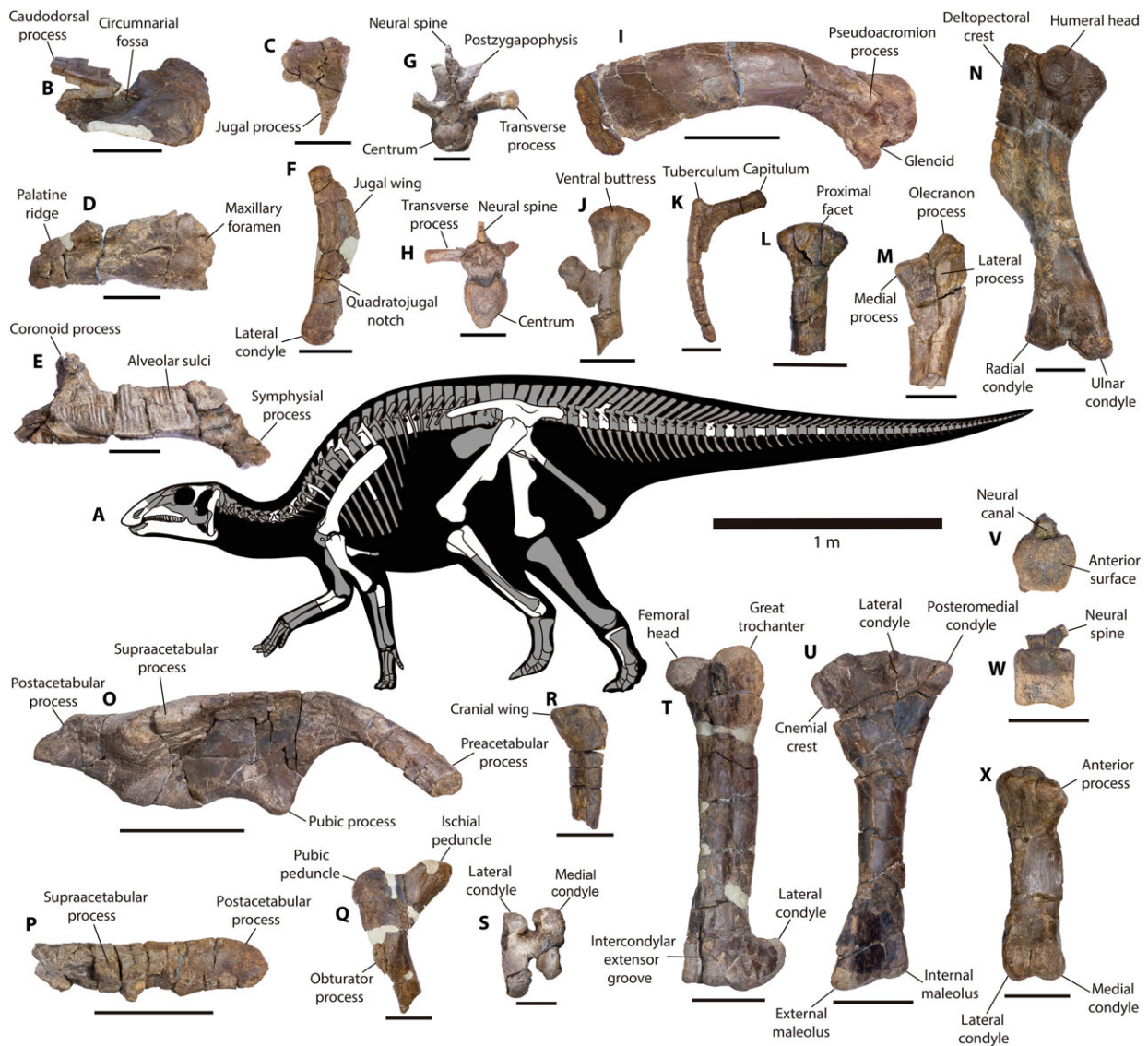


Remains of new species of duck-billed dinosaur found in Chile

June 17 2023



Credit: *Science Advances* (2023). DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.adg2456

Remains of a species of herbivorous dinosaur previously unknown in the southern hemisphere have been discovered in Chile, challenging long-held beliefs about the range of duck-billed dinosaurs, scientists said Friday.

Measuring up to four meters (13 feet) in length and weighing a ton, *Gonkoken nanoi* lived 72 million years ago in the extreme south of what is now Chilean Patagonia.

"These were slender-looking dinosaurs, which could easily adopt a bipedal and quadrupedal posture to reach the vegetation at height and at [ground level](#)," said Alexander Vargas, director of the paleontological network of the University of Chile and one of the authors of the [study published](#) by the journal *Science Advances* and presented in Santiago.

The discovery demonstrated that Chilean Patagonia served as a refuge for very ancient species of hadrosaurs, a type of duck-billed dinosaur common in North America, Asia and Europe during the Cretaceous period, from 145 to 66 million years ago.

Their presence in the remote southern lands surprised scientists, who will have to "understand how their ancestors got there," Vargas said.

Gonkoken nanoi, the fifth species of dinosaur discovered in Chile, was actually found in 2013, kicking off a decade-long investigation.

The name *Gonkoken* comes from the Tehuelche language, the first inhabitants of the region, and means "similar to a wild duck or a swan."

More information: Jhonatan Alarcón-Muñoz et al, Relict duck-billed dinosaurs survived into the last age of the dinosaurs in subantarctic Chile, *Science Advances* (2023). [DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.adg2456](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adg2456)

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