal.
621	Finally, although the CI is similar in both morphotypes, the SI range is wider in the Moroccan
622	Erfoud sample, whilst remaining within a similar range between the Moroccan Taouz and the
623	Algerian sample.
624	After the morphological descriptions and similarities, two main morphotypes could be
625	distinguished, based on shared features of shape, expression of wear facets, carinae and enamel
626	wrinkling. One morphotype, however, may harbour further submorphotypes, which are also
627	discussed, however, without further sampling this could not be proven valid. It should also be
628	noted that the morphotypes proposed here might not always reflect biological morphotypes. The
629	morphotypes are here discussed and compared to other sauropods, including, but not restricted
630	to, biogeographically similar and contemporaneous sauropods (e.g. of Spain, France, northwest
631	and central Africa).
632	
633	Morphotype I: BSPG 1993 IX 331A, BSPG 1993 IX 331B, BSPG 1993 IX 313A, BSPG 1993
634	IX 2A, BSPG 1993 IX 2C, BSPG 1993 2D; PIMUZ A/III 0823a, PIMUZ A/III 0823b, PIMUZ
635	A/III 0823c, PIMUZ A/III 0823e, PIMUZ A/III 0823f, PIMUZ A/III 0823g, PIMUZ A/III
636	0823h
637	
638	General



639	This most commonly found morphotype in the sample, it consists of teeth with high SI and CI,
640	rugose enamel wrinkling (but see discussion on this), prominent mesial and distal carinae,
641	together with a labial convexity, and a slightly distal inclination of the apex, and a subcylindrical
642	to lemon-shaped cross-section. There are many intra-group specific morphological differences
643	within this morphotype, however, as teeth both differ morphologically within one toothrow, as
644	well as between upper and lower toothrows (Sereno & Wilson, 2005; Wilson, 2005; Zaher et al.,
645	2011; Holwerda, Pol & Rauhut, 2015; Martínez et al., 2016; Mocho et al., 2016; Wiersma &
646	Sander, 2016), enamel wrinkling as well as the presence of carinae are taken as the main drivers
647	for comparisons (see Carballido & Pol, 2010; Holwerda, Pol & Rauhut 2015). Moreover, enamel
648	wrinkling can be demonstrated to change over ontogeny, with indications that juveniles have
649	smooth or smoother enamel wrinkling than adult animals (Fiorillo, 1991, 1998; Díaz et al., 2012;
650	Díaz, Suberbiola & Sanz, 2012; Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014; Holwerda, Pol & Rauhut,
651	2015). As stated above, this numerous Morphotype I arguably still hosts several
652	(sub)morphotypes, which are also discussed below.
653	Discussion
654	BSPG 1993 IX 331A and BSPG 1993 IX 331B (Figure 2A, 2B) show a different SI, and
655	different CI. However, they share a similar morphology in terms of expression of carinae, labial
656	convexity, and enamel wrinkling pattern, and most likely belong to the same morphotype.
657	Similarly, PIMUZ A/III 0823a shares the same apicobasal elongation of BSPG 1993 IX 331A, as
658	well as a worn-down version of the rugose and highly sinuous enamel wrinkling. This reticulate,
659	worn-down version of the rugose type of enamel wrinkling is further found in BSPG IX 1993
660	212 A DCDC IV 1002 2D
	313A, BSPG IX 1993 2B, as well as in PIMUZ A/III 0823b and PIMUZ A/III 0823e. BSPG



662	Argentina (Garcia, 2013), in having a similar crown-root transition, as well as having high CI
663	and SI ratios (0.73 vs 0.85 and 3.73 vs 4.36 for the tooth described by Garcia, (2013) and BSPG
664	1993 IX 331A respectively). However, the enamel wrinkling patterns between these two teeth
665	show great differences; the enamel of BSPG 1993 IX 331A shows highly sinuous patterns not
666	visible on the Argentine tooth. The tooth also resembles the cylindrical morphotype with circular
667	cross-section of the southeastern French Campanian-Maastrichtian Fox-Amphoux-Métisson
668	morphotype (FAM 03.06, 03.11, and 04.17; Díaz et al., 2012b, fig. 9). The SI ratios are high in
669	both the Algerian/Moroccan and the French sample (~4, excepting BSPG 1993 IX 331B). These
670	teeth also display a similar labial convexity, which becomes stronger towards the apex in both
671	the Algerian/Moroccan and the French sample. The enamel wrinkling differs between these two,
672	however, as the Kem Kem teeth show a much more pronounced enamel wrinkling. The
673	apicobasal elongation, slight labial convexity, and presence on most of these teeth of an apically
674	based labial and lingual wear facet, also resembles that of the Late Cretaceous Mongolian
675	Nemegtosaurus (Wilson, 2005). Finally, the moderate tapering (or lack thereof) resembles that of
676	teeth of the Late Cretaceous Alamosaurus from the USA (Kues, Lehman & Rigby, 1980),
677	although the enamel wrinkling on Alamosaurus is smoother than in the Moroccan/Algerian
678	sample, though apicobasal striations are present on both.
679	Even though the reticulate enamel wrinkling could be a worn-down version of the rugose
680	wrinkling described for this morphotype, BSPG 1993 IX 313A, PIMUZ A/III 0823b and PIMUZ
681	A/III 0823e (Figure 2D, Figure 3B, 3E) slightly deviate from the general shape of this
682	morphotype in displaying a constricted apex, providing a 'pear-shaped' tooth in labial and
683	lingual view. A difference in order of tooth row might explain this, as teeth from the mesial side
684	of the toothrow are larger and more robust than teeth from the distal end of the toothrow. This is



685	not seen in titanosaurs (García & Cerda, 2010), however, it is observed in titanosauriforms (e.g.
686	Giraffatitan MB.R.2181.21; Abydosaurus, Chure et al., 2010). This shape is further seen in more
687	robust (lower SI, higher mesiodistal and labiolingual width) titanosauriform morphotypes, such
688	as the Cenomanian titanosauriform indet. tooth from France, described by Vullo, Neraudeau &
689	Lenglet, (2007), Astrodon (Carpenter & Tidwell, 2005), the more robust tooth form of the Late
690	Cretaceous Asian Mongolosaurus (Mannion, 2011), Europatitan from the Barremian-Aptian of
691	Spain (Torcida Fernández-Baldor et al., 2017), the posterior maxillary teeth of the Cenomanian-
692	Turonian Patagonian Sarmientasaurus (Martínez et al., 2016), Ligabuesaurus from the Aptian-
693	Albian of Neuquen, Argentina, (Bonaparte, González Riga & Apesteguía, 2006) an unnamed
694	titanosaur tooth sample from the Upper Cretaceous Bissekty Fm., Uzbekistan (Averianov &
695	Sues, 2016), and lastly, the robust types of the Massecaps and Ampelosaurus morphotypes from
696	the Campanian-Maastrichtian of southeastern France (Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013).
697	Finally, BSPG 1993 IX 313A, with its strong apical labial convexity, is morphologically similar
698	to both the small tooth type of the Cenomanian-Campanian Chinese <i>Huabeisaurus</i> (D'Emic et
699	al., 2013), as well as the small Campanian-Maastrichtian Atsinganosaurus tooth type from
700	France by sharing a labiolingual compression (CI: 0.76), a high-angled apical wear facet, and
701	lemon-shaped cross section due to the presence of apical carinae (Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le
702	Loeuff, 2013), fig. 3, MHN-AIX-PV.1999.22). It also matches <i>Huabeisaurus</i> and
703	Atsinganosaurus in having smooth enamel. One hypothesis for this smooth enamel could be the
704	tooth-to-food contact, that could have worn a previously more coarse enamel, like the ones of
705	BSPG 1993 IX 331A and BSPG 1993 IX 331B (Figure 4A-D). However, the enamel of BSPG
706	1993 IX 313A does not present the conspicuous pits that appear on the enamel of BSPG 1993 IX
707	2D (Figure 4K-L) from the Algerian sample. This could be due to a diet with a greater quantity



708	of grit in the Algerian individual, as happens in many sauropods, especially the ones that fed in
709	the lower levels of the trees (Fiorillo, 1998; Upchurch & Barrett, 2000; García & Cerda, 2010).
710	The individual of BSPG 1993 IX 313A may have fed on soft vegetation, as has been suggested
711	for Diplodocus (Fiorillo, 1998).
712	Also included in Morphotype I are BSPG 1993 IX 2A, BSPG 1993 IX 2C, PIMUZ A/III 0823c
713	(Figure 2E, 2G, Figure 3C). These teeth deviate from the general cylindrical and general apical
714	tapering shape of Morphotype I in that they all display a mesiodistally slender base, after which
715	the width increases towards the middle, and then tapers towards the rounded apical tip. This is
716	also arguably seen in Rinconsaurus (Calvo & González Riga, 2003), as well as in unnamed
717	titanosaur tooth sample from the Upper Cretaceous Bissekty Formationm., Uzbekistan
718	(Averianov & Sues, 2016), although the latter teeth show a lingual median ridge, which the
719	Moroccan and Algerian samples do not show. BSPG 1993 IX 2A and BSPG 1993 IX 2C display
720	a similar low angled lingual wear facet (~50 degrees relative to the labiolingual tooth axis), and
721	both BSPG 1993 IX 2A and PIMUZ A/III 0823c show a similar labial polished surface. BSPG
722	1993 IX 2C is too worn, however, the carinae of the well-preserved BSPG 1993 IX 2A and
723	PIMUZ A/III 0823c are prominently present, as mesially and distally offset ridges. Moreover,
724	the distal carina is more developed than the mesial one in both, showing a sinusoidal curvature in
725	distal view, as seen to a lesser extent in <i>Huabeisaurus</i> (D'Emic et al., 2013). Note, however, that
726	the carinae are not as prominent as in <i>Euhelopus</i> (Barrett & Wang, 2007; Poropat & Kear, 2013).
727	Furthermore, the distal carina of PIMUZ A/III 0823c shows (pseudo)denticles, a feature seen in
728	the Late Jurassic South African Giraffatitan (Janensch, 1935), an unnamed titanosauriform from
729	the Early Cretaceous of Denmark (Bonde, 2012), the Late Jurassic French Vouivria (Mannion,
730	Allain & Moine, 2017), and the Early Cretaceous African Malawisaurus (Gomani, 2005).



Furthermore, BSPG 1993 IX 2A resembles the morphotype B of Lo Hueco, Spain (MCCM-HUE
2687, (Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014), fig. 5). Both morphotypes are cylindrical, have a high
SI (>4.3), a strong apical distal or medial inclination of the tooth (giving the tooth a far from
straight outline) with a high-angled wear facet. Moreover, the enamel wrinkling of BSPG 1993
IX 2A matches that of the Lo Hueco morphotype, in that both morphotypes show coarse, but not
rugose, discontinuous wrinkling, with smooth longitudinal ridges, although BSPG 1993 IX 2A
shows more pronounced enamel wrinkling than Lo Hueco morphotype B.
PIMUZ A/III 0823c also resembles Lo Hueco morphotype A, in the general morphology of the
crown and its length, its labiolingual compression, and its SI and CI values (see e.g. HUE-685,
(Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014, fig. 2).
It could be argued that, due to the differences of BSPG 1993 IX 2A, BSPG 1993 IX 2C, PIMUZ
A/III 0823c from the rest of Morphotype I, these teeth could be gathered in a separate
morphotype, however, as the sample size is low, with only three teeth, further analysis to help
distinguish any (sub)morphotypes is not possible and lies outside of the scope of the current
study, until a higher tooth sample can be examined. Therefore, although these teeth are discussed
as potentially separate, the most parsimonious conclusion is to leave them in Morphotype I.
Finally, BSPG 1993 2D, PIMUZ A/III 0823f, PIMUZ A/III 0823g, PIMUZ A/III 0823h are
assigned to Morphotype I, although the enamel wrinkling differs from the rugose type (both the
worn and unworn expression of it). BSPG 1993 IX 2D, PIMUZ A/III 0823f, PIMUZ A/III 0823g
and PIMUZ A/III 0823h (Figure 2H, Figure 3F, 3G, 3H) all share a smooth enamel type, a strong
distal displacement of the apex in labial and lingual view, an acutely tapering, sharp apical tip,
and a distally inclined base of 45 degrees. One tooth (PIMUZ A/III 0823h) is likely to be a
juvenile tooth. This is interesting, as thus far teeth of juvenile sauropods show a difference in



expression of enamel wrinkling, as found by Fiorillo (1991, 1998), Diez Diaz et al. (2012), Diaz,
Suberbiola & Sanz, (2012), and (Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014), in several titanosaurian teeth
from the Ibero-Armorican Island, and in Patagosaurus (Holwerda, Pol & Rauhut 2015). The
smoothness of enamel wrinkling in juvenile teeth, therefore, could express differently in adults,
further enforcing the most parsimonious conclusion of gathering these last teeth in Morphotype I
(Barrett et al., 2016) described some juvenile (hatchling or even embryonic) sauropod teeth of
titanosauriforms/camarasaurids from the Berriasian of southern France, which match the apical
morphology of this Moroccan tooth. However, the Moroccan tooth lacks the basal mesial
constriction and the lingual buttress of juvenile teeth described by Barrett et al. (2016). Juvenile
teeth are also described by (García & Cerda, 2010) for sauropod embryos from Auca Mahuevo,
however these small teeth show a more acutely tapering apical tip than the Moroccan sample.
PIMUZ A/III 0823f and PIMUZ A/III 0823h resemble the Spanish Lo Hueco morphotype A in
the general morphology of their crowns and their slight apical asymmetry (which could be due to
wear). PIMUZ A/III 0823f also reflects the Lo Hueco morphotype A in that it has a similar
length, labiolingual compression, and SI and CI values (Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014). As
PIMUZ A/III 0823h probably belonged to a juvenile specimen, the size of this tooth is smaller
when compared to the other ones, and this changes the SI and CI values. Juvenile teeth need to
be used with caution when included in comparative studies, especially when using quantitative
variables such as the SI and CI (see Statistical Analysis).
PIMUZ A/III 0823g is the only tooth with smooth enamel that shows striations on the surface,
providing the cross-section with a slightly rhomboid shape, however the strongly protruding
carinae also still give a lemon-shaped cross section. Striations are seen on teeth of Huabeisaurus
(D'Emic et al., 2013), brachiosaurid teeth from South Korea (Lim et al., 2001), smooth enamel





type titanosaur teeth from the Bissekty Fm., Uzbekistan (Averianov & Sues, 2016), and in
combination with smooth enamel, in Atsinganosaurus (though some teeth do display gentle
wrinkling on the middle, see (Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013), as well as in
Demandasaurus (Torcida Fernández-Baldor et al., 2011), although the carinae are less
conspicuous on the latter taxon. Smooth enamel, in combination with a sharp apex, is further
seen in the Albian Karongasaurus from Malawi (Gomani, 2005). Smooth enamel exists on
Limaysaurus (Salgado et al., 2004), however this tooth is more needle-shaped than the teeth of
the Moroccan/Algerian sample. As these teeth are not worn, the apical morphology differs from
the other teeth of Morphotype I, which are all mostly worn apically. However, as worn vs
unworn teeth cannot be properly morphologically distinguished with isolated teeth, these are still
assigned to Morphotype I.
Given the resemblance of Morphotype I to predominantly Cretaceous sauropods, and moreover,
given the size and shape range, this morphotype is difficult to assign to any particular group. The
size and shape range suggests a titanosauriform origin, as titanosaurians usually show a more
conservative morphological range (García & Cerda, 2010). However, given the similarity
between some teeth of Morphotype I with those of titanosaurians, it is more likely that both
titanosauriforms and titanosaurians are present in the tooth sample of Morphotype I, which
closely reflects sauropod diversity of the Cretaceous of northwest Africa recorded by previous
studies, as both titanosauriforms (Mannion & Barrett, 2013; Fanti, Cau & Hassine, 2014;
Lamanna & Hasegawa, 2014) as well as titanosaurians (Ibrahim et al., 2016) have been reported
to be present.



799 Morphotype II: BSPG 1993 IX 331C, BSPG 1993 IX 2B, PIMUZ A/III 0823d, PIMUZ A/III 800 0823i, PIMUZ A/III 0823j 801 General 802 A smaller tooth sample from both the Moroccan and Algerian sample deviates morphologically 803 from Morphotype I. These teeth show a more rectangular morphology, a lack of apical tapering, 804 and distinct labial and lingual wear facets. 805 Discussion 806 BSPG 1993 IX 331C and PIMUZ A/III 0823j (Figure 2C, Figure 3J) both show a distinctive 807 enamel wrinkling, not seen in the other teeth of the sample. It displays a 'chevron' pattern on the 808 labial and lingual surfaces, with rugose striations anastomosing towards the carinae. This pattern 809 is arguably present on the labial side of the enamel of another Moroccan Kem Kem sauropod 810 tooth, tentatively (but not conclusively) assigned to rebbachisauridae by Kellner & Mader 811 (1997). This tooth, however, also shows striations (Kellner & Mader, 1997), which are not seen 812 on BSPG 1993 IX 331C, and PIMUZ A/III 0823j. As Carballido & Pol (2010) and Holwerda, 813 Pol & Rauhut (2015) showed, enamel wrinkling on sauropod teeth can be an autapomorphic 814 diagnostic feature. As both teeth are worn, however, the other morphological features besides 815 enamel wrinkling must be taken into account. The teeth do share morphological similarities in 816 crown shape with the tooth described by Kellner & Mader, (1997), which is apicobasally 817 straight. The rectangular morphology of these teeth, caused by a lack of mesiodistal tapering 818 towards the apex, together with a slightly higher CI due to higher labiolingual compression than 819 the other teeth from the Moroccan/Algerian sample, showing an oval to cylindrical cross-section, 820 is shared with BSPG 1993 IX 2B, as well as PIMUZ A/III 0823d and PIMUZ A/III 0823i 821 (Figure 2F, Figure 3D, 3I). These five teeth further share labial and lingual wear facets, which



822	are symmetrically placed, though in PIMUZ A/III 0823i, as well as in BSPG 1993 IX 2B, one
823	high-angled and low-angled wear facet is seen, which is characteristic of the Aptian-Albian
824	Nigersaurus (Sereno & Wilson, 2005; p.166, fig. 5.7; Sereno et al., 2007, Fig. 2). The size of
825	PIMUZ A/III 0823i matches that of <i>Nigersaurus</i> , however, the other teeth are much larger than
826	the isolated Nigersaurus tooth described by Sereno and Wilson (2005). The enamel asymmetry,
827	a diagnostic feature for Nigersaurus, could not be accurately measured on the Moroccan and
828	Algerian tooth sample. To a lesser degree, the labial and lingual wear facet symmetry is seen in
829	both the Brazilian Aptian Tapuisaurus (Zaher et al., 2011), as well as the Late Cretaceous
830	Maxakalisaurus (Kellner et al., 2006; França et al., 2016). However, these teeth show a higher SI
831	than the Moroccan/Algerian sample, as well as stronger labial convexity. The morphology of
832	Morphotype II also does not match the teeth of <i>Demandasaurus</i> (Torcida Fernández-Baldor et
833	al., 2011), a rebbachisaurid from the Early Cretaceous of Spain.
834	The morphological features on BSPG 1993 IX 2B further show an ambiguous set of
835	titanosaurian features, with a D-shaped cross-section in the middle of the tooth, as seen in
836	Mongolosaurus (Mannion, 2011), and a titanosauriform tooth from Argentina (García and Cerda,
837	2010, MPCA-Pv-55, fig. 5). As previously stated, differences in tooth shape can be explained by
838	their relative placement in the toothrow, as seen in <i>Mongolosaurus</i> (having both a cylindrical as
839	well as a D-shaped tooth; Barrett et al., 2002; Mannion, 2011) and Nemegtosaurus (Wilson,
840	2005). Both <i>Mongolosaurus</i> as well as <i>Nemegtosaurus</i> , however, show a distinct tapering of the
841	apex, which BSPG 1993 IX 2B does not show. Furthermore, differences in shape between upper
842	and lower toothrows is also observed in diplodocoids, such as Diplodocus and Nigersaurus
843	(Sereno & Wilson, 2005). The labial wear facet in particular is characteristic for diplodocids and
844	dicraeosaurids (Sereno & Wilson 2005), and while diplodocids are not known from the





Cretaceous, rebbachisaurids and dicraeosaurids are (e.g. Sereno & Wilson, 2005; Gallina et al., 2014). As rebbachisaurids such as *Rebbachisaurus garasbae* are found in the Kem Kem beds of Morocco (Lavocat, 1954; Mannion & Barrett, 2013; Wilson & Allain, 2015), the Aptian-Albian of Niger (Nigersaurus and rebbachisaurids, Sereno et al., 1996; Wilson & Sereno, 2005; Sereno et al., 2007), and also the Aptian-Albian of Tunisia (Fanti, Cau & Hassine, 2014; Fanti et al., 2015), and tentatively in the late Barremian-early Aptian of Spain (Pereda Suberbiola et al., 2003; Torcida Fernández-Baldor et al., 2011), they are both biogeographically close, as well as originating from beds near-contemporaneous to those of our tooth sample. Morphotype II therefore is tentatively assigned to Rebbachisauridae indet.

#### Quantitative analysis

Though quantitative analysis has been applied to theropod teeth in several previous studies (e.g., Hendrickx & Mateus, in review; Samman et al., 2005; Fanti & Therrien, 2007; Ösi, Apesteguía & Kowalewski, 2010; Hendrickx, Mateus & Araújo, 2015), a statistical approach to sauropod tooth diversity has thus far only been applied through using one variable - the SI - by Chure et al. (2010), and the number of wear facets on the apex (Averianov & Sues, 2016). Quantitative analyses on sauropod teeth with two or more variables is therefore an area of study that has not received much attention. Here, we report an analysis of sauropod teeth based on multivariate statistical tests. The one-way PERMANOVA revealed significant differences between some of the tested groups (F=14.46, p=0.0001). Specific comparisons for each pair of groups are listed in Table 2. Morphotype I shows significant differences in SI and CI ratios with the D-shaped Morphotype from Fox-Amphoux, *Patagosaurus*, *Euhelopus*, the Shiramine morphotype, and



Maxakalisaurus (Table 2). Differences with some of these groups are congruent with the
qualitative approach described above. On the other hand, the SI and CI values of Morphotype I
did not significantly differ from those of Atsinganosaurus, Lirainosaurus, Astrodon, the
cylindrical Morphotype from Fox-Amphoux, both tooth morphotypes from Lo Hueco, and the
titanosaurian teeth from Massecaps, Neuquén, Uzbekistan, and the Bauru Formation, Brazil. (see
Table 2). This is in agreement with the qualitative discussion of Morphotype I, where the robust
tooth type showed morphological similarities with Astrodon, and the elongated cylindrical type
was shown to be morphologically comparable to the Neuquén and Uzbekistan tooth types. It also
reinforces the morphological similarities found between Morphotype I with Ibero-Armorican
titanosaurs.
Concerning Morphotype II, the SI and CI ratios differ significantly from Atsinganosaurus,
Patagosaurus, Euhelopus, and Maxakalisaurus (see Table 2) confirming that even though the
wear facets of Morphotype II match those of Maxakalisaurus, there is no further morphological
overlap. Unfortunately, the available sample size of Nigersaurus and other rebbachisaurids was
not large enough to statistically test their similarities with confidence (see Supplementary Table).
However, the very small sample size of this study is not well-suited to this type of approach,
therefore the results of this analysis must be taken with caution, and any relationships found
between sauropod taxa of our sample must be regarded as tentative. The sauropod relationships
suggested by the qualitative and quantitative analysis might not be supported if the sample size is
increased. For example, most of the tooth groups of the studied sample were not distinguished
after the Bonferroni correction on the post-hoc tests. This might mean that titanosaurian teeth do
not possess any clear diagnostic features, or, more likely, that only two variables - the SI and the
CI - are not enough to distinguish between titanosaurs, as most taxa and morphotypes strongly



891	group together (see Figure 5). In Figure 5, most teeth from the Moroccan/Algerian samples
892	cluster together with Morphotype I and II. The outliers with high SI and high CI are
893	Maxakalisaurus, Rapetosaurus, Petrobasaurus and Limaysaurus, whilst outliers with low SI and
894	low CI are Patagosaurus and Jobaria (see Figure 5). The outlier with low SI but high CI is
895	Lapparentosaurus (Figure 5) From the central cluster, Morphotype I and II overlap mostly with
896	the Shiramine teeth, the Uzbekistan teeth, and the Franco-Iberian teeth. (Figure 5)
897	Titanosauriform teeth are known to show a large range in morphology, and, moreover, they show
898	some convergence in morphology with more basal sauropod teeth (Garcia & Cerda 2010).
899	However, it is possible, after the qualitative and quantitative analyses here, that titanosaurian
900	teeth show a similar convergence. Finally, as mentioned previously, the large range of size and
901	shape within one toothrow could also cause taxa to accrete in Figure 5, though postcranial
902	morphology would cause more morphological scatter. To resolve these issues, a larger sample
903	size, not only of the case study at hand, but also of other (Cretaceous) sauropod teeth, could
904	possibly aid in obtaining a better resolution of future quantitative analyses, however this is
905	beyond the scope of the present study.
906	
907	Euro-Gondwanan Cretaceous sauropod diversity and palaeobiogeographical implications
908	
909	To summarize, the described tooth sample from the Albian-Cenomanian Kem Kem beds of
910	Morocco and the Continental Intercalaire of Algeria shows a predominantly
911	titanosauriform/titanosaurian assemblage, with only one morphotype (II, with four teeth)
912	showing tentative rebbacchisaurid affinities. When compared with the biogeographically nearest





913	tooth assemblages, namely titanosaurian teeth found in the Ibero-Armorican Island, as well as
914	northwest and central Africa, several probable palaeobiogeographical patterns can be assessed.
915	
916	Morphotype I shows morphological affinities with titanosauriforms. Titanosaurian sauropods in
917	the Campanian Kem Kem beds of Morocco have been reported previously (Ibrahim et al., 2016).
918	This titanosaurian predominance is also seen in the later stages of the Cretaceous of Egypt
919	(Lamanna et al., 2017; Sallam et al., 2018), as well as Spain and France (see e.g. Le Loeuff,
920	1995, 2005; Sanz et al., 1999; Garcia et al., 2010; Díaz et al., 2016; Vila, Sellés & Brusatte,
921	2016). As fourteen teeth from our sample share several similarities with the cylindrical
922	morphotype from Fox-Amphoux-Métisson, with the morphotype A from Lo Hueco and with the
923	D-shaped morphotype from Fox-Amphoux-Métisson, as well as with Atsinganosaurus and the
924	morphotype B from Lo Hueco (Díaz et al., 2012; Díaz, Suberbiola & Sanz, 2012; Díez Díaz,
925	Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013; Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014), this suggests a close affinity
926	between the Cenomanian North African titanosaurian faunas and those from the Campanian-
927	Maastrichtian of southern Europe.
928	
929	Morphotype II shows affinities with rebacchisaurids. Rebbachisaurid presence has already been
930	noted from the Early Cretaceous of Niger (Sereno et al., 1999; Sereno & Wilson, 2005), Tunisia
931	(Fanti et al., 2013, 2015; Fanti, Cau & Hassine, 2014), and Morocco (Lavocat, 1954, Kellner &
932	Mader, 1997, Mannion & Barrett, 2013, Wilson & Alain, 2015), as well as the United Kingdom
933	(Mannion, Upchurch & Hutt, 2011)and Spain (Pereda Suberbiola et al., 2003; Torcida
934	Fernández-Baldor et al., 2011). Again, the North African - southern European connection is a
935	tentative explanation for the divergence of rebbachisaurids between Gondwana and Europe in the





936 Cretaceous (see Figure 6); in addition, rebbachisaurids also seem to be a successful clade within 937 North and Central Africa. 938 939 In previous studies, faunal connections have been demonstrated to exist between North Africa 940 and Italy, such as temporary continental connections during the Barremian (125 Ma, the so-941 called Apulian route), or more permanent connections caused by carbonate platforms in the peri-942 Adriatic (Gheerbrant & Rage, 2006; Canudo et al., 2009; Zarcone et al., 2010; Torcida 943 Fernández-Baldor et al., 2011). These last authors suggested that this route could have allowed 944 for the divergence of the rebbachisaurids Demandasaurus and Nigersaurus. Moreover, Fanti et 945 al., (2016) point to a rebbachisaurid dispersal event leading from Gondwana to a European 946 lineage in the Early Cretaceous. Perhaps the hypothesized continental connection also allowed 947 titanosaurs to migrate between Laurasia and Gondwana. Furthermore, next to European 948 sauropods, also theropods, crocodyliforms, amphibians, and snakes and even batoids from 949 southern Europe (France, Spain, Italy, Croatia) have been found to show Gondwanan affinities 950 (Soler-Gijón & López-Martínez, 1998; Gardner, Evans, & Sigogneau-Russell, 2003; Pereda-951 Suberbiola et al. 2009, 2015; Sweetman & Gardner, 2013; Csiki-Sava et al., 2015; Blanco et al., 952 2016, 2017; Dal Sasso et al., 2016; Blanco, in press). 953 The discovery of titanosaurian teeth with similar morphologies from the Cenomanian of Algeria 954 and Morocco, and from the late Campanian-early Maastrichtian of the Ibero-Armorican Island, 955 could indicate that some of these European titanosaurian faunas had a Gondwanan origin. However, this hypothesis needs to be taken with some caution until more postcranial remains 956 957 (with associated cranial specimens) are found and described from the Late Cretaceous of North 958 Africa and southwestern Europe, as statistical analysis does not show a high support of any



definite grouping between the North African and southern European tooth morphotypes.

However, although Csiki-Sava et al. (2015) suggested that European titanosaurs do not seem to have a southern influence, and palaeobiogeographical analyses, as well as this study, show both a Gondwanan (South American) and North American input in European Cretaceous fauna (e.g. Upchurch, 2008; Ezcurra & Agnolín, 2011) -which might cautiously be supported by our qualitative and quantitative analyses as well- recent studies have added more information about the North African-southern European connection between these sauropod faunas in the Late Cretaceous (see e.g. Sallam et al., 2018; Díez Díaz et al., submitted). In Figure 6, a tentative palaeobiogeographical construction is shown using the Algerian and Moroccan morphotypes and their morphological counterparts from northwest and central Africa, as well as southern Europe, and possible migratory routes based on previous hypotheses.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

A sample of eighteen teeth from the Cretaceous Kem Kem beds from Erfoud and Taouz,

Morocco, and from the Continental Intercalaire, Algeria, has been studied. The overwhelming
majority of this sample shows titanosauriform/titanosaur affinities, with a smaller group showing
rebacchisaurid affinities. This is congruent with the results of the statistical analyses. However,
the small size of the comparative samples and the relative scarcity of this type of analysis in
studies thus far, begs for caution in interpreting results until further study is possible.

On the other hand, similarities between tooth samples from northwestern and central Africa, and
southwestern Europe, do strongly hint at a possible sauropod faunal exchange through
continental connections in the early Late Cretaceous between North and Central Africa, and





981	between North Africa and southwestern Europe. These results support previous hypotheses from
982	earlier studies on faunal exchange and continental connections.
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1360	Mesozoic palaeogeography of the Central Mediterranean area. Earth-Science Reviews
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1362	
1363	Figure and Table legends
1364	
1365	Figure 1: Geological setting of Kem Kem beds, Morocco, and continental intercalaire, Algeria.
1366	Taouz and Erfoud are indicated. The localities of Lo Hueco, Spain, and Fox-Amphoux-
1367	Métissons and Massecaps are also portrayed.
1368	A: stratigraphical column of Kem Kem beds (after Ibrahim et al., 2014). B: stratigraphical
1369	column of continental intercalaire, Algeria, (after Forey and Cavin, 2010).
1370	
1371	Figure 2: Images of BSPG 1993 IX 331A (A), BSPG 1993 IX 331B (B), BSPG 1993 IX 331C
1372	(C), BSPG 1993 IX 313A (D), BSPG 1993 IX 2A (E), BSPG 1993 IX 2B (F), BSPG 1993 IX 2C
1373	(G), and BSPG 1993 IX 2D (H).
1374	In basal view, apical view, labial view, lingual view, distal view, and mesial view. The scale bar
1375	equals 1 cm.
1376	
1377	Figure 3: Images of PIMUZ A/III 0823a (A), PIMUZ A/III 0823b (B) PIMUZ A/III 0823c (C),
1378	PIMUZ A/III 0823d (D), PIMUZ A/III 0823e (E), PIMUZ A/III 0823f (F), PIMUZ A/III
1379	0823g(G), PIMUZ A/III 0823h (H), PIMUZ A/III 0823i (I), PIMUZ A/III 0823j (J).
1380	In apical view, basal view, labial view, lingual view, distal view, and mesial view. The scale bar
1381	equals 1 cm.
1382	





1383	Figure 4: SEM pictures of enamel wrinkling. BSPG 1993 IX 331A in labial (A) and lingual (B)
1384	view, BSPG 1993 IX 331B in labial (C) and lingual (D) view, BSPG 1993 IX 313A in labial (E)
1385	and lingual (F) view, BSPG 1993 IX 2A in labial (G) and lingual (H) view, BSPG 1993 IX 2B in
1386	labial (I) and lingual (J) view, and BSPG 1993 IX 2D in labial (K) and lingual (L) view. The
1387	scale bar equals 500μm.
1388	
1389	Figure 5: Dispersion plot of Cretaceous tooth morphotypes, with Jurassic outgroups. See
1390	coloured boxes in legend for sauropod groups.
1391	
1392	Figure 6: Palaeobiogeographical reconstruction of northwest Africa and southern Europe during
1393	the Cenomanian (black line) and Campanian-Maastrichtian (grey line), with possible migration
1394	routes (dotted green line). Adapted from Csiki-Sava et al., (2015).
1395	Tooth morphotype I next to tooth morphotypes A and B from Lo Hueco (from Díez Díaz, Ortega
1396	& Sanz, 2014) Fox-Amphoux-Métissons cylindrical type and D-shaped morphotype (from Díez
1397	et al., 2012), the Massecaps titanosaur and Atsinganosaurus (from Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le
1398	Loeuff, 2013). Tooth morphotype II next to Nigersaurus (from Sereno et al., 2007), and
1399	Demandasaurus (From Torcida Fernández-Baldor et al., 2011).
1400	
1401	Table 1: Measurements, wear stage (after Saegusa & Tomida, 2011) and enamel morphology of
1402	each tooth. Measurements in mm.
1403	
1404	Table 2: One-way PERMANOVA comparisons for each pair of sauropod groups.
1405	





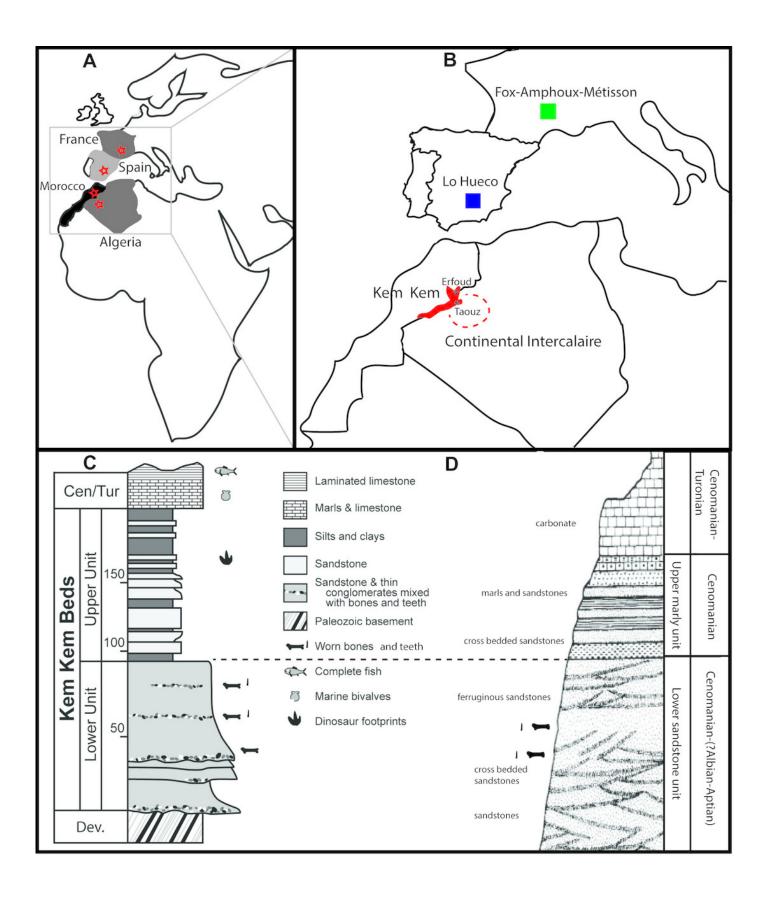
1406	Supplementary Table 1: All tooth samples for the quantitative analysis with SI and CI from pers.
1407	obs. or literature.
1408	
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Geological setting of Kem Kem beds, Morocco, and Continental Intercalaire, Algeria.

Taouz and Erfoud are indicated. localities of Lo Hueco, Spain, and France (FAM, AIX, Massecaps) are also portrayed. A: Map of Europe and Africa. B: Close-up of North Africa and Southern Europe. C: stratigraphical column of Kem Kem beds (after Belvedere et al., 2013; Ibrahim et al., 2014). D: stratigraphical column of Continental Intercalaire, Algeria, (after Forey, López-Arbarello & MacLeod, 2011).







Images of BSPG 1993 IX 331A (A), BSPG 1993 IX 331B (B), BSPG 1993 IX 331C (C), BSPG 1993 IX 313A (D), BSPG 1993 IX 2A (E), BSPG 1993 IX 2B (F), BSPG 1993 IX 2C (G), and BSPG 1993 IX 2D (H).

In basal view, apical view, labial view, lingual view, distal view, and mesial view. The scale bar equals 1 cm. *Images taken by RM*.





Images of PIMUZ A/III 0823a (A), PIMUZ A/III 0823b (B) PIMUZ A/III 0823c (C), PIMUZ A/III 0823d (D), PIMUZ A/III 0823e (E), PIMUZ A/III 0823f (F), PIMUZ A/III 0823g(G), PIMUZ A/III 0823h (H), PIMUZ A/III 0823i (I), PIMUZ A/III 0823j (J).

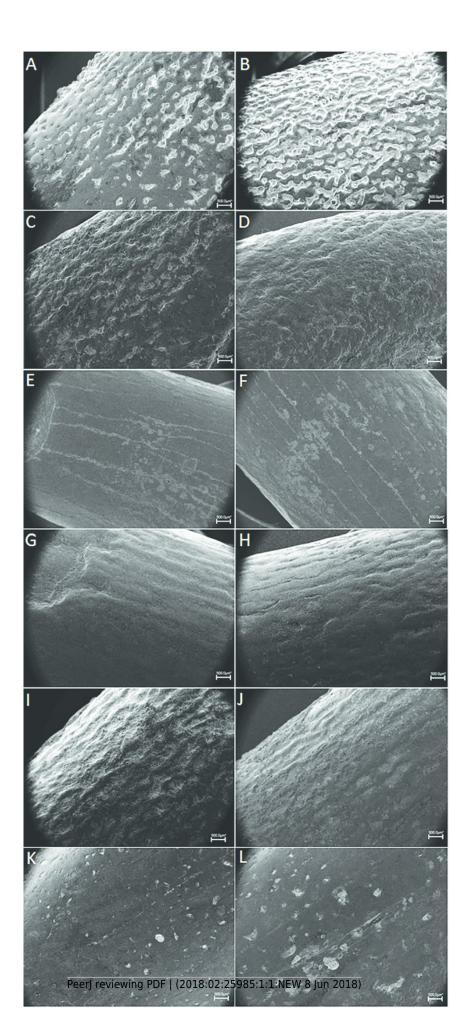
In apical view, basal view, labial view, lingual view, distal view, and mesial view. The scale bar equals 1 cm. *Images taken by FH*.





SEM pictures of enamel wrinkling.

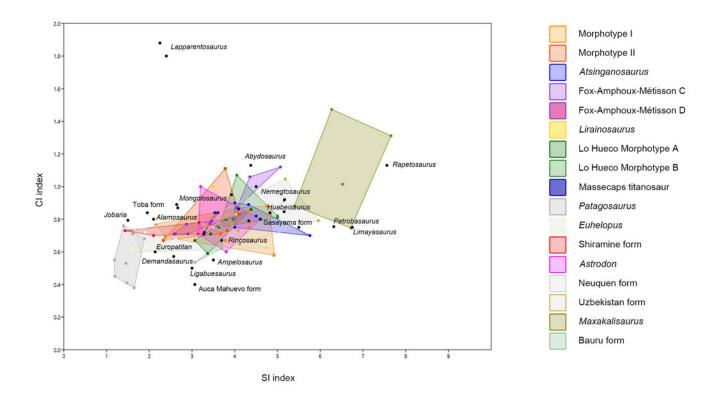
BSPG 1993 IX 331A in labial (A) and lingual (B) view, BSPG 1993 IX 331B in labial (C) and lingual (D) view, BSPG 1993 IX 313A in labial (E) and lingual (F) view, BSPG 1993 IX 2A in labial (G) and lingual (H) view, BSPG 1993 IX 2B in labial (I) and lingual (J) view, and BSPG 1993 IX 2D in labial (K) and lingual (L) view. The scale bar equals 500µm. Images taken by FH and RM.





Dispersion plot of Cretaceous tooth morphotypes, with Jurassic outgroups.

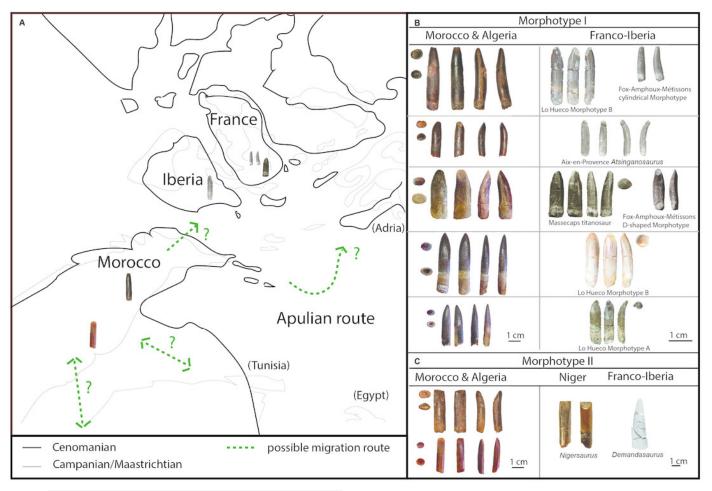
See coloured boxes in legend for sauropod groups.





Palaeobiogeographical reconstruction of northwest Africa and southern Europe using sauropod tooth morphotypes.

A: northwest Africa and southern Europe during the Cenomanian (black line) and Campanian-Maastrichtian (grey line), with possible migration routes (dotted green line), adapted from Csiki-Sava et al., (2015). B: Tooth morphotype I next to tooth morphotypes A and B from Lo Hueco (from Díez Díaz, Ortega & Sanz, 2014) Fox-Amphoux-Métissons cylindrical type and D-shaped morphotype (from Díez et al., 2012), the Massecaps titanosaur and *Atsinganosaurus* (from Díez Díaz, Tortosa & Le Loeuff, 2013). C: Tooth morphotype II next to *Nigersaurus* (from Sereno et al., 2007), and *Demandasaurus* (From Torcida Fernández-Baldor et al., 2011).





#### Table 1(on next page)

Measurements, wear stage (after Saegusa & Tomida, 2011) and enamel morphology of each tooth.

Measurements in mm.

Specimen nr	Apico- basal length	Abrasion stage	Mesio- distal base	Mesio- distal middle	Mesio- distal apex	Labio- lingual base	Labio- lingual middle	Labio- lingual apex	SI	CI	Abrasion stage	Number and location of wear facets	Hypothetical placement in the snout	Apical third cross- section	Enamel ornamentation	
BSPG 1993 IX 331A	60	53	12	12,3	6,2	10	10,5	4	4,3089	0,8537	F2	2 (ap, ln)	Premaxilla	Elliptical	Anastomosed	
BSPG 1993 IX 331B	48	24	10,8	11,1	4,5	8,5	8,5	3	2,1622	0,7658	F1	0	-	Elliptical	Anastomosed	
BSPG 1993 IX 331C	37	37	10	9	5,5	7,5	7,5	2	4,1111	0,8333	F4-F5	4 (lb, ln, m, d)	Maxilla	Elliptical	(worn), scratches and apical pits	
BSPG 1993 IX 313A	27,5	27,5	8,2	8,2	4,5	6	6,2	1	3,3537	0,7561	F2	1 (ln)	Premaxilla	Elliptical	Longitudinal ridges (but worn) Longitudinal	
BSPG 1993 IX 2A	51	50	10,5	11,5	5,5	8,5	9	2	4,3478	0,7826	F2	1 (ln)	Maxilla Anterior	Lemon- shaped Lemon-	ridges (but worn)	
BSPG 1993 IX 2B	47,5	47,5	13	13	11,5	9	9,2	3	3,6538	0,7077	F2-F3	2 (lb, ln)	dentary	shaped	Longitudinal ridges	
BSPG 1993 IX 2C	47	47	10	11,5	5	8	10	2	4,0870	0,8696	F2	1 (lb)	Anterior dentary	Lemon- shaped	No (because of preservation)	
BSPG 1993 IX 2D	38	38	9,5	10,5	1,5	6,5	7,5	1,5	3,6190	0,7143	F1	0	Anterior (?)	Lemon- shaped	(worn) w/pits and scratches	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 a	66	59	15	12	7	8	7	4	4,9167	0,5833	F2	1 (ln)	Premaxilla	Elliptical	Anastomosed (but worn)	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 b	39	31	14,5	13	7	8	9	7	2,3846	0,6923	F2	1 (ln)	Premaxilla	D- shaped	Anastomosed	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 c	57	34	11	9	5	6	6	3	3,7778	0,6667	F1	0	-	Lemon- shaped	Anastomosed w/protrusions	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 d	24	21	7	9	6	6	6	4	2,3333	0,6667	F2-F3	2 (lb, ln)	Anterior	Elliptical (worn)	Anastomosed w/protrusions	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 e	43	37	10	9	8	9	7	4	4,1111	0,7778	F2	2 (lb, ln)	Premaxilla	Lemon- shaped	Reticulate w/ protrusions	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 f	42	38	9	8	4	6	7	3	4,7500	0,8750	F1	0	-	Elliptical	Smooth	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 g	31	29	7	6	2	6	5	3	4.8333	0,8333	F4	3 (ln, m, d)	Maxilla	Lemon- shaped (faint)	Smooth (w/ apicobasal striations)	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 g PIMUZ A/III 0823 h	26	26	5	6	<u>3</u> 5	6	4,5	3	4,8333	0,8333	F1-F2	1 (ap)	- Wiaxiiia	Elliptical	Smooth	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 i	21	21	5	5,5	3	3	4,3	2	3,8182	0,7300	F2-F3	2 (lb, ln)	Anterior dentary	Lemon- shaped	Smooth	
PIMUZ A/III 0823 j	34	34	11	9	8	9	10	4	3,7778	1,1111	F4	3 (ln, m, d)	Maxilla	Elliptical (worn)	Chevron-like	



Table 2(on next page)

One-way PERMANOVA comparisons for each pair of sauropod groups.



	Morph_I	Morph_II	Atsinganosaurus	Fox-Amphoux C-Morph	Fox Amphoux D-Morph	Lirainosaurus	LH Morph A	LH Morph В	Massecaps titanosaur	Patagosaurus	Euhelopus	Shiramine form	Astrodon	Neuquen titano indet	Uzbekistan Neosauropod	Maxakalisaurus	Bauru titanosaur
		0,397	0,191	0,258	0,038		0,472	0,355	0,412	0,000	0,000	0,009	0,640	0,077	0,262	0,000	0,415
Morph_I		5	7	4	3	0,751	9	6	7	1	2	6	8	4	3	6	2
Morph_II			0,022 8	0,075 2	0,180 9	0,862 3	0,875 8	0,115 6	1	0,000 8	0,003 8	0,113 1	0,856 8	0,370 2	0,090 9	0,008 7	0,763
				0,838	0,008	0,388	0,042	0,697	0,034	0,000	0,002	0,009	0,139	0,049	0,686	0,016	0,035
Atsinganosaurus				3	3	8	7	1	7	6	2	3	9	5	4	5	7
Fox-Amphoux C-					0,017	0,189	0,053	0,645	0,095	0,005	0,012	0,026	0,142		0,600	0,017	0,102
Morph					2	2	2	8	4	4	2	8	3	0,106	5	6	8
Fox Amphoux D-						0,147	0,079	0,014		0,000	0,007	0,358	0,111	0,985	0,005	0,008	0,154
Morph						4	2	3	0,144	9	4	1	2	5	7	2	5
							0,666	0,236	0,503	0,022	0,037	0,136	0,933	0,436			0,598
Lirainosaurus							2	2	2	4	4	4	8	3	0,374	0,05	9
_								0,093	0,711	0,001	0,001	0,036	0,908		0,091	0,007	0,660
LoHueco Morph A								2	9	5	9	6	1	0,321	3	9	7
									0,070	0.004	0,002	0.000	0.400	0,076	0,951	0.000	0,121
LoHueco Morph B									7	0,001	4	0,009	0,189	5	5	0,009	2
Massecaps										0,005 9	0,011 7	0,109 9	0,749 1	0,461 8	0,093 6	0,019 8	0,503 2
titanosaur										3	0,023	0,010	0,002	0,004	0,000	0	0,006
Patagosaurus											3	5	0,002	7	2	0,001	1
Patagosaurus												0,190	0,005	0,081	0,000	5,001	0,012
Euhelopus												2	0,003	8	2	0,002	8
												_	0,143	0,563	0,001	0,008	0,170
Shiramine form													3	9	4	6	7
														0,329	0,188	0,007	0,652
Astrodon														7	5	7	7
Neuquen titano indet															0,021 9	0,007 2	0,47

#### PeerJ

Uzbekistan Neosauropod								0,000	0,096 8
·									0,017
Maxakalisaurus									4
Bauru titanosaur									