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The first dinosaur egg from the Lower Cretaceous of Western Siberia, Russia

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Abstract

© 2017 Informa UK Limited, trading as Taylor & Francis Group The Lower Cretaceous Ilek Formation in Western Siberia (Russia) has yielded various vertebrate fossils, including skeletal remains of dinosaurs. Here we report on a fragmentary theropod egg from the vertebrate locality Shestakovo 3 of the Ilek Formation in Kemerovo Province. We assign the specimen to the oogenus *Prismatoolithus* (oofamily Prismatoolithidae) as *Prismatoolithus ilekensis* oosp. nov., on the basis of the following unique combination of characters: ovoid-shaped egg; thin eggshell 300–330 µm thick; angustiprismatic morphotype; eggshell with three different layers; gradual transition between mammillary layer and prismatic layer; abrupt contact between prismatic layer and external layer; mammillary layer to prismatic layer to external layer thickness ratio is 1:3:0.6; prismatic layer with ill-defined squamatic texture; angusticanaliculate pore system; and smooth outer surface. Like other Early Cretaceous *Prismatoolithus*, the egg of *Prismatoolithus ilekensis* oosp. nov. was laid by a small bodied theropod dinosaur (troodontid or primitive bird) and this taxonomic attribution is supported by results of our phylogenetic analysis. *Prismatoolithus ilekensis* oosp. nov. is the first Early Cretaceous ootaxon from Russia. urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:734EAD40-86C3-488B-A61E-B5FF7378BC0E

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Keywords

Early Cretaceous, Fossil eggs, Ilek Formation, Russia, Theropoda