

A comparative embryological study of two ornithischian dinosaurs

J. R. Horner & D. B. Weishampel

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IN this Letter we erroneously referred an embryo in an egg to the ornithopod dinosaur *Orodromeus makelai*. Further preparation of the embryo has revealed its identity to be that of the theropod dinosaur *Troodon* cf. *formosus*.

The unusual teeth of *Troodon*, possessing cylindrical roots similar to ornithischians, exacerbated the identity problem in these embryos and added to an already long history of confusion¹. Additional preparation has revealed that the dentary union lacks a prementary, precluding the specimen from the Ornithischia. Shape of the humerus and configuration of the metatarsals are identical with corresponding adult and juvenile elements of *Troodon* cf. *formosus* (in collections of the Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, USA). Absence of a fourth trochanter on the femura, originally interpreted as not having ossified until post-eclosion activity, is instead indicative of its theropod affinities. □

1. Currie, P. J. *J. Vertebr. Paleontol.* 7, 72–81 (1987).