Crouching theropod and Navahopus saurapodomorph tracks from the Early Jurassic Navajo Sandstone of USA

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Numerous tracks and trackways are preserved in the a cross–strata of the Lower Jurassic Navajo Sandstone of northern Arizona and southern Utah, USA. Tracks and trackways of small theropod dinosaurs are particularly abundant within one 10–m–thick interval. This paper describes a crouching trace from a theropod dinosaur that shows impressions of all four limbs, the ischial callosity, the tail, and tracks leading to and away from the crouching site, and revises the interpretation of a well preserved trackway hitherto referred to the synapsid ichnogenus Brasilichnium and here considered to be from a saurapodomorph dinosaur. It is named Navahopus coyoteensis isp. nov. on the basis of morphological differences from the type ichnospecies N. falcipollex. The ichnofamily Navahopodidae is revised to include Tetrasauropous unguiferus, Navahopus falcipollex, and N. coyoteensis.

Key words: Navahopus, Navahopodidae, Sauropodomorpha, Theropoda, ichnology, locomotory habits, crouching trace

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