

# ALEXANDRONECTES ZEALANDIENSIS GEN. ET SP NOV., A NEW ARISTONECTINE PLESIOSAUR FROM THE LOWER MAASTRICHTIAN OF NEW ZEALAND

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## Resumen

A fragmentary plesiosaur skull from lower Maastrichtian levels of the Conway Formation, New Zealand, is redescribed. Originally regarded as pertaining to two separate individuals, we argue that they represent a single individual belonging to a new aristonectine elasmosaurid, *Alexandronectes zealandiensis* gen. et sp. nov. This new taxon has common morphologies with other aristonectines such as expansion of the pterygoids extending posteriorly beyond the occipital condyle (as observed in *Ar. quiriquinensis* and probably in *Kaiweheka katiki*) and the presence of an A'-shaped squamosal arch in dorsal view. Otherwise, it is distinguished from these latter species by having different paraoccipital processes, a different mandibular glenoid, and an adult skull comparatively smaller than *K. katiki* and *Aristonectes* spp. The new taxon is a morphologically intermediate form between the dorsoventrally high skull of *K. katiki* and the mediolaterally expanded skulls of *Aristonectes* spp. The studied specimen is the second genus and species and the third report of an aristonectine recovered from lower Maastrichtian beds of New Zealand, emphasizing the diversity of this group in New Zealand and also indicating that aristonectines could include smaller species than those already known. <http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:5167B8FB-82F7-4F33-8663-EBF16692A9A0>SUPPLEMENTAL DATASupplemental materials are available for this article for free at [www.tandfonline.com/UJVPCitation](http://www.tandfonline.com/UJVPCitation) for this article: Otero, R. A., J. P. O'Gorman, N. Hiller, F. R. O'Keefe, and R. E. Fordyce. 2016. *Alexandronectes zealandiensis* gen. et sp. nov., a new aristonectine plesiosaur from the lower Maastrichtian of New Zealand. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. DOI: 10.1080/02724634.2015.1054494.

## Palabras clave

**KeyWords Plus:** [MAUISAURUS-HAASTI HECTOR](#); [ELASMOSAURID PLESIOSAUR](#); [NORTHERN PATAGONIA](#); [SAUROPTERYGIA](#); [REPTILIA](#); [ANTARCTICA](#); [OSTEOLOGY](#); [ISLAND](#); [SHALE](#)

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