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An oviraptorid preserved atop an embryo-bearing egg clutch sheds light on the reproductive biology of non-avialan theropod dinosaurs

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Abstract
Recent studies demonstrate that many avialan features evolved incrementally prior to the origin of the group, but the presence of some of these features, such as bird-like brooding behaviours, remains contentious, in non-avialan dinosaurs. Here we report the first non-avialan dinosaur fossil known to preserve an adult skeleton atop an egg clutch that contains embryonic remains. The preserved positional relationship of the adult to the clutch, coupled with the advanced growth stages of the embryos and their high estimated incubation temperatures, provides strong support for the brooding hypothesis. Furthermore, embryos in the clutch are at different developmental stages, suggesting the presence of asynchronous hatching—a derived feature even among crown-group birds—in non-avialan theropods. These findings demonstrate that the evolution of reproductive biology along bird-line archosaurs was a complex rather than a linear and incremental process, and suggest that some aspects of non-avialan theropod reproduction were unique to these dinosaurs.

Keywords
Oviraptorosauria; Cretaceous; Clutch; Brooding; Embryos; Asynchronous hatching

Introduction
The reproductive biology of modern birds differs significantly from that of other extant vertebrates, and how it evolved has attracted much attention [1-5]. A key discovery pertaining to the evolution of modern avian reproductive biology is bird-like brooding behaviour in non-avialan dinosaurs, which has been indicated by multiple specimens of oviraptorosaurian skeletons preserved atop egg clutches recovered from the Upper Cretaceous of China and Mongolia [6-12]. The brooding interpretation for these associated adult and clutch specimens represents the prevailing hypothesis [7], but other viable interpretations also exist, including those that the parent perished in the act of either laying or guarding its eggs [5,13-14]. In particular, no nesting oviraptorosaur specimen has yet provided evidence that would unequivocally reject the *perishing while egg-laying eggs* hypothesis. Furthermore, several aspects of associated adult/clutch specimens are more consistent with the *perishing while egg-laying eggs* hypothesis than with the brooding hypothesis, namely that (1) there are significant differences in clutch size (from 6 to 22 eggs) among the specimens, suggesting that they correspond to different stages of nest construction; (2)
the eggs are partially buried and exhibit only limited contact with the adult; and (3) no embryonic remains have been found within the eggs [13]. Here we describe a new specimen recovered from the Upper Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) Nanxiong Formation of Ganzhou, China that not only reinforces the brooding hypothesis for oviraptorosaurs but also provides significant new information on the reproductive biology of these and potentially other non-avialan theropods.

Materials and Methods

Material. Specimen LDNHMF2008 (housed at the Lande Museum of Natural History, Tangshan, Hebei Province, China) is a partially articulated partial skeleton of a medium-sized oviraptorid theropod that is missing the skull, part of the cervical series, much of the dorsal and caudal series, the pectoral girdles, and most of the humeri preserved atop an undisturbed clutch of at least 24 eggs, some of which are broken, exposing embryonic bones (Fig. 1a–c). The specimen was discovered from the Upper Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) Nanxiong Formation near the Ganzhou railway station of Ganzhou city, Jiangxi Province, China.

Histological analyses. Eggshell samples were taken from eggs C2, C5, and C8, all of which were prepared as a standard petrographic thin section and studied under a polarized light microscope. A gastraliaum and the humerus of the adult were also sampled for the preparation of petrographic thin sections, which were studied under a polarized light microscope to investigate bone histology.

Phylogenetic analyses. We investigated the systematic position of the new specimen via two separate analyses using Tree analysis using New Technology (TNT) [15]. First, we conducted a phylogenetic analysis based on a recently published coelurosaurian theropod dataset [16] with LDNHMF2008 added, which recovered the new specimen within Oviraptorosauria and the oviraptorosaurian subclade Caenagnathoidea. Subsequently, we conducted a second phylogenetic analysis using a recently published dataset of oviraptorosaurian phylogeny [17] with LDNHMF2008 added, which placed the new specimen within Oviraptoridae.

Isotopic analyses. Phosphates from embryonic bones were prepared and analysed for their oxygen isotope compositions (δ18Op) following the procedure described by Lécuyer [18], which consists of the isolation of apatite phosphate via acid digestion and anion-exchange resin
followed by the quantitative precipitation of silver phosphate. Oxygen from phosphate is then converted into CO by high temperature pyrolysis and measured using an isotope ratio mass spectrometer (see Supplementary material for details). Oxygen and carbon isotopic compositions of eggshell carbonates were measured after carbonate conversion into CO\(_2\) through acid digestion and analysis using an isotope ratio mass spectrometer (see Supplementary material).

**Results**

Specimen LDNHMF2008 (housed at the Lande Museum of Natural History, Tangshan, Hebei Province, China) is a partially-articulated partial skeleton of a medium-sized oviraptorid theropod that is missing the skull, part of the cervical series, much of the dorsal and caudal series, the pectoral girdles, and most of the humeri preserved atop an undisturbed clutch of at least 24 eggs, some of which are broken, exposing embryonic bones (Fig. 1). Specimen LDNHMF2008 The large skeleton exhibits the *in situ* brooding posture typical of other oviraptorosaurs preserved atop egg clutches (*Citipati* *osmolskae*: IGM 100/979 [7, 10], IGM 100/1004 [8]; *Nemegtomaia barsboldi*: MPC-D 107/15 [12]; Oviraptoridae indet.: IVPP V9608 [9, 19]; the forelimbs are directed ventrally and posteriorly (i.e., downward and backward), covering the edges of the clutch; the hind limbs are folded such that the body of the animal is situated over the eggs and centred on the clutch; and the pelvic area is laying partly on the posterior part of the clutch and partly within its centre. As demonstrated by the location of the gastralia, which are partly exposed near the ventral midline and at a lower vertical height than the uppermost egg *layering*, the body is preserved in extremely close proximity to the eggs (Fig. 1a–c).

The attending individual is presumably an adult, as indicated by the closed neurocentral sutures of all observed vertebrae. An osteohistological analysis was conducted to further determine its ontogenetic stage. Although a thin section of the left humerus indicates that its tissue has been highly modified by diagenesis, some typical osteohistological features supporting an advanced ontogenetic stage are preserved, such as abundant developed secondary osteons with different generations close to the outer circumferential layer (OCL), a transition from parallel-fibered bone tissue to lamellar bone tissue in the middle cortex, and an external fundamental system (EFS) comprising at least nine lines of arrested growth (LAGs) closely spaced (inter-LAGs space about 120 \(\mu\)m wide, compared to about 410 \(\mu\)m between a LAG in the middle cortex and the innermost LAG in EFS) in the OCL (Fig. 2a). These osteohistological features suggest that LDNHMF2008
represents a somatically mature individual. A thin section of a gastraliaum exhibits densely packed LAGs in the periphery of its cortex, further supporting the fully adult ontogenetic stage of LDNHMF2008 [11]. The thin sections clearly show that the humerus and gastraliaum lack medullary bone. Whereas the lack of medullary bone in the humerus and gastraliaum raises the possibility that the attending individual may have been male, a female identity also cannot be ruled out because the medullary bone is extremely rare in non-avialan dinosaurs [20] and its development is highly variable even in extant female birds [21].

The adult skeleton exhibits anatomical features typical of oviraptorosaurs in general as well as several hallmarks of less inclusive oviraptorosaurian clades. For example, the presence of pleurocoels on the caudal vertebral centra and an anteriorly concave pubic shaft indicate a position within Caenagnathoidea, and one rather than two pneumatic foramina on the lateral surfaces of the cervical centra, a pubis that is short relative to the ilium and that has a small, shoe-like distal boot with the anterior process longer than the posterior process, a small groove rather than a large cleft separating the greater and lesser trochanters of the femur, and a third metatarsal that is not proximally mediolaterally compressed support oviraptorid affinities [16]. Two phylogenetic analyses using different datasets also place the new fossil within Oviraptorosauria and Caenagnathoidea; the latter analysis, specific to Oviraptorosauria, further recovers the specimen within Oviraptoridae, as a sister taxon of other late-diverging oviraptorids (Fig. 3a,b).

The clutch consists of at least 24 eggs preserved immediately beneath and in extremely close proximity to the adult skeleton with little to no intervening sedimentary matrix. The outer and inner clutch diameters are 78 and 26 cm, respectively. The clutch is mostly intact, exhibiting almost no little or only slight deformation or compression of the eggs and preserving paired eggs arranged in three superposed rings unlike ~1–2 rings in other oviraptorid adult associated clutches [8-10, 13]. Like in other Asian clutches, the eggs are oriented subhorizontally and slightly tilted toward the center [7,9]. Twelve eggs are exposed in the uppermost ring (herein termed ring C), nine are visible in the middle ring (B), and three are exposed in the lowermost ring (A). The eggs in the middle ring is positioned farther away from the center than those in the rings A and C so the eggs of the lower ring A are overlain at its base by the middle eggs, but directly by uppermost eggs above. The clutch consists of at least 24 eggs preserved immediately beneath and in extremely close proximity to the adult skeleton with little to no intervening sedimentary matrix. They are aligned radially and oriented subhorizontally (Fig. 1a-c; see also
Supplementary video 1). The outer and inner clutch diameters are 78 and 26 cm, respectively. The clutch is mostly intact, exhibiting almost no deformation or compression of the eggs and preserving paired eggs arranged in three vertical layers. Twelve eggs are exposed in the uppermost layer (herein termed layer C), nine are visible in the middle layer (B), and three are exposed in the lowermost layer (A). The total number of eggs is consistent with more than that reported in other oviraptorosaurian oviraptorid adult-associated clutches (~6–22 eggs per clutch) [8-10, 13]. Seven eggs are exposed in their entirety, or nearly so. Three of these are in the ‘anterior’ part of the clutch, roughly between the left humerus and radius and the distal end of the left femur, whereas the remaining four are between the left manus and the distal end of the left tibia.

The eggs are ~215 mm in length and ~85 mm in width across their equatorial regions (Supplementary table 1). The outer surface of all eggs exhibits linearituberculate ornamentation made up of fine, densely packed ridges approximately 2–3 mm in width, which are aligned with the long axis of the eggs in the equatorial region but are more randomly distributed at the poles. The eggshell is thin, approximately 1.08 mm thick without the height of the ornamentation. The eggshell exhibits a mammillary layer topped by a continuous layer and an undulant boundary between the two layers. The undulant growth lines in the continuous layer are parallel to the outer surface of the eggshell (Fig. 2b). The thickness of the mammillary and continuous layers varies from 0.19–0.31 mm and 0.56–0.75 mm (without the height of the ornamentation), respectively. The thickness ratio of the mammillary to the continuous layer varies from 0.25–0.5. Based on the egg size, eggshell thickness and the distinct undulant boundary between the mammillary and continuous layers of eggshell, the eggs can be referred to Macroolithus yaotunensis [22].

Embryonic material is observed—exposed in at least seven of the seven eggs (C2-C8 and B9), but ossified bones with identifiable morphologies are observed only in eggs B9, C2, C3, and C5 and B9 (Fig. 4a-d). The skeleton within egg C2 is probably complete and many bones have been exposed, including vertebrae, dorsal ribs, a humerus, both ilia and femora, and a tibia. The skeleton is semi-articulated and exhibits a generally curled posture (Fig. 4b), as in other described oviraptorosaurian embryos such as that of Beibeilong sinensis [23]. The humerus is nearly complete and fully ossified with finished proximal and distal end. One of the two exposed femora is robust and nearly complete. Both extremities of this bone are exposed and fully ossified. In egg
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C3, some vertebrae, dorsal ribs, and putative pelvic bones are exposed and localized in one corner of the egg (Fig. 4c). There are approximately as many exposed bones in egg C5 (Fig. 4d) as there are in C2. The femur within C5 exhibits defined articular surfaces, and its stage of ossification is similar to that seen in the very latest stages of development of crown bird and other oviraptorid embryos [24]. As eggs C2, C3, and C5 belong to the same layer and are likely to have been laid within a short time period, differences in size and developmental stages among these embryos may be a consequence of asynchronous hatching, as has been previously suggested for oviraptorids [24, 25]. Except for egg C3, egg B9 (Fig. 4a) exhibits fewer exposed elements than eggs from the C layer. Approximately 12 bones are distinctly visible compared with more than 20 in eggs C2 and C5. Most of the bones in egg B9 cannot be identified. Nevertheless, two long bones that we identify as femora due to their length, robustness, and curvature have poorly defined extremities; i.e., their epiphyses are not completely ossified. **Given the degrees of ossification, the embryos in egg B9 are developmentally earlier than those in eggs C2 and C5.**

The limb bones preserved within different eggs differ in length; for example, the femur in egg C5 is 5.5 cm long whereas the femur in B9 is 4 cm long. In sum, their differing limb lengths and degrees of ossification suggest that the embryos in eggs from the middle layer (B) are developmentally earlier than those in eggs from the upper layer (C). **In general, developmental variation is seen not only between eggs from different rings, but also from the same ring, and a complete reconstruction of the developmental variation pattern from LDNHMF2008 is currently not possible.**

To estimate the temperature at which the embryos mineralized their skeletons, we measured and analyzed the stable oxygen isotopic compositions of the embryonic bone apatite phosphate (δ18O_p) and the eggshell carbonate (δ18O_c) of eggs C2, C3, and C8. The calculation of incubation temperature is based on the following considerations: (1) the eggshell δ18O_c value reflects the oxygen isotopic composition of body fluids of the egg-laying female from which eggshell precipitated. Because the water of egg fluids originates from the egg-laying female body water and is transmitted without isotopic fractionation, eggshell δ18O_c values also indirectly reflect the oxygen isotope composition of egg fluids; and (2) the embryonic bones precipitated from these egg fluids with a phosphate-water oxygen isotope fractionation that was controlled by egg temperature [26]. An updated version of the time-dependent model of Amiot et al. [26] that predicts the δ18O_p evolution of the embryonic skeleton during incubation as a function of egg
temperature was used, and measured eggshell δ18O_c and embryonic bone δ18O_p values were used as boundary conditions (see Supplementary material for model description and outputs). Assuming the primary preservation of both eggshell carbonate and bone phosphate stable isotope compositions in the three eggs and their embryos based on the good preservation of both diminutive embryo bones and eggshell calcite microstructure, the measured values best match those modelled at incubation temperatures of 36–38°C for C2 and C3 and 30–32°C for C8 (Fig. 5a-c). Thus, our isotopic analysis shows that temperature differences existed among the eggs, at least within the layer-ring C. Given that non-avialan theropod dinosaurs had elevated body temperatures within the 33°C-38°C range [27]. Estimated incubation temperatures for two of the three analysed eggs are well within the expected range of brooding behaviour (36–38°C), whereas the third embryo (from egg C8) seems to have been incubated at a slightly lower temperature, within the 30–32°C range. This lower calculated temperature might be the result of its position in the clutch at the opposite side of eggs C2 and C3; this area of the clutch might have been less covered by the adult body and therefore experienced a lower incubation temperature. It would also be consistent with the slightly earlier developmental stage of the embryo within egg C8 compared those in C2 or C3, as incubation temperature affects the speed of embryo development and the duration of incubation. It is noteworthy that 30–32°C is still within the viable range of brooding temperatures [28].

Discussion and conclusion

LDNHMF2008 is the first non-avialan dinosaur specimen to preserve an association of an adult atop a nest of eggs that contains embryos. Because the embryos died at late developmental stages, the adult clearly had tended the nest for an extended period and did not perish in the act of egg laying, contrary to what has previously been suggested [13]. Moreover, the estimated incubation temperature for the eggs is consistent with the body temperature of brooding birds (30-38°C). In contrast, the incubation temperature for reptiles is always lower (26-32°C). Taken together, the association of the close contact between the adult skeleton and the eggs, embryos in late developmental stages, and the high, oxygen isotope-based estimated incubation temperature effectively rules out both the perishing while laying eggs [13] egg-laying and the reptile-like nest guarding hypotheses [5,14]. Instead, it strongly supports the brooding hypothesis for associated adult/clutch oviraptorosaurian specimens [7].
Previous studies demonstrate that the evolution of modern avialan reproductive biology occurred in multiple stages, with some bird reproductive features having their origins among non-avialan theropods and other features having yet to evolve even among stem birds [1]. Oviraptorosaur-grade maniraptorans represent an intermediate stage in the evolution of modern avialan reproductive biology in that they are widely considered to possess such features as iterative egg laying, possibly paternal brooding to aid incubation in a partially open nest, and synchronous hatching of eggs via delayed incubation [1]. The discoveries reported herein support the presence of some (e.g., iterative egg laying and paternal brooding behaviour) but not all (e.g., synchronous hatching) of these features in oviraptorosaurs.

In most modern most precocial primitive extant birds, the embryos in a single clutch are at the same ontogenetic stage and hatch simultaneously, or nearly so [29]. Synchronous hatching is a plesiomorphic feature not only for crown-group birds, but also for most other vertebrate groups. At the same time, many altricial birds are unusual in displaying asynchronous hatching, a feature that is presumed to be derived for crown birds [29,30]. LDNHMF2008 displays developmental variation within a single brooded clutch. As noted above, the differing developmental maturity among the different eggs/embryo layers in the specimen reinforces that asynchronous hatching might have occurred among non-avialan theropods [24-25]. Although it cannot be completely excluded that the developmental failures of some eggs lead to the ontogenetic variation observed in the clutch [31], the occurrence of asynchronous hatching is further supported by the differing egg/embryo temperatures estimated for various eggs within the clutch.

Due to the limited and complex data recovered from LDNHMF2008, a distinct developmental pattern of the embryos is not identifiable—provides additional information on the brooding behaviour of oviraptorosaurian theropods, and thus it is difficult to infer the cause of asynchronous hatching in this oviraptorid dinosaur. However, we propose a possible scenario to explain the available data pertaining to oviraptorid asynchronous hatching are consistent with suggestive of the following hypothesis. As in ostriches, oviraptorosaurs would have started incubation of the nest only after all eggs had been laid, such that the lower eggs, which had been laid earlier, would have been incubated for proportionally the same amount of less time since laying than would the upper eggs. However, the upper eggs would have hatched earlier than the lower eggs because, being closer to the brooding adult, they would have received more heat from this individual than the lower eggs, and thus the embryos therein would have developed more
rapidly. Although a quantitative estimation of hatching speed is not possible for this particular fossil, living birds provide some data for reference, in which the hatching spreads are variable and for Yellow Warbler 5-egg clutches, it is 2 days [32]. Also, because the brooding adult would have been in different degrees of proximity even to eggs in the same layering, eggs from a single layering could also potentially have hatched at different times.

The discovery of asynchronous hatching in oviraptorosaurs is unexpected given its late appearance even among crown birds. Apparently, this feature evolved independently in some crown-group birds and at least oviraptorosaurus among non-avialan dinosaurs, reinforcing previous hypotheses that the evolution of modern avialan reproductive biology was not an incremental, linear process. Rather, the independent evolution of asynchronous hatching in a non-avialan theropod approaching the origin of birds provides another example of the prevalence of homoplasies across this major evolutionary transition. Moreover, it rejects the interpretation that non-avialan theropods were, in a behavioural sense, strictly intermediate between birds and other archosaurs, further highlighting the uniqueness of various non-avialan dinosaur subgroups. Finally, the scenario we proposed for oviraptorid hatching is not entirely consistent with data from living birds, because birds normally display synchronous hatching if incubation starts after all eggs of a clutch have been laid, and this further highlights the complex behaviours of non-avialan dinosaurs as a group of animals with their own unique evolutionary history.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
References


Figure captions

Fig. 1 LDNHMF2008, an oviraptorid specimen consisting of an adult skeleton preserved atop an embryo-bearing egg clutch. (a) Photograph, (b) Interpretive drawing with bones and gastroliths in white and eggs color-coded by layer (A, red; B, green; C, blue). (c) Restoration (white indicates bones preserved in the adult skeleton). Abbreviations: I, digit I; II, digit II; III, digit III; A#, egg in lowermost layer (A); as, astragalus; B#, egg in middle layer (B); C#, egg in uppermost layer (C); cav, caudal vertebra; ch, chevron; cv, cervical vertebra; di, manual digit; dr, dorsal ribs; dv, dorsal vertebra; em, egg known to preserve embryo; fe, femur; fi, fibula; ga, gastralia; gl, gastroliths; h, humerus; il, ilium; is, ischium; mt, metatarsal; O$_2$, egg sampled for oxygen isotope analysis; pb, pubis; pp, pedal phalanges; ra, radius; sl, semilunate carpal; ti, tibia; ul, ulna. Note that C11 and C12 are not paired eggs. The eggs that would have been paired with C11 and C12 are probably not preserved, as is the case for some other eggs and skeletal elements.

Fig. 2 Bone histology and eggshell of LDNHMF2008. (a) Cross section of humerus under polarized light. The presence of an external fundamental system (EFS) consisting of nine densely packed line of arrested growth (LAGs, white arrows), the densely packed secondary osteons, and other osteohistological features indicate that the specimen represents a fully-grown adult, (b) Petrographic thin section of eggshell from egg B9. The undulant boundary between the mammillary layer (ML) and the continuous layer (CL) is indicated by a white line. The base of the ML is missing, possibly due to embryo-induced erosion.

Fig. 3 Phylogenetic position of LDNHMF2008. (a) Reduced consensus of 64 most parsimonious trees (MPTs) of 4,655 steps recovered via parsimony analysis of the data matrix presented by Brusatte et al. [16] with the addition of LDNHMF2008. Note position of specimen (in bold) within Caenagnathoidea (indicated by arrow). (B) Strict consensus of 119 MPTs of 670 steps recovered via parsimony analysis of the data matrix presented by Yu et al. [17] with the addition of LDNHMF2008. Note position of specimen (in bold) within Oviraptoridae, as a fairly late-branching member of this clade (indicated by arrow).

Fig. 4 Embryonic skeletons preserved in eggs B9, C2, C3, and C5 of LDNHMF2008. (a to d) Photographs and line drawings of embryonic bones in eggs B9 (a), C2 (b), C3 (c), and...
C5 (d). Abbreviations: cav, caudal vertebrae; dv, dorsal vertebrae; fe, femur; h, humerus; il, ilium; pb, pubis; ph, phalanges; ra, radius; ti, tibia; ul, ulna.

Fig. 5 Incubation temperatures of three eggs of LDNHMF2008. (a to c) Outputs of the model predicting the temporal evolution of the δ¹⁸O_p value of oviraptorosaurian embryo bone phosphate as a function of embryo body temperature (black lines). Predicted embryo bone δ¹⁸O_p evolution is plotted against incubation time for temperatures ranging from 30 to 40°C (black lines) and compared to the measured δ¹⁸O_p value of the embryonic bone of unknown growth stage (dashed grey line) for eggs C2 (a), C3 (b), and C8 (c). Considering the advanced ossification of the embryonic skeletons in C2, C3, and C8, they might correspond to the final days or weeks of their incubation period where measured δ¹⁸O_p values intersect the 36°C and 38°C modelled lines for C2, around 35°C to 37°C for C3, and 30°C to 32°C for C8.

Supplementary material

Part A. Systematic paleontology and supplemental description

Part B. Phylogenetic analysis

Part C. Isotopic analysis

Part D. Institutional abbreviations

Part E. Tables of measurements and results of isotopic analysis

Table S1. Length and width measurements of oviraptorid eggs B3, B4, C1–C3, and C12 of oviraptorid specimen LDNHMF2008.

Table S2. Selected measurements of adult oviraptorid skeleton in LDNHMF2008.

Table S3. Results of isotopic analyses.

Part F. References

Figure 1

189x200mm (300 x 300 DPI)
Figure 2

140x178mm (300 x 300 DPI)
Figure 3

189x256mm (300 x 300 DPI)
Figure 4

189x221mm (300 x 300 DPI)
Figure 5
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

An oviraptorid preserved atop an embryo-bearing egg clutch sheds light on the reproductive biology of non-avialan theropod dinosaurs

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Part A. Systematic paleontology and supplemental description

Part B. Phylogenetic analysis

Part C. Isotopic analysis

Part D. Institutional abbreviations

Part E. Tables of measurements and results of isotopic analysis

Part F. References
Part A. Systematic paleontology and supplemental description

Theropoda Marsh, 1881
Maniraptora Gauthier, 1986
Oviraptorosauria Barsbold, 1976
Oviraptoridae Barsbold, 1976
Genus and species indet.

Material. LDNHMF2008 (Lande Museum of Natural History, Tangshan, Hebei Province, China): an articulated partial postcranium skeleton of a large, presumably sexually mature individual preserved atop a clutch of at least 24 eggs. The attending individual is missing the skull, a significant part of the vertebral series, the pectoral girdle, the right humerus, and most of the left humerus. The egg clutch contains at least seven embryonic skeletons (Figs. 1, 2b and 4, Tables S1, S2).


Comments. Specimen LDNHMF2008 is preserved in a red sedimentary matrix that is dominated by brown-red siltstone and silty mudstone with sandstone and conglomerate interbed. The matrix also contains sporadic gravel-sized clasts, including in one of the eggs. The sedimentary environment of the Nanxiong Formation lacks eolian deposit and as a whole was fluviolacustrine [2, 3]. The grain size distribution appears wider than in the red sandstone of the Djadokhta Formation that entombs the nesting oviraptorid (Citipati osmolskae) specimen IGM 100/979, which is thought to have been rapidly buried during a sandstorm [1].

Supplemental description and comparisons: skeleton. The large, attending, presumably adult individual in specimen LDNHMF2008 lacks the skull, part of the cervical series, much of the dorsal and caudal series, the pectoral girdle, the right humerus, and most of the left humerus (Fig. 1). The remaining parts of the skeleton and the clutch appear undisturbed and are preserved in life posture. The pelvic girdle and hind limbs are in near-perfect articulation and are positioned in the centre of the clutch. What remains of the forelimbs are splayed posteriorly and ventrally (Fig. 1a, b).

The cervical centra are amphicoelous and subrectangular in lateral view and bear a pneumatic foramen on the lateral surface. The dorsal centra are anteroposteriorly longer than dorsoventrally high and exhibit emarginated pneumatic fossae and a single pneumatic foramen. These features are observed in most Oviraptorosauria. The anterior caudal vertebrae are short with a pneumatic opening on the lateral surface of the centra, as in many oviraptorosaurs including the Nanxiong Formation oviraptorids Jiangxisaurus ganzhouensis [4] and Tongtianlong limosus [5]. The ventral margin of the
caudal centra is concave in lateral view. Some fragmentary dorsal ribs and gastralia are preserved in or near the abdominal cavity. A small mass of pebbles situated immediately posterior to the gastralia probably represents gastroliths (Fig. 1a, b). The gastroliths are rounded and less than 1 cm in diameter. Their position is consistent with the location of a potential gizzard. Until now, gastroliths had only been reported in *Caudipteryx* spp. within Oviraptorosauria [6-8]; as such, this is the first occurrence of these ‘stomach stones’ in a late-diverging oviraptorosaur. The identification of gastroliths in an oviraptorid may hold implications for reconstructing the diets of these theropods.

The adult skeleton preserves much of the left forelimb, including the fragmentary distal end of the humerus, the complete radius and ulna, the carpus, and the manus with the exception of metacarpal I; also, the distalmost two phalanges of digit II (non-ungual phalanx II-2 and ungual II-3) are crushed and partly destroyed (Fig. 1). Preserved elements of the right forelimb include part of the ulna and all manual phalanges, with only the ungual of digit II being incomplete. The forelimb is gracile and the manus is elongate relative to the antebrachium. The distal end of the humerus has a reduced medial epicondyle and a flat and relatively well-developed lateral epicondyle. The left ulna is bowed posteriorly with a weakly developed olecranon process. Its proximal extremity is crescent-shaped. The shaft is mediolaterally broad and tapers slightly distally, with a rounded distal end. The radius is slenderer than the ulna, straight, and mediolaterally compressed, and appears to lack the bifurcate distal end seen in the caenagnathid *Anzu wyliei* [9]. Metacarpal II is longer than metacarpal III, whereas these metacarpals are equal in length in *Corythoraptor jacobsi* [10], a recently-named crested oviraptorid from the same general locality and horizon (Table S2).

The manual phalangeal formula is 2-3-4 (Fig. 1). Digit I is the shortest of the manus. Digit II is longer than digit III, as in the Nanxiong oviraptorids *Huanansaurus ganzhouensis* [11] and *Jiangxisaurus* [4]. In the latter, the ungual of digit III appears less recurved than those of digits I and II, as in LDNHMF2008. Manual phalanx I-1 is shorter than metacarpal II, as in *Nemegtomaia barsholdi* [12], *Heyuannia huangi* [13], and *Ingenia yanshini* [14]. The shaft diameter of phalanx I-1 equals that of the radius. Phalanges II-1 and II-2 are subequal in length and two thirds the length of phalanx I-1. The combined length of phalanges II-1 and II-2 is greater than that of metacarpal II. Phalanges III-1 and III-2 are the smallest manual phalanges, each being roughly half the length of phalanx I-1. Phalanx III-3 is slightly longer than phalanx III-1. The combined length of phalanges III-1 and III-2 is greater than that of phalanx III-3, as in the early-diverging oviraptorosaur *Protarchaeopteryx robusta* [6]. The collateral ligament pits of the manual non-ungual phalanges are strongly developed. The proximal articular surface of these phalanges is concave, whereas the distal surface is convex. As in other oviraptorosaurs, the manual unguals are dorsoventrally deep and
laterally compressed and have well-developed flexor tubercles near the proximal end; this is especially true of unguals I and II.

The forelimbs are spread symmetrically around the outer perimeter of the nest, covering the ‘anterior’ or ‘forward’ part of the latter. This position almost certainly reflects a natural posture adopted by the animal in life rather than a taphonomic or preservational artefact. Therefore, it provides direct evidence that individuals of this oviraptorid taxon sat on their nests, as is the case in modern birds and other oviraptorids such as *Citipati* [1, 15] and *Nemegtiomaia* [12].

Both ilia and pubes, the proximal ends of both ischia, and both femora, tibiae, fibulae, and several tarsal and pedal elements are preserved in situ and partially to almost fully exposed (Fig. 1, table S2). Both ilia are well preserved, with only the preacetabular process of the left ilium missing. The ilia are anteroposteriorly elongate and dorsoventrally shallow with a convex dorsal border, as in the indeterminate Nanxiong oviraptorid specimen NMNS-VPDINO-2002-0901 [16]. The dorsoventral height/anteroposterior length ratio of the ilium is low, unlike in the southern Chinese oviraptorids *Nankangia* [17] and *Shixinggia oblita* [18], in which this ratio is higher. The preacetabular process of the right ilium projects anteroventrally and its anteroventral corner is rounded, as in *Nankangia* [17] and *Heyuannia*, another oviraptorid from southern China [13]. The postacetabular process is slightly shorter and straighter than the preacetabular process, unlike in *Shixinggia* [18]. The ilium is shorter than the femur (Table S2) as in *Nankangia* [17] and unlike most other oviraptorids. The pubis is mesopubic. The pubic boot does not appear markedly expanded in lateral view, contrasting what is observed in most other Oviraptorosauria (with rare exceptions, e.g., *Anzu*; MCL pers. obs.), including the Nanxiong Formation oviraptorids *Nankangia* [17] and *Corythoraptor* [10]. The ischium is elongate and slender. The posterior surface is visible only on the left ischium and is smooth. The proximodorsal process of the ischium forms a small tab along the posterior edge of the bone. The ventral margin of the pubic process is flat, lacking the hooked extension present in *Anzu* [9], *Epichirostenotes curriei* [19], and *Nomingia gobiensis* [20]. The distal end of the ischium is not exposed so its morphology cannot be observed.

The femur is robust with a suboval midshaft cross section. The greater trochanter is well separated from the femoral head. It is fused with the lesser trochanter, forming a trochanteric crest, as in most Oviraptorosauria with the exception of *Nankangia* [17]. The left tibia is straight and about 115% the length of the femur (Table S2). The tibia is also longer than the femur in *Corythoraptor* [10] and *Tongtianlong* [5], whereas in *Nankangia* these bones are subequal in length [17]. The metatarsus is relatively short, as in another Nanxiong Formation oviraptorid, *Ganzhousaurus*
nankangensis [21]. Metatarsals II and III are separate from one another and do not form an arctometatarsus. The proximodistal length of the proximal phalanges of pedal digits II and III is greater than their midshaft width. Pedal phalanx II-2 is as long as pedal phalanx II-1. Pedal ungual III is curved in lateral view and bears a dorsal extensor lip that overhangs the proximal articular surface. The ungual of pedal digit II is similar to that of pedal digit III.

**Supplemental description and comparisons: clutch.** The clutch consists of at least 24 eggs exposed beneath the adult skeleton (Fig. a, b, table S1). The nest is mostly intact, exhibiting slight or little deformation or compression of the eggs, and preserving paired eggs arranged in three superimposed rings. The number of eggs and their arrangement within the clutch is consistent with what is usually observed in oviraptorid nests; for example, one of the first reports of a nest consisting of three concentric circles of eggs at different heights was made by Brown and Schlaikjer [22: p. 254]. In this case, the lowest egg ring was also the most central, as also occurs in LDNHMF2008. Based on the outer clutch diameter and eggshell thickness, the eggs are referable to the oospecies Macroolithus yaotunensis [23]. The predicted adult body mass for the theropod represented by this ootaxon is 85–196 kg [24].

Ossified embryonic material is observed in seven eggs, six of which are in ring C; the seventh is in ring B. Specifically, eggs C2, C3, C5, C6, C7, C8, and B9 are known to contain embryonic material.

**Supplemental description and comparison: embryonic remains.** Well-ossified embryonic material with identified morphology can only be recognized in eggs B9, C2, C3, and C5 (Fig. 4). The skeleton inside egg C2 is probably complete, and a large assemblage of bones has been exposed, including vertebrae, dorsal ribs, a humerus, both ilia and femora, and a tibia (Fig. 4b). The skeleton is semiarticulated and in a generally curled posture, as in other described oviraptorosaurian embryos such as that of Beibeilong sinensis (HGM 41HIII1219) [25]. This closely resembles the in ovo posture of extant crocodilians [26] and birds [27]. The humerus is nearly complete and fully ossified with fused proximal and distal articular end. Both femora are preserved, one lacks the distal end while the other is crushed.

Egg C3 contains vertebrae, dorsal ribs, and putative pelvic bones (Fig. 4c). Most of the skeleton is localized in one corner of the egg rather than being spread throughout. The remains are not as clearly exposed as are those in egg C2 or C5; therefore, no long bones are visible.

Egg C5 has as many bones exposed as in C2 (Fig. 4d). A few vertebrae and limb elements can be identified, the latter including a putative radius and ulna, a femur, a tibia, and potential pedal elements. The femur is in better condition than that in egg C2. It is robust and subcircular in cross
section. As in the embryo in egg C2, both extremities of the bone are exposed and ossified. The femur is approximately 5.5 cm long.

Egg B9 exposes fewer embryonic elements than do the eggs in layer C (Fig. 4a); approximately 12 bones are distinctly visible compared with more than 20 in eggs C2 and C5. Most of the remains are difficult to identify, though among them are a few probable vertebrae and several limb bones. Two long bones—herein identified as femora given their length, robustness, and curvature—are clearly visible at the centre of the egg. These differ from the femora observed in layer C in that their extremities are not well defined and therefore their epiphyses seem to be incompletely ossified. The better exposed, more complete femur in egg B9 is approximately 4 cm in length, more than 1 cm shorter than that in C5. Based on these observations, we suspect that the embryos in the middle layer of the clutch (layer B) are at an earlier developmental stage than are those in the upper layer (layer C).

**Systematic assessment.** Within Oviraptorosauria, the adult skeleton of specimen LDNHMF2008 exhibits caenagnathoid affinities in having pneumatic foramina (pleurocoels) on its caudal vertebral centra and an anteriorly concave pubic shaft. Within Caenagnathoidea, the specimen is referred to Oviraptoridae on the basis of the following features: (1) one rather than two pneumatic foramina on lateral surfaces of cervical vertebral centra; (2) pubis with small, shoe-like distal boot in which the anterior process is longer than the posterior process; (3) pubis short relative to ilium; (4) small groove rather than large cleft separating greater and lesser and trochanters of femur; and (5) metatarsal III not proximally compressed. The eggshell structure seen in the specimen is also closely similar to that of other oviraptorosaurian eggs reported from the same general geographic region and stratigraphic unit. Altogether, these observations leave no doubt concerning the phylogenetic affinities of the material within Oviraptoridae.

Nine monotypic oviraptorid species are known from Upper Cretaceous horizons in the neighbouring provinces of Jiangxi and Guangdong in southern China: *Banji long* [28], *Corythoraptor jacobi* [10], *Ganzhousaurus nankangensis* [21], *Heyuannia huangi* [13], *Huanansaurus ganzhouensis* [11], *Jiangxisaurus ganzhouensis* [4], *Nankangia jiangxiensis* [17], *Shixinggia oblita* [18], and *Tongtianlong limosus* [5]. Most of these are incompletely preserved and some are not fully prepared. The skull is the only osteological region known for *Banji* [28], preventing comparisons with LDNHMF2008. The eight other genera can theoretically be considered; however, proper comparisons with the holotypes of *Ganzhousaurus* [21], *Huanansaurus* [11], *Jiangxisaurus* [4], *Shixinggia* [18], and *Tongtianlong* [5] are precluded given that they have few overlapping elements with LDNHMF2008. For these reasons, LDNHMF2008 cannot be confidently referred to an existing oviraptorid species from the Upper Cretaceous of southern China.
Part B. Phylogenetic analysis

To investigate the systematic position of specimen LDNHMF2008, we conducted a phylogenetic analysis based on a recently published coelurosaurian theropod dataset [29]. The matrix includes 853 characters and 151 species, to which we added the specimen described here (see below for the scorings (a) of LDNHMF2008). The matrix was analysed with equally weighted parsimony in Tree analysis using New Technology (TNT) version 1.5 [30] via the “New Technology Search” with default parameters, except for the value “Find min. length” which was changed from one to ten times. 64 most parsimonious trees (MPTs) of 4,655 steps were recovered (Consistency Index [CI] = 0.23, Retention Index [RI] = 0.66). As the strict consensus tree is poorly resolved, we calculated a reduced consensus following the methodology of the original study [29]. The resulting cladogram is shown in Fig. 3a; therein, LDNHMF2008 is supported as a derived member of Oviraptorosauria.

To further resolve the position of LDNHMF2008 within Oviraptorosauria, we conducted a second phylogenetic analysis. The matrix was based on a modified version of the first dataset published in the recent description of the caenagnathid Anomalipes zhaoi [31]. We added the new specimen and deleted one character (262) (see below for the scorings (b) of LDNHMF2008). The analysis was conducted using the “Traditional search” function of TNT 1.5 [30], with 1,000 random seeds, 1,000 replicates, and the Tree Bisection and Reconnection swapping algorithm (ten trees saved per replication). We obtained 119 MPTs of 670 steps (CI = 0.46, RI = 0.64), the strict consensus of which is shown in Fig. 3b. LDNHMF2008 is positioned within Oviraptorosauria, and more specifically within Oviraptoridae, close to genera such as Banji, Rinchenia, Wulatelong, and the clade that includes Citipati and the unnamed Zamyn Khondt taxon. Oviraptor is recovered as the sister taxon of LDNHMF2008 and other late-diverging oviraptorids.

Scorings (a) based on Brusatte et al. [29]:

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Scorings (b) based on Yu et al. [31]:

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Part C. Isotopic analysis

Method. A 3 mg aliquot of bone from each analysed embryo of oviraptorosaurian specimen LDMNHMF2008 was ground into fine powder using a mortar and pestle. Powder from each sample was treated following the wet chemistry protocol described by Lécuyer [32] and adapted by Bernard et al. [33] for small sample weights (3 mg). This protocol involves a wet chemical isolation of phosphate ions from apatite using acid dissolution followed by an anion-exchange resin separation and subsequent precipitation as Ag₃PO₄ crystals. For each sample, the 3 mg of bone powder were dissolved in 1 mL of 2 M HF overnight. The CaF2 residue was separated by centrifugation and the solution was neutralized by adding 1 mL of 2 M KOH. About 1.5 mL of Amberlite™ anion-exchange resin was added to the solution to separate the PO₄³⁻ ions. After 24 hours, the solution was removed and the resin was eluted with 6 mL of 0.1 M NH₄NO₃. After 4 hours, 0.1 mL of NH₄OH and 3 mL of an ammoniacal solution of AgNO₃ were added and the samples were placed in a thermostated bath set at 70°C for 6 hours allowing the precipitation of Ag₃PO₄ crystals. Oxygen isotope compositions were measured using a high-temperature pyrolysis technique involving a VarioPYROcubeTM elemental analyser (EA) interfaced in continuous flow (CF) mode to an IsoprimeTM isotopic ratio mass spectrometer at the Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon (UMR 5276, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1). For each sample, 5 aliquots of 300 μg of Ag₃PO₄ were mixed with 300 μg of pure graphite powder and loaded in silver foil capsules. Pyrolysis was performed at 1450°C. Measurements were calibrated against the NBS120c (natural Miocene phosphorite from Florida with a proposed δ18O of 21.7% V-SMOW [34]) and the NBS127 (barium sulfate with a certified δ18O value of 9.3% V-SMOW. Silver phosphate samples precipitated from standard NBS120c were repeatedly analysed (δ18Op = 21.7 ±0.3‰, n = 2) along with the silver phosphate samples derived from fossil bioapatites to ensure that no isotopic fractionation took place during the wet chemistry. The average standard deviation equals 0.3 ±0.1‰. Data are reported as δ18Op in ‰ values vs. V-SMOW.

Oviraptorosaur eggshell fragments were cleaned in an ultrasonic bath with distilled water and dried at room temperature. Eggshells were then ground into fine powder in an agate mortar. For each sample, two aliquots of about 500 μg were reacted with anhydrous oversaturated phosphoric acid at 90°C for 12 minutes and analysed using a MultiPrep™ automated system coupled to a dual-inlet Elementar Isoprime™ IRMS at the Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon (LGL), France. Carbon and oxygen isotope compositions are quoted in the δ notation in per mil relative to V-PDB (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite). Calibrated material used for value normalization is Carrara Marble (δ¹⁸O₉-V-PDB = -1.84‰; δ¹³C₉-V-PDB = +2.03‰ [35] and NBS18 (δ¹⁸O₉-V-PDB = -23.2‰; δ¹³C₉-V-PDB = -5.01‰) analysed within the same batch. External reproducibility is ±0.1‰ for δ¹⁸O values and ±0.05‰ for δ¹³C values.
Conversion of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of calcite from V-PDB to V-SMOW was performed using the Friedman & O’Neil [36] formula: $\delta^{18}\text{O} \text{ (‰ V-SMOW)} = \delta^{18}\text{O} \text{ (‰ V-PDB)} \times 1.03086 + 30.86.$

**Model.** A model of daily incremental deposition of oviraptorosaur embryonic bone, slightly modified from that proposed by Amiot et al. [37], was designed based on the following parameters, considerations, and assumptions. First, we assume that, after laying, the eggs were actively brooded until they hatched. Incubation temperature should therefore remain within a narrow range with limited fluctuations and the resulting oxygen isotope composition of embryo bone phosphate should represent an average of this range. Moreover, due to embryo metabolism, which increases with increasing body mass, egg temperature progressively increased during incubation [38, 39]. Egg mass was estimated from egg dimensions using the relationship proposed by Hoyt [40]:

$$M_{\text{egg}} \text{ (g)} = 0.548 \times L^2$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

with L corresponding to the maximum length of the egg and B to its maximum breadth or diameter (both in cm). The proportions of egg contents were assumed to be similar to those of extant bird eggs, i.e., eggshell mass corresponds to 11% of total egg mass, yolk mass corresponds to 32%, and the egg white 57%. Water mass corresponds to 88% of the white and 49% of the yolk [41]. Because the attending oviraptorid individual was fossilized along with the egg clutch, its body mass (a factor affecting the eggshell calcite-body water oxygen isotope fractionation; see below) was calculated using a relationship established between the minimum shaft circumference of the femur and the body mass which is, for theropod dinosaurs [42]:

$$\text{Mass} \text{ (Kg)} = \left(10^{2.749 \times \log(FC \times 2^{0.5} - 1.104)} / 1000\right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

with FC = femoral circumference in mm. The embryo began as a fertilized ovum with an assumed mass of 6.4 mg [43]. Hatchling mass represents about 70% of egg mass [44]. Total water loss during incubation is assumed to represent about 13% of egg mass [45]. Loss is principally from water vapor and is linear, an equal amount of water being lost each day [46]. The following fractionation equations have been used to predict the evolution of bone phosphate and egg water $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values during egg incubation: the phosphate-water-temperature scale proposed by Chang and Blake [47] is used to calculate the oxygen isotope composition of bone phosphate increments:

$$1000ln\alpha_{(PO_4-H_2O)} = 14.43( \pm 0.39)10^{000/T(K)} - 26.54( \pm 1.33)$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)
with α being the fractionation factor expressed as:

\[ \alpha_{\text{Po}_4-H_2O} = \frac{\delta^{18}O_p + 1000}{\delta^{18}O_w + 1000} \]

and \( \delta^{18}O_p \) and \( \delta^{18}O_w \) being the oxygen isotope composition of embryo bone phosphate and egg water, respectively, and \( T \) (K) the egg temperature. The temperature-dependent liquid-vapor fractionation of water [48] is used to calculate the oxygen isotope composition of the water vapor lost by the egg:

\[ 10^3 \ln \alpha_{\text{lv}} = -7.685 + 6.7123 \times (10^3/T) - 1.6664 \times (10^6/T^2) + 0.35041 \times (10^9/T^3) \]  \( (4) \)

with \( T \) the temperature in Kelvin. The daily growth of the embryo was estimated using the relationship proposed by Lee [43] relating the embryo body mass \( m \) (g) at a time \( t \) (days) during the incubation:

\[ m(t) = M_{\text{body}} \left\{ 1 - \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{m_0}{M_{\text{body}}} \right)^{0.25} \right] e^{-0.25 \times p \times t} \right\}^{\frac{1}{0.25}} \]  \( (5) \)

with \( m_0 \) being the mass of the fertilized ovum (6.4 mg) and \( p \) the metabolic mass gain parameter calculated for precocial birds (= 27.46 kg\(^{1/4}\)) and assumed to be applicable to theropod dinosaurs [43]. All masses (\( m \), \( M_{\text{body}} \) and \( m_0 \)) are expressed in kg. From this relationship, the time \( t \) at which the embryo mass reaches the expected hatching mass is considered as the total incubation time. Because the proportion of skeletal to total body mass in the embryo is not known, the mass of embryonic bone was estimated using the scaling relationship between skeletal mass (kg) and total body mass (kg) established for extant birds [49]:

\[ M_{\text{skeleton}} = 0.065 \times M_{\text{body}}^{1.071} \]  \( (6) \)

As a first approximation, the ossification process is started at day 15 of incubation, following the model of ostriches [50] that we consider to be extant dinosaur relatives that have a body mass and gross morphology comparable to those of oviraptorosaurs. From day 15 to hatching, egg temperature is linearly raised to reach +2.5°C at the end of incubation to account for the increase in metabolic heat production, as observed in both chickens (+2.3°C) and ostriches (+2.6°C [38, 39]).
For each daily step, the oxygen content of skeletal growth increment is calculated from the skeletal mass assuming that 70% of the bone is bioapatite and 30% is phosphate, and its $\delta^{18}O$ value is calculated using the phosphate water temperature scale (3) at the egg temperature. Finally, the daily water oxygen loss by evaporation is subtracted from the egg water oxygen reservoir and the subsequent $\delta^{18}O$ value of remaining water is calculated using a Rayleigh distillation process, with $\alpha$ being the liquid-vapor fractionation factor at the given temperature ($\delta^{18}O_w$ in Table S3). The model stops when the expected body mass of the hatchling is reached.
Part D. Institutional abbreviations

HGM, Henan Geological Museum, China; IGM, Institute of Geology, Mongolia; IVPP, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, China; LDNHMF, Lande Museum of Natural History, China; MPC-D, Mongolian Paleontological Center-Dinosaur, Mongolia.
Part E. Tables of measurements and results of isotopic analysis

Table S1. Length and width measurements of eggs B3, B4, C1–C3, and C12 of oviraptorid specimen LDNHMF2008.

Measurements in cm, * = egg compressed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B3</th>
<th>B4</th>
<th>C1</th>
<th>C2</th>
<th>C3</th>
<th>C12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>10.5*</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table S2. Selected measurements of adult oviraptorid skeleton in LDNHMF2008.

Measurements in cm, all are proximodistal lengths except where noted, III = phalanx of manual digit III, - = unable to measure, * = partially preserved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Radius</th>
<th>III-1</th>
<th>III-2</th>
<th>III-3</th>
<th>III-4 (ungual)</th>
<th>Ilium</th>
<th>Pubis</th>
<th>Femur</th>
<th>Tibia</th>
<th>Femur circumference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left</td>
<td></td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>5.8*</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>29.7*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table S3. Results of isotopic analyses.

Three-character letter/number combinations at left (e.g., C8E) indicate egg layer, egg number within that layer, and whether the sample in question was taken from embryonic bone (B) or eggshell (E).

SD = standard deviation; - = value not applicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>$\delta^{13}$C (% V-PDB) average</th>
<th>$\delta^{18}$O$_{CO_3}$ (% V-SMOW) average</th>
<th>$\delta^{18}$O$_{PO_4}$ (% V-SMOW) average</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C8E</td>
<td>eggshell</td>
<td>-8.68</td>
<td>21.89</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2E</td>
<td>eggshell</td>
<td>-8.78</td>
<td>21.12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2E</td>
<td>eggshell</td>
<td>-8.81</td>
<td>21.82</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3E</td>
<td>eggshell</td>
<td>-8.95</td>
<td>22.05</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2E</td>
<td>eggshell</td>
<td>-8.44</td>
<td>22.15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2B</td>
<td>embryo femur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3B</td>
<td>embryo vertebra</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8B</td>
<td>embryo metatarsal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part F. References for Supplementary material


