More evidence of Noah's Flood, this time from Mongolia

Tas Walker

Scientists from the Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences in Japan announced that they have successfully recovered an almost complete dinosaur skeleton from the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.[1]

It is a theropod dinosaur called *Tarbosaurus* (terrifying lizard), which is similar to *Tyrannosaurus rex*. There is some debate in paleontological circles about whether the Asian *Tarbosaurus* really is different or whether it should be assigned to the same genus as *T. rex*.

The fossil is about 2 m (7 ft) long and is interpreted as being a young animal, about five years old. Adults of the species are believed to grow up to 12 m (40 ft) long and weigh up to a tonne.

The skeleton was buried in sandstone, and a huge chunk containing the skeleton was excavated in August 2006 and returned to the museum. Subsequent work revealed that the skeleton was remarkably complete with only neck bones and the tip of the tail missing.

Takuji Yokoyama, one of the organizers of project and a member of the museum, said the animal was exceptionally well preserved. 'We were so lucky to have found remains that turned out to be a complete set of all the important parts.'

Well preserved fossils are considered remarkable because when animals die today they quickly disintegrate, either by decay or predators or both.

This fossil was preserved in anything but a natural position. In fact, it is frozen in the classic opisthotonic posture (see figure 1), with its head thrown back and its tail arched up. This is considered to be the result of traumatic muscle spasms as the animal was dying—its death throes.[2]

What happened to the young, strong dinosaur? Couldn't it swim? The scientists from the museum did not offer any speculation about the cause of this animal's death or the environment in which it lived.

Tarbosaurus is typically described as living in a humid floodplain, criss-crossed by river channels.[3] The reason for this interpretation is that their fossils are found in strata that point to an energetic depositional environment (e.g. cross bedded sandstone) that covered extensive areas of the continent. These strata usually contain abundant vegetation as well as marine and terrestrial fossils. It's the same story all over the world.

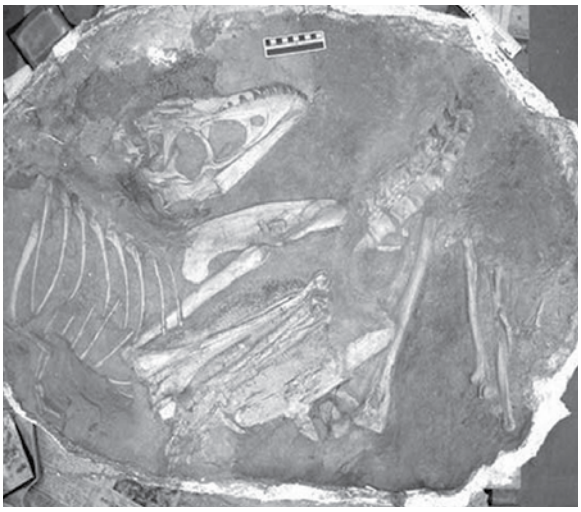

Photo by AP/Hayashibara Museum of National Sciences, HO

Figure 1. Fossilized skeleton of young dinosaur excavated from the Gobi Desert in Mongolia in August 2006. Head thrown back and tail arched up is typical of death throes. The black and white scale is 10 cm long.

The problem paleontologists have with trying to account for these dinosaur fossils is that they are trained to look at the evidence from only one particular worldview, called uniformitarianism. In that worldview the past is assumed to have been similar to the present, i.e. that the geologic processes and environments in the past were similar to today's.

That is why the scientists said the dinosaur was in a geological layer deposited about 70 million years ago in the late Cretaceous period. The idea of millions of years comes directly from the *assumption* of uniformitarianism—slow-and-gradual deposition.

However, the *evidence* points to the animals being overwhelmed and buried quickly. 'Quickly' means it did not take much time. So the *evidence* itself washes away the idea of millions of years.

The Japanese paleontologists don't appear to have considered that their dinosaur was buried in a global watery catastrophe—the Flood of Noah just 4,500 years ago—as the Bible records. However, I think they would be pleasantly surprised if they did try interpreting the evidence through a non-western worldview—like the ancient Chinese one for example. Even the pictographs that make up the ancient script that Japan borrowed from China are filled with clues that their inventors were familiar with Noah's Flood.[4,5] And they were familiar with dinosaurs too, except that they called them dragons, naming one-year-in-12 in their honour.[6]

References

1. Yamaguchi, M., Scientists recover complete dinosaur skeleton, The Associated Press, 24 July 2008, <www.livescience.com/animals/080724-ap-japan-dinosaur.html>.
2. Marshall Faux, C. and Padian, K., The opisthotonic posture of vertebrate skeletons: postmortem contraction or death throes? *Paleobiology* **33**(2):201–226, March 2007.
3. Tarbosaurus, Wikipedia, <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarbosaurus>, accessed 25 July 2008.
4. Voo, K.S., Sheeley, R. and Hovee, L., Noah's Ark hidden in the ancient Chinese characters, *Journal of Creation* (*TJ*) **19**(2):96–108; <creationontheweb.com/images/pdfs/tj/j19_2/j19_2_96-108.pdf>.
5. Hunt, H. with Grigg, R., The sixteen grandsons of Noah, *Creation* **20**(4):22–25, 1998; <creationontheweb.com/grandsons>.
6. Batten, D., Crouching tiger, hidden dinosaur? *Creation* **23**(4):56, 2001; <creationontheweb.com/crouching>.