

A TAIL OF DEFENCE – ALMOST COMPLETE TAIL SKELETON OF *PLATEOSAURUS* (SAUROPODOMORPHA, LATE TRIASSIC) REVEALS POSSIBLE DEFENCE STRATEGIES

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A recently excavated partial skeleton of the Late Triassic dinosaur *Plateosaurus trossingensis* from Frick (Switzerland) shows an almost complete series of tail vertebrae including an articulated whip-like end. The preserved articulated tail allows a first look at the morphological implications on the behaviour of these dinosaurs. Using these bones, the tail lashing power of *Plateosaurus* was reconstructed, investigated, and compared with other fossil and extant long-tailed reptile taxa such as the extinct sauropod *Diplodocus*, the recent Asian water monitor (*Varanus salvator*), and the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*). These novel insights reveal constraints and possibilities of combining paleontological and behavioural sciences leading to a better understanding of this Late Triassic prosauropod species.