

## The skull of *Velociraptor* (Theropoda) from the Late Cretaceous of Mongolia

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The well preserved material of the Late Cretaceous dromaeosaurid, *Velociraptor mongoliensis*, has allowed us to supplement earlier descriptions of the skull in this species. The skull of *V. mongoliensis* is similar to that of *Deinonychus antirrhopus*, but differs from the latter by: (1) laterally convex supratemporal arcade resulting in short, rounded supratemporal fenestra; (2) depressed nasal; (3) longer maxillary process of premaxilla; (4) lack of separate prefrontal, and (5) convex ventral border of the dentary. These differences, especially that in the structure of the temporal region, support generic distinction of *Deinonychus* and *Velociraptor*. Skulls of other dromaeosaurids are compared.

**Key words:** Dinosauria, Theropoda, Dromaeosauridae, *Velociraptor*, skull, mandible, Late Cretaceous, Gobi Desert, Mongolia.

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