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A new troodontid theropod from the Late Cretaceous of central China, and the radiation of Asian troodontids

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A new troodontid dinosaur, *Xixiasaurus henanensis* gen. et sp. nov., from the Upper Cretaceous Majiacun Formation of the Xixia Basin, Henan Province, is erected, based on a partial skull. It is characterized by bearing 22 maxillary teeth, a distinct opening on the lateral surface of the base of nasal process of the premaxilla, the rostral end of the upper jaw forming a tapered U–shape, and the mandibular symphyseal region slightly inflected medially. *Xixiasaurus* is most closely related to the Mongolian *Byronosaurus* among troodontids. *Byronosaurus, Urbacodon,* and *Xixiasaurus* may form a new clade, suggesting an endemic radiation of troodontids across Asia, including multiple taxa without dental serrations. The discovery of *Xixiasaurus* in the Xixia Basin may imply that the *Xixiasaurus*–bearing Majiacun Formation is Campanian in age.

Key words: Theropoda, Troodontidae, *Xixiasaurus*, Late Cretaceous, Henan Province, China.

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