

New Parafaveololithid dino egg found from the Pingxiang Basin, Jiangxi Province of China

June 5 2013



Fig. 1 Holotype of *Parafaveololithus pingxiangensis* oosp. nov. Credit: ZOU Songlin

Dinosaur egg clutches, single eggs, and countless eggshell fragments have been found in the the Upper Cretaceous of the Pingxiang Basin, Jiangxi Province of China since 2002. In an article published in the latest issue of *Vertebrata PalAsiatica* 51(2), Dr. WANG Xiaolin, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP), Chinese Academy of Sciences, and his team described a new oospecies: *Parafaveololithus pingxiangensis* oosp. nov. This study helps better understanding the composition of the Pingxiang dinosaur eggs oofauna and provides new data to study the eggshell formation and evolution of

the dinosaur eggs in the Cretaceous Period.

Parafaveoololithus pingxiangensis is oblate in shape, and its outer surface is smooth. Its eggshell is usually composed of three or five superimposed slender shell units. In some portions, 6–10 shell units are assembled in the middle and upper part of the eggshell. Pores are straight and unbranching, extremely numerous, and closely spaced, looking as a whole like a honeycomb in tangential section through the middle part of the eggshell.

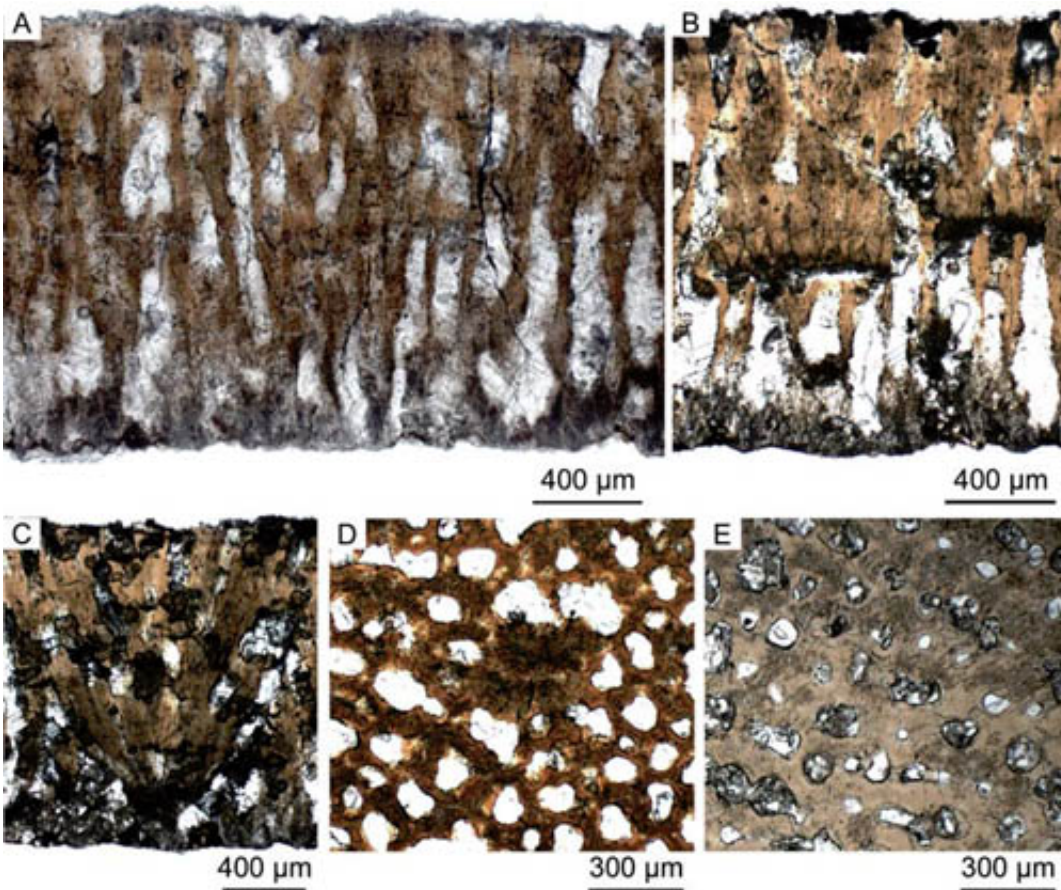


Fig. 2 Eggshell microstructure of *Parafaveoololithus pingxiangensis* oosp. nov.
Credit: ZOU Songlin

"Compared to the members of faveololithids, the new specimens should be assigned to the oogenus Parafaveololithus on the basis of some shell units tending to assemble in the middle and upper part of the eggshell", said study coauthor Dr. WANG Qiang of the IVPP, "However, the difference is remarkable between the new specimen and the known oospecies, Parafaveololithus microporus, P. macroporus, P. tiansicunensis and P. guoqingsiensis, of which the eggshell usually has two or three shell units tending to assemble in the middle part of the eggshell. Therefore, the specimens described here represent a new oospecies".

More information: [www.ivpp.cas.cn/cbw/gjzdwxb/xb ...
0507384709566030.pdf](http://www.ivpp.cas.cn/cbw/gjzdwxb/xb...0507384709566030.pdf)

Provided by Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology

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