

Researchers uncover details behind dinosaur-era birds' feathers

November 14 2016

Scientists have recently discovered a new bohaiornithid bird specimen from the Early Cretaceous Period of China with remarkably preserved feathers. Bohaiornithid birds belonged to *enantiornithes*, a group of avian dinosaurs that lived millions of years ago.

Our current knowledge of prehistoric plumage is limited, but the new findings provide valuable insights related to structure and colouration.

"Many *enantiornithine* [birds](#) possessed ornate feathers. This new specimen shows that some enantiornithines also had iridescent feathers and unlike most modern birds, these flashy ornaments developed before the animal was fully grown," said Jennifer Peteya, lead author of the *Palaentology* study.

More information: *Palaentology*, [DOI: 10.1111/pala.12270](https://doi.org/10.1111/pala.12270)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Researchers uncover details behind dinosaur-era birds' feathers (2016, November 14) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-11-uncover-dinosaur-era-birds-feathers.html>

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