

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

School of Geography, Earth
& Environmental Sciences
Dr. Richard J. Butler
Birmingham Fellow
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham, B15 2TT
United Kingdom
Email: r.butler.1@bham.ac.uk

South African Heritage Resources Agency
111 Harrington Street
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000
South Africa

27.08.2013

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Request for extension of loan of CGS 431

I wish to apply for a one-year extension to my loan of CGS 431 in order to complete the proposed research project. Micro-CT scanning of the skull in Berlin has been conducted and some initial rendering of CT data completed by Martin Ezcurra in collaboration with researchers in Berlin (see below images). CT data is of exceptional quality, providing previously unparalleled examination of the braincase, endocranium, inner ear and palate of *Prolacerta*. Anatomical examination of the specimen has confirmed its referral to the species *Prolacerta broomi*, which is already known from multiple specimens but few with as well-preserved endocrania. Unfortunately, rendering and reconstruction of fossil CT data is highly time-consuming and requires very high-powered hardware and specialist software; this rendering will be completed until 2014 given limited time slots available for use of the relevant software and the other time commitments of Ezcurra and collaborators in Berlin. It is essential that we retain the original specimen during analysis of CT data, because it provides us with vital context for interpreting CT scans. A one-year extension will allow Ezcurra, with my oversight and supervision, to complete the project and prepare at least one publication on the palate and/or braincase anatomy for a leading specialist palaeontological journal.



Left: preliminary virtual reconstruction of the external morphology of the braincase of *Prolacerta* in left lateral view, based upon CT data for CGS 431. Planned work will produce higher resolution reconstructions as well as endocranial and inner ear reconstructions.

I also wish to transfer the loan to my new institution, the University of Birmingham, where I will am based permanently as a member of academic staff from August 2013. My contact details at Birmingham are as follows:

Address: School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

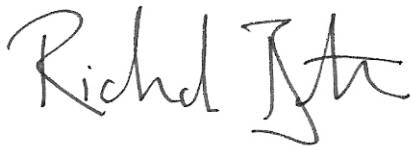
Telephone: +44 (0)121 414 5539

Fax: +44(0)121 414 4942

Email: r.butler.1@bham.ac.uk

I look forward to hearing from you with regard to this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Butler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'B'.

Dr. Richard Butler