The phylogenetic affinities of the bizarre Late Cretaceous Romanian theropod *Balaur bondoc* (Dinosauria, Maniraptora): dromaeosaurid or flightless bird?

Andrea Cau, Thomas Brougham, Darren Naish

The exceptionally well-preserved Romanian dinosaur *Balaur bondoc* is the most complete theropod known to date from the Upper Cretaceous of Europe. Previous studies of this remarkable taxon have included its phylogenetic interpretation as an aberrant dromaeosaurid with velociraptorine affinities. However, Balaur displays a combination of both apparently plesiomorphic and derived bird-like characters. Here, we analyse those features in a phylogenetic revision and show how they challenge its referral to Dromaeosauridae. Our reanalysis of two distinct phylogenetic datasets focusing on basal paravian taxa supports the reinterpretation of Balaur as an avialan more derived than Archaeopteryx but outside of Pygostylia, and as a flightless taxon within a paraphyletic assemblage of long-tailed birds. Our placement of Balaur within Avialae is not biased by character weighting. The placement among dromaeosaurids resulted a suboptimal alternative that cannot be rejected based on actual data. Interpreted as a dromaeosaurid, Balaur has been assumed to be hypercarnivorous and predatory, exhibiting a peculiar morphology influenced by island endemism. However, a dromaeosaurid-like ecology is contradicted by several details of Balaur's morphology, including the loss of a third functional manual digit, the non-ginglymoid distal end of metatarsal II and a non-falciform ungual on the second pedal digit that lacks a prominent flexor tubercle. Conversely, an omnivorous ecology is better supported by Balaur's morphology and is consistent with its phylogenetic placement within Avialae. Our reinterpretation of Balaur implies that a superficially dromaeosaurid-like taxon represents the enlarged, terrestrialised descendant of smaller and probably volant ancestors.

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14 Abstract

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- 15 The exceptionally well-preserved Romanian dinosaur *Balaur bondoc* is the most complete theropod
- 16 known to date from the Upper Cretaceous of Europe. Previous studies of this remarkable taxon have
- 17 included its phylogenetic interpretation as an aberrant dromaeosaurid with velociraptorine affinities.
- 18 However, *Balaur* displays a combination of both apparently plesiomorphic and derived bird-like
- 19 characters. Here, we analyse those features in a phylogenetic revision and show how they challenge its
- 20 referral to Dromaeosauridae. Our reanalysis of two distinct phylogenetic datasets focusing on basal
- 21 paravian taxa supports the reinterpretation of *Balaur* as an avialan more derived than *Archaeopteryx*
- but outside of Pygostylia, and as a flightless taxon within a paraphyletic assemblage of long-tailed
- 23 birds. Our placement of *Balaur* within Avialae is not biased by character weighting. The placement
- 24 among dromaeosaurids resulted a suboptimal alternative that cannot be rejected based on actual data.
- 25 Interpreted as a dromaeosaurid, *Balaur* has been assumed to be hypercarnivorous and predatory,
- 26 exhibiting a peculiar morphology influenced by island endemism. However, a dromaeosaurid-like
- 27 ecology is contradicted by several details of *Balaur*'s morphology, including the loss of a third
- 28 functional manual digit, the non-ginglymoid distal end of metatarsal II and a non-falciform ungual on
- 29 the second pedal digit that lacks a prominent flexor tubercle. Conversely, an omnivorous ecology is

30	better supported by Balaur's morphology and is consistent with its phylogenetic placement within
31	Avialae. Our reinterpretation of Balaur implies that a superficially dromaeosaurid-like taxon represents
32	the enlarged, terrestrialised descendant of smaller and probably volant ancestors.
33	Keywords: Avialae, Deinonychosauria, Homoplasy, Mesozoic, Paraves.
34	
35	The theropod dinosaur Balaur bondoc from the Maastrichtian (latest Late Cretaceous) of Romania
36	represents the most complete theropod dinosaur yet known from the Upper Cretaceous of Europe
37	(Csiki et al. 2010). The remarkably well-preserved holotype specimen of B. bondoc, EME
38	(Transylvanian Museum Society, Dept. of Natural Sciences, Cluj-Napoca, Romania) PV.313, was
39	collected from red overbank floodplain sediments of the Maastrichtian Sebeş Formation in 2009 and
40	comprises an articulated partial postcranial skeleton of a single individual, including dorsal, sacral and
41	caudal vertebrae as well as much of the pectoral and pelvic girdles and limbs (Brusatte et al. 2013).
42	The first phylogenetic studies incorporating Balaur concluded that it represents an aberrant
43	dromaeosaurid with velociraptorine affinities, endemic to the European palaeoislands of the Late
44	Cretaceous (Csiki et al. 2010; Turner et al. 2012; Brusatte et al. 2013). The matrices utilised in these
45	three studies have all been versions of the Theropod Working Group (TWiG) matrix, an incrementally
46	and independently developed large-scale matrix focusing on the interrelationships of coelurosaurian
47	taxa (e.g., Norell et al. 2001; Makovicky et al. 2005; Turner et al. 2007; Turner et al. 2012; Brusatte et
48	al. 2014). Comparisons made between Balaur and other dromaeosaurids reveals the possession of a
49	suite of autapomorphies not present in dromaeosaurids nor in most other non-avialan theropods, such
50	as a fused carpometacarpus, loss of a functional third manual digit, proximal fusion of the
51	tarsometatarsus and a relatively enlarged first pedal digit (Csiki et al. 2010; Brusatte et al. 2013).
52	Interpreted as a dromaeosaurid, Balaur is a strikingly odd and apparently avialan-like taxon. Recently,
53	Godefroit et al. (2013a) included Balaur in a new phylogenetic analysis focusing on paravians and
54	found it resolved as a basal avialan, more crownward than Archaeopteryx. A similar result was
55	obtained independently by Foth et al. (2014) using a dataset expanded from that of Turner et al. (2012),
56	although Foth et al. (2014) recovered it in a position relatively less crownward than in the tree obtained
57	by Godefroit et al. (2013a), but still crownward of Archaeopteryx. The present study focuses on
58	resolving these conflicting interpretations regarding the affinities of Balaur following examination of
59	the holotype material (performed by TB and DN). We also present a revised phylogenetic hypothesis
60	based on a comparison of updated versions of previously published taxon-character matrices.

61 Materials and methods

- 62 In order to test the competing dromaeosaurid and avialan hypotheses for the affinities of *Balaur*, we
- coded the holotype specimen into modified versions of two recently published theropod phylogenetic
- 64 matrices: Turner et al. (2012) and Lee et al. (2014). Both of these large-scale and independently coded
- 65 matrices focused on the interrelationships of basal paravian theropod dinosaurs and contain a broadly
- overlapping and comprehensive sampling of over 100 theropod taxa (117 and 120 taxa respectively),
- 67 including many basal avialans. The two matrices differ from each other in the logical basis on character
- statement definitions (Sereno 2007; Brazeau 2011, see discussion below).
- 69 Turner et al. (2012) data set
- We modified the Turner et al. (2012) matrix for this study to include 13 new characters and updated
- 71 character states for four previously defined characters (see Electronic Supplementary Material).
- 72 Characters #6, #50 and #52 were excluded from tree search, following Turner et al. (2012). All
- character statements considered to be ordered by Turner et al. (2012) were set accordingly. The
- multistate character 116, considered to be unordered by Turner et al. (2012), was set as ordered as we
- 75 interpret state "1" as intermediate between states "0" and "2". In addition, *Neuquenraptor* and the two
- 76 included species of *Unenlagia* were merged as a single taxonomic unit (Turner et al. 2012, but see also
- 77 Gianechini and Apesteguia 2011). *Microraptor* was re-scored based on Pei et al. (2014). The resulting
- data matrix (490 characters vs 113 taxa) was then analysed using the Hennig Society version of TNT
- 79 v1.1 (Goloboff et al. 2008b; see Electronic Supplementary Material for further details regarding
- 80 modifications to the matrix and tree search strategy).
- 81 *Lee et al. (2014) data set*
- 82 The dataset used by Lee at al. (2014) is an updated version of the dataset of Godefroit et al. (2013a).
- 83 Character statements of the 1549 included characters and the source of score for the included 120 fossil
- 84 taxa are stored at the Dryad Digital Repository (Cau et al. 2014). In our study, this dataset has been
- 85 expanded including one taxonomic unit based on the extant avian *Meleagris* (ACUB 4817);
- accordingly, character statement 318 has been modified (see Electronic Supplementary Material).
- 87 Balaur was re-scored based on our examination of the specimen and the incorporation of information
- from Brusatte et al. (2013). Lee et al. (2014) applied Bayesian inference in their analysis of this dataset
- and integrating the morphological information with chronostratigrafic information. In the present
- 90 study, the updated morphological data matrix (1549 characters vs 121 taxa) was analysed using

- 91 parsimony as the tree search strategy in TNT (see Electronic Supplementary Material).
- 92 Alternative placement test and implied weighting analyses
- 93 In our analyses of both datasets, we constrained the alternative deinonychosaurian and avialan
- 94 positions for *Balaur*, measuring step changes between resultant topologies as a further indication of
- 95 their relative support. The Templeton's test (Templeton 1983) was used to determine whether the step
- 96 differences between the unforced and forced topologies were statistically significant. The backbone
- 97 constraints used the following species: a crown avian (*Anas platyrhynchus* in the dataset of Turner et
- 98 al. 2012, Meleagris gallopavo in the dataset of Lee et al. 2014), a dromaeosaurid (Dromaeosaurus
- 99 albertensis in both datasets), and a troodontid (*Troodon formosus* in both datasets).
- 100 In order to test whether assumptions on character weighting influence the placement of *Balaur* among
- Paraves, both datasets were subjected to implied weighting analyses (IWAs, Goloboff 1993, Goloboff
- et al. 2008a,b; see Electronic Supplementary Material).
- 103 Institutional abbreviations
- 104 ACUB, Museo di Anatomia Comparata, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy. EME, Transylvanian
- 105 Museum Society, Dept. of Natural Sciences, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

106 Comparative anatomy of *Balaur* and other maniraptoran theropods

- 107 Compared to other theropods, *Balaur* displays a unique and unexpected combination of characters
- 108 (Brusatte et al. 2013). The phylogenetic analyses of Csiki et al. (2010) and Brusatte et al. (2013)
- resolved *Balaur* as a velociraptorine dromaeosaurid. Consequently, most of the unusual characters
- shared by *Balaur* with non-dromaeosaurid theropods were interpreted as autapomorphies,
- independently evolved along the lineage leading exclusively to *Balaur*. An alternative explanation is
- that these features may indicate a closer relationship between *Balaur* and another non-dromaeosaurid
- 113 clade of maniraptorans.
- Here, we list the most relevant characters that may support or challenge the alternative placements of
- 115 Balaur within Maniraptora.
- 116 Dorsal vertebrae with stalked parapophyses
- The dorsal vertebrae of *Balaur* bear distinctly stalked parapophyses (Brusatte et al. 2013). Although
- this feature has been reported as a deinonychosaurian synapomorphy (Turner et al. 2012), stalked
- parapophyses are also present in alvarezsaurids and basal avialans (Novas 1997; Chiappe et al. 1999;

120	Agnolín and Novas 2013).
121	Sacrum including at least seven fused vertebrae
122	The presence of five fused sacral vertebrae is the plesiomorphic condition within coelurosaurs (e.g.,
123	Brochu 2003). An independent increase in the number of fused sacral vertebrae is a widespread
124	phenomenon within Maniraptoriformes. Six to seven sacral vertebrae are present in ornithomimids
125	(Osmólska et al. 1972), derived oviraptorosaurs (Barsbold et al. 2000), and derived dromaeosaurids
126	(Norell and Makovicky 1997; Turner et al. 2012; S. Brusatte pers. comm. 2014). The synsacrum is
127	composed of seven vertebrae in derived alvarezsauroids, whereas in basal taxa it includes only five
128	vertebrae (Choiniere et al. 2010). Archaeopteryx and basal paravians retain five sacral vertebrae
129	(Hwang et al. 2002; Paul 2002; Godefroit et al. 2013b; Godefroit et al. 2013a), whereas a sacrum with
130	at least seven vertebrae has been regarded as a synapomorphy of Jixiangornis and pygostylians (Turner
131	et al. 2012). Balaur has at least seven sacral vertebrae: four fused and clearly discernible sacral
132	vertebrae bearing sacral ribs are followed by three additional and co-ossified caudosacrals (Brusatte et
133	al. 2013).
134	Fused scapulocoracoid
135	In Balaur, the scapula and coracoid are co-ossified and the suture is obliterated on both sides (Fig. 1a;
136	Brusatte et al. 2013). Brusatte et al. (2013) noted that a fused scapulocoracoid is present in some
137	dromaeosaurids (e.g., Adasaurus, Microraptor, Velociraptor; see Fig. 1c) but not in others (e.g.,
138	Achillobator, Buitreraptor, Deinonychus, Sinornithosaurus, Unenlagia). Turner et al. (2012) included
139	fusion of the scapulocoracoid among the phylogenetically informative characters of their paravian
140	phylogeny. Within non-avian coelurosaurs, the presence of this character state has been reported within
141	ornithomimosaurs, therizinosauroids, alvarezsauroids, tyrannosaurids and oviraptorosaurs (Osmólska
142	et al. 1972; Perle 1979; Perle et al. 1994; Brochu 2003; Balanoff and Norell 2012), suggesting a high
143	degree of homoplasy. Fusion of the scapulocoracoid is also present in basal avialans (e.g.,
144	Confuciusornithidae; Chiappe et al. 1999) and flightless avians (e.g., Struthio; ACUB 4820).
145	Coracoid with prominent tuber placed on the anterolateral corner
146	The coracoid of Balaur bears a hypertrophied tubercle that forms the anterolateral corner of the bone
147	and obscures the supracoracoid nerve foramen when the coracoid is observed in lateral view (Fig. 1a;
148	Brusatte et al. 2013). Non-avialan theropods possess tubercles that are relatively smaller and more

lateroventrally directed (when the scapula is oriented horizontally) than that seen in avialan theropods

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- 150 (Fig. 1c; Osmólska et al. 1972; Ostrom 1976; this is the "processus praeglenoidalis" sensu Elzanowski
- et al. 2002). Although the coracoid tubercle of *Balaur* may appear autapomorphic among non-avialan
- theropods (Brusatte et al. 2013), a prominent coracoid tubercle is also present in unenlagiines
- 153 (Buitreraptor, see Agnolin and Novas 2013), basal avialans (e.g., Jeholornis, Jixiangornis; Turner et
- al. 2012, fig. 82) and forms the acrocoracoid of ornithothoracines (e.g., Apsaravis, Enantiophoenix,
- 155 Enantiornis; Clarke and Norell 2002; Baier et al. 2007; Cau and Arduini 2008; Walker and Dyke 2009;
- Fig. 1). A hypertrophied coracoid tubercle that obscures the supracoracoid nerve foramen in lateral
- view is also seen in *Sapeornis* (Zhou and Zhang 2003; Gao et al. 2012).
- 158 Humerus longer than half the combined length of tibiotarsus and tarsometatarsus
- 159 The humerus of non-avialan theropods is consistently shorter than half of the combined length of the
- tibiotarsus and tarsometatarsus (e.g., Deinonychus, Gallimimus, Tyrannosaurus, Microraptor; Ostrom
- 161 1969; Osmólska et al. 1972; Hwang et al. 2002; Brochu 2003). In *Balaur*, the humerus is longer than
- half of the combined length of the tibiotarsus and tarsometatarsus (55%) and approaches the condition
- seen in basal avialans (e.g., Archaeopteryx: 59%, Confuciusornis: 67%, Jeholornis: 77%; Chiappe et
- al. 1999; Elzanowski 2001; Zhou and Zhang 2002; see Brusatte et al. 2013, table 2).
- 165 Humeral condyles placed on the anterior surface of the distal end
- 166 The humerus of *Balaur* possesses distal condyles that are placed entirely on the anterior surface of the
- bone (Brusatte et al. 2013). As in *Balaur*, the complete anterior migration of the humeral condyles is
- present in therizinosauroids (e.g., Zanno 2010), basal pygostylians (e.g., Confuciusornis, Limenavis,
- 169 Enantiornis; Chiappe et al. 1999; Clarke and Chiappe 2001; Walker and Dyke 2009) and extant birds
- 170 (e.g., Dromaius, Meleagris, Struthio; ACUB 3131; 4817; 4820). All other known dromaeosaurids (e.g.,
- 171 Deinonychus; Ostrom 1969), most non-avialan theropods (e.g., Gallimimus, Allosaurus,
- 172 Tyrannosaurus; Osmólska et al. 1972; Madsen 1976; Brochu 2003) and the basalmost avialans (e.g.,
- 173 Archaeopteryx; Berlin specimen) bear the condyles in a more distal position, with a limited, if not
- absent, extent onto the anterior surface of bone. In the analysis of Turner et al. (2012), *Balaur* was
- scored as retaining the primitive condition (*contra* Brusatte et al. 2013). Following Brusatte et al.
- 176 (2013), we re-scored character 371, describing the placement of the humeral condyles in the dataset of
- 177 Turner et al. (2012), as 371.1.
- 178 Deep and elongate triangular brachial fossa on humerus
- 179 The humerus of *Balaur* has a prominent triangular fossa on the anterior surface of the distal end of the

- humerus (Brusatte et al. 2013, fig. 12). This fossa is bordered both laterally and medially by raised
- creete confluent with the epicondyles. The same configuration defines the brachial fossa present in
- birds (e.g., Confuciusornis, Limenavis, Apsaravis; Chiappe et al. 1999; Clarke and Chiappe 2001;
- 183 Clarke and Norell 2002). This fossa is also variably developed within dromaeosaurids (e.g.,
- 184 Bambiraptor; Turner et al. 2012; Brusatte et al. 2013).
- 185 Ulna with brachial depression
- 186 The proximal third of *Balaur*'s ulna bears a shallow, elongate depression on the medial surface termed
- the "proximal fossa" (Brusatte et al. 2013, fig. 14). This character is topographically equivalent to the
- brachial fossa present in pygostylians (Baumel and Witmer 1993; Clarke and Chiappe 2001; Walker
- and Dyke 2009). The ulna of most non-avialan theropods lacks a brachial depression or possesses a
- 190 poorly developed one (e.g., Allosaurus, Tyrannosaurus; Madsen 1976; Brochu 2003). However, the
- structure is well developed in some dromaeosaurids (e.g., *Bambiraptor*, *Buitreraptor*; Burnham 2004;
- 192 Agnolín and Novas 2011; Agnolín and Novas 2013).
- 193 Distal carpals fused to proximal end of metacarpals
- 194 The manus of *Balaur* displays co-ossification of the distal carpals with the proximal ends of the
- metacarpals (Fig. 2a; Brusatte et al. 2013), unlike the dromaeosaurid condition in which no such fusion
- in present (Fig. 2d). The fusion between the distal carpals and the metacarpals is present in a few non-
- avialan toppod lineages (e.g., Avimimus, Mononykus; Kurzanov 1981; Perle et al. 1993) and in
- derived avialans (e.g., Confuciusornis, Xiangornis; Chiappe et al. 1999; Hu et al. 2012). In particular,
- the pattern of proximal fusion among the carpometacarpal elements in *Balaur* is shared by most basal
- 200 pygostylians (e.g., Confuciusornis, Sinornis, Sapeornis, Pengornis, Enantiornis, Zhouornis; Chiappe et
- 201 al. 1999; Sereno et al. 2002; Zhou and Zhang 2003; Zhou et al. 2008; Walker and Dyke 2009; Zhang et
- al. 2013; see Fig. 2b-c, Fig. S1). Most ornithurines and some enantiornithines display a complete distal
- 203 fusion between metacarpals II and III in addition to the aforementioned proximal fusion of the
- 204 carpometacarpus as seen in *Balaur* (e.g., *Apsaravis*, *Teviornis*, *Xiangornis*; Clarke and Norell 2002;
- 205 Kurochkin et al. 2002; Hu et al. 2012).
- 206 Semilunate carpal shifted laterally and first metacarpal sloped proximolaterally
- In *Balaur*, the semilunate carpal overlaps the whole proximal ends of both metacarpals II and III (Fig.
- 208 2a, Fig. S1). Furthermore, the proximal end of the first metacarpal in *Balaur* is mediolaterally narrower
- than the distal end, producing a proximolaterally sloping medial margin of the metacarpus. In

210	Archaeopteryx and most non-avialan maniraptorans, the proximal end of the first metacarpal is not
211	constricted compared to the distal end, and the semilunate carpal overlaps most of metacarpal I;
212	whereas the overlap on metacarpal III is absent or limited to the medialmost margin of the bone (Fig.
213	2d; Ostrom 1976, fig. 10; Xu et al. 2014). Therefore, the position of the semilunate carpal of Balaur
214	represents a lateral shift when compared to other non-avialan maniraptorans, and recalls the condition
215	in long-tailed and pygostylian birds where the semilunate carpal has a reduced or absent overlap on
216	metacarpal I and extensively covers both metacarpals II and III (e.g., Confuciusornis, Sinornis,
217	Sapeornis, Enantiornis, Zhouornis; Chiappe et al. 1999; Sereno et al. 2002; Zhou and Zhang 2003;
218	Walker and Dyke 2009; Zhang et al. 2013; see also Xu et al. 2014; see Fig. 2b-c). As in Balaur,
219	pygostylian birds show a mediolateral constriction of the proximal end of the first metacarpal, and a
220	medial margin ("anterior margin", using Nomina Anatomica Avium nomenclature, see Harris 2004)
221	that is variably sloped proximolaterally in extensor view.
222	Distal condyles of metacarpals I-II restricted to the distal and ventral surfaces of the metacarpals
223	Metacarpals I and II of Balaur bear distal condyles that are restricted to the distal and ventral surfaces
224	of the metacarpals, and are excluded from the extensor surfaces (Brusatte et al. 2013). The
225	dromaeosaurid condition (e.g., Deinonychus, Velociraptor, Graciliraptor; Ostrom 1969; Norell and
226	Makovicky 1999; Xu and Wang 2003), in which the distal condyles are expanded along the extensor
227	surface of the metacarpals, is present in most non-avialan theropods (e.g., Acrocanthosaurus,
228	Allosaurus, Australovenator, Berberosaurus, Dilophosaurus, Patagonykus, Rapator; Madsen 1976;
229	Welles 1984; Novas 1997; Senter and Robins 2005; Allain et al. 2007; White et al. 2013). The
230	condition present in the metacarpals of Balaur is also present in pygostylians (e.g., Teviornis, Sinornis
231	Enantiornis; Kurochkin et al. 2002; Sereno et al. 2002; Walker and Dyke 2009) and extant birds (e.g.,
232	Dromaius; Meleagris, Struthio; ACUB 3131; 4817; 4820). Furthermore, the ventral surface of the
233	metacarpals of Balaur are excavated by a wide flexor sulcus but lack distinct flexor pits at the distal
234	end, similar to the condition present in avialans (e.g., Teviornis; Kurochkin et al. 2002) but differing
235	from that of dromaeosaurids and most non-avialan theropods that do bear a distinct flexor pit (e.g.,
236	Allosaurus, Acrocanthosaurus, Mahakala, Velociraptor; Madsen 1976; Senter and Robins 2005;
237	Turner et al. 2011).

238	Metacarpal II with an intermetacarpal ridge running along the dorsolateral edge of the bone and
239	closed intermetacarpal space between metacarpals II and III
240	Balaur possesses a distinct web of bone that extends along the dorsolateral edge of metacarpal II and
241	contacts metacarpal III distally, and a distally closed intermetacarpal space between metacarpals II and
242	III (Brusatte et al. 2013). Within basal avialans, the extent of the contact between metacarpals II and III
243	displays some variation, ranging from the close contact of a straight metacarpal III to metacarpal II
244	with no intermetacarpal space (e.g., Sapeornis; Zhou and Zhang 2003; Gao et al. 2012; see Fig. 2, Fig.
245	S1), an appressed distal contact but not fusion of metacarpal III to metacarpal II (the condition as seen
246	in Balaur and many basal avialans, including Jeholornis, Enantiornis, Confuciusornis, Zhouornis, and
247	Piscivoravis; Zhou and Zhang 2002; Walker and Dyke 2009; Zhang et al. 2009; Zhang et al. 2013;
248	Zhou et al. 2014), to distal obliteration of the contact between metacarpals II and III due to complete
249	fusion between the bones (e.g., Teviornis, Xiangornis, Meleagris; Kurochkin et al. 2002; Hu et al.
250	2012; ACUB 4817). A closed intermetacarpal space is present in Confuciusornis (Chiappe et al. 1999;
251	Zhang et al. 2009), some long-tailed birds (e.g., Jeholornis, Jixiangornis; Zhou and Zhang 2002), and
252	ornithothoracines (e.g., Enantiornis, Yiangornis, Zhouornis; Walker and Dyke 2009; Hu et al. 2012;
253	Zhang et al. 2013; see Fig. 2b). Derived euornithines differ from <i>Balaur</i> and most avialans in having a
254	more distally placed intermetacarpal space relative to a more shortened metacarpal I (e.g., Teviornis;
255	Kurochkin et al. 2002).
256	Distal end of metacarpal III unexpanded and not divided into separated condyles
257	The third metacarpal of Balaur bears a simple distal end that lacks distinct condyles. Dromaeosaurids
258	share with most non-avialan theropods the presence of well-defined distal metacarpal condyles
259	separated by an intercondylar sulcus (e.g., Allosaurus, Bambiraptor, Deinocheirus, Deinonychus,
260	Dilophosaurus, Gallimimus; Ostrom 1969; Osmólska and Roniewicz 1970; Osmólska et al. 1972;
261	Madsen 1976; Welles 1984; Burnham 2004). The condition present in the third metacarpal of Balaur is
262	shared by derived tyrannosauroids (e.g., <i>Tyrannosaurus</i> ; Lipkin and Carpenter 2008, fig. 10.10), basal
263	pygostylians (e.g., Confuciusornis, Enantiornis, Sinornis, Teviornis, Xiangornis, Zhouornis; Chiappe et
264	al. 1999; Kurochkin et al. 2002; Sereno et al. 2002; Walker and Dyke 2009; Hu et al. 2012; Zhang et
265	al. 2013) and crown avians (e.g., Meleagris, Struthio; ACUB 4817; 4820). This character is not
266	obviously linked with the reduction in the number of phalanges in digit III (see below), since
267	Confuciusornis shows the derived metacarpal condition (i.e., simple distal end of metacarpal III) yet
268	retains a full set of four functional phalanges in digit III

269	Third manual digit bearing less than three phalanges
270	The third manual digit of Balaur is extremely reduced and lacks the distal phalanges, including the
271	ungual (Fig. 2a; Brusatte et al. 2013). The only known phalanx in the third manual digit of Balaur has
272	a tapering distal end with a small distal articular surface, suggesting the presence of a possible
273	additional phalanx of very small size. Such a reduction is unknown in dromaeosaurids, which have
274	three non-ungual phalanges on manual digit III and a fully functional ungual (Fig. 2d), but are

275	commonly found in non-confuciusornithid pygostylians, where the third manual digit is usually
276	reduced to two or fewer phalanges with a tapering distal end and poorly defined articular surfaces (e.g.,
277	Sinornis, Sapeornis, Zhouornis, Piscivoravis; Sereno et al. 2002; Gao et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2013;
278	Zhou et al. 2014; see Fig. 2b-c, Fig. S1).
279	Dorsal margin of manual unguals does not arch dorsally above level of articular facet and flexor
280	tubercles not expanded ventrally
281	Senter (2007a) argued that in dromaeosaurid manual unguals, the dorsal margins arch higher than the
282	articular facets when the latter is held vertically, and that this feature differentiates dromaeosaurid
283	manual unguals from those of other theropods. The derived condition is present in microraptorines and
284	eudromaeosaurs but is absent in unenlagiines (Senter 2007a; Senter 2007b; Currie and Paulina
285	Carabajal 2012; Fig. S1A-B). Furthermore, the manual unguals in both dromaeosaurids and troodontids
286	bear prominent and dorsoventrally expanded flexor tubercles. In Balaur, the dorsal margins of the
287	manual unguals do not arch higher than the articular facet, and the flexor tubercles are relatively low,
288	more elongate proximodistally than dorsoventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013 figs. 21-22, figs. 21-22; Fig.
289	S1C). Reduction in both curvature and development of the flexor tubercles is widespread among the
290	manual unguals of basal avialans (e.g., Sinornis, Sapeornis, Zhouornis, Piscivoravis; Sereno et al.
291	2002; Gao et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2013; Zhou et al. 2014; see Fig. 2b-c).
292	Complete coossification of pelvic bones
293	Balaur displays coossification of the pelvic bones such that both the iliopubic and ilioischial sutures
294	are obliterated (Brusatte et al. 2013, Fig. S2A). In most tetanuran theropods, including basalmost
295	avialans, the pelvic elements do not completely coossify (e.g., Allosaurus, Jeholornis, Patagonykus,
296	Sapeornis, Tyrannosaurus; Madsen 1976; Novas 1997; Zhou and Zhang 2002; Brochu 2003; Zhou and
297	Zhang 2003). This contrasts with ceratosaurian-grade theropods (Tykoski and Rowe 2004), some non-
298	avialan coelurosaurs (e.g., Avimimus; Kurzanov 1981) and derived avialans (e.g., Apsaravis, cf.
299	Enantiornis, Patagopteryx, Qiliania, Sinornis; Chiappe 2002; Chiappe and Walker 2002; Clarke and
300	Norell 2002; Sereno et al. 2002; Ji et al. 2011, Fig. S2D) in which the pelvic bones fuse completely.
301	Although coossification of the ilium to the pubis is present in the only known specimen of the
302	microraptorine dromaeosaurid Hesperonychus, the pelvic coossification differs from Balaur and
303	avialans as the ilioischial articulation remains unfused (Longrich and Currie 2009)

304	Ridge bounding the cuppedicus fossa confluent with the acetabular rim
305	In the ilium of <i>Balaur</i> , the ridge that dorsally bounds the cuppedicus fossa is extended posteriorly on
306	the lateral surface of the pubic peduncle and is confluent with the acetabular rim (Brusatte et al. 2013;
307	Fig. S2A). This feature is a compound character formed by the presence of a ridge bounding the
308	cuppedicus fossa, which is a neotetanuran synapomorphy (Hutchinson 2001; Novas 2004), and the
309	posterior extension of the cuppedicus fossa on the lateral surface of the pubic peduncle, which is a
310	derived feature of paravians (Hutchinson 2001, figs. 4-6). The combination of features present in
311	Balaur is shared by Anchiornis and Xiaotingia (Turner et al. 2012), Unenlagia and Rahonavis (Novas
312	2004), Velociraptor (Norell and Makovicky 1999) and enantiornithines (e.g., Sereno et al. 2002, fig.
313	8.4; Walker and Dyke 2009, Fig. S2D). The presence and extent of the cuppedicus fossa is difficult to
314	determine in most Mesozoic avialans because of the two-dimensional preservation of most specimens
315	(Novas 2004). Furthermore, the character statements relative to the ridge bounding the cuppedicus
316	fossa in phylogenetic analyses are marked as 'inapplicable' in those taxa lacking a distinct cuppedicus
317	fossa (Hutchinson 2001; e.g., Mahakala, Patagopteryx, Ornithurae; Turner et al. 2011), a scoring
318	strategy followed by both Turner et al. (2012) and Godefroit et al. (2013a).
319	Pubis and ischium projected strongly posteroventrally and subparallel
320	Balaur has a posteroventrally directed pubis, subparallel to the ischium (Csiki et al. 2010; Fig. S2A).
321	Although Brusatte et al. (2013) acknowledged that the extreme posterior inclination of the pubis may
322	partially be the result of taphonomic distortion, they confirmed the genuine posteroventral orientation
323	
	of this bone. Within Theropoda, retroversion of the pubis (opisthopuby) is known in therizinosauroids
324	of this bone. Within Theropoda, retroversion of the pubis (opisthopuby) is known in therizinosauroids parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than
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	parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than
325	parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than <i>Falcarius</i> show a posteroventrally directed pubis that articulates with the obturator process of the
325 326	parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than <i>Falcarius</i> show a posteroventrally directed pubis that articulates with the obturator process of the ischium (Zanno 2010). Opisthopuby is present in many parvicursorines (e.g., <i>Mononykus</i> ; Perle et al.
325 326 327	parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than <i>Falcarius</i> show a posteroventrally directed pubis that articulates with the obturator process of the ischium (Zanno 2010). Opisthopuby is present in many parvicursorines (e.g., <i>Mononykus</i> ; Perle et al. 1994), but absent in more basal alvarezsauroids (e.g., <i>Haplocheirus</i> , <i>Patagonykus</i> ; Novas 1997;
325326327328	parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than <i>Falcarius</i> show a posteroventrally directed pubis that articulates with the obturator process of the ischium (Zanno 2010). Opisthopuby is present in many parvicursorines (e.g., <i>Mononykus</i> ; Perle et al. 1994), but absent in more basal alvarezsauroids (e.g., <i>Haplocheirus</i> , <i>Patagonykus</i> ; Novas 1997; Choiniere et al. 2010). A retroverted pubis is absent in basal paravians – they instead display a
325 326 327 328 329	parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than <i>Falcarius</i> show a posteroventrally directed pubis that articulates with the obturator process of the ischium (Zanno 2010). Opisthopuby is present in many parvicursorines (e.g., <i>Mononykus</i> ; Perle et al. 1994), but absent in more basal alvarezsauroids (e.g., <i>Haplocheirus</i> , <i>Patagonykus</i> ; Novas 1997; Choiniere et al. 2010). A retroverted pubis is absent in basal paravians – they instead display a vertically oriented ('mesopubic') pubis – and is present in some dromaeosaurids (e.g., <i>Adasaurus</i> and
325 326 327 328 329 330	parvicursorine alvarezsaurids, dromaeosaurids and pygostylians. Therizinosauroids more derived than <i>Falcarius</i> show a posteroventrally directed pubis that articulates with the obturator process of the ischium (Zanno 2010). Opisthopuby is present in many parvicursorines (e.g., <i>Mononykus</i> ; Perle et al. 1994), but absent in more basal alvarezsauroids (e.g., <i>Haplocheirus</i> , <i>Patagonykus</i> ; Novas 1997; Choiniere et al. 2010). A retroverted pubis is absent in basal paravians – they instead display a vertically oriented ('mesopubic') pubis – and is present in some dromaeosaurids (e.g., <i>Adasaurus</i> and <i>Velociraptor</i> ; Norell and Makovicky 1999; Xu et al. 2010; Turner et al. 2012) but absent in others

334	Broad pelvic canal with laterally convex pubes and abrupt distal narrowing of interpubic distance
335	Brusatte et al. (2013) noted as an autapomorphy of Balaur an interpubic distance that is proportionally
336	greater than that present in other dromaeosaurids (e.g., Velociraptor; Norell and Makovicky 1997;
337	Norell and Makovicky 1999). The gap between the laterally bowed pubes of Balaur only begins to
338	narrow abruptly in the distalmost third of the bone (Fig. 3b, Fig. S2B; Brusatte et al. 2013, fig. 56).
339	This condition differs from that seen in most theropods (e.g., Avimimus, Sinraptor, Tyrannosaurus;
340	Currie and Zhao 1993; Vickers-Rich et al. 2002; Brochu 2003), including Velociraptor (Fig. 3d, Fig.
341	S2C; Norell and Makovicky 1999; Brusatte et al. 2013), Bambiraptor (Burnham 2004) and
342	Archaeopteryx (Norell and Makovicky 1999, fig. 25), where the narrowing is more gradual over the
343	length of the pubes and the pubis is not bowed laterally in anteroposterior view. Brusatte et al. (2013)
344	noted that the condition in Balaur is somewhat similar to the condition in therizinosaurids (Zanno
345	2010). The combination of a relatively broad pelvic canal, bounded by laterally convex pubes and with
346	an abrupt distal narrowing of the interpubic distance, is also seen in pygostylian birds (e.g., Concornis,
347	Dapingfangornis, Piscivoravis, Sapeornis, Yanornis; Sanz et al. 1995; Zhou and Zhang 2003; Li et al.
348	2006; Zhou et al. 2014; Zheng et al. 2014; see Figs. 3c, Fig. S2E).
349	Ischial tuberosity
349 350	Ischial tuberosity The ischium of Balaur bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (ischial tuberosity of Hutchinson
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350	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson
350 351	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally
350 351 352	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013). This feature was determined to be a synapomorphy of the velociraptorine
350 351 352 353	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013). This feature was determined to be a synapomorphy of the velociraptorine subclade including <i>Balaur</i> by Turner et al. (2012). However, almost all non-velociraptorine taxa were
350 351 352 353 354	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013). This feature was determined to be a synapomorphy of the velociraptorine subclade including <i>Balaur</i> by Turner et al. (2012). However, almost all non-velociraptorine taxa were scored by them as either unknown for or lacking an ischial tuberosity (char. 176 in Turner et al. 2012),
350 351 352 353 354 355	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013). This feature was determined to be a synapomorphy of the velociraptorine subclade including <i>Balaur</i> by Turner et al. (2012). However, almost all non-velociraptorine taxa were scored by them as either unknown for or lacking an ischial tuberosity (char. 176 in Turner et al. 2012), with only <i>Adasaurus</i> , <i>Anchiornis</i> , <i>Deinonychus</i> and <i>Velociraptor</i> scored as bearing that feature.
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350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013). This feature was determined to be a synapomorphy of the velociraptorine subclade including <i>Balaur</i> by Turner et al. (2012). However, almost all non-velociraptorine taxa were scored by them as either unknown for or lacking an ischial tuberosity (char. 176 in Turner et al. 2012), with only <i>Adasaurus</i> , <i>Anchiornis</i> , <i>Deinonychus</i> and <i>Velociraptor</i> scored as bearing that feature. Nevertheless, a prominent ischial tuberosity is also present in avialans, in particular in large-bodied flightless taxa (e.g., <i>Patagopteryx</i> ; Hutchinson 2001). The ischial tuberosity of birds approaches and
350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013). This feature was determined to be a synapomorphy of the velociraptorine subclade including <i>Balaur</i> by Turner et al. (2012). However, almost all non-velociraptorine taxa were scored by them as either unknown for or lacking an ischial tuberosity (char. 176 in Turner et al. 2012), with only <i>Adasaurus</i> , <i>Anchiornis</i> , <i>Deinonychus</i> and <i>Velociraptor</i> scored as bearing that feature. Nevertheless, a prominent ischial tuberosity is also present in avialans, in particular in large-bodied flightless taxa (e.g., <i>Patagopteryx</i> ; Hutchinson 2001). The ischial tuberosity of birds approaches and eventually contacts the pubis (e.g., <i>Dromaius</i> ; ACUB 3131), and is the case in <i>Balaur</i> .
350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359	The ischium of <i>Balaur</i> bears a well-developed obturator tuberosity (<i>ischial tuberosity</i> of Hutchinson 2001) on the proximal end of its anterior margin that contacts or nearly contacts the pubis ventrally (Brusatte et al. 2013). This feature was determined to be a synapomorphy of the velociraptorine subclade including <i>Balaur</i> by Turner et al. (2012). However, almost all non-velociraptorine taxa were scored by them as either unknown for or lacking an ischial tuberosity (char. 176 in Turner et al. 2012), with only <i>Adasaurus</i> , <i>Anchiornis</i> , <i>Deinonychus</i> and <i>Velociraptor</i> scored as bearing that feature. Nevertheless, a prominent ischial tuberosity is also present in avialans, in particular in large-bodied flightless taxa (e.g., <i>Patagopteryx</i> ; Hutchinson 2001). The ischial tuberosity of birds approaches and eventually contacts the pubis (e.g., <i>Dromaius</i> ; ACUB 3131), and is the case in <i>Balaur</i> . <i>Ischium with proximodorsal flange</i>

developed on the ischia of many paravians (e.g., Novas and Puerta 1997; Forster 1998; Xu et al. 1999;

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364	Agnotin and Novas 2013). In unentagitnes and microraptorines, the ischium bears a tuber-like
365	proximodorsal process (Novas and Puerta 1997; Agnolín and Novas 2013, figs. 3.5c-e) which is absent
366	in known velociraptorines (Norell and Makovicky 1999; Agnolín and Novas 2013; Brusatte et al.
367	2013) except for a Velociraptor-like taxon from Mongolia (Norell and Makovicky 1999, fig 24). In
368	basal avialans, the ischial tuberosity is developed as a prominent trapezoidal flange which is more
369	proximodistally expanded than it is in other paravians and which resembles the condition present in
370	Balaur (e.g., Confuciusornis, cf. Enantiornis, Jeholornis, Patagopteryx, Sapeornis, Sinornis; Chiappe
371	et al. 1999; Hutchinson 2001; Sereno et al. 2002; Zhou and Zhang 2002; Zhou and Zhang 2003;
372	Walker and Dyke 2009; see Agnolín and Novas 2013; Fig. S2D, F).
373	Fibula fused to tibia proximally
374	In Balaur, the tibia and the fibula are fused proximally (Brusatte et al. 2013), a condition not seen in
375	dromaeosaurids or most non-avialan theropods. Among coelurosaurs, a more extensive proximal fusion
376	between tibia and fibula is present in pygostylian birds (e.g., Qiliania; Ji et al. 2011).
377	Tuber and ridge along lateral surface of the distal end of the tibiotarsus
378	The distal end of the tibiotarsus of <i>Balaur</i> bears a pronounced anteroposteriorly oriented lateral ridge.
379	The ridge is most pronounced anteriorly, where it terminates at a discrete rounded tubercle located at
380	the point where the lateral condyle and shaft merge. The ridge is kinked at its midpoint where it forms
381	a second, ventrally directed tubercle positioned laterodistally relative to the first tubercle (Brusatte et
382	al. 2013, fig. 35). Brusatte et al. (2013) suggested that the first tubercle may represent the distal end of
383	the fibula, fused to the tibiotarsus, whereas no interpretation of the second tubercle was provided. A
384	raised ridge along the anterolateral margin of the distal end of the tibiotarsus at the point of fusion
385	between the tibia and the proximal tarsals is also present in Qiliania (Ji et al. 2011) and in the
386	enigmatic Hateg taxon Bradycneme (Harrison and Walker 1975). Based on comparison with birds, we
387	interpret the second tubercle and the corresponding kinked ridge as the fibular facet of the calcaneum.
388	According to our interpretation, the other tubercle, more proximally placed, is topographically
389	equivalent to the tuberculum retinaculi M. fibularis of birds (Baumel and Witmer 1993).
390	Complete distal co-ossification of the tibiotarsus
391	The distal end of the tibia and the proximal tarsals of Balaur are coossified, forming a tibiotarsus
392	where the sutures are obliterated (Brusatte et al. 2013). Turner et al. (2012) considered the fusion
393	between the calcaneum and astragalus, but not the tibia and tarsals, to be a synanomorphy of Parayes

- Fusion involving the proximal tarsals and the distal end of the tibia is a condition seen in some basal neotheropods (Tykoski and Rowe 2004). Within non-avialan coelurosaurs, coossification of the proximal tarsals and the distal end of the tibia is observed in alvarezsaurids (e.g., *Albinykus*,
- 397 Mononykus; Perle et al. 1994; Nesbitt et al. 2011) and some oviraptorosaurs (e.g., Avimimus,
- 398 Elmisaurus; Osmólska 1981; Vickers-Rich et al. 2002 Within Avialae, the presence of a fully
- 399 coossified tibiotarsus is present in taxa more crownward than Archaeopteryx (e.g., Apsaravis,
- 400 Confuciusornis, Hollanda; Chiappe et al. 1999; Clarke and Norell 2002; Bell et al. 2010).
- 401 Deep extensor groove on distal tibiotarsus
- 402 Balaur bears a deep and prominent extensor groove on the distal end of the tibiotarsus (Brusatte et al.
- 403 2013). Within dromaeosaurids, this feature has otherwise been reported only in *Buitreraptor* and is
- 404 homoplastically present in other maniraptoran lineages (e.g., Apsaravis, Hollanda, Mononykus; Perle et
- 405 al. 1994; Clarke and Norell 2002; Bell et al. 2010).
- 406 Tibiotarsus with intercondylar sulcus extended along the posterior surface
- The distal end of *Balaur*'s tibiotarsus is saddle-shaped due to the presence of a large and distinct
- 408 intercondylar sulcus (Brusatte et al. 2013). The latter feature is restricted not only to the anterodistal
- 409 end of the bone but also extends along the distal end of the posterior surface as a flexor sulcus. This
- 410 feature is also present in basal avialans known from three-dimensionally preserved specimens (e.g.,
- 411 Apsaravis, Hollanda; Clarke and Norell 2002; Bell et al. 2010).
- 412 Deep circular pit on medial surface of distal tibiotarsus
- 413 The medial surface of the distal end of *Balaur*'s tibiotarsus is excavated by a deep subcircular pit
- 414 which was described as being deeper than are the homologous depressions variably present in the
- 415 astragali of some dromaeosaurids (Brusatte et al. 2013). A pit comparable in depth to that present in
- 416 Balaur is also present in avialans more crownward than Archaeopteryx (depressio epicondylaris
- 417 *medialis*, Baumel and Witmer 1993) and has been considered a phylogenetically informative feature
- 418 (see O'Connor et al. 2011).
- 419 Extensive coossification of tarsometatarsus
- 420 The tarsometatarsal elements of *Balaur* display extensive coossification (Fig. 4a, Figs. S3-4; Brusatte
- et al. 2013), in contrast to most non-avian theropods in which no such fusion is present (e.g.,
- 422 *Velociraptor*; see Fig. 4b, Fig. S4A). Many maniraptoran lineages display coossification of the distal

423 tarsals to the proximal ends of the metatarsals (e.g., Avimimus, Adasaurus, Albinykus, Elmisaurus; 424 Kurzanov 1981; Osmólska 1981; Nesbitt et al. 2011; Turner et al. 2012). However, the extensive 425 coossification of the metatarsal shafts is a character present only in *Balaur* and pygostylians (e.g., 426 Bauxitornis, Confuciusornis, Evgenavis, Hollanda, Patagopteryx, Vorona, Yungavolucris; Chiappe 427 1993; Chiappe et al. 1999; Chiappe 2002; Forster et al. 2002; Bell et al. 2010; Dyke and Ősi 2010; 428 O'Connor et al. 2014; see Fig. 4c, Fig. S3, Fig. S4C-D). 429 Metatarsals with one or more longitudinal eminences on the dorsal surface of the shafts 430 The shafts of *Balaur*'s second to fourth metatarsals are dorsoventrally deep in cross-section, being 431 strongly convex along the extensor surfaces except for the area of contact between metatarsals II and 432 III. Here, the lateral edge of metatarsal II and the medial edge of metatarsal III form dorsoventrally 433 shallow, longitudinally arranged flanges that, together, form a depressed region between the remainder 434 of the metatarsal shafts. This unusual character combination, which is not observed in non-avialan theropods, was considered to be an autapomorphy of *Balaur* by Brusatte et al. (2013). However, 435 436 comparable features are present in several Mesozoic avialans. Vorona possesses two distinct ridges that 437 extend along the distal halves of the extensor surfaces of both metatarsals III and IV, delimiting a 438 depressed intermetatarsal space (Forster et al. 2002). A depressed area between metatarsals II and III is 439 also present in *Patagopteryx* (Chiappe 2002). The extensor surfaces of metatarsals II and III are markedly convex transversely in many avisaurids with depressed areas present between the metatarsal 440 441 shafts (e.g., Avisaurus, Bauxitornis; Chiappe 1993; Dyke and Ösi 2010; Fig. S3H). Yungavolucris is 442 reported to lack a dorsally convex third metatarsal; however, the shaft's extensor surface at the 443 proximal end of metatarsal III bears a centrally positioned, longitudinally oriented eminence 444 comparable to the condition in *Balaur* (Chiappe 1993). Finally, the enigmatic avialan *Mystiornis* also 445 bears distinct longitudinal ridges along the extensor surfaces of metatarsals II-IV (Kurochkin et al. 446 2010). 447 Enlarged extensor fossa on distal end of metatarsal II 448 In most theropods, the distal end of metatarsal II bears an extensor fossa proximal to the articular end. 449 This fossa usually appears as a pit delimited by distinct margins and does not extend mediolaterally 450 across the entire extensor surface (e.g., Allosaurus, Deinonychus, Tyrannosaurus; Ostrom 1969;

Madsen 1976; Brochu 2003). In *Balaur*, the extensor fossa of metatarsal II is enlarged and extends

across the whole distal surface, bounded laterally by a raised ridge converging with the trochlea

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453 (Brusatte et al. 2013; Fig. S3B). A large, proximodistally enlarged extensor fossa is present on the 454 second metatarsal of Evgenavis (O'Connor et al. 2014; Fig. S3F). An enlarged extensor fossa on metatarsal II, lacking distinct margins and bounded laterally by a raised margin, is also present in 455 Parabohaiornis (Wang et al. 2014a) and Yungavolucris (Chiappe 1993; Fig. S3E). 456 457 Metatarsal II with plantarly projected medial condyle 458 Balaur bears a plantarly projected medial condyle on the distal end of metatarsal II, visible in medial 459 view as a distinct ventral projection of the distal end (Brusatte et al. 2013; Fig. S3A). In most 460 theropods, including dromaeosaurids, the medial condyle of metatarsal II does not project plantarly 461 more than the lateral condyle (e.g., Deinonychus, Eustreptospondylus, Falcarius, Garudimimus, 462 Sinraptor, Talos, Tyrannosaurus, Zuolong; Ostrom 1969; Currie and Zhao 1993; Brochu 2003; 463 Kirkland et al. 2004; Kobayashi and Barsbold 2005; Sadleir et al. 2008; Choiniere et al. 2010; Zanno et 464 al. 2011). Many avialans bear a plantarly unexpanded medial condyle on metatarsal II and hence 465 resemble other theropods (e.g., Avisaurus, Mystiornis, Yungavolucris; Chiappe 1993; Kurochkin et al. 466 2010). However, a plantarly projected medial condyle like that present in *Balaur* is present in the basal 467 pygostylians Confuciusornis and Evgenavis (O'Connor et al. 2014; Fig. S3G, I) and in the 468 ornithuromorph Apsaravis (Clarke and Norell 2002). 469 Metatarsal II lacks prominent ginglymoid distal end 470 The presence of a prominent extensor sulcus on the second metatarsal is regarded as a synapomorphy 471 of Dromaeosauridae (Turner et al. 2012). Balaur possesses a broadly convex distal end of metatarsal II 472 that lacks a ginglymoid distal articulation with a well-developed extensor sulcus (Fig. 4a; see Norell 473 and Makovicky 1997; Brusatte et al. 2013; Fig. S3B). Some avialan taxa also bear a distinct extensor 474 sulcus on metatarsal II like that present in dromaeosaurids (e.g., Avisaurus, Yungavolucris; Chiappe 475 1993; Fig. S3C, E) whereas others bear a broadly convex articular facet and hence resemble *Balaur* 476 (e.g., Bauxitornis, Evgenavis; Dyke and Ösi 2010; O'Connor et al. 2014; Fig. S3D, F). 477 Distal articular surface of metatarsal II narrower than maximum width of its distal end 478 The width of the distal articular surface of metatarsal II in *Balaur* is less than the width of the entire 479 distal end of the metatarsal (Brusatte et al. 2013; Fig. S3B). In extensor view, a large non-articular 480 region is present both lateral and medial to the articular surface. The metatarsals of derived 481 therizinosauroids show a similar condition (e.g., Segnosaurus; Perle 1979). The same feature also

occurs in the second metatarsal of some avisaurid avialans, where distinct non-articular mediolateral

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- 483 expansions are present proximal to the distal articular surface (Avisaurus archibaldi, A. gloriae;
- 484 Chiappe 1993; Varricchio and Chiappe 1995; Fig. S3C).
- Shaft of metatarsal IV anteroposteriorly compressed and mediolaterally widened
- In most theropods, the mid-length cross section of metatarsal IV is subcircular, or anteroposteriorly
- 487 thicker than wide. In *Balaur*, the mid-length cross section of metatarsal IV is anteroposteriorly
- compressed and mediolaterally expanded (Brusatte et al. 2013), a characteristic that is also seen in both
- 489 velociraptorine (e.g., *Deinonychus*, *Velociraptor* and *Adasaurus*) and dromaeosaurine dromaeosaurids
- 490 (e.g., *Utahraptor*) as well as basal troodontids (Turner et al. 2012). However, an anteroposteriorly
- compressed metatarsal IV with a flat cross section is also present in basal avialans (e.g., Avisaurus,
- 492 *Mystiornis*, *Evgenavis*, *Yungavolucris*; Brett-Surman and Paul 1985; Chiappe 1993; Kurochkin et al.
- 493 2010; O'Connor et al. 2014; Fig. S3E, H).
- 494 Short and robust metatarsal V
- 495 Dromaeosaurids bear a slender and elongate metatarsal V that is at least 40% of metatarsal III's length
- 496 (Fig 5c; Norell and Makovicky 1999; Hwang et al. 2002; Brusatte et al. 2013). *Balaur* possesses a
- shorter and stouter metatarsal V that is less than 30% of metatarsal III's length (Fig 5a, Fig. S3A, S4B;
- Brusatte et al. 2013): it is thus more similar to the condition present in basal avialans (e.g., Evgenavis,
- 499 Sapeornis, Vorona; Forster et al. 2002; Zhou and Zhang 2003; O'Connor et al. 2014) and most non-
- 500 avialan coelurosaurs (e.g., Khaan, Segnosaurus, Tyrannosaurus; Perle 1979; Brochu 2003; Balanoff
- 501 and Norell 2012).
- 502 Hallux unreduced compared to other toes and functional
- 503 Balaur possesses a hallux that cannot be considered reduced in size compared to the other pedal digits
- (Brusatte et al. 2013, Fig. S4B). Most non-avialan theropods, including dromaeosaurids, possess a
- 505 relatively small first pedal ungual (e.g., Allosaurus, Microraptor, Velociraptor; Madsen 1976; Norell
- and Makovicky 1997; Hwang et al. 2002; Fig. S4A). However, a large and falciform first pedal ungual
- 507 that is not reduced compared to the other pedal unguals, as seen in *Balaur*, is also present in many
- 508 basal birds (e.g., Confuciusornis, Jixiangornis, Patagopteryx, Sapeornis, Zhouornis; Chiappe et al.
- 509 1999; Chiappe 2002; Ji et al. 2002; Zhou and Zhang 2003; Zhang et al. 2013; Fig. S4D). Furthermore,
- 510 the first phalanx in *Balaur*'s hallux is subequal in length compared to the proximal phalanges of pedal
- digits II-IV, a condition present in basal avialans (e.g., Jixiangornis, Sapeornis, Zhouornis; Ji et al.
- 512 2002; Zhou and Zhang 2003; Zhang et al. 2013; Fig. S4) but not in non-avialan theropods. The distal

513 placement of the articular end of metatarsal I in *Balaur* relative to the trochlea of metatarsal II is more 514 similar to that of the basal avialans (e.g., Confuciusornis, Patagopteryx; Chiappe et al. 1999; Chiappe 2002) than the more proximally placed trochlea of metatarsal I in dromaeosaurids (e.g., *Microraptor*, 515 Deinonychus, Velociraptor; Norell and Makovicky 1997; Hwang et al. 2002; Fowler et al. 2011) and 516 517 other non-avialan theropods (e.g., Khaan, Balanoff and Norell 2012). In addition, the well-developed 518 articular surfaces indicate that the hallux of Balaur was dextrous, mobile and fully functional (Brusatte 519 et al. 2013). This is also the condition present in birds but contrasts with that of most non-avialan 520 theropods, including dromaeosaurids (Norell and Makovicky 1997). 521 Enlarged pedal ungual II lacking both marked falciform shape and prominent flexor tubercle 522 Balaur bears a hypertrophied second pedal ungual that is larger than the third and fourth pedal unguals, 523 similar to that seen in most deinonychosaurs (Turner et al. 2012; Brusatte et al. 2013). However, 524 Brusatte et al. (2013) noted that the second pedal ungual of *Balaur* does not show the marked falciform 525 shape and prominent flexor tubercle seen in most dromaeosaurids (e.g., Ostrom 1969; Turner et al. 526 2012). A robust second pedal digit with an enlarged and moderately recurved ungual, comparable to 527 the condition in *Balaur*, is also present among several avialans (e.g., *Bohaiornis*, *Fortunguavis*, 528 Jixiangornis, Parabohaiornis, Patagopteryx, Oiliania, Sulcavis, Zhouornis; Chiappe 2002; Ji et al. 2002; Hu et al. 2011; Ji et al. 2011; O'Connor et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2013; Wang et al. 2014b; Wang 529 et al. 2014A; Fig. S4D). 530 531 Penultimate phalanges of pedal digit III longer than 1.2 times that of the preceding phalanx 532 In most theropods, including dromaeosaurids, the penultimate phalanx of the third pedal digit is 533 subequal to or shorter than the length of the preceding phalanges (e.g., Gallimimus, Khaan, 534 Tyrannosaurus, Velociraptor; Osmólska et al. 1972; Norell and Makovicky 1997; Brochu 2003; 535 Balanoff and Norell 2012; Brusatte et al. 2013, table 7). However, Balaur bears a relatively elongate 536 penultimate phalanx on pedal digit III that is 1.2 times longer than the preceding phalanx (Brusatte et

540 Pedal ungual IV reduced in size

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541 Balaur's fourth pedal ungual, although distally incomplete in the holotype specimen, is the smallest of

al. 2013; Fig. S4B). This condition is similar to that seen in many basal avialans (e.g., *Concornis*,

Sapeornis, Zhouornis; Sanz et al. 1995; Zhou and Zhang 2003; Zhang et al. 2013; Fig. S4D) and unlike

the pedal unguals (about 60% the size of pedal ungual III, see Brusatte et al. 2013; Fig. S4B). This

that of dromaeosaurids and most non-avialan theropods.

343	condition differs from dromaeosaurius, <i>Supeorms</i> and some troodonitus that have routin pedar diffusials
544	that are more than 85% the length of the third pedal ungual (e.g., Borogovia 140%, Sapeornis 100%;
545	Osmólska 1987; Brusatte et al. 2013, table 7; Pu et al. 2013) but resembles the condition of
546	ornithothoracine birds (e.g., Bohaiornis 59%, Parabohaiornis 60%, Qiliania 76%, Zhouornis 66%; Hu
547	et al. 2011; Ji et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2013; Fig. S4C-D). The relative length of the fourth pedal
548	ungual of most maniraptorans is intermediate between Balaur and dromaeosaurids, being 70-85% the
549	length of pedal ungual III (e.g., Archaeopteryx 77-78%, Khaan, Jixiangornis, Sinornithoides and
550	Zhongjianornis 80%; Elzanowski 2001; Currie and Dong 2001; Ji et al. 2002; Zhou and Li 2010;
551	Balanoff and Norell 2012, fig. 33).
552	Results
553	Modified Turner et al. (2012) analysis
554	The modified Turner et al. (2012) analysis produced >999,999 shortest cladograms of 2085 steps each
555	(CI = 0.2998 , RI = 0.7389). In all shortest trees found, <i>Balaur</i> was recovered as an avialan, as the
556	sister-taxon of Sapeornis and not as a member of Dromaeosauridae. The 'Balaur + Sapeornis' clade
557	resolved as the sister-taxon of a clade including Pygostylia, Jixiangornis and Jeholornis. Exploration of
558	the alternative topologies found indicated that Epidendrosaurus and Pedopenna acted as 'wildcard'
559	taxa among Maniraptora, as in Turner et al. (2012), and these taxa were pruned a posteriori from the
560	results of the analyses to improve resolution within basal paravian taxa. After pruning the 'wildcard'
561	taxa from the strict consensus topology (Fig. 5), Archaeopteryx resolved as the basalmost avialan.
562	Unambiguous synapomorphies for the sister taxon relationships between Balaur and Sapeornis are:
563	anterior surface of deltopectoral crest with distinct muscle scar near lateral edge along distal end of
564	crest for insertion of biceps muscle (141.1, homoplastic among maniraptorans); third manual digit with
565	two or less phalanges (150.2, convergently developed among ornithothoracines); humerus condyles
566	placed on anterior surface (371.1, convergently developed among therizinosauroids and most avialans);
567	metacarpal III anteroposterior diameter less than 50% same diameter of metacarpal II (391.1); length of
568	first phalanx of pedal digit I > 66% of first pedal phalanx of pedal digit III (483.1, convergently
569	developed among derived avialans).
570	Furthermore, all three versions of the dataset that used implied weighting recovered Balaur as an
571	avialan and sister-taxon of <i>Sapeornis</i> (see Figure S5).

572	Modified Lee et al. (2014) analysis
573	The modified Lee et al. (2014) analysis recovered 1152 shortest trees of 6350 steps each (CI = 0.2672,
574	RI = 0.5993). The strict consensus of the shortest trees found is in general agreement with the
575	Maximum Clade Credibility Tree recovered by Lee et al. (2014), the most relevant difference being the
576	unresolved polytomy among Aurornis, Jinfengopteryx, Dromaeosauridae, Troodontidae and Avialae
577	(Fig. 6). The <i>a posteriori</i> pruning of the two above mentioned genera does not resolve the polytomy
578	among the three suprageneric clades. It is noteworthy that an unresolved polytomy among the main
579	paravian lineages was also obtained by Brusatte et al. (2014) using an expanded version of Turner et
580	al.'s (2012) dataset. In all trees found, Balaur was resolved as a basal avialan and as the sister taxon of
581	Pygostylia (the 'Zhonjianornis + (Sapeornis + more derived avialans)' clade), in agreement with the
582	results of previous versions of this matrix (i.e., Godefroit et al. 2013b). The character states
583	unambiguously supporting this placement for Balaur are: (1) presence of fusion between metacarpal II
584	and the distal carpals (char. 311.1); presence of a mediolaterally slender third metacarpal (char. 322.1);
585	absence of the mediodorsal process on the ischium (char. 423.0); presence of an elongate first phalanx
586	of pedal digit I (char. 499.0); presence of a completely fused tibiotarsus (char. 580.1). Nodal support
587	for this placement was low (Decay Index = 1). Nevertheless, higher nodal support values for more
588	basal nodes along the basal part of Avialae support the placement of Balaur in this clade. This
589	interpretation is further supported by the implied weighting analyses of the data set: as discussed
590	above, these analyses consistently recovered Balaur as a non-pygostylian member of Avialae, located
591	less crownward within Avialae than was the case in the unweighted analysis, and bracketed by
592	Archaeopteryx and all other avialans (see Figure S6).
593	Templeton tests
594	We re-analysed Turner et al.'s (2012) original dataset enforcing the following backbone constraint:
595	((Balaur, Anas), Troodon, Dromaeosaurus) (i.e., enforcing the analysis to retain only those topologies
596	where Balaur is closer to modern birds than both troodontids and dromaeosaurids, thus by definition
597	forcing it to be a member of Avialae; see Electronic Supplementary Material). The shortest enforced
598	topologies that resulted were 2054 steps long, five steps less parsimonious than the shortest
599	unconstrained topologies that recovered Balaur among Dromaeosauridae. This difference was not
600	statistically significant based on the Templeton test (<i>p</i> >0.490, N>49).
601	We also re-analysed Turner et al.'s (2012) modified dataset, this time enforcing Balaur as a
602	dromaeosaurid using the following backbone constraint: ((Balaur, Dromaeosaurus), Troodon, Anas).

603	The shortest enforced topologies that resulted were 2087 steps long, two steps less parsimonious than
604	the shortest unconstrained topologies were Balaur was recovered within Avialae. This difference was
605	not statistically significant based on the Templeton test ($p>0.750$, N>37).
606	Using the dataset modified from Lee et al. (2014), we enforced a dromaeosaurid placement for Balaur,
607	using the following backbone constraint: ((Balaur, Dromaeosaurus), Troodon, Meleagris). The
608	shortest trees found using that constraint are nine steps longer than the shortest unforced topologies,
609	and placed Balaur as the basalmost dromaeosaurid, excluded from the ((Eudromaeosauria +
610	Microraptoria) + Unenlagiinae) clade. This difference was not statistically significant based on the
611	Templeton test ($p>0.440$, N>125).
612	Finally, we also tested a velociraptorine placement for Balaur, using the following backbone
613	constraint: ((Balaur, Velociraptor), Dromaeosaurus, Troodon). The shortest trees found using that
614	constraint are 14 steps longer than the shortest unforced topologies, and placed Balaur as the basalmost
615	velociraptorine. This difference was not statistically significant based on the Templeton test ($p>0.158$,
616	N>89).
617	
618	Discussion
619	Balaur possesses a unique and bizarre mix of characters, many of which were previously considered
620	exclusive to Deinonychosauria or Avialae, and which may challenge its placement in either of the
621	aforementioned clades. Godefroit et al. (2013b, Electronic Supplementary Material) tested alternative
622	placements of <i>Balaur</i> among Paraves, and recovered the dromaeosaurid placement for that taxon as a
623	suboptimal solution. Here, we have shown that an avialan placement for <i>Balaur</i> using the original
624	dataset of Turner et al. (2012) is a suboptimal solution that cannot be rejected using that dataset.
625	Although the most parsimonious results of the two updated phylogenetic analyses presented here
626	concur in resolving <i>Balaur</i> within Avialae, the deinonychosaurian placement for this taxon discussed
627	by Brusatte et al. (2013) can be only tentatively rejected based on current information. The most
628	parsimonious placement was recovered under both equally weighted and implied weighting analyses,
629	suggesting that the avialan placement of <i>Balaur</i> was not biased by <i>a priori</i> assumptions on character
630	weighting. Nevertheless, in assuming an avialan placement for <i>Balaur</i> , a significant amount of
631	homoplasy, due to both convergences and reversals, is required to explain its unique morphology.
632	The sister taxon relationships between <i>Balaur</i> and the short-tailed <i>Sapeornis</i> resulted by the analysis of
633	the dataset modied from Turner et al. (2012) is quite unexpected, and may be partially biased by the
	the duties of modified from Furner et al. (2012) is quite unexpected, and may be partially blased by the

634	placement of the long-tailed Jeholornis and Jixiangornis as closer to other short-tailed birds than
635	Sapeornis (a relationships also recovered by the original dataset, Turner et al. 2012). According to that
636	topology, the short pygostyle-bearing tail of Sapeornis evolved independently to the same condition in
637	more crown-ward birds. The topology resulted by the dataset modified from Lee et al. (2014) is more
638	'traditional' as it depicts a single origin of the pygostylian tail among birds. Topological discrepancies
639	and alternative placements of problematic taxa may be influenced by artefacts in coding practice, or by
640	the logical basis of character statement definition followed by different authors (Brazeau 2011). The
641	datasets of Turner et al. (2012) and Lee et al. (2014) differ from each other in the logical basis of their
642	respective character statements and definitions. The definitions of many characters used in the analysis
643	of Turner et al. (2012) impose congruence by linking more than one variable character to a particular
644	state (see Brazeau 2011 and references therein), or by mixing together neomorphic and
645	transformational characters as alternative states of the same character statements (see Sereno 2007) – a
646	decision made such that contingent characters may be ordered so that absence is not "counted twice".
647	Character statements and definitions in the analysis of Lee et al. (2014) followed the recommendations
648	outlined by Sereno (2007) and Brazeau (2011); consequently, each character statement describes a
649	single variable character, and neomorphic and transformational characters were included as separate
650	character statements. To avoid the creation of spurious transformational optimizations under some
651	topologies, the characters in the analysis of Lee et al. (2014) were therefore atomized in such a way as
652	to capture both the presence or absence of the feature in addition to the states of the feature (Brazeau
653	2011). Taxa scored as lacking a particular neomorphic character were scored as 'unknown' for the
654	transformational characters describing different conditions of the same neomorphic feature.
655	We therefore consider it likely that some discrepancies between the updated analyses of Turner et al.
656	(2012) and Lee et al. (2014) – including the alternative placements of Balaur and Sapeornis among
657	basal avialans - reflect artefacts of coding rather than actual conflict in the data. Nevertheless, it is
658	noteworthy that even using distinct datasets, alternative character weighting hypotheses and different
659	logical bases for character definitions, Balaur was consistently recovered as a basal avialan.
660	Furthermore, the phylogenetic analysis of Foth et al. (2014), which used the dataset of Turner et al.
661	(2012) as their basis and which included an expanded set of characters, independently found Balaur to
662	be a basal avialan more crownward than Archaeopteryx, but in a less crownward position than that
663	presented here. In conclusion, we consider the consensus among the results of these alternative tests
664	(i.e., Balaur as a non-pygostylian basal avialan) as the phylogenetic framework for the discussion on

665	its evolution and palaeoecology.
666	Implications for the palaeoecology of Balaur
667	In the absence of both extrinsic data on diet and craniodental remains there is no direct evidence
668	pertaining to the ecology and trophic adaptations of Balaur. Although not explicitly stated, Brusatte et
669	al.'s (2013) inferences about the ecology and diet of Balaur rest entirely on their favoured phylogenetic
670	placement of the taxon within the predatory deinonychosaurian clade Velociraptorinae (see Carpenter
671	1998). However, some aspects of Balaur's morphology do not support the hypothesis that its
672	ecomorphology was similar to that of dromaeosaurids. While there exists evidence that dromaeosaurids
673	employed both their hands and feet in predation (see Carpenter 1998), the reduction in length and
674	functionality of the third manual digit and the poor development or absence of the pedal characters
675	linked with predatory behaviour in deinonychosaurs (i.e., ginglymoid distal end of metatarsal II
676	allowing extensive hyperextension, falciform second ungual with prominent flexor tubercle; Ostrom
677	1969; Fowler et al. 2011), challenge the notion of a specialised, dromaeosaurid-like predatory ecology
678	for Balaur. Brusatte et al. (2013) interpreted these unusual traits of Balaur as the result of insularism,
679	although they acknowledged that comparable morphological changes in insular taxa have so far not
680	been reported in predatory species. We are not aware of the reduction or loss of predatory adaptations
681	in any insular predatory taxon, and therefore consider it unlikely that the unique morphology of Balaur,
682	in particular the appendicular characters considered to be predatory adaptations among
683	dromaeosaurids, could be sufficiently accounted for by the 'island effect'.
684	Most of the features considered to be autapomorphies of Balaur by Csiki et al. (2010) and Brusatte et
685	al. (2013) are reinterpreted here as avialan synapomorphies. Consequently, these traits were inherited
686	by Balaur from its bird-like ancestors before its lineage was isolated in the Haţeg environment. Since
687	our analyses place Balaur among a grade of non-predatory avialans including herbivorous and/or
688	omnivorous species (Zhou and Zhang 2002; Dalsätt et al. 2006; Zanno and Makovicky 2011), our
689	preferred scenario does not necessitate a hypothesis of a carnivorous ecology for this taxon and is thus
690	more consistent with the absence of the aforementioned predatory adaptations. Furthermore, in
691	assuming a herbivorous or omnivorous ecology for Balaur, the amount of morphological changes,
692	particularly in limb shapes and proportions, is comparable to that reported in several insular
693	herbivorous and omnivorous taxa, including both mammals (Sondaar 1977; Caloi and Palombo 1994;
694	van der Geer et al. 2011) and dinosaurs (e.g., Dalla Vecchia 2009). In particular, the presence in Balaur
695	of a relatively broad pelvic canal, the short and broad metatarsus with mediolaterally expanded distal

696	ends relative to the articular surfaces, and the presence of an enlarged first pedal digit is a combination
697	of features convergently acquired only by the non-predatory clade Therizinosauridae among Mesozoic
698	theropods (Zanno 2010; Zanno and Makovicky 2011).
699	However, we agree with previous authors that, regardless of its position within Paraves, the
700	morphology of Balaur includes a unique and unexpected combination of features, otherwise seen in
701	distinct maniraptoran lineages. Interestingly, Balaur independently evolved a series of features
702	previously reported in more crownward bird lineages, such as a deep depressio epicondylaris medialis
703	in the tibiotarsus, a hypertrophied extensor fossa in the second metatarsal, and dorsally convex
704	metatarsals with expanded distal ends (characters elsewhere seen in some ornithothoracines). A
705	possible role of insularism in the origin of some of these traits is acknowledged even in our preferred
706	phylogenetic scenario. In particular, the results of our analyses indicate that Balaur is phylogenetically
707	bracketed by taxa showing relatively more elongate forelimbs (humeral lengths usually more than 60%
708	of the tibiotarsus + tarsometatarsus length) and more robust forearms (ulna as thick as or thicker than
709	the tibiotarsus). Accordingly, we interpret the forelimb of Balaur as secondarily reduced.
710	Flightlessness has also been inferred in the ornithurine Gargantuavis from the Campanian-
711	Maastrichtian of southern France (Buffetaut and Loeuff 1998), indicating that distinct avialan lineages
712	endemic to Late Cretaceous Europe reduced or lost their flight adaptations. Several bird clades
713	independently evolved flightlessness during the Cenozoic as a result of their exploitation of insular
714	environments and the taxa concerned typically displayed apomorphic reduction of the forelimbs
715	compared to those of their closest relatives (Paul 2002; Naish 2012). Therefore, the reduced forelimb
716	of Balaur may be interpreted as the result of insularism.
717	Finally, existing skeletal and life reconstructions of <i>Balaur</i> have interpreted it as a velociraptorine-like
718	dromaeosaurid (Csiki et al. 2010; Brusatte et al. 2013). Does our re-interpretation of this taxon as a
719	member of Avialae require that previous hypotheses about its appearance should be modified? By
720	combining the known elements of Balaur with those of other paravians, a new skeletal reconstruction
721	has been produced (Fig. 7). As our knowledge of Mesozoic paravian diversity has improved, it has
722	become ever clearer that early members of the deinonychosaurian and avialan lineages were highly
723	similar in proportions, detailed anatomy and life appearance: consequently, an 'avialan interpretation'
724	of Balaur does not result in an animal obviously different from a 'dromaeosaurid interpretation'. This
725	conclusion has been supported by recent quantitative analyses that demonstrate a significant degree of
726	shared morphospace between basal avialan taxa and their closest paravian relatives (e.g. Brusatte et al.

121	2014). Nevertheless, we suggest that <i>Balaur</i> may have been proportionally shorter-tailed and with a
728	less raptorial-looking foot than previously depicted (Csiki et al. 2010; Brusatte et al. 2013). Clearly,
729	details of its cranial and dental anatomy are speculative. We assume that, like other paravians, Balaur
730	was extensively feathered.
731	Conclusions
732	The Maastrichtian paravian theropod Balaur bondoc is reinterpreted here as a basal avialan rather than
733	as a dromaeosaurid. Features supporting its placement among Avialae include the hypertrophied
734	coracoid tubercle, the anterior placement of the distal condyles of the humerus, the proximally fused
735	carpometacarpus with a laterally shifted semilunate carpal, the closed intermetacarpal space, the
736	reduced condyles on metacarpals I-II, the slender metacarpal III, the reduced phalangeal formula of the
737	third digit, the extensively fused tibiotarsus, the extensively fused tarsometatarsus, the distal placement
738	of the articular end of first metatarsal, the large size of the hallux, and the elongation of the penultimate
739	phalanges of the pes. The absence of dromaeosaurid synapomorphies (e.g., non-ginglymoid metatarsals
740	II and III, short metatarsal V) is thus interpreted as plesiomorphic and not as reversals. Both its
741	phylogenetic bracketing within basal avialans and the absence of predatory adaptations concur in
742	indicating that Balaur was herbivorous or omnivorous, not predatory. The reduced forelimb of Balaur
743	represents one of the most compelling pieces of evidence for insular adaptation in a Mesozoic bird.
744	Furthermore, with its unique combination of features shared by distinct paravian clades and its possible
745	placement as one of the closest relatives of Pygostylia, Balaur may represent a pivotal taxon in future
746	investigations of Mesozoic bird interrelationships.
747	The hypothesis that some Mesozoic paravians represent the flightless descendants of volant,
748	Archaeopteryx-like ancestors, most vigorously promoted by Paul (1988, 2002), has not been supported
749	by recent phylogenetic hypotheses (e.g., Senter 2007b; Turner et al. 2012; Agnolín and Novas 2013).
750	Furthemore, phylogenetic analyses that incorporate sufficient character data are able to differentiate the
751	members of such paravian lineages as Dromaeosauridae, Troodontidae and Avialae, as demonstrated
752	by our present study. Nevertheless, reinterpretation of Balaur as a flightless avialan reinforces the point
753	that at least some Mesozoic paravian taxa, highly similar in general form and appearance to
754	dromaeosaurids, may indeed be the enlarged, terrestrialised descendants of smaller, flighted ancestors,
755	and that the evolutionary transition involved may have required relatively little in the way of
756	morphological or trophic transformation.

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763	

764 Figure captions

- Figure 1. Comparison of the scapulocoracoid of (a) *Balaur* (lateral view) to that of (b) the pygostylian
- 766 Enantiophoenix (medial view); and (c) the dromaeosaurid Velociraptor (lateral view); (a) after Csiki et
- al. (2010, fig. 1); (b) modified after Cau and Arduini (2003, fig. 2); (c) after Norell and Makovicky
- 768 (1999, fig. 4). All scapulocoracoids are drawn with the proximal half of the scapular blade oriented
- horizontally. Abbreviations: ac, acromion; ct, coracoid tubercle; snf, supracoracoid nerve foramen.
- Figure 2. Comparison of the manus of (a) *Balaur* to those of (b) the enantiornithine *Zhouornis*; (c) the
- pygostylian Sapeornis; and (d) the dromaeosaurid Deinonychus, showing bird-like features of Balaur.
- 772 (a) after Csiki et al. (2010, fig. 1, mirrored from original); (b) after Zhang et al. (2013, fig. 7); (c) after
- Zhou and Zhang (2003, fig. 7); (d) after Wagner and Gauthier (1999, fig. 2). All drawn at the same
- metacarpal II length. Abbreviations: cis, closed intermetacarpal space; cmc, carpometacarpus; d3,
- reduced third digit; drc, distally restricted condyles; lsc, laterally shifted semilunate carpal; pnm,
- proximally narrow metacarpal I.
- Figure 3. Pelvis of *Balaur* in lateral view (a). Comparison of the pubes of *Balaur* in anteroventral view
- 778 (b) to those of the pygostylian *Sapeornis* in anterior view (c), and the dromaeosaurid *Velociraptor* in
- posterior view (d). (c) after Zhou and Zhang (2003, fig. 8); (d) after Norell and Makovicky (1999, fig.
- 780 19).
- 781 Figure 4. Comparison of the metatarsus and pes of (b) *Balaur* to that of (a) the dromaeosaurid
- 782 *Velociraptor*; and (c) the pygostylian *Zhouornis*. (a) after Norell and Makovicky (1997 figs. 6); (c)
- after Zhang et al. (2013, fig. 8, mirrored from original). Abbreviations: mt I, metatarsal I; U II: pedal
- 784 ungual I.
- 785 Figure 5. Reduced strict consensus of the shortest trees from the analysis of the modified Turner et al.
- 786 (2012) matrix after pruning the 'wildcard' taxa *Epidendrosaurus* and *Pedopenna*. Numbers adjacent to
- 787 nodes indicate Decay Index values >1.
- Figure 6. Strict consensus tree of the shortest trees from the analysis of the modified Lee et al. (2014)
- 789 matrix. Filled circle indicates Avialae. Numbers adjacent to nodes indicate Decay Index values.
- 790 Figure 7. Speculative skeletal reconstruction for *Balaur bondoc*, showing known elements in white and
- unknown elements in grey. Note that the integument would presumably have substantially altered the
- outline of the animal in life. Produced by Jaime Headden, used with permission.

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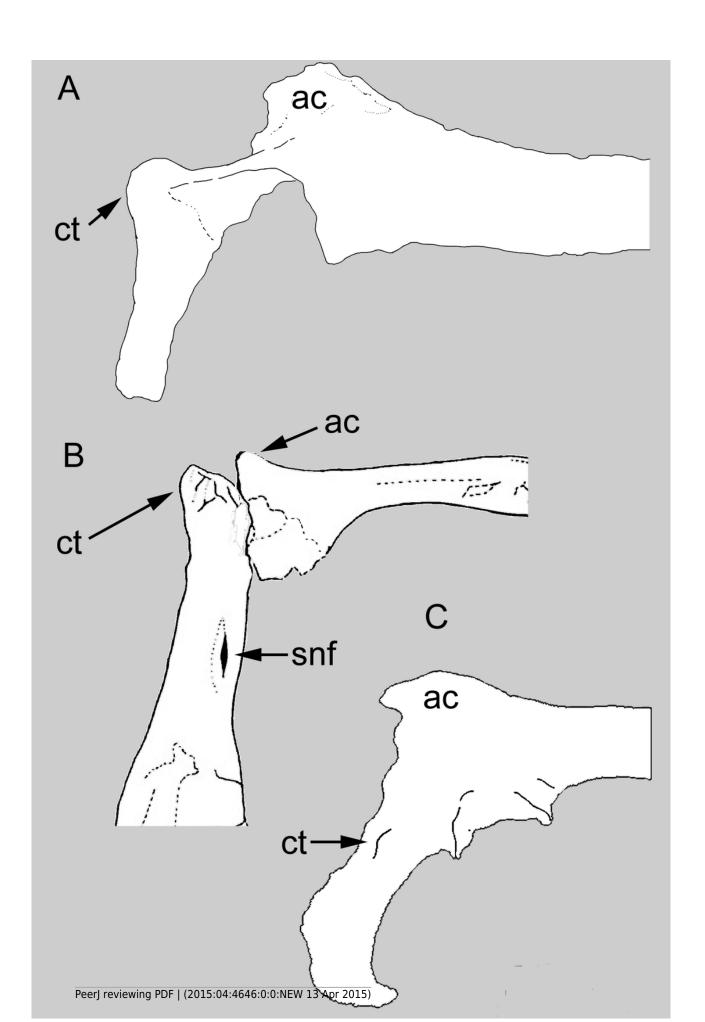
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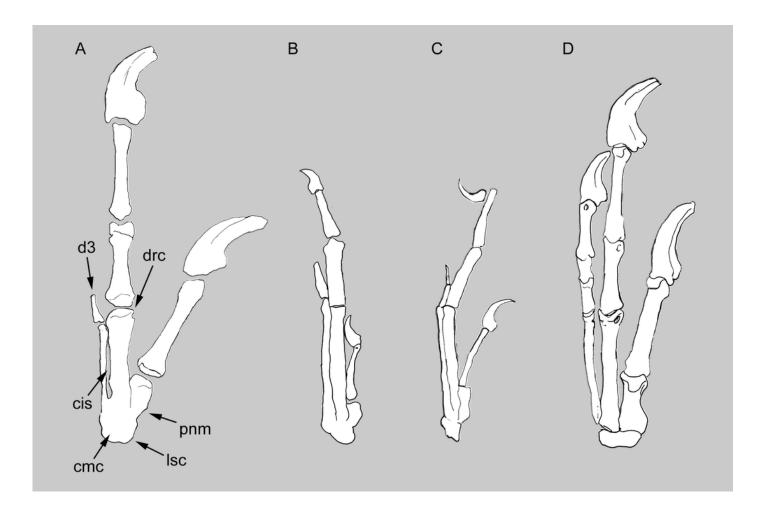
Comparison between the scapulocoracoid of *Balaur* and other paravians.

Comparison of the scapulocoracoid of (a) *Balaur* (lateral view) to that of (b) the pygostylian *Enantiophoenix* (medial view); and (c) the dromaeosaurid *Velociraptor* (lateral view); (a) after Csiki et al. (2010, fig. 1); (b) modified after Cau and Arduini (2003, fig. 2); (c) after Norell and Makovicky (1999, fig. 4). All scapulocoracoids are drawn with the proximal half of the scapular blade oriented horizontally. Abbreviations: ac, acromion; ct, coracoid tubercle; snf, supracoracoid nerve foramen.



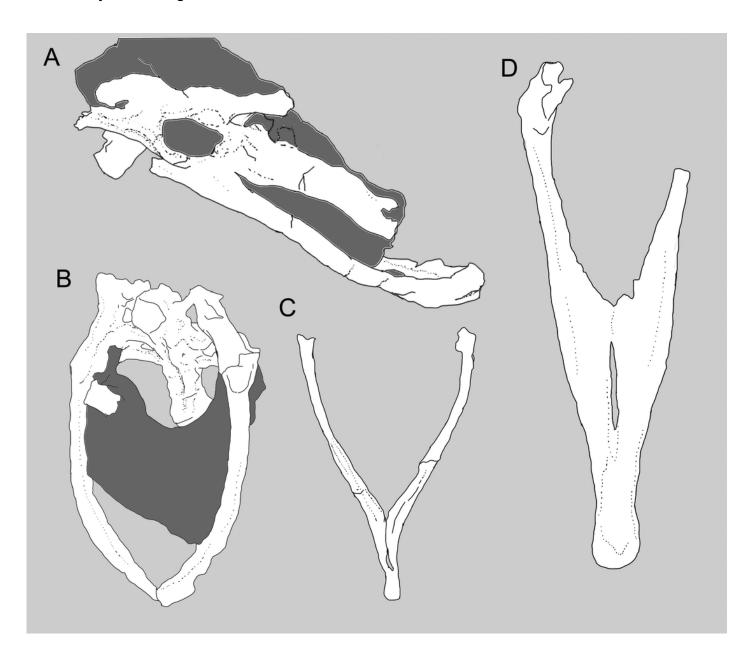
Comparison between the manus of *Balaur* and other paravians.

Comparison of the manus of (a) *Balaur* to those of (b) the enantiornithine *Zhouornis*; (c) the pygostylian *Sapeornis*; and (d) the dromaeosaurid *Deinonychus*, showing bird-like features of Balaur. (a) after Csiki et al. (2010, fig. 1, mirrored from original); (b) after Zhang et al. (2013, fig. 7); (c) after Zhou and Zhang (2003, fig. 7); (d) after Wagner and Gauthier (1999, fig. 2). All drawn at the same metacarpal II length. Abbreviations: cis, closed intermetacarpal space; cmc, carpometacarpus; d3, reduced third digit; drc, distally restricted condyles; lsc, laterally shifted semilunate carpal; pnm, proximally narrow metacarpal I.



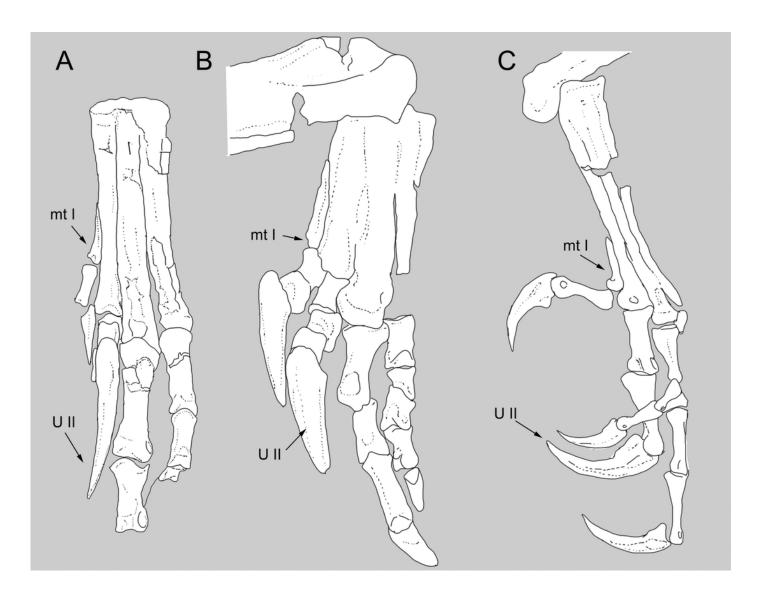
Comparison between the pelvis of *Balaur* and other paravians.

Pelvis of *Balaur* in lateral view (a). Comparison of the pubes of *Balaur* in anteroventral view (b) to those of the pygostylian *Sapeornis* in anterior view (c), and the dromaeosaurid *Velociraptor* in posterior view (d). (c) after Zhou and Zhang (2003, fig. 8); (d) after Norell and Makovicky (1999, fig. 19).



Comparison between the metatarsus of *Balaur* and other paravians.

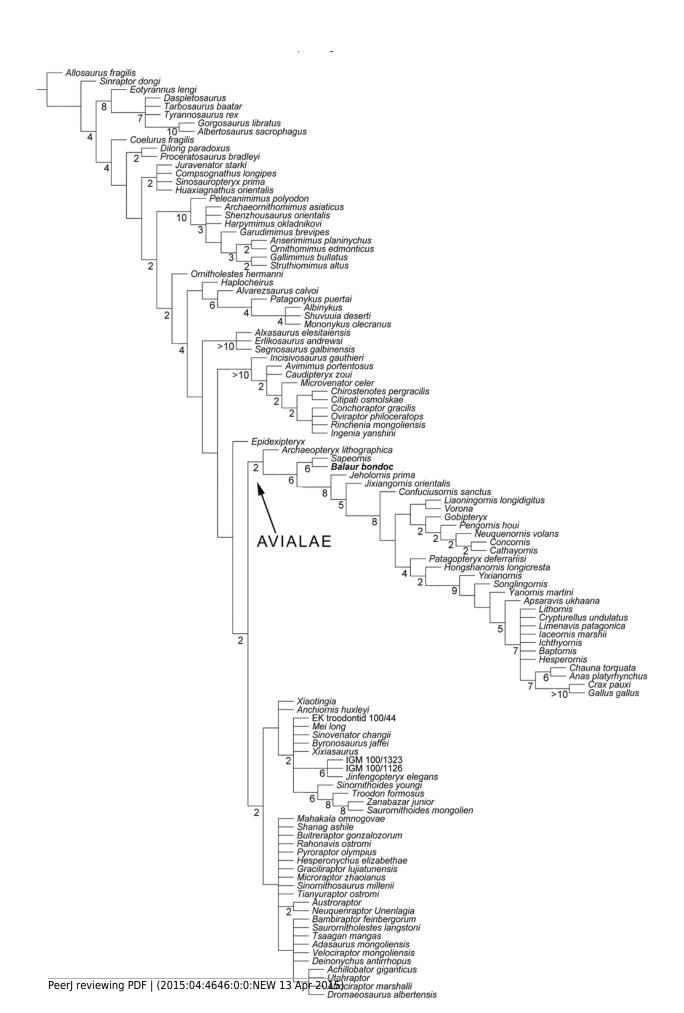
Pelvis of *Balaur* in lateral view (a). Comparison of the pubes of *Balaur* in anteroventral view (b) to those of the pygostylian *Sapeornis* in anterior view (c), and the dromaeosaurid *Velociraptor* in posterior view (d). (c) after Zhou and Zhang (2003, fig. 8); (d) after Norell and Makovicky (1999, fig. 19).



5

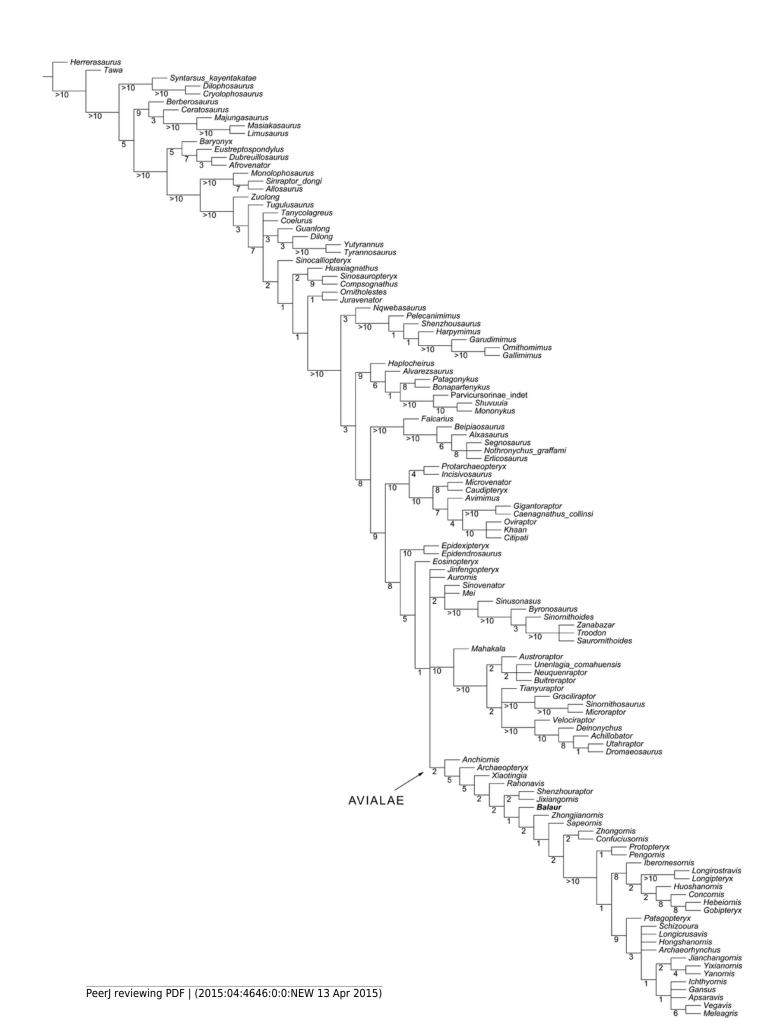
Updated dataset of Turner et al. (2012)

Reduced strict consensus of the shortest trees from the analysis of the modified Turner et al. (2012) matrix after pruning the 'wildcard' taxa *Epidendrosaurus* and *Pedopenna*. Numbers adjacent to nodes indicate Decay Index values >1.



6

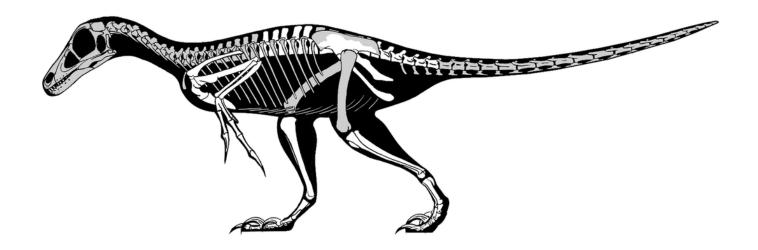
Updated dataset of Lee et al. (2014)



7

Skeletal reconstruction of Balaur.

Speculative skeletal reconstruction for *Balaur bondoc*, showing known elements in white and unknown elements in grey. Note that the integument would presumably have substantially altered the outline of the animal in life. Produced by Jaime Headden, used with permission.



Electronic supplementary material for

The phylogenetic affinities of the bizarre Late Cretaceous Romanian theropod *Balaur bondoc* (Dinosauria, Maniraptora): dromaeosaurid or flightless bird?

Andrea Cau, Darren Naish, Tom Brougham

This file contains:

- 1 Details of phylogenetic analyses
- 2 Results of implied weighting analyses
- 3 Modified dataset of Turner et al. (2012) Data matrix
- 4 Modified dataset of Lee et al. (2014) Data matrix
- 5 References for supplementary material

1 Details of phylogenetic analyses

Phylogenetic taxonomy

Our use of phylogenetic taxonomy follows Longrich and Currie (2009), Turner et al. (2012) and Godefroit et al. (2013). Accordingly, Paraves is the most inclusive clade containing crown birds but not *Oviraptor philoceratops*; Avialae is the most inclusive clade containing crown birds but not *Dromaeosaurus albertensis* and *Troodon formosus*; Dromaeosauridae is the most inclusive clade containing *Dromaeosaurus albertensis* but not crown birds and *Troodon formosus*; and Eudromaeosauria is the least inclusive clade containing *Deinonychus antirrhopus*, *Dromaeosaurus albertensis*, *Saurornitholestes langstoni* and *Velociraptor mongoliensis*.

Tree search strategy

Importing each dataset in TNT (Goloboff et al. 2008b), we performed 100 "New Technology" search replicates with parameters set using default values. The result of the first search was then explored performing Tree-Bisection-Reconnection (TBR) heuristic searches, and saving all shortest trees found. For each analysis, no more than 99999 trees were saved to reduce computational time. Nodal support was calculated performing 1000 TBR heuristic search replicates and saving all tree up to ten steps longer than the best score found.

Alternative placements and the Templeton's tests were performed in PAUP (Swofford 2002).

Three iterations of the Implied Weighting Analysis were performed with each data matrix in TNT, setting the concavity parameter *k* (Goloboff et al. 2008a) to 1 (strong downweighting of homoplastic characters), 3 (default value in TNT, Goloboff et al. 2008b), and 9 (moderate downweighting of homoplastic characters) respectively. Concavity parameters greater than 9 were also tested for both matrices, however, because the topologies of the resultant trees converged closely on the unweighted topologies, they were not considered in the final analyses.

Turner et al. (2012) matrix

The characters 6, 50 and 52 were excluded from calculation and rescored as "?" in all taxa, to match the original dataset (see Turner et al. 2012).

The following characters were modified from their original definitions. Comments regarding the nature of the modifications are included in brackets.

Char. 150: Third manual digit, number of phalanges: (0) four; (1) three; (2) two; (3) one; or (4) metacarpal bearing no phalanges. The character is ordered. [States redefined to better describe

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Comment [1]: What were the specific settings for the New Technology search?

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Deleted: paramaters

variation among theropods].

Char. 230: Proximodorsal process of ischium, development: (0) tubercle; or (1) flange. This character is scored as "?" in *Balaur*.

Char. 396: Distally closed intermetacarpal space between metacarpals II and III: (0) absent, metacarpals not contacting distally; (1) present. [The original character, describing the extent of the intermetacarpal space, is described in the new character 479].

Char. 441: Metatarsal V length: (0) less; or (1) more than 40% of metatarsal III's length (Brusatte et al. 2013). [Previously, the character did not quantitatively define metatarsal V's elongation].

The following new characters were included:

Char. 478: Metacarpal I, proximal half: mediolaterally expanded, width comparable to rest of bone (0); narrower than distal half, medial margin sloping proximolaterally (1).

Char. 479: Intermetacarpal space between metacarpal II and III, proximal extent: proximal (0); distal (1) to distal end of metacarpal I.

Char. 480: Metacarpal III, distal end: (0) bicondylar; or (1) simple convexity.

Char. 481: Dorsal margin of manual unguals: (0) does not; or (1) does arch dorsally above level of articular facet (Senter 2007; Agnolín and Novas 2013).

Char. 482: Interpubic space, width between conjoined pubes: (0) gradually narrowing distally; or (1) wide pubic canal and laterally bowed pubis, followed by an abrupt narrowing at the symphysis.

Char. 483: Length of pedal phalanx I-1: (0) < 66% III-1; or (1) > 66% III-1.

Char. 484: Metatarsal II, distal extensor pit: (0) moderately developed, not expanded mediolaterally or proximodistally; (1) proximodistally elongated, with distinct raised margins; or (2) hypertrophied, covering almost the whole distal extensor surface and bounded by raised ridges from the trochlea. Ordered. This character describes the large extensor fossae present in *Balaur*, some Bohaiornithidae, *Evgenavis* and *Yungavolucris*.

Char. 485: Metatarsal II, distal surface mediolateral width: (0) comparable to; or (1) narrower than distal end mediolateral diameter. This character describes the expanded distal end of metatarsal II present in therizinosaurids, some avisaurids and *Balaur*.

Char. 486: Metatarsal II, distal condyles, plantar projection: (0) medial and lateral condyles with comparable projection; (1) medial condyle much further projected ventrally than lateral. (O'Connor et al. 2014). This character describes the marked medial projection of the distal condyles of metatarsal II present in *Balaur* and some avialans.

Char. 487: Pedal ungual IV, size compared to pedal ungual III: (0) longer; or (1) shorter than 75% of pedal ungual III.

Char. 488: Long bone surface, external texture in adults: smooth (0); woven and rugose (1). This

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Comment [2]: How was the character modified? Or did you just rescore Balaur?

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Comment [3]: This is confusing, how is the "distal surface" different from the "distal end," and why specify diameter?

character describes the surface bone texture present in *Balaur*, *Bradycneme*, *Elopteryx* and *Heptasteornis*. Although this character is uninformative using the current ingroup, the derived state being present only in *Balaur* among the included taxa, it is retained for future iterations of the dataset including other Haţeg taxa.

Char. 489: Fused tibiotarsus, raised ridge along the anterolateral margin of the distal end of the bone at the point of fusion between the tibia and the proximal tarsals: absent (0); present (1). This feature is shared by *Balaur* and some avialans (e.g., *Qiliania*).

Char. 490: Tarsometatarsus (metatarsals II-IV) length to proximal width ratio: more (0); less (1) than 3 times. This character describes the relatively broad tarsometatarsi of *Balaur*, some avialans and derived therizinosauroids.

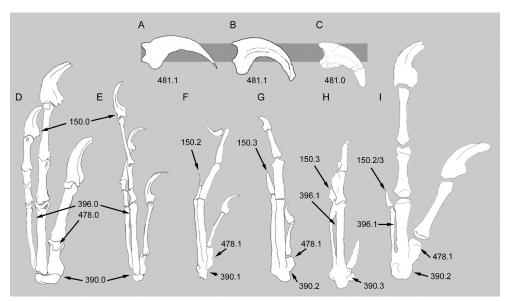


Figure S1. Manual ungual I of *Microraptor* (A), *Velociraptor* (B) and *Balaur* (C), in side view, all drawn at the same proximal facet depth. Left hand of *Deinonychus* (D), *Archaeopteryx* (E), *Sapeornis* (F), *Zhouornis* (G), *Nothura* (H), and *Balaur* (I), in extensor view, all drawn at the same metacarpal II length. Modified from (A), Senter (2007); (B), Norell and Makovicky (1999); (C, I), Brusatte et al. (2013); (D, E, H), Wagner and Gauthier (1999); (F), Zhou and Zhang (2003); (G), Zhang et al. (2013). Numbers refer to character states in the character list modified from Turner et al. (2012).

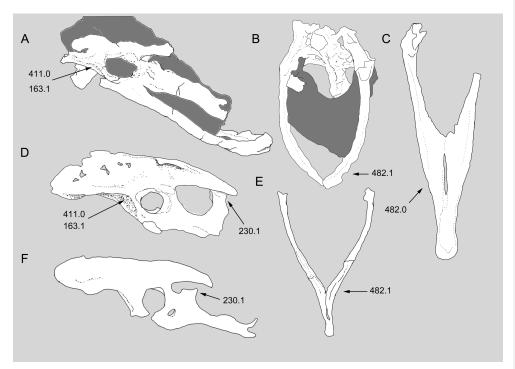


Figure S2. Pelvis of *Balaur*, in lateral (A) and anteroventral (B) views. Pubis of *Velociraptor*, in posterior view (C). Pelvis of an unnamed enantiornithine from the Maastrichtian of Argentina, in lateral view (D). Pubis of *Sapeornis*, in anterior view (E). Pelvis of *Archaeopteryx* (London Specimen), in lateral view (F). Modified from (A, B), Brusatte et al. (2013); (C), Norell and Makovicky (1999); (D), Walker and Dyke (2009); (E), Zhou and Zhang (2003). Numbers refer to character states in the character list modified from Turner et al. (2012).

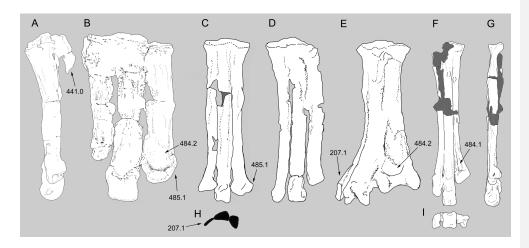


Figure S3. Tarsometatarsus of *Balaur*, in medial view (A). Tarsometatarsi of *Balaur*, *Avisaurus archibaldi*, *Bauxitornis*, *Yungavolucris* and *Evgenavis*, in extensor view (B-F). Tarsometatarsus of *Evgenavis*, in medial view (G). All drawn at the same metatarsal III length. Mid-shaft cross section of tarsometatarsus of *Avisaurus archibaldi* (H). Tarsometatarsus of *Evgenavis*, in distal view (I). Modified from (A, B), Brusatte et al. (2013); (C, H), Brett-Surman and Paul 1985; (D), based on photograph provided by A. Osi; (E), Chiappe (1993); (F, G, I), O'Connor et al. (2014). Numbers refer to character states in the character list modified from Turner et al. (2012).

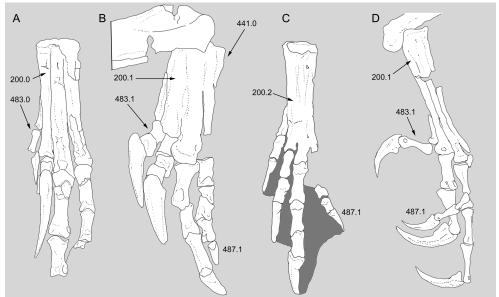


Figure S4. Feet of *Velociraptor* (A), *Balaur* (B), *Patagopteryx* (C) and *Zhouornis* (D), in extensor (A, D), lateroextensor (B), and flexor (C) views. All drawn at the same metatarsal III length. Modified from (A), Norell and Makovicky (1997); (B), Brusatte et al. (2013); (C), Chiappe (2002); (D), Zhang et al. (2013). Numbers refer to character states in the character list modified from Turner et al. (2012).

Lee et al. (2014) matrix

Modifications involved re-definition of character 318 to avoid ambiguity in its interpretation: Metacarpal III, distal end, medial contact with metacarpal II that is proximodistally extended (metacarpals II-III eventually enclosing an intermetacarpal space): absent (0); present (1).

2 Results of implied weighting analyses

Turner et al. (2012) modified dataset

Test 1. *K*=1. Best score= 303.53138. Number of shortest trees= 3096.

Test 2. *K*=3. Best score= 203.32105. Number of shortest trees= 180.

Test 3. *K*=9. Best score= 107.38715. Number of shortest trees= 420.

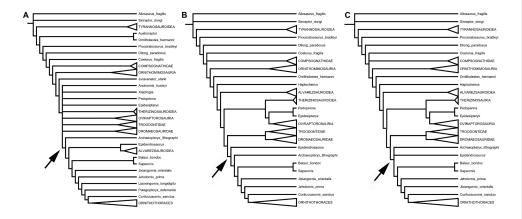


Figure S5. Strict consensus trees of the implied weighted analyses of the data set modified from Turner et al. (2012), with k parameter set as (a) 1, (b) 3 and (c) 9 respectively. Arrow indicates Avialae. Main clades collapsed for brevity.

Lee et al. (2014) modified dataset

Test 1. *K*=1. Best score= 858.75766. Number of shortest trees= 2.

Test 2. *K*=3. Best score= 592.85932. Number of shortest trees= 2.

Test 3. *K*=9. Best score= 323.86912. Number of shortest trees= 1.

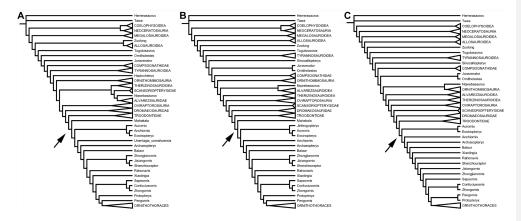


Figure S6. Strict consensus trees of the implied weighted analyses of the data set modified from Lee et al. (2014), with k parameter set as (a) 1, (b) 3 and (c) 9 respectively. Arrow indicates Avialae. Main clades collapsed for brevity.

3 Modified dataset of Turner et al. (2012) – Data matrix

xread

490 113

Allosaurus fragilis

Sinraptor dongi

Ingenia yanshani

Citipati osmolskae

Rinchenia mongoliensis

Oviraptor_philoceratops

Conchoraptor_gracilis

Incisivosaurus gauthieri

Microvenator celer

Chirostenotes_pergracilis

Caudipteryx zoui

Dromaeosaurus albertensis

Deinonychus_antirrhopus

Velociraptor_mongoliensis

Balaur bondoc

Atrociraptor marshalli Utahraptor Adasaurus mongoliensis Achillobator_giganticus Tsaagan mangas Saurornitholestes langsto Bambiraptor feinbergorum 1100?1??100?0?1100[01]1011??2????0101011011110?001?1?00000111?211?0101?102201?111021100???1110000000

Tianyuraptor ostromi

?????0?0?0?1??01?0111???????1??00?011110?001?10100001112?1??0?1101223?11111021?0???1?110?????????00

?11????000??0???1??00?0??01???1011?0???0??????
Sinornithosaurus_millenii
0011??????0?????????0???1110????1000111100?1??????
Microraptor_zhaoianus
00??0???????????????000?1?111000?11?2012??01110???0?1???0????????
Graciliraptor_lujiatunensis
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Hesperonychus_elizabethae
<pre>2322222222222222222222222222222222222</pre>
Pyroraptor_olympius
Rahonavis_ostromi
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Buitreraptor_gonzalozorum
01110????????????0001011?00?????????100?10??0??

Neuquenraptor_Unenlagia

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Austroraptor
01000?????????????????????????????????
Shanag_ashile
??????????????????????????????????????
Mahakala_omnogovae
????????????101???????????????????????
Mononykus_olecranus
??????00??????112??????????????????????
Shuvuuia_deserti
?0110?00000000?112011000?0?0?0?111?11002100001010?0?10010???1?1000010100002100?10211??000?01111110 11101?0??1?201012012110100?1000?00020003010??1122?11000?1??011?2000?0?10021032?0??2210100111011211[0 1]000300000011000001100000100000?00?2000000000
Patagonykus_puertai
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Albinykus
<pre>????????????????????????????????????</pre>

Alvarezsaurus calvoi

Proceratosaurus bradleyi

Ornitholestes hermanni

Coelurus fragilis

Archaeopteryx lithographi

Avimimus_portentosus

Confuciusornis_sanctus

Struthiomimus_altus

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Gallimimus_bullatus
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Garudimimus_brevipes
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Pelecanimimus_polydon
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Harpymimus_okladnikovi
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Troodon_formosus
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Saurornithoides_mongolien
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Zanabazar_junior
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Byronosaurus_jaffei
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Sinornithoides_youngi
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Sinovenator_changii
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Mei_long
?0?????????????????1010?????0?11?002012100001?10?1?0??100??????00010010??1?000?021???012011011100 011?1110?01???0110221111?11????111?11100?0?1?1000?001?012111?1??1100301?1110211???0111100?0101001000 ??110011?0?0000??000000?000100?1??0?000000
EK_troodontid_100slash44
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Jinfengopteryx_elegans
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IGM_100_1126
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IGM_100_1323

?01??????0???11???1?000?220000?1??0212100?1??0???0?
Anchiornis_huxleyi
00110????????????11010??11100????2022000??1????11????????
Xiaotingia
201???????????????????111000???0?2????????
Segnosaurus_galbinensis
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Erlikosaurus_andrewsi
<pre>?0110??02?0?1?0??1010011100??0001?1000010001</pre>
Alxasaurus_elesitaiensis
<pre>????????????????????????????????????</pre>
Tyrannosaurus_rex
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Tarbosaurus_baatar

Albertosaurus sacrophagus

Gorgosaurus libratus

Daspletosaurus

Eotyrannus lengi

Dilong_paradoxus

${\tt Shenzhousaurus_orientalis}$

Ornithomimus_edmonticus

${\tt Archaeornithomimus_asiati}$

Anserimimus_planinychus Huaxiagnathus_orientalis Sinosauropteryx prima 0????1?0?0????00?1100100010?????0000000?10??0010000?0020??????0000100?000?11?0?1?00?0??000?01000 Compsognathus_longipes Juravenator starki Jeholornis prima 000000??00?00000100000?0??001???0000?00000?0?1000110001000?0010000?000?0000?00010110000?10000Jixiangornis orientalis 00????1??20???02??1021??11?1?0001103111000110100000011112101012211000010101?211?10?2?11?001??1201112 Yanornis martini

Apsaravis_ukhaana

Yixianornis

Sapeornis

Neuquenornis volans

Patagopteryx deferrariisi

Cathayornis

Concornis

2]11??0?3000?0???0????????????????01??1????????
Gobipteryx
00????????????????????????????????????
Vorona
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Songlingornis
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Pengornis_houi
?0110??????????????10010??0700??????0712??0???????0????????000001?????????0700?00??01?????? 20???0??0??????????????1?????21031111?0???????23??001?1??????????
Hesperornis
?0???????????????0010100?00?????000121?01?????0????1?000?01???1?0001?021??00??10101110? 2100??11?50100?210?23??11??10??00103111????????33?0202100?1??00000??02102220??12???0001??11?1213 110010??0?00??01?1?0000?000??200??2?0?1111????0??????10?000?10?11?10?11112001?10100?1110011100? 200?0???1010121011000012?0?000100100?0???10?0???00001?0???????0??????
Baptornis
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Ichthyornis

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Iaceornis marshii

Limenavis patagonica

Crypturellus undulatus

Lithornis

Gallus gallus

Crax_pauxi

Anas_platyrhynchus

Chauna_torquata

2100?111?7?11???1012312111?100000103111110111113133??0012101?1?2?100101?02102222??12?0100011011??213 01001000000200101?20100000?0?0?1021?0?121??01??????00????0000122001102111[12]111110221101111211111 Hongshanornis_longicrest Liaoningornis longidigitu Pedopenna Epidendrosaurus Epidexiptervx Haplocheirus

ccode + 15.17 26 39 67 75 109 112 115 124 131 149 156 168 173 197 199 234 264.265 268 271 283 291 313 320 323 325 330 332 355 363 368 383 389 391 395 397 401 405 413 417 419 421 424 429.432 437 447 483;

proc/;

4 Modified dataset of Lee et al. (2014) – Data matrix

xread 1549 121 Herrerasaurus 00100011000000000100000000?1020000000??10??00121110000000?000000?000001?00003000000?0000010010010[01]0110102?01??0??00100111000??10?110010021???0???10??????221?00011??1?0?[01]12?1??010000?0000?? 111001001??1?????11????????00???000??070001??00???0?11?0??0??0?0?11?0??0???00????00???10?0? ??02?????1????0??0??1?0?????1????0????200??01??????1?0??0??2??1????1?????0?11???0????11?000?01?

1011111100011000010210210121010222200122222013000000100001000011000010100010100111011102100012101010 $01??1?1112?100??????????????????????12]\\ 2001001???????0??????22??0???1\\ [01]\\ 01?0\\ [12]\\ ?1211?00?\\ [12]\\ 01$ Alxasaurus

Anchiornis

Apsaravis

111300???????1???1??????????????22???101?????8?220011?41??30?????0?????0110?0?11110000?[01]?????[01] ?????Q???Q????qQ???qQ

Archaeopteryx

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Archaeorhynchus

Austroraptor

Avimimus

Balaur

Barvonvx

11200102001000110[01]1000?1011100000010010010??00031110000?0000?0000?00002?000030110010002?????? ?0????1001?00???0?00?0?????00????21??01???2??0??001??1?0?001??010?11???0??1??1??20010?01010

Beipiaosaurus

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Berberosaurus
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Bonapartenykus ????????????????????????????????????

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00??????0??0???????????????????????????
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Byronosaurus Caenagnathus collinsi Caudiptervx 0112?1111001?0200??11?1???11??12?0001001?0001111?0110?100?0?0?1270??????1110?0?000?00?12?0??0???1??????1?????0??0??????0?[01]1???[01]0??0?0?1111??2?001211?0111?1?????01?0??0??1?????3????000000?00 12?10?101?0?010100110210??11?1[01]?0??220010??000013?1?0?0??30121???00100000?00100?00111000001100002 011??11??100011?2101001011200?1001?2?0110?1????10??000?????22??01[12]?0??1?02312?100011000?1?1100

Ceratosaurus

?1000????0?010000?000??10?000101?102??0?0000???01??001000??01110000001000??0000?0000010?1?1100?00

Citipati

101???010100020210??10?10001?2210101100??14?1?1????201200??10?0??000010100001110000211010020101?0111

Coelurus

Concornis

>>>0110>>02000>>>>01

Confuciusornis

Crvolophosaurus

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Deinonychus

100000010001?0?001??11001000??101000001?0010001?0?10110?00001????1[01]0????220??0?????1010100?1???? ??????10020??00???01?11????1?1????1?02?11?1?101???0000100000100?000??000???111?011?001?001?0???0100 $1011010000111000[12]\\ 1210?111?11111?22112????????4??????0212420001011002??0000201011101000?100012021$ $12100121110??11?11010??0112000101102220101111?0?000000?0?10221101100111102212110[01]\\0100011001110110$ 01?????0?000010100001?00?1??00?0000??010000???00?????00??

Dilong

10?0001[12]01000?00?0000111000?1000000002???????0???10000?0001000?010000001?011000?????00001?0110 00000000110110??000001??00?000000???001000?112111??111001110000?011?101111111?10?01000?00000?00000?01000??????0?000000000000??1?00?0000?0???00000?0????0?1?

Dubreuillosaurus

Eosinopteryx

110??001?0?1?02???00??????0??????0???????00??1??0?????0?22???1????????	
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1??1???101??0?????1011200?11010?????????	
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Epidendrosaurus	
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 010??12?11???0?010?[01]?????1011000???0?0???0??????????	
11?0110?2001101?011?01????0??01?1???1???	
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Epidexipteryx	
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Erlicosaurus

01001001000000001?1010100000?1?12?011100111?1010001011000010?1101101?101000011010002000010?1????

Eustreptospondylus

200000020071770010011717007000707010070007107001770711170777210171101110700017007100707777107 ????000?0?000?0000?00001?10??012?11???0????0?0??01?12?0000?010??????000?01????0000?1

Falcarius

000001;20121111001[02]11;20010010111000100;01201101110;0;0;21;100;0122110;0100;21;121;2;000100;0000 ??1???0?2000?0?0?0?00000000?0?????0?00?210??0?1??0??00???0?1?10???2??0111??000?10?0?0?????2?1??0?0??1000??????0?0000000100??0????00?000???0???00????00???

Gallimimus

Garudimimus

0101?0??110??????????0?10?01?2001?00?1010??????0?10?1??0?0???????1??0?001?11000??0?00?101?1001010??

Gigantoraptor

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???0???????0?1?????1?????0????????????
???1??0????0?????0??????0?????????????
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Gobipteryx
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3??????????????????????????????????????
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0??0???????????????????????????????????
??0????????0?1?00???????0??????????????
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00??????00?????0???????????????????????
??1????????????????????????????????????
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0?????0?1010???????11??1?????102??????2?????110?10?0010?000[01]0101?00?01?0000?01?100???100000??1?0 ????????????????1??100??[12]1???0???1100?0?10????1??0?11?0?0?12110000??000?1??1?0??00?2??0??3??10?1?000 1??02???1111???1101000[12]0210?11[01]?201?1?22001???????3?0?00????0[12]1???????00700?0??01??01??01?

Harpymimus

?1?0??1?????110?0000020??011000?20??000?700?010????0???121100000?0?00200?0?000000?0100?010000?101001?0?0???20??11?12?01?????0??01?[01]???0???120?1???????????????????0??01?1102?1211?00??0001101 10011001100????100001?0?????????10?10??1020??0?0??1??1?????010??01????000?1?110???0?0???100???000001

Hebeiornis

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Hongshanornis
101272???0?0???0???????111???1??1??0??00??1??????
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30????21011[02]111101??11?12???22201?1121111??????4??????????
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Huaxiagnathus
Huaxiagnathus 1001000100?170700?2071071[12]00??17101100110100000070???701000171111770?????77070????????
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1001000100?1?0?00?20?10?1[12]00??1?1011001101000000?0????010001?1111??0??????
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100100010071?070072071071[12]00??17101100110100000070???701000171111??0?????7070????????
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1001000100717070072071071[12]00771710110011010000007077770100017111170777777
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1001000100717070072071071[12]007717101100110100000070777701000171111770777777
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100100010071;0700022071071[12]007717101100110100000070777701000171111770777777
1001001001?1?020072071071[12]007?1?101100110100000707?77010001?11117707?77?77077?77?77?77?77?77?77?77?77?77
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Ichthyornis
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12?1113000002001120210?1??12?1?????22???1110??118012011??41??30??????0????110???1111000000?0????02?
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0?????1???????????????1?0?????????????
111?2????0??20??0???????31?0???2???0???0??????????
20??????111???????111????????100?????2????????
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21????????????????????????????????????
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Incisivosaurus
?1120111100110210112110?11101011100000100100001100?0110010021[01]011?0000002????111?1010000000?12111101111011111111
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0??1???0??????0?0?11????????0????????10??????
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Jianchangornis
101???????????????????????????????????
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20????010100101101??11?1?0???22?00121100117????1?1??????????
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?????0?0?1?11?????????1?????0??????0?10?1
?2??????00????????100?0????0?????????0??????
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?2?????11??????0???????????????????????
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Jinfengopteryx
1100???1?000?02?0?00010????1??1?10000??00100??0?0???1?0????20?1??0?1?0?????0010?0????0000?20??20?
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12?101[12]01????1010012?210??11?1?[01]?1?22?1???????????????31233????1?1?10??000?2?1010?????????
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200?:1??????????????????????????????????
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Jixiangornis
1702717171707077077777777117777170777707100077771777777
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Majungasaurus

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283 286 290 292 295 300 313 315 321 323.324 327.330 333.334 337 339 341.342 351 353 355.357 365 368

372 381.382 384 386 394.395 400 404 408 410 413 416 420.421 426 429.430 438 441 453.457 459 462 467.468 475 477 482 496 504 516 542 544 563 569 574 587 593 596 601 606 609 619 626 635 642 650.651 653.654 675 678 684 687 708 732 736 745 752 820 842 849 934 936 939 948 967 990 1020 1049 1054 1110 1142 1168 1182 1205 1215.1216 1251 1354 1393 1406 1432 1446; proc/;

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