

The remedial conservation and support jacketing of the neotype specimen of the dinosaur *Massospondylus carinatus*

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In March 2017 the neotype specimen of the Early Jurassic South African prosauropod dinosaur *Massospondylus carinatus* was appraised and condition reported at the Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), Johannesburg, in readiness for remedial conservation and re-storage. The work was necessitated by deterioration of the specimen, which was caused by handling over a number of years and an inadequate and failing support mount.

Formally numbered BP/1/4934, but more affectionately known to staff as 'Big Momma', the specimen was contained within several individual blocks on flimsy support bases and presented various conservation challenges. These included treatment of fractures and cracking across several surfaces of the fossil and the production of clam shell supports to allow for articulated display within the constraints of an existing display cabinet. Part of the brief was to facilitate safer handling and access for researchers.

This project was led by the author who also trained the curatorial and preparation staff at WITS in the methods and techniques employed. The visit was funded by the Palaeontological Scientific Trust (PAST), the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Palaeosciences and The University of the Witwatersrand (WITS).