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A synopsis of fossil vertebrate footprints from the latest Carboniferous and early Permian redbeds of northern Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Canada

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Recent discoveries add significantly to the record of fossil vertebrate footprints from the Carboniferous-Permian red beds of the Maritimes Basin on Prince Edward Island. These new discoveries establish Prince Edward Island as an important locality in reconstructing the tetrapod biogeography of equatorial Pangea. Discoveries derive from the Egmont Bay, Kildare Capes, Hillsborough, and Orby Head formations, spanning the Gzhelian through Artinskian stages of the late Carboniferous (Pennsylvanian) and early Permian (Cisuralian). The tetrapod ichnofauna comprises the ichnogenera *Amphisauropus*, *Ichniotherium*, *Dimetropus* and putative *Gilmoreichnus*, and *Notalacerta*. This ichnoassociation belongs to the Gzhelian-early Cisuralian Dromopus tetrapod footprint biochron and reflects a reptile/reptiliomorph amphibian-dominant trackmaker fauna consistent with the transition to terrestrialization of equatorial Pangea which experienced increasingly arid conditions into the Permian. This Prince Edward Island ichnoassemblage shares many ichnotaxa in common with those at Brule, Nova Scotia, with the notable exception of *Batrachichnus*, a diminutive temnospondyl amphibian print that is omnipresent there and which is very common in the Pennsylvanian and early Cisuralian. The Prince Edward Island ichnofauna provide an important midway point across equatorial Pangea between the famous and productive early Permian sites in the southwestern United States sites such as the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, Robledo Mountains, New Mexico, and historical European sites such as those of the Thuringian Forest Basin, Germany. Candidate trackmakers include reptiliomorphs such as *Seymouria* (*Amphisauropus*), the herbivorous *Diadectes* (*Ichniotherium*), and the largest predator of the equatorial Pangean biome, the sail-back pelycosaur *Dimetrodon* (*Dimetropus*), first discovered in 1845 in a farmer's well in Spring Valley, PEL and named *Bathynathus*. From an educational standpoint, these discoveries incite the imagination of the public, and add to interpretive programming possibilities for Prince Edward Island National Park.