

# Review of: "Why is vertebral pneumaticity in sauropod dinosaurs so variable?"

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This is a concise, and informative paper that has already been reviewed extensively giving an overview of vertebral pneumaticity in sauropods, and its subsequent variability due to soft tissue vascularisation. The evidence is compelling being supported by neontological observations. If I were to make a couple of suggestions it would be that I am aware that the authors reference similar pneumatic features in other extinct archosaurs but perhaps could highlight in one or two sentences that whilst vertebral laminae and shallow depressions on centra are wide spread among archosauriforms, they are not necessarily diagnostic of pneumaticity. This would draw the readers attention to the fact the these features are sometimes difficult to interpret in the first instance (as in the case of prosauropods little unambiguous evidence of pneumaticity), before leading on with the rest of your paper where you explore how these features may have formed more fully.

Due to the extensive literature on the subject I respect the authors decision not to compare and contrast patterns of pneumaticity among sauropods and other sauropodomorphs. Although it is interesting how others have noticed a general trend in sauropod evolution for pneumatic features to extend posteriorly along the vertebral column, and perhaps the palaeobiological implications of this could be explored?

Otherwise a very enjoyable read