

Fossilized dinosaur caudal vertebrae: deciphering Earth's geological past

Fossils prove the existence of ancient life and their study allows us to decipher what the organisms and ecosystems from the Earth's geological past looked like.

Trunks, branches and pine cones, shells, teeth and bones are examples of hard and resistant parts of organisms that best withstand the geological processes that lead to fossilization. Sometimes the soft, delicate, and fragile parts of past organisms are preserved. However, the fossils reveal only a tiny part of the palaeobiodiversity of the area in which they were collected.

Paleontologists who study dinosaur fossils discover information that help us to comprehend what they looked like, how they moved, fed and reproduced. These fossilized caudal vertebra, attributed to dinosaurs of the genus *Edmontosaurus*, along with other elements of several skeletons found in North America in rocks with 70 to 66 Ma, allowed to describe these animals and to perceive their abundance at the end of the Mesozoic Era.

Edmontosaurus belongs to the *Hadrosauridae* family, which is important for understanding the diversity of dinosaurs and the event that extinguished non-avian dinosaurs 66 Ma ago.

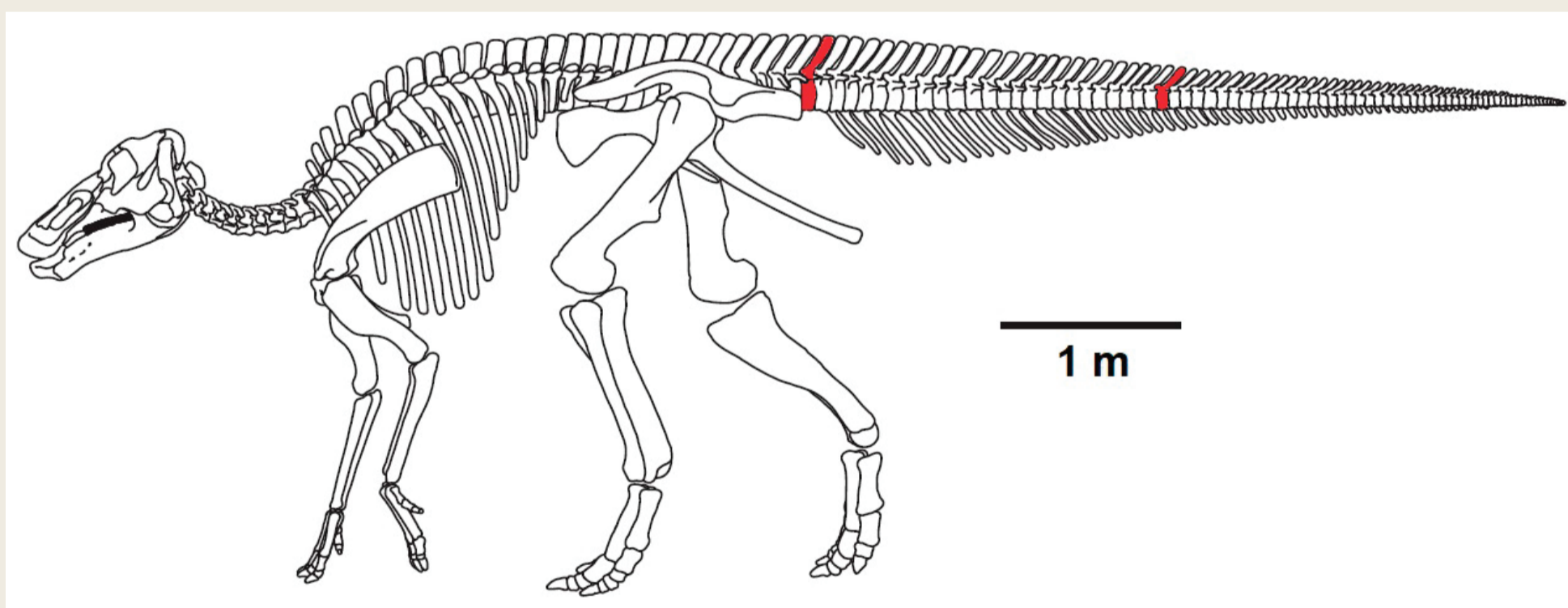


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