

An extraordinary fossil captures the struggle for existence during the Mesozoic

Gang Han^{1,2}, Jordan C. Mallon^{3,4*}, Aaron J. Lussier⁵, Xiao-Chun Wu³, Robert Mitchell⁶, Ling-Ji Li⁷

¹Hainan Vocational University of Science and Technology, Haikou, Hainan, China.

²Hainan Tropical Ocean University, Sanya, Hainan, China.

³Beaty Centre for Species Discovery and Palaeobiology Section, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

⁴Department of Earth Sciences, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

⁵Beaty Centre for Species Discovery and Mineralogy Section, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

⁶Department of Geography, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

⁷Weihai Ziguang Shi Yan School, Weihai, Shandong, China.

*Corresponding author. Email: jmallon@nature.ca

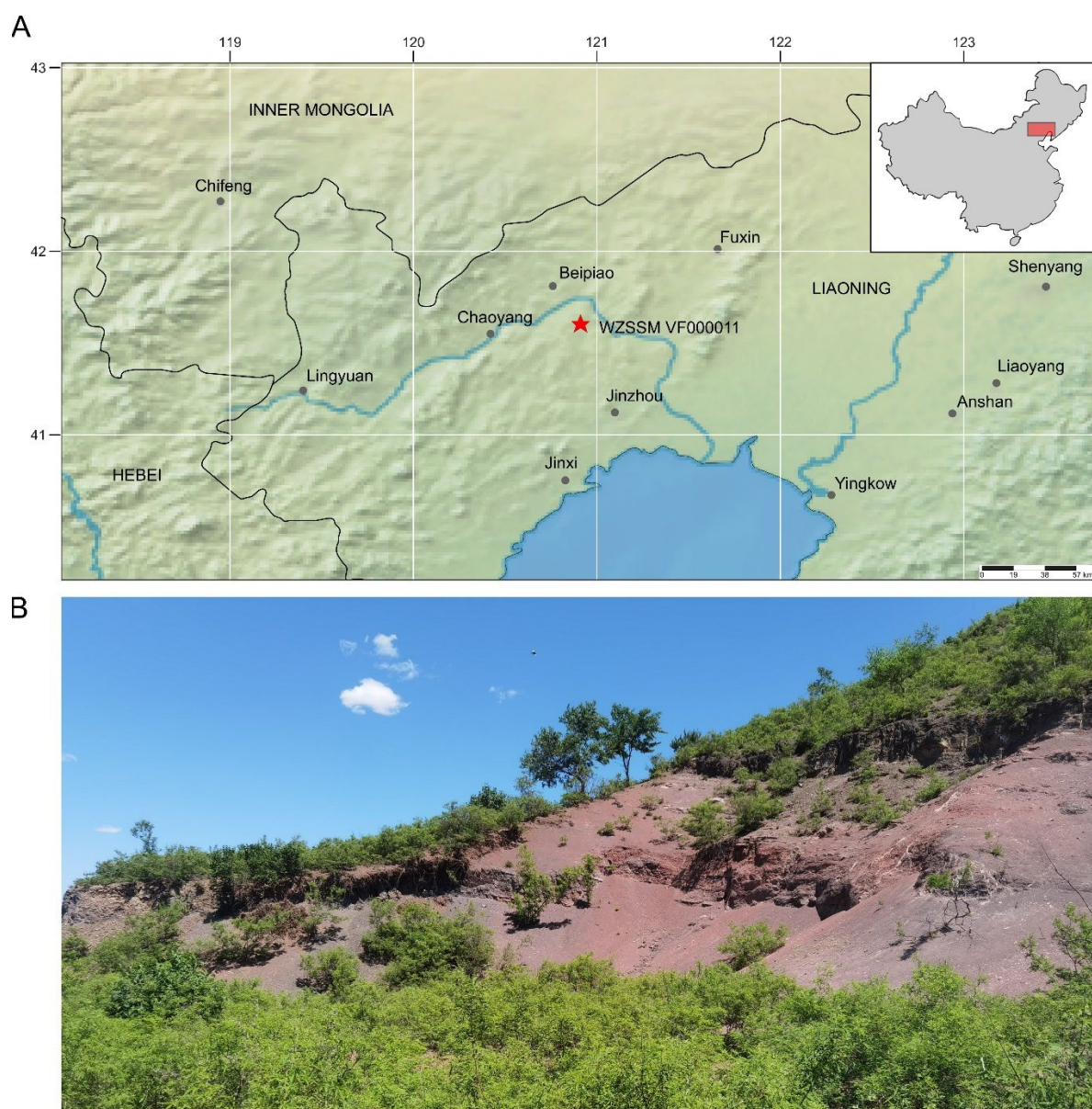


Figure S1. Locality details for WZSSM VF000011. **(A)** Map showing location of WZSSM VF000011 discovery site (red star) in northeastern China. Inset shows enlarged portion of mainland China. **(B)** Hillside where WZSSM VF000011 was collected from the Lujiatun Member of the Yixian Formation in 2012.

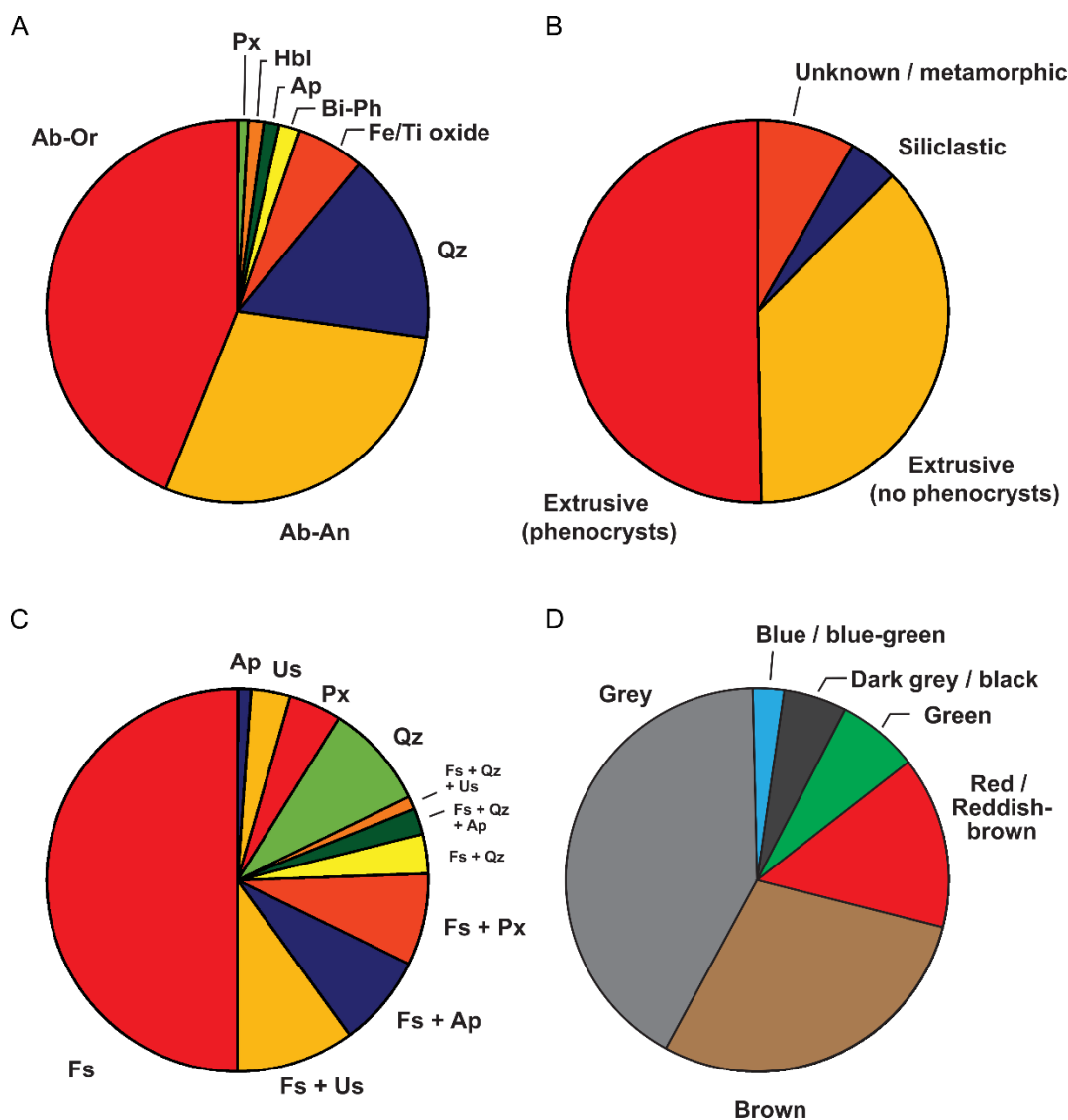


Figure S2. Pie charts showing the breakdown of investigated framework fragments from L-TS-2. **(A)** The distribution of mineral species in mineral fragments ($N = 228$). **(B)** Lithoclasts ($N = 169$) grouped by geologic origin. **(C)** The commonly observed grouping of phenocryst species among lithoclasts of extrusive origin ($N = 90$). **(D)** Lithoclasts grouped by predominant colour hue ($N = 131$). Note: colour groups are highly generalized to constrain complexity of pie chart, e.g., ‘green’ encompasses green-blue + green-yellow + dark green + light green, etc. Abbreviations: Fs, feldspar (An-Or-Ab); Us, ulvöspinel; Ap, apatite; Px, pyroxene; Qz, quartz; Hbl, hornblende; Bi, biotite; Ph, phlogopite.

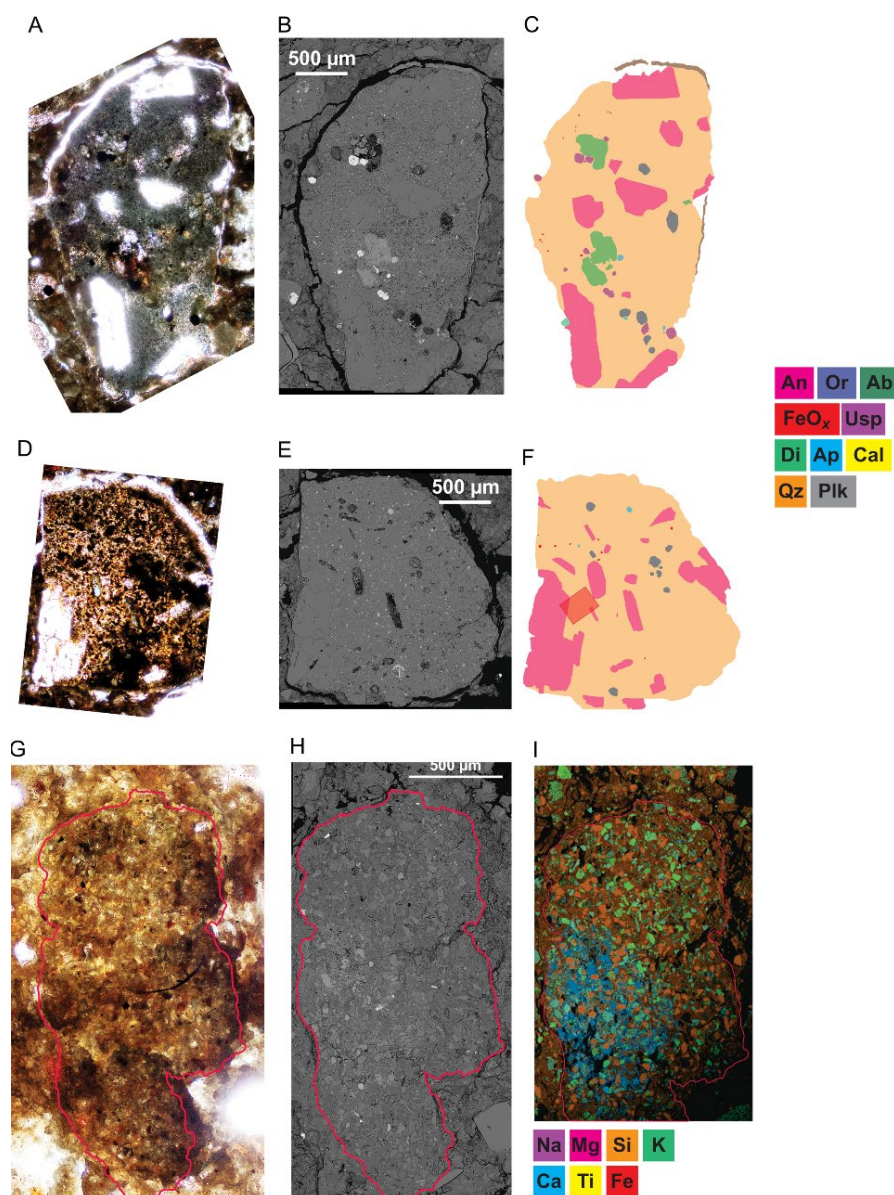


Figure S3. Images of selected lithoclast framework grains from thin section L-TS-2. (A–C) c63. (D–F) c180. (G–I) c157. For c63 and c180 (from left to right), optical image taken in plane-polarized light, backscatter electron micrograph, schematic illustration identifying location of major phases. For c157, optical image, electron micrograph, and energy dispersive X-ray map. Coloured boxes containing either mineral phases or chemical elements indicate phases (in C and F) and EDS regions (in I), respectively. Abbreviations: anorthite, An; orthoclase, Or; albite, Ab; iron oxides, FeO_x; ulvospinel, Usp; diopside, Di; apatite, Ap; calcite, Cal; quartz, Qz, plucked / absent region, Plk. Lithoclasts c63 and c180 both consist of highly altered extrusive igneous material. The occurrence of multiple species of phenocrysts is observed in c63 (plagioclase, diopside-hedenbergite, and apatite). Conversely, in c180 only plagioclase phenocrysts are observed. In both clasts, individual phenocrysts are fragmented at the margins. Lithoclast c157 is a fragment of sedimentary material (lithic arenite), showing localized overgrowth of apatite of selected grains as well as intergranular apatitic cement (blue; Supplementary Fig. S4I).

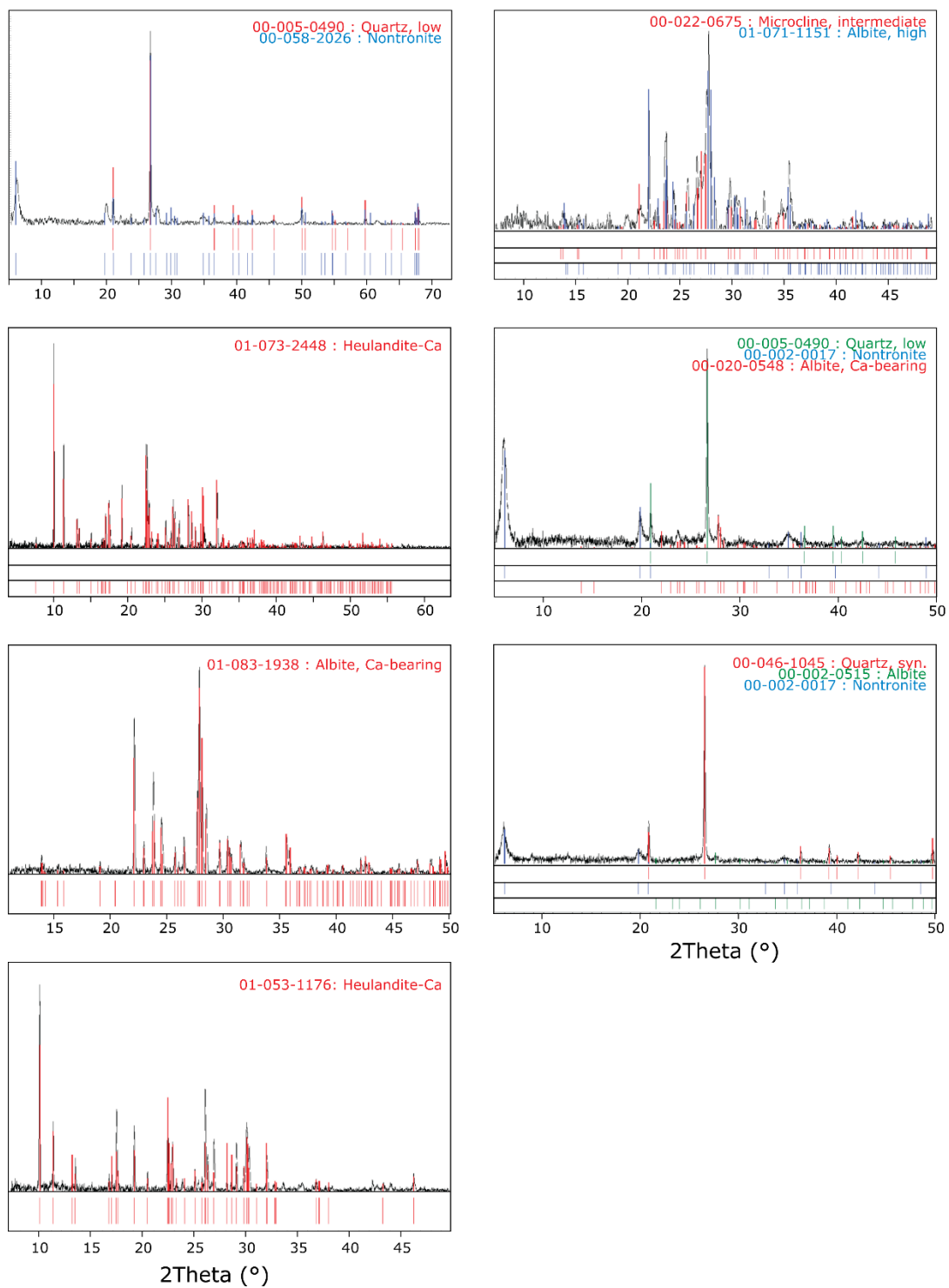


Figure S4. Selected powder X-ray diffractograms collected in matrix material from original hand sample. For each pattern, peak-matching results are shown at bottom.

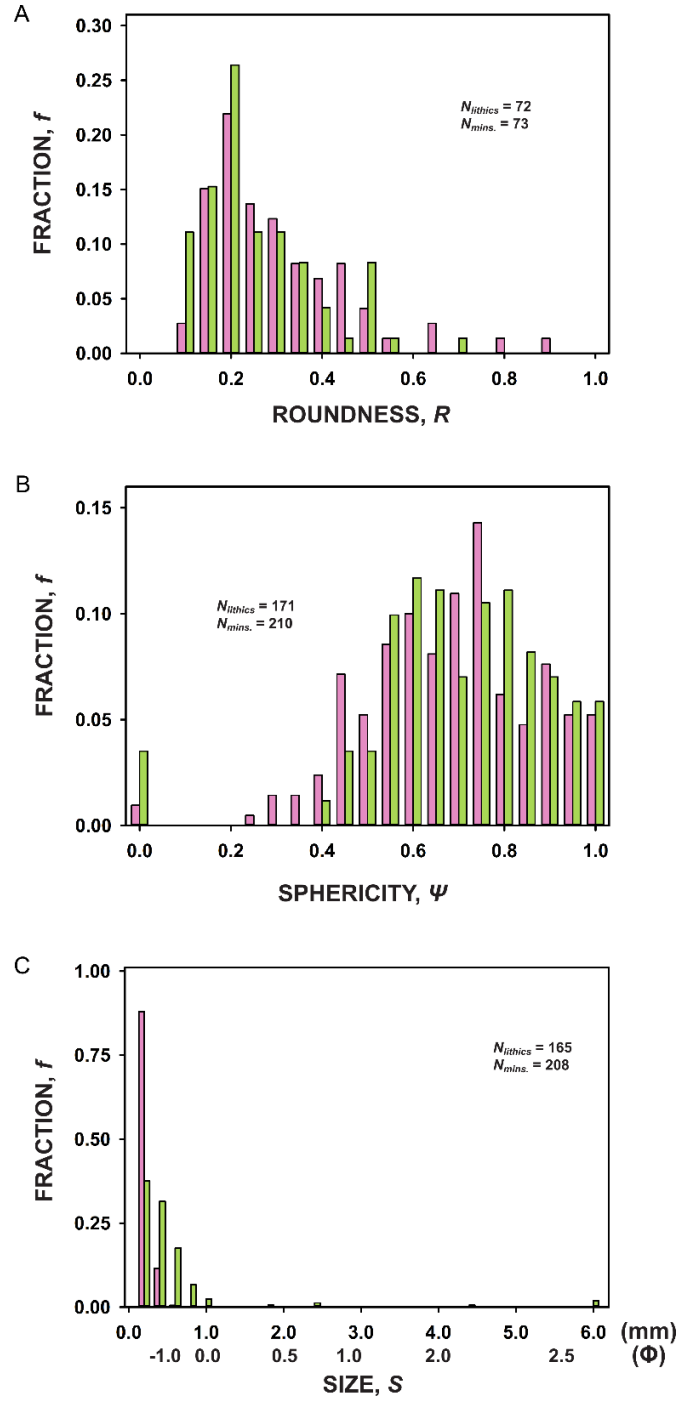


Figure S5. Histograms showing distributions of roundness, R , (A), sphericity, ψ , (B), and size, S , of constituent framework particles (C) in section L-TS-2. The distributions corresponding to mineral and lithic fragments are differentiated by colour. Framework fragments are highly angular and show a considerable range of roundness values ($0.1 < R \leq 0.9$). Observed sphericity values fall over the maximal possible range ($0 < \psi \leq 1$, for both lithic and mineral fragments). For mineral fragments, the observed size range is narrow (0.2–0.4 mm). By contrast, for lithic fragments, the observed size range is relatively broad; specifically, 96% of the clasts range between 0.2 and 1.0 mm, and clasts with larger dimensions (> 4.0 mm) are also observed.



Figure S6. *Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis* and *Repenomamus robustus* individuals (WZSSM VF000011) locked in mortal combat. (A) Left side of fossil association. (B) Right side of fossil association. Scale bar equals 10 cm.

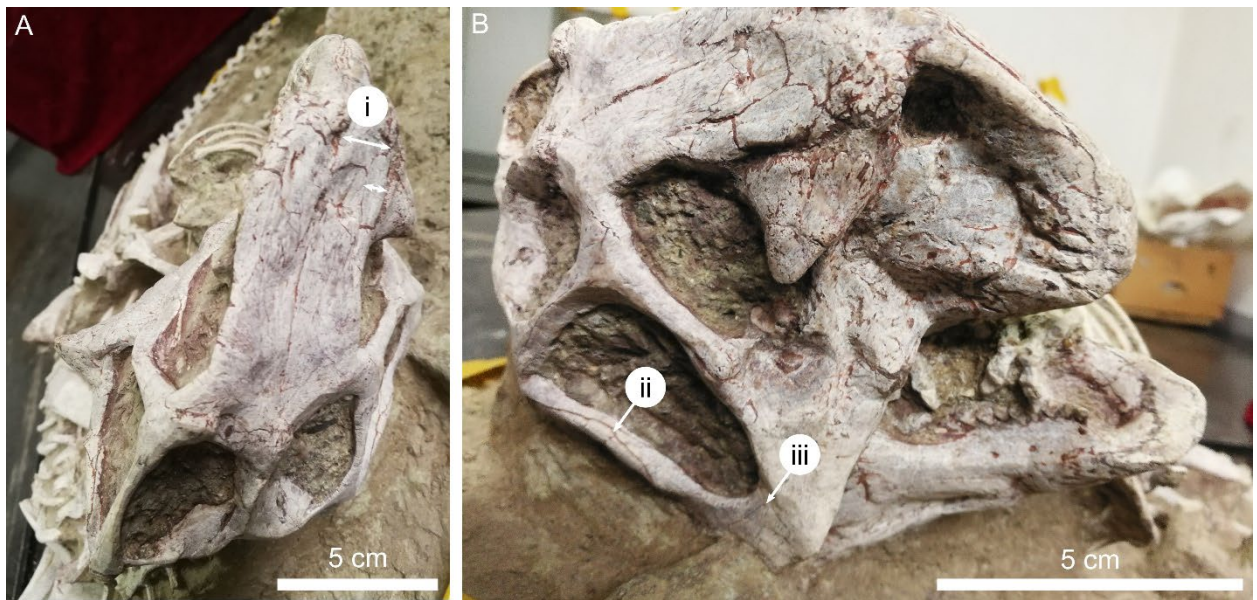


Figure S7. Taxonomically informative characters for *Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis* (WZSSM-VF000011). **(A)** Prefrontal width less than 50% that of the nasal (i). **(B)** Quadratojugal-squamosal contact along the anterior margin of the quadrato shaft (ii), and jugal-quadrato contact posteroventral to the laterotemporal fenestra (iii).

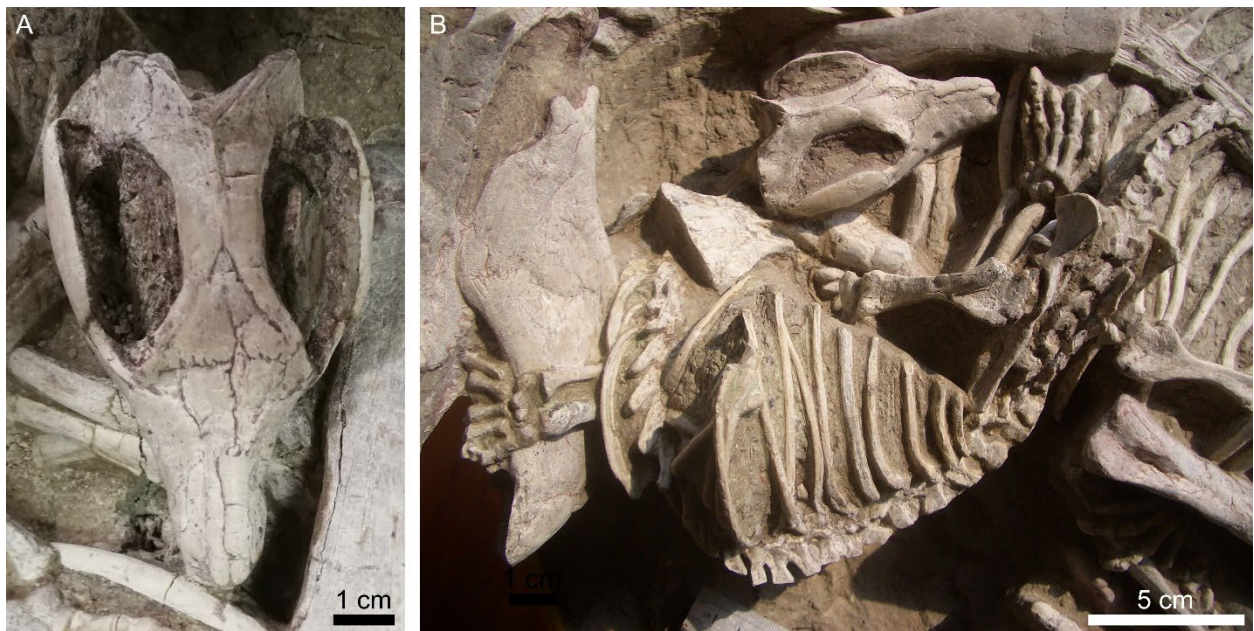


Figure S8. *Repenomamus robustus* (WZSSM-VF000011). (A) Dorsal view of skull. (B) Detail of postcranium.

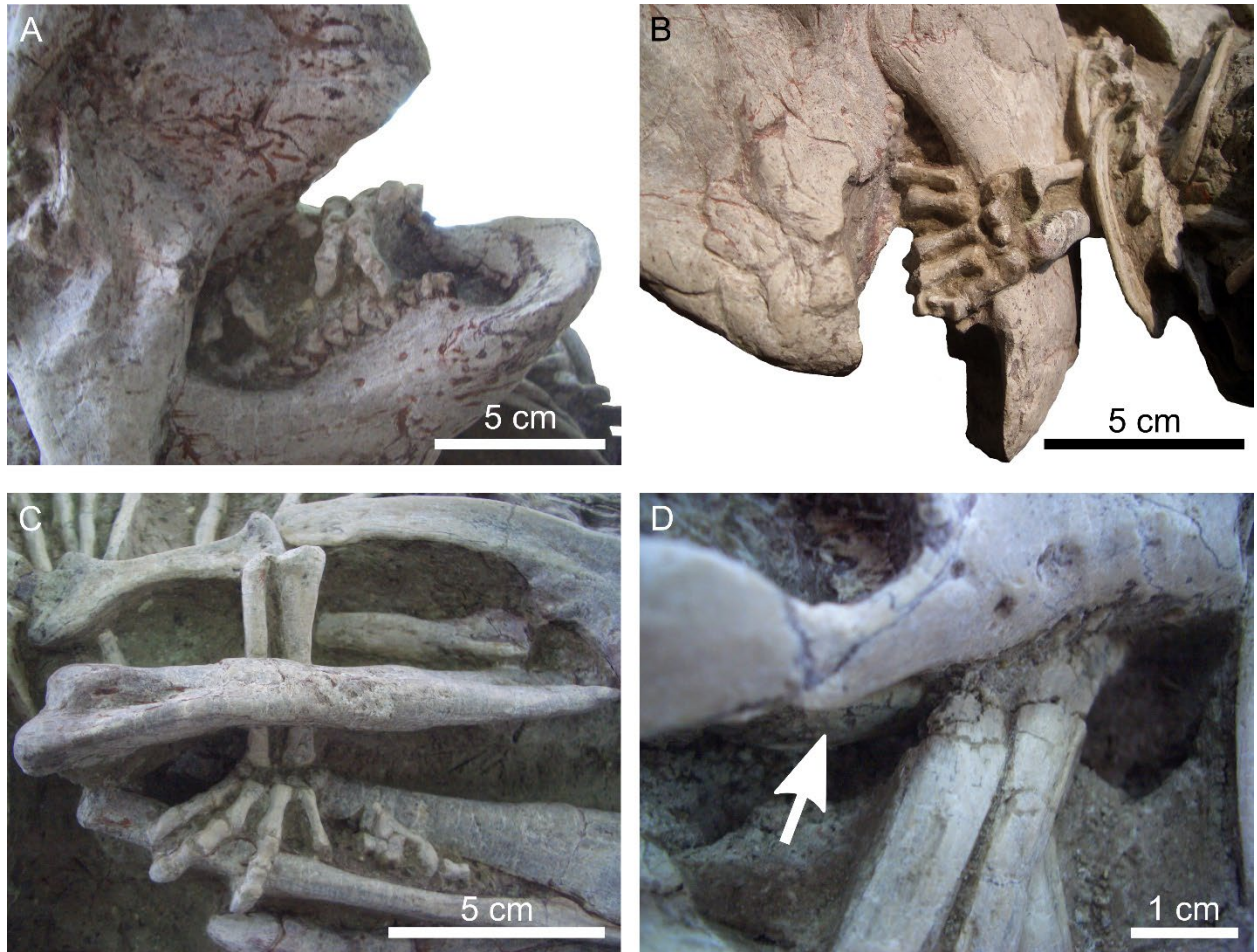


Figure S9. Details of *Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis*-*Repenomamus robustus* pair (WZSSM-VF000011). (A) Left hand of *R. robustus* clutching the lower jaw of *P. lujiatunensis* (right side). (B) Left hand of *R. robustus* clutching the lower jaw of *P. lujiatunensis* (left side). (C) Left hind foot of *R. robustus* grasping the left hindlimb of *P. lujiatunensis*. (D) Mandible of *R. robustus* plunging downward into the matrix to grip the dinosaur's ribs.

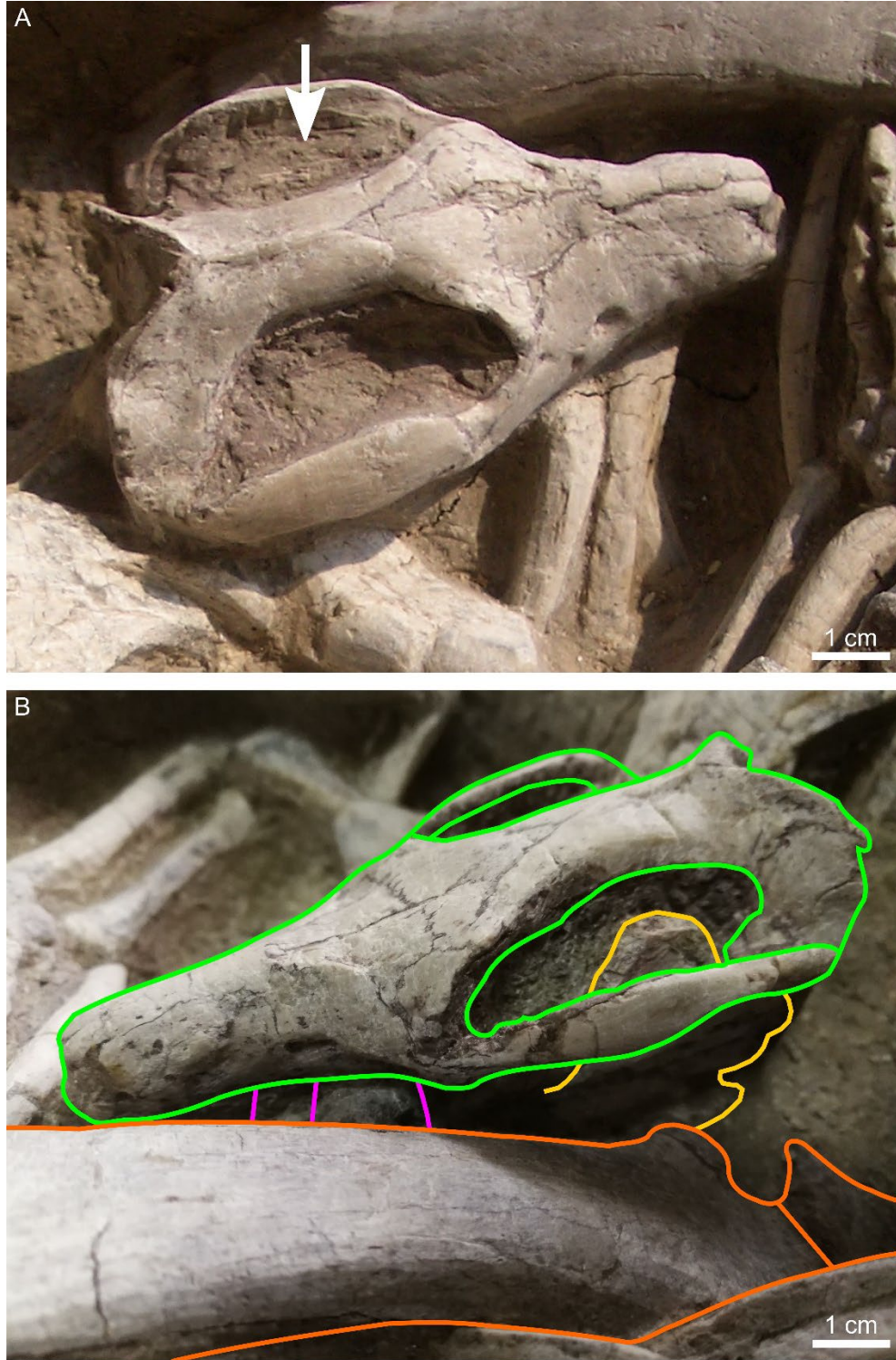


Figure S10. Preparation of the *Repenomamus robustus* individual (WZSSM VF000011). (A) Detail of the skull prior to additional preparation by WZSSM, showing the unexposed left temporal fossa (white arrow). (B) More recent image showing preparation of the temporal fossa and in situ left dentary. Coloured outlines: gold = left dentary of *R. robustus*, green = cranium of *R. robustus*, orange = left scapulocoracoid of *P. lujiatunensis*, purple = dorsal ribs of *P. lujiatunensis*.

Table S1. Commonly used extant-scaling formulae used to estimate body mass in mammals. Abbreviations: DME, developmental mass extrapolation; PPE, percent prediction error; SEE, standard error of the estimate.

Element	Source	Formula	R ²	SEE	PPE	Mass estimate (kg) for largest known specimen (catalogue # in brackets)	DME mass estimate (kg), scaled against femur length
dentary length (marsupials)	(67)	$\ln(\text{body mass}) = 2.9677 * \ln(\text{dentary length}) - 5.6712$	0.962	not reported	not reported	1.42 (IVPP V12549)	0.878
stylopodial circumference (quadrupedal terrestrial tetrapods)	(68)	$\log_{10}(\text{body mass}) = 2.749 * \log_{10}(\text{combined stylopodial circumference}) - 1.104$	0.988	0.134	25.6	5.54 (IVPP V12728)	3.43
skull length (carnivorans)	(69)	$\log_{10}(\text{body mass}) = 3.13 * \log_{10}(\text{skull length}) - 5.21$	0.903	0.220	47	6.67 (IVPP V12728)	4.13
head-body length (carnivorans)	(69)	$\log_{10}(\text{body mass}) = 2.88 * \log_{10}(\text{head-body length}) - 7.24$	0.922	0.185	36	2.08 (IVPP V13605)	1.41

Table S2. PGLS model parameters and performance. Abbreviations: AIC, Akaike Information Criterion.

Model	Strategy	Parameter estimate	Slope (std. error)	t (slope)	p (slope)	Intercept (std. error)	t (intercept)	p(intercept)	Correlation (Intr)	AIC
Brownian motion	Solitary	--	1.2300719 (0.0902849)	13.624341	0.000	-0.8228118 (0.9073170)	-0.906863	0.368	-0.365	158.076
	Pack	--	1.926414 (0.4179211)	4.609517	0.0010	-3.183547 (2.4657334)	-1.291116	0.2257	-0.716	46.03859
Ornstein-Uhlenbeck	Solitary	$\alpha =$ 15.95809	1.0077396 (0.1126727)	8.943958	0.0000	0.2144569 (0.4201652)	0.510411	0.6116	-0.982	129.4175
	Pack	$\alpha =$ 6.495951	2.307729 (0.3512437)	6.570164	0.0001	-4.709349 (1.4643124)	-3.216082	0.0092	-0.991	30.74509
Pagel' λ	Solitary	$\lambda =$ 0.7531995	1.1181081 (0.1043521)	10.714764	0.0000	-0.3788819 (0.5124311)	-0.739381	0.4625	-0.741	126.5609
	Pack	$\lambda = -$ 0.6691558	2.042376 (0.427122)	4.781716	0.0007	-3.346608 (1.832070)	-1.826681	0.0977	-1	25.79092
ACDC	Solitary	$g = 0.5$ (assumed)	1.2262408 (0.0914294)	13.411887	0.0000	-0.7928084 (0.5819410)	-1.362352	0.178	-0.573	150.9835
	Pack	$g = 0.5$ (assumed)	1.944097 (0.4160424)	4.672834	0.0009	-3.253137 (2.0804547)	-1.563666	0.1490	-0.849	43.51615

Table S3. Raw and corrected relative abundance/biomass data used in this study. Abbreviations: BM, body mass; MNI, minimum number of individuals; N/S, number of individuals on landscape/number of skeletons.

Form	Taxon	Trophic level	Avg BM	Relative abundance (%) after (5I)	Raw MNI (source)	Observed MNI (%)	Corrected MNI * Avg BM	Biomass (%)	N/S	N/S * Obs MNI	Corrected MNI (%)	Corrected MNI * Avg BM	Corrected biomass (%)
sauropod	<i>cf. Euhelopus</i>	Primary consumer	5924142		10 (66)	0.643915	3814644	62.91856	0.081718	0.05262	0.027176	160991.8	12.95552
ornithischian	<i>Changmiania liaoningensis</i>	Primary consumer	3470		2 (67)	0.128783	446.877	0.007371	2.327297	0.299716	0.154789	537.1195	0.043224
ornithischian	<i>Jeholosaurus shangyuensis</i>	Primary consumer	9663.981	0.0138	21.0036	1.352453	13070.08	0.215577	1.467844	1.98519	1.025258	9908.075	0.797334
ornithischian	<i>Liaoceratops yanzigouensis</i>	Primary consumer	2000	0.0012	1.8264	0.117605	235.2093	0.00388	2.982198	0.35072	0.181131	362.2614	0.029152
ornithischian	<i>Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis</i>	Primary consumer	23500	0.8954	1362.799	87.75266	2062187	34.01363	0.984055	86.35346	44.59754	1048042	84.33926
theropod	<i>Daliansaurus liaoningensis</i>	Secondary consumer	3401.81		1 (68)	0.064392	219.0476	0.003613	2.348175	0.151203	0.078089	265.6441	0.021377
theropod	<i>Graciliraptor lujiatunensis</i>	Secondary consumer	1756.553	0.0007	1.0654	0.068603	120.5043	0.001988	3.161568	0.216892	0.112015	196.7597	0.015834
theropod	<i>Mei long</i>	Secondary consumer	846.0785	0.0012	1.8264	0.117605	99.50275	0.001641	4.392029	0.516523	0.26676	225.7	0.018163
theropod	<i>Sinovenator changii</i>	Secondary consumer	1909.03	0.0062	9.4364	0.607624	1159.973	0.019133	3.045329	1.850415	0.955653	1824.371	0.146813
theropod	<i>Sinusonasus magnodens</i>	Secondary consumer	4780.045		1 (69)	0.064392	307.7942	0.005077	2.01491	0.129743	0.067006	320.2929	0.025775
theropod	<i>Hexing qingyi</i>	Secondary consumer	4173.941		1 (70)	0.064392	268.7663	0.004433	2.141678	0.137906	0.071222	297.2762	0.023923
theropod	<i>Incisivosaurus gauthieri</i>	Secondary consumer	2000		1 (71)	0.064392	128.783	0.002124	2.982198	0.192028	0.099174	198.3473	0.015962
theropod	<i>Liaoningvenator curriei</i>	Secondary consumer	2004.613		2 (72)	0.128783	258.1601	0.004258	2.979108	0.383658	0.198142	397.1976	0.031964
theropod	<i>Shenzhousaurus orientalis</i>	Secondary consumer	17267.65		1 (73)	0.064392	1111.89	0.018339	1.130433	0.07279	0.037593	649.1395	0.052238
theropod	<i>Dilong paradoxus</i>	Tertiary consumer	16820.47	0.0007	1.0654	0.068603	1153.93	0.019033	1.14386	0.078472	0.040527	681.6846	0.054857
theropod	undescribed carnosaur	Tertiary consumer	2541814		1 (74)	0.064392	163671.2	2.699585	0.119587	0.0077	0.003977	10108.55	0.813467
mammal	<i>Acristatherium yanensis</i>	Secondary consumer	26		1 (75)	0.064392	1.674179	2.76E-05	21.05048	1.355472	0.700038	18.20099	0.001465

Table S3 (continued).

Form	Taxon	Trophic level	Avg BM	Relative abundance (%) after (5I)	Raw MNI (source)	Observed MNI (%)	Corrected MNI * Avg BM	Biomass (%)	N/S	N/S * Obs MNI	Corrected MNI (%)	Corrected MNI * Avg BM	Corrected biomass (%)
mammal	<i>Gobiconodon zofiae</i>	Secondary consumer	152		1 (76)	0.064392	9.787508	0.000161	9.509778	0.612349	0.31625	48.06995	0.003868
mammal	<i>Juchilestes liaoningensis</i>	Secondary consumer	101		1 (77)	0.064392	6.503542	0.000107	11.43024	0.73601	0.380115	38.39162	0.003089
mammal	<i>Anebodon luoi</i>	Secondary consumer	129.4118		1 (78)	0.064392	8.33302	0.000137	10.22379	0.658325	0.339994	43.99926	0.003541
mammal	<i>Maotherium asiaticus</i>	Secondary consumer	103.5	0.0007	1.0654	0.068603	7.10038	0.000117	11.30516	0.775565	0.400543	41.45621	0.003336
mammal	<i>Meemannodon lujiatunensis</i>	Secondary consumer	1959		1 (79)	0.064392	126.1429	0.002081	3.010125	0.193826	0.100102	196.1005	0.015781
mammal	<i>Repenomamus spp.</i>	Tertiary consumer	4521	0.0066	10.0452	0.646825	2924.298	0.048233	2.066067	1.336385	0.690181	3120.307	0.251101
mammal	<i>Origolestes lii</i>	Secondary consumer	58.95038		6 (80)	0.386349	22.77542	0.000376	14.56401	5.626791	2.905976	171.3084	0.013786
amphibian	<i>Liaobatrachus zhaoi</i>	Secondary consumer	36.6341	0.0078	11.8716	0.76443	28.00421	0.000462	18.04062	13.7908	7.122304	260.9192	0.020997
lizard	<i>Dalinghosaurus longidigitus</i>	Secondary consumer	94.695	0.0657	99.9954	6.438854	609.7273	0.010057	11.76665	75.76374	39.12844	3705.268	0.298175