**Evidence for a giant parrot from the early Miocene of New Zealand**

Trevor H. Worthy1, Suzanne J. Hand2, Michael Archer2, R. Paul Scofield3, Vanesa L. De Pietri3

1College of Science and Engineering, Flinders University, GPO 2100, Adelaide 5001, SA, Australia. Email: trevor.worthy@flinders.edu.au

2PANGEA Research Centre, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia

3Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch, New Zealand.

**Locality and Collection data**

**Type Locality and Excavations**. The type locality is the Trench Excavation sampling Bed HH1b, at the foot of the hill 50 m east from the river bank, at 44.90780°S; 169.85844°E; Manuherikia River, Home Hills Station, Otago, New Zealand. The site has the NZ Fossil Record File Number H41/f0103. Bed HH1b is a conglomerate that lies 9.5–9.58 m above the base of the Bannockburn Formation, and is early Miocene, 19–16 Ma in age (Worthy et al. 2007; Schwarzhans et al. 2012). The stratigraphy is described in Schwarzhans et al. (2012).

**Collection details**: Both specimens were collected on 14 January 2008 in close proximity in the same excavation. Excavations were by hand using trowels and or smaller tools with all fossiliferous sediment wet screened and sorted under magnification after larger specimens such as these were first separated, as typifies work at this site (e.g., Worthy et al. 2007; Schwarzhans et al. 2012).

The identical matching morphology of size and muscular scars of the two specimens described here make it likely they derive from one individual. In support of this contention, we note that these remains were in close proximity in one site, and are the only ones attributable to this taxon from among more than 6000 catalogued avian specimens from some 20 sites sampling the St Bathans Fauna, accumulated over 19 years of investigation.

Schwarzhans W, Scofield RP, Tennyson AJD, Worthy JP, Worthy TH. 2012 Fish remains, mostly otoliths, from the non-marine Early Miocene of Otago, New Zealand. *Acta Palaeontol Pol.* **57**, 319–350.

Worthy TH, Tennyson AJD, Jones C, McNamara JA, Douglas BJ. 2007 Miocene waterfowl and other birds from Central Otago, New Zealand. *J. Syst. Palaeont*. **5**, 1–39. (doi:10.1017/S1477201906001957)