

Desert-dwelling carnivorous dinosaur found in Brazil

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State University of Maringa paleontologists work at the site where fossilised bones of a dinosaur were found in Maringa, Parana state, Brazil

A desert-based carnivorous dinosaur that used claws to capture small prey 90 million years ago has been unearthed in southern Brazil, scientists said Wednesday.

Just over a meter and a half in length (five feet), the fossil remains of the *Vespersaurus paranaensis* were found in Cruzeiro do Oeste municipality of Parana state, a team of paleontologists from Brazil and Argentina said in a statement.

The *Vespersaurus* was a theropod, a group of two-footed, meat-eating dinosaurs that included the better known tyrannosaurus and velociraptor.

Footprints now believed to belong to this new species of dinosaur were discovered in Cruzeiro do Oeste in the 1970s.

"It's incredible that, nearly 50 years later, it seems that we have discovered what type of dinosaur would have produced those enigmatic footprints," said Paulo Manzig of the Paleontology Museum of Cruzeiro do Oeste.

The northeastern region of Parana was once a desert and the dinosaur's remains suggest that the *Vespersaurus* was well adapted to that type of climate.

Other dinosaur species have been found there and, according to the scientists, the latest discovery must "catapult" paleontological investigations in the region.

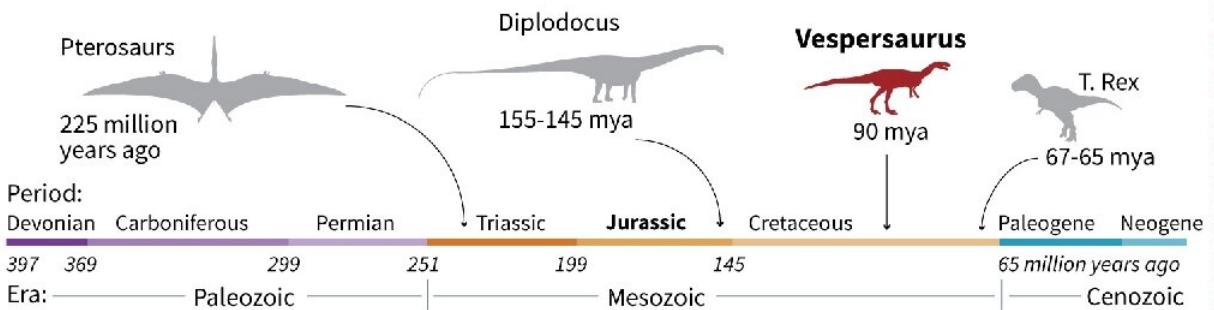
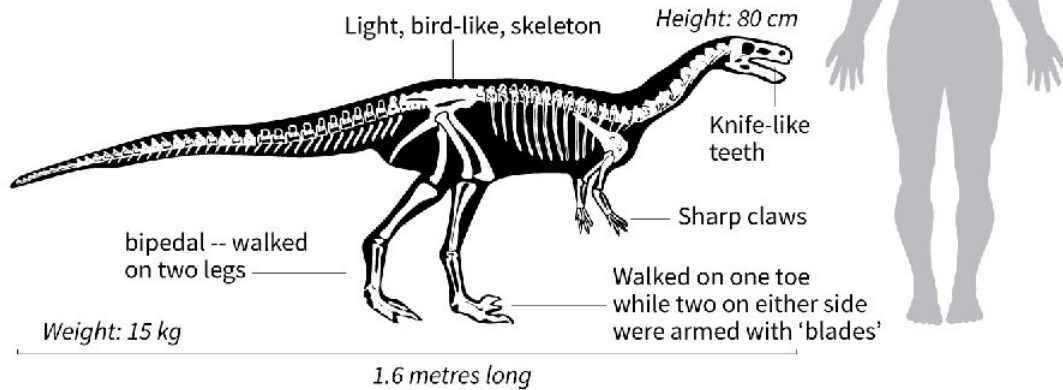
"It is a rich but little explored area that would surely bring great news to the world of paleontology," said Neurides Martins of the Paleontology Museum of Cruzeiro do Oeste.

The desert dinosaur

The carnivorous theropod was adapted to the prehistoric desert conditions of southern Brazil

Vespersaurus paranaensis

Belongs to the same group as the tyrannosaurus and velociraptor



Source: www.noticias.uem.br

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Factfile on the carnivorous theropod dinosaur, adapted to the prehistoric desert conditions of southern Brazil 90 million years ago



A hitherto unknown type of carnivorous dinosaur measuring just over a meter and a half long that lived 90 million years ago has been identified in the Cruzeiro do Oeste municipality of southern Brazil

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