

CV Thiago da Silva Marinho

Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark

1. Introduction

Born on November 7, 1980, in Santos (São Paulo, Brazil), I developed a deep interest in the natural sciences from an early age. This led me to pursue an academic path focused on Paleontology and Geosciences. My professional career has been closely tied to scientific research, higher education, and outreach activities aimed at science communication and the preservation of Brazil's paleontological heritage, with a special focus on the territory of the Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark.

2. Academic Background

My academic journey began with a degree in Biological Sciences from the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU), where I studied fossiliferous occurrences in the Triângulo Mineiro region. I later earned a Master's and a Ph.D. in Geology from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), both focused on vertebrate paleontology from the Upper Cretaceous Bauru Basin, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ismar de Souza Carvalho.

After completing my Ph.D., I continued my training with a postdoctoral fellowship at UFRJ (2009–2013), further developing research in Paleoecology and Paleozoology. During this period, I focused on the anatomy and ecology of notosuchian crocodyliforms and dinosaurs from Brazil.

In 2024, I participated in the *International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks*, which greatly enhanced my understanding of the Global Geoparks Network and fostered connections with geoparks around the world.

3. Professional Experience

I am currently an Associate Professor at the Federal University of the Triângulo Mineiro (UFTM), where I have worked since 2013. I teach undergraduate courses such as Paleontology, Geology, Biological Systematics, and the Evolutionary History of Vertebrates, as well as courses in the Graduate Program in Environmental Science and Technology.

I also served as Supervisor of the Peirópolis Cultural and Scientific Complex (2014–2015), and since 2023, I have been its Acting Director, coordinating initiatives related to scientific outreach and the preservation of paleontological and geological heritage within the context of the Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark.

Throughout my academic journey, I have actively participated in regional, national, and international events—as speaker, session chair, and organizing committee member. Notable engagements include the *10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks* (Morocco, 2023), the *37th International Geological Congress* (South Korea, 2024), and the *7th Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network* (Brazil, 2024), where I participated in sessions and meetings of the Global Geoparks Network.

Since the beginning of 2025, I have taken on the role of Vice President of the Brazilian Network of UNESCO Global Geoparks, aiming to foster networking and provide support to the six Brazilian UGGps. I am also a member of the GGN Working Groups on Geological Heritage and Geodiversity and on Education.

4. Research Interests

My main research areas include:

- Vertebrate Paleontology
- Paleoecology
- Biostratigraphy
- Paleobiogeography
- Geoparks
- Geoconservation and Geological Heritage

Most of my work focuses on the reconstruction of paleoenvironments and paleofaunas of the Upper Cretaceous of Brazil, especially the Uberaba Formation and Bauru Group within the territory of the Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark.

5. Scientific Projects and Contributions

Since 2013, I have been deeply involved in the Uberaba Geopark initiative. More recently, my scientific activities have expanded with my role as Scientific Coordinator of the Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark, officially designated in 2024. This role is a major milestone in my career and a testament to the collective effort of researchers, administrators, and the community in valuing the region's geological, paleontological, and cultural heritage.

As Scientific Coordinator, I lead the integration of academic research, public policy on geoconservation, and educational practices related to heritage education—especially in the context of the Uberaba Formation, whose scientific and historical relevance continues to be rediscovered and promoted. This work involves coordinating impactful projects such as:

- “Paleontological Zoning of Uberaba”, aiming to harmonize urban growth with the protection of fossil heritage;
- “Paleontology and Heritage Education in the Uberaba Geopark”, focusing on science communication and social inclusion;
- “Dinogarden”, a proposed interactive science and culture park in the Peirópolis district.

The scientific coordination of the Uberaba Geopark also entails ongoing dialogue with local, state, and federal governments, as well as building international partnerships that reinforce the city's alignment with the goals of UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network—particularly in sustainability, territorial development, and social inclusion through science and culture.

6. Academic Output

I have published more than 60 scientific papers—most in high-impact international journals—in addition to book chapters and outreach articles. My academic work reflects a strong commitment to scientific quality in Brazilian paleontology, geoconservation, geopark development, and the training of future researchers.

7. Institutional Participation and Recognition

I have been honored multiple times by graduating classes of Biological Sciences at UFTM, either as patron or honored professor. I have actively contributed to the implementation of geoconservation strategies and science outreach programs in Uberaba, supporting the creation and recognition of the Uberaba Geopark.

I have been a Research Productivity Fellow with the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) since 2016 and collaborate with national and international research networks in Paleontology.

8. Final Considerations

My academic career has been driven by a deep and ongoing commitment to teaching, research, and public outreach. I take pride in helping to establish the Triângulo Mineiro region—especially the Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark—as one of Brazil's most important areas for vertebrate paleontology, combining scientific rigor, training of human resources, and public engagement.