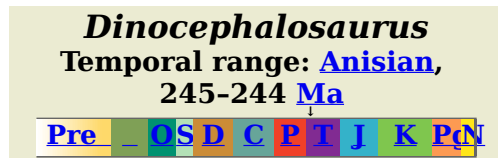


# Dinocephalosaurus



Photograph (a) of specimen LPV 30280, which contains an fetus (c) and a perleidid fish (e)

## [Scientific classification](#) [Edit this classification](#)

Domain: [Eukaryota](#)  
Kingdom: [Animalia](#)  
Phylum: [Chordata](#)  
Class: [Reptilia](#)  
Family: †[Tanystropheidae](#)  
Genus: †[Dinocephalosaurus](#)  
Li, 2003  
Species: †***D. orientalis***

## [Binomial name](#)

***Dinocephalosaurus orientalis***  
Li, 2003

***Dinocephalosaurus*** is a [genus](#) of long necked, [aquatic Archosaurs](#) which lived in the [Triassic](#) seas. Its [fossils](#) are found in 244 ± 1.3 million year old rocks.<sup>[1]</sup>

Dinocephalosaurus means "terrible headed [lizard](#)". The first specimen found was just a skull, discovered near [Xinmin](#) in [Guizhou Province, China](#) in 2002. The second specimen found nearby, and was the head and much of the postcranial skeleton, minus the tail. *Dinocephalosaurus* is the "first record of protorosaurid reptile (Order Protorosauria) from the Middle Triassic of China".<sup>[2][3]</sup>

A new specimen found in [Yunnan Province](#), southern China, showed evidence of live births ([ovoviviparity](#)). This is the earliest known example of this in the large group of [tetrapods](#) which includes [dinosaurs](#), [crocodiles](#), [pterosaurs](#) and [birds](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

# References

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

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2. [↑](#) Li C. 2003 (2010). "First record of protorosaurid reptile (Order Protorosauria) from the Middle Triassic of China" ". *Acta Geologica Sinica*. **77** (4): 419–423. doi:[10.1111/j.1755-6724.2003.tb00122.x](#). S2CID [128905838](#).
3. [↑](#) Li C; Rieppel O. & LaBarbera M.C. 2004 (2004). "A Triassic aquatic Protorosaur with an extremely long neck". *Science*. **305** (5692): 1931. doi:[10.1126/science.1100498](#). PMID [15448262](#). S2CID [38739295](#).
4. [↑](#) Rincin, Paul 2017. First live birth evidence in dinosaur relative. *BBC News Science & Environment*. [[1](#)]

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