

Pinacosaurus

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Temporal range: **Upper Cretaceous**, 80–75 mya

P. mephistocephalus

Scientific classification

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Domain: [Eukaryota](#)
Kingdom: [Animalia](#)
Phylum: [Chordata](#)
Clade: [Dinosauria](#)
Order: †[Ornithischia](#)
Clade: †[Thyreophora](#)
Suborder: †[Ankylosauria](#)
Family: †[Ankylosauridae](#)
Subfamily: †[Ankylosaurinae](#)
Genus: †*Pinacosaurus*
Gilmore 1933

Species

- †***P. grangeri*** Gilmore, 1933 ([type](#))
- †***P.?***
mephistocephalus
Godefroit *et al.*, 1999

Synonyms

- *Pinacosaurus ninghsiensis*
Young, 1935
- *Heishansaurus pachycephalus?*
Bohlin, 1953
- *Syrmosaurus viminocaudus*
Maleev, 1952

Pinacosaurus ("plank lizard") is a [genus](#) of medium-sized [ankylosaur dinosaurs](#) from the [Upper Cretaceous](#) of [Mongolia](#) and [China](#). It lived about 80–75 million years ago, and was first found in 1923.^{[[1](#)]}

Pinacosaurus had between two and five additional holes near each nostril, which have not been explained.

The animal was a medium-sized ankylosaur, about five metres long, weighing up to two tonnes. Its body was flat and low-slung but not as heavily built as in some other ankylosaurs.

Its head was protected by bone tiles, hence the name. A smooth beak bit off low-growing plants that were sliced up by rows of small teeth and then swallowed. Food was slowly processed by its enormous hind gut. Neck, back and tail were protected by [osteoderms](#). The animal could also actively defend itself with its tail club.^[2]

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [↑] Gilmore C.W. 1933. Two new dinosaurian reptiles from Mongolia with notes on some fragmentary specimens. *American Museum Novitates* **679**: 1-20.
- [↑] Hill R.V; Witmer L.W. & Norell M.A. 2003. A new specimen of *Pinacosaurus grangeri* (Dinosauria: Ornithischia) from the Late Cretaceous of Mongolia: [ontogeny](#) and [phylogeny](#) of Ankylosaurs. *American Museum Novitates* **3395**: 1-29.

[Taxon identifiers](#)

- [Wikidata: Q31422](#)
- [EoL: 4530851](#)
- [Fossilworks: 38833](#)
- [GBIF: 4574575](#)
- [IRMNG: 1115188](#)

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