

## BELAL S. SALEM

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

#### ❖ **Current:**

- **July 2023-present:** Teaching and Research assistant at Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology (I-GHHE), School of Sciences and Engineering, American University in Cairo.
- **2020-present:** Researcher at Mansoura University Vertebrate Paleontology center (MUVP), Department of Geology, Mansoura University, Egypt.
- **2019-present:** Teaching Assistant of Stratigraphy and Paleontology, Department of Geology, Benha University, Egypt.

#### ❖ **Former:**

- **2020-2022:** Teaching and Research assistant at Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology (I-GHHE), School of Sciences and Engineering, American University in Cairo.
- **2018:** Lab and collection manager at Mansoura University Vertebrate Paleontology center (MUVP), Department of Geology, Mansoura University, Egypt.

### EDUCATION

- **Master's degree, 2022 –2023.** Biological Sciences, Ohio University, USA.
- **Former MS Student, 2020-2022:** Stratigraphy and Paleontology, Department of Geology, Benha University, Egypt.
- **Premaster degree, 2019:** Stratigraphy and Paleontology, Department of Geology, Benha University, Egypt.
- **B.Sc., 2018:** in General Geology, Benha University, Egypt; grade Excellent with honors; ranked first in class.

### AWARDS

- **2022:** USAID Scholarship for MS Degree at Ohio University.
- **2021:** Candidate for a master's degree scholarship from the Fulbright Foundation.
- **2021:** The Jurassic Foundation fieldwork grant.
- **2021:** Patterson Award from Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP).
- **2019:** Honor, Academic Excellence, Syndicate of Scientists in Qalubiyya governorate, Egypt.
- **2018:** Honor, Scientific Excellence Day Benha University; first place in the Faculty of Science, Benha University, in the bachelor's degree category.
- **2014-2018:** Honor, List of the Faculty of Science, Benha University, Egypt.

### TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❖ Responsible for teaching the following undergraduate practical courses: Vertebrate Paleontology, Micro-Paleontology, General Stratigraphy, Stratigraphy of Egypt, and field

geology at several Egyptian universities (Benha University, Mansoura University, Kafrelsheikh University, and the American University of Cairo).

- ❖ Teaching assistant, American University of Cairo; Scientific Thinking course, which helps students strengthen their critical thinking abilities.

### LANGUAGES SKILLS

- Arabic, mother tongue
- English, **IELTS** score 7, **TOEFL IBT** score 77

### MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Mansoura University Vertebrate Paleontology center (**MUVP**) member, 2017 to present.
- Society of vertebrate paleontology (**SVP**) member, 2020 to present.
- Geological Society of Egypt (**GSE**), 2018 to present.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- My research focuses on paleobiology and paleobiodiversity of northern African archosaurs and other vertebrates (e.g., marine reptiles) during the Cretaceous Period. In addition to evaluating paleobiogeographic hypotheses, my research explores how breakup of the Gondwanan landmasses influenced faunal distributions, while also considering ecological responses of archosaurs and marine reptiles to extreme "hothouse" paleoclimatic conditions during the Late Cretaceous. I am interested in how tectonic and paleoclimatic dynamics impacted the composition and trophic structure of northern African dinosaur communities.

### CURRENT FIELD PROJECTS

- Co-PI **Late Cretaceous vertebrates of the Western Desert of Egypt** in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), University of Southern California, Ohio University and Denver Museum of Nature & Science, USA.
- Co-PI of the **Cenomanian vertebrates from the Bahariya oasis of the Western Desert of Egypt** in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and Carnegie Museum of Natural History.
- Member of the **Locality BQ-2, Fayum Depression, Egypt – rescue mission** project in collaboration with University of Southern California and Division of Fossil Primates, Duke Lemur Center, USA.
- Member of the **Jebel Qatrani project** in collaboration with the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA) and University of Southern California, USA.
- Member of the **PETM and Danian Beds Projects**, in Eastern Desert of Egypt.

### FIELD EXPERIENCE

- Cenomanian Bahariya Formation, **Western Desert**, Egypt (July 2018, September 2018, November 2019, October 2020 & January 2021)
- Late Cretaceous Duwi and Quseir formations, **Western Desert**, Egypt (November 2019 & January 2020 & March 2022)
- Eocene-Oligocene beds, Gebel Qatrani area, **Fayum Depression**, north Egypt (July 2017, October 2017, July 2018, April 2020, June 2020, December 2020, 2021)

- Eocene-Oligocene beds, Wadi El-Hitan area, Fayum Depression, north Egypt (July 2018, August 2018 November 2019 & June 2020, 2021)
- Eocene beds, **Locality BQ-2, Fayum Depression**, north Egypt (July 2017, October 2017, July 2018)
- **The Danian beds**, in Eastern Desert of Egypt (September 2020)
- **The Eastern Desert fossiliferous deposits**, (October 2016, September 2017, November 2017, November 2021)
- **The Lower Cretaceous deposits, Utah, USA**, (July 2022)

### LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

- Six years of experience in identification, labeling, photography, and rehousing, as well as database development at MUVP.
- Fossil preparation of sauropod and theropod dinosaurs, pterosaurs and marine reptiles at MUVP.
- Digital preparation of CT data using Avizo and creating 3D models via photogrammetry.

### CONFERENCES

- The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 82nd Annual Meeting, November **2022** (virtual).
- The Great Lakes Student Paleoconference 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, October **2022**, Chicago, USA.
- The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 81st Annual Meeting, November **2021**, (virtual).
- The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 80 Annual Meeting, October **2020**, (virtual).
- Benha University Science Conference, July **2020**, Benha University, Egypt.
- The Geological society of Egypt conference, December **2018**, Cairo, Egypt.

### WORKSHOPS

- The iDigBio/NSF-funded workshop on ‘Assembling Continental Biotas from the Cretaceous of Gondwana’, November **2022**, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- The Paleobiology Database (PBDB) workshop at SVP 81st Annual Meeting, November **2021**, Location: Virtual Meeting.

### OUTREACH

- **2022:** Participation in raising awareness of fossils and associated scientific inquiry for school students; multiple events with O'Connor, Stevens, and Witmer labs, Ohio University.
- **2020-2022:** Co-lead teaching and training program at MUVP, including field trips (I have participated in 12 so far) for Egyptians of different ages to the Wadi El-Hitan protected area to expand awareness of Egypt’s natural heritage resources and undertake fossil collection and curation of Egypt’s vertebrate fossils.
- **Since 2020:** I've been a scientific scriptwriter for the Hafrology podcast, an effort to communicate paleontology to non-specialists and to summarize the most recent scientific papers in the field.
- **2021:** Participation in the preparation of the fossil collection that was housed in the local Zuwara House of Culture in Fayoum, Egypt.

### PUBLICATIONS

- Gorscak, E., Lamanna, M. C., Schwarz, D., Díaz, V. D., **Salem, B. S.**, Sallam, H. M., & Wiechmann, M. F. 2023. A new titanosaurian (Dinosauria: Sauropoda) from the Upper Cretaceous (Campanian) Quseir Formation of the Kharga Oasis, Egypt. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, e2199810.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02724634.2023.2199810>
- **Salem, B. S.**, M. C. Lamanna, P. M. O'Connor, G. M. El-Qot, F. A. Shaker, W. A. Thabet, S. El-Sayed, and H. M. Sallam. 2022. First definitive record of Abelisauridae (Theropoda: Ceratosauria) from the Cretaceous Bahariya Formation, Bahariya Oasis, Western Desert of Egypt. *R. Soc. open sci.*9: 220106220106  
<http://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.220106>
- **Salem, B. S.**, P. M. O'Connor, E. Gorscak, S. El-Sayed, J. J. W. Sertich, E. R. Seiffert, and H. M. Sallam. 2021. Dinosaur remains from the upper Cretaceous (Campanian) of the western desert, Egypt, *Cretaceous Research*, 104783, ISSN 0195-6671, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cretres.2021.104783>.

### CONFERENCES (ABSTRACTS)

- **Salem, B. S.**, M. C. Lamanna, P. M. O'Connor, W. A. Thabet, S. El-Sayed, and H. M. Sallam. 2023. A peirosaurid crocodyliform from the Upper Cretaceous (Cenomanian) Bahariya Formation of the Bahariya Oasis, Western Desert, Egypt. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, SVP Program and Abstracts Book.
- El-Sayed, S., M. Friedman, P. M. O'Connor, J. J.W. Sertich, E. R. Seiffert, **B. S. Salem**, H. M. Sallam. 2023. Actinopterygian fish assemblage from the Upper Cretaceous (Campanian-Maastrichtian) Duwi Formation, Western Desert, Egypt. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, SVP Program and Abstracts Book.
- Saber, S., J. J.W. Sertich, K. Ouda, **B. S. Salem**, P. M. O'Connor, E. R. Seiffert, S. El Sayed, and H. M. Sallam. 2023. A long-snouted eusuchian ('thoracosaur') from the Campanian Quseir Formation of Baris Oasis, Western Desert, Egypt. In review, PeerJ.
- **Salem, B. S.**, P. M. O'Connor, M. C. Lamanna, S. El-Sayed, E. R. Seiffert, J. J. W. Sertich, and H. M. Sallam. 2022. New marine reptile (plesiosaur and mosasaur) fossils from the Upper Campanian Duwi Formation of the Dakhla Oasis area, Western Desert of Egypt. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*, SVP Program and Abstracts Book, pp. 306-307.
- El-Sayed, S., M. Friedman, R. P. Speijer, **B. S. Salem**, and H. M. Sallam. 2022. An early paleocene (Danian) record of moonfishes (Carangaria: menidae), with implications for early diversification in Carangarian fishes. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*, SVP Program and Abstracts Book, PP. 134.
- **Salem, B. S.**, M. C. Lamanna, P. M. O'Connor, G. M. El-Qot, F. A. Shaker, W. A. Thabet, S. El-Sayed, and H. M. Sallam. 2022. First definitive record of Abelisauridae from the Bahariya Formation, Bahariya Oasis, Western Desert of Egypt increases diversity of large-bodied theropods in the mid-Cretaceous of northeastern Africa. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*, SVP Program and Abstracts Book.
- **Salem, B. S.**, H. M. Sallam, S. El-Sayed, W. A. Thabet, and M. C. Lamanna. 2021. The first pterosaur from the Upper Cretaceous (lower Cenomanian) Bahariya Formation, Bahariya Oasis, Western Desert of Egypt. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*, SVP Program and Abstracts Book.
- El-Sayed, S., M. Friedman, R. P. Speijer, **B. S. Salem**, and H. M. Sallam. 2021. A new marine fish fauna dating to the latest danian event (LDE – 62.2 ma) of the Eastern Desert, Egypt. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*, SVP Program and Abstracts Book.
- **Salem, B. S.**, G. Abu El-Kheir, M. C. Lamanna, E. Gorscak, S. El-Sayed, and H. M. Sallam. 2020. A new titanosaurian sauropod dinosaur partial skeleton from the Late Cretaceous

(Campanian) of the Kharga Oasis, Western Desert of Egypt. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*. SVP Program and Abstracts Book, pp. 289.

- Gorscak, E., M. C. Lamanna, V. Díez Díaz, D. Schwarz, **B. S. Salem**, G. Abu El-Kheir, and H. M. Sallam. **2020**. A titanosaurian sauropod from the Campanian Quseir Formation of the Kharga Oasis, Egypt, supports Afro-Eurasian dinosaur faunal connectivity during the Late Cretaceous. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*, SVP Program and Abstracts Book, pp. 156.
- **Salem, B. S.**, H. M. Sallam, S. El-Sayed, W. A. Thabet, M. Antar, and M. C. Lamanna. **2019**. New Dinosaur, Pterosaur, and Crocodyliform fossils from the Upper Cretaceous (Cenomanian) Bahariya Formation of the Bahariya Oasis, Egypt. *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology*. SVP Program and Abstracts Book, pp. 184.
- **Salem, B. S.**, H. M. Sallam, S. El-Sayed, W. A. Thabet, M. Antar, and M. C. Lamanna. **2018**. New fossil diapsid remains from the Upper Cretaceous (Cenomanian) Bahariya Formation, Bahariya Oasis, Western Desert of Egypt. *The Geological society of Egypt conference*, pp. 31.

## REFERENCES

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