- 1 The first lizard fossil (Reptilia: Squamata) from the Mesozoic of South Korea
- Jin-Young Park^{a, b}, Susan E. Evans^c, Min Huh^{b*} 2
- 3 ^a Paleontological Consultants for the Public (PCP) Headquarters, 808 Ho, 203 Dong, Hyundai Apt.,
- 4 Hongeun 2-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 120-772, Republic of Korea
- ^b Faculty of Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences & Korea Dinosaur Research Center, 5
- 6 Chonnam National University, Gwangju 500-757, Republic of Korea
- 7 ^c Research Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, Anatomy Building, UCL, University
- 8 College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK
- 9 * Corresponding Author: (e-mail) minhuh@chonnam.ac.kr

10 Abstract

- 11 Late Cretaceous deposits in Mongolia, Chinese Inner Mongolia, and, more recently, southern China,
- 12 have yielded a rich and diverse lizard assemblage. Here we describe the remains of a new terrestrial
- 13 lizard, Asprosaurus bibongria gen. et sp. nov., from the Late Cretaceous of South Korea. It represents
- 14 the first record of a Mesozoic lizard from the Korean Peninsula and, although incomplete, is
- 15 exceptional in its very large size. Characters of the mandible place support attribution to Anguimorpha,
- 16 with the closest similarities being to monstersaurs, the group represented today by the venomous
- 17 North American Beaded lizards and Gila Monsters, genus Heloderma. This group is well-represented
- 18 in the Late Cretaceous of eastern Asia, and the remains of large monstersaurs have been recovered
- 19 from several dinosaur egg localities, suggesting dietary preferences similar to those of the living
- 20 genus. The new Korean lizard, recovered from the Boseong Bibong-ri Dinosaur Egg Site, fits the
- 21 same pattern.
- 22 Key words: Squamata - lizard - Late Cretaceous - Anguimorpha - Monstersauria - Dinosaur eggs
- 23 1. Introduction
- 24 Cretaceous nonmarine deposits are well exposed along the southern coast of South Korea, and many
- 25 fossil sites have been reported from these deposits (e.g., Dong et al., 2001; Lee et al., 2001; Lim et al.,
- 26 2001; Yun and Yang, 2001; Hwang et al., 2002; Huh et al., 2003; Yun et al., 2004; Kim et al., 2005;
- 27 Lee and Lee, 2007; Huh et al., 2011). Boseong Bibong-ri Dinosaur Egg Site, located in Bibong-ri,
- Deungnyang-myeon, Boseong-gun, Jeollanam-do, is one of the richest localities for dinosaur eggs in 28
- 29 South Korea (Huh et al., 1999a; 1999b; Huh and Zelenitsky, 2002; Paik et al., 2004; Huh et al., 2006;
- 30 Paik et al., 2012; Huh et al., 2013) (Fig. 1). It was first excavated in 1999 and has yielded various

specimens including dinosaur eggs (more than 200 individuals), a possible testudine egg (Huh and Zelenitsky, 2002), and body fossils of a small ornithopod dinosaur, *Koreanosaurus boseongensis* (Huh et al., 2011) (Fig. 2), Five separate fossiliferous sites have been reported from the area (Huh et al., 2006) (Fig. 1, C), and the dinosaur egg clutches appear in at least four separate layers at all five sites (Fig. 2). Although egg fossils are abundant, vertebrate body fossils are rare in this area.

In 2000, an associated vertebrate body fossil (Fig. 3) was collected from site 1 (Fig. 2), and was temporally classified as testudine (Huh et al., 2006). However, preparation and re-examination has shown this specimen to be a large lizard (Squamata). It is named, described and discussed herein, and represents the first Mesozoic lizard fossil recorded from the Korean Peninsula.

2. Geological setting and materials

The rock units that form the Boseong Bibong-ri Dinosaur Egg Site are epiclastic, pyroclastic, and intermediate to acidic volcanic rocks. They can be divided into the Seonso Conglomerate, Seonso Formation, Pilbong Rhyolite, Mudeungsan Flow, Obongsan Brecciated Tuff, and Docheonri Rhyolite, in stratigraphic order (Hwang and Cheong, 1968; Huh et al., 1999a; Paik et al., 2004; Huh et al., 2006). The dinosaur egg-bearing layers, the Seonso Conglomerate and the overlying Seonso Formation, are primarily clastic, and are composed of conglomerates, sandstones, and mudstones (Huh et al., 1999a; Paik et al., 2004; Huh et al., 2006) (Fig. 2). Isotope analysis of the overlying Seonso Ashflow Tuff and the underlying Pilbong Rhyolite, suggests that the fossil-bearing deposits are Santonian to Campanian in age (e.g., Huh et al., 2006; Kim, 2008; Kim et al., 2008).

Palynological records and the common development of palaeosols within the layers (Fig. 2), indicates that the paleoenvironment of this area was warm and dry (Choi, 1985; Paik and Kim, 1995; Paik et al., 1997; Paik and Lee, 1998; Paik et al., 2004). The abundance of channel deposits with erosive bases suggests that a fluvial system was involved during the formation of this area (Paik et al., 2004) (Fig. 2).

The associated body fossil (Fig. 3), described in this paper, was collected during the first excavation period in 2000, from site 1 (Fig. 2), which is located in the most southern part of the Boseong Bibong-ri Dinosaur Egg Site (Fig. 1, C). The specimen was in situ, preserved in a thick purple sandy mudstone layer between a lower cross-laminated coarse grained sandstone horizon and an upper horizon consisting channel lag gravels (Fig. 2). No other fossils were collected from the same horizon, but dinosaur egg clutches were excavated from above and below the specimen (Fig. 2).

- Preliminary preparation work was done during 2000, with minor additional preparation from 2005 to
- 62 2010. The final preparation work (2012-2013) was done by the first author.
- 63 3. Systematic paleontology
- 64 **Squamata** Oppel, 1811
- 65 **Anguimorpha** Fürbringer, 1900
- 66 cf **Monstersauria** Norell and Gao, 1997
- 67 Asprosaurus bibongria gen. et sp. nov.
- 68 **3.1 Derivation of name**
- 69 'aspros', meaning 'white' in Greek (since the specimen is white in color), 'saurus', meaning 'lizard' in
- Latin, and 'bibongri', from the type locality where the holotype was found.
- 71 **3.2 Holotype**
- 72 KDRC-BB4 (Korea Dinosaur Research Center Boseong Bone fossil Catalogue Number), an
- associated specimen, originally on a single block (Fig. 3) but with each element now prepared out and
- comprising a right jugal, partial squamosal, partial left quadrate, left pterygoid, partial left mandible,
- 75 left scapulocoracoid, left humerus, a metacarpal, part of a rib or clavicle, and several unidentified
- bone fragments.
- 77 3.3 Type Locality
- From Site 1, southern coast of Seonso Village, Bibong-ri, Boseong County, Chollanam-do Province,
- South Korea (north latitude : $34^{\circ} 40' \sim 34^{\circ} 50'$, east longitude : $127^{\circ} 00' \sim 127^{\circ} 15'$).
- 80 **3.4 Stratigraphic horizon**
- From the Upper Cretaceous (?Santonian Campanian) Seonso Conglomerate.
- 82 3.5 Diagnosis
- 83 A very large, robust-limbed, terrestrial lizard (skull length ~180-200mm) resembling monstersaurian
- and varaniform anguimorphs (sensu Conrad et al., 2011a) in having a deep, almost vertical dentary
- 85 alveolar margin with no subdental shelf; a Meckelian fossa that is anteroventrally positioned; a small
- adductor fossa; no posterodorsal coronoid process on the dentary; a reduced splenial-dentary contact;
- 87 and a splenial that does not extend posterior to the apex of the coronoid process. Differs from
- 88 previously described Asian Late Cretaceous anguimorph lizards including Cherminotus, Chianghsia,
- 89 Estesia, Gobiderma, Ovöo, Paravaranus, Parviderma, Proplatynotia, Saniwides, and Telmasaurus in
- 90 the combination of a strongly angulated jugal in which the postorbital process is wider than the

suborbital process; a complete postorbital bar; a concave medial margin to the pterygoid palatal plate; a straight dentary-postdentary contact but no intramandibular joint; a posteriorly shallow, rather than triangular, splenial; no cranial osteoderms; and a convexo-concave ventral jaw margin.

3.6 Description

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

The specimen was recovered as a close association of disarticulated elements (Fig. 3). Given the rarity of body fossils in the deposit, we can be confident that the bones belong to a single individual. Some bones, like the left pterygoid, left scapulocoracoid, left humerus, and a metacarpal are well-preserved. Other bones are more fragmentary and there was further damage during preparation, before the specimen was identified as a lizard. The individual was clearly adult, as evidenced by: closed mandibular sutures; humeral epiphyses fused to the shaft; strong humeral rugosities and muscle attachment sites; and closed scapulocoracoid suture.

3.6.1 Cranial

The skull is represented by a jugal, squamosal, partial quadrate, pterygoid, and mandible, all but the jugal are apparently from the left side of the individual.

The jugal (Fig. 4) is a laterally flattened, biradiate bone, the two rami of which are set at almost 90° to one another. One ramus is broad and mediolaterally flattened. It bears a deep medial facet at its distal end (Fig. 4, B), although this was damaged during preparation. The other ramus is narrower and rounded to triangular in cross-section. It bears a narrow facet along the external (non-orbital) surface. As originally preserved, it was obviously longer. Photographs of the original block (Fig. 3) show there was a short distal section separated from the remainder by a small space. By comparison with other Asian anguimorphs like Gobiderma and Estesia, this bone, in external view, has the appearance of a left jugal, with a deep suborbital ramus and a long, tapering postorbital one. However, the positions of the facets are not consistent with that interpretation, particularly the large deep facet on the internal surface of the broader ramus. The facet for the maxilla and/or for the ectopterygoid would be ventral not dorsal. We therefore interpret the bone as a right jugal, such that the narrow ramus is suborbital with a long narrow ventral facet for the maxilla. If this is correct, then the jugal may have excluded the maxilla from the suborbital margin, but is likely to have been confined to its dorsal rim. The broader, mediolaterally compressed ramus formed the postorbital margin, with the dorsomedial facet receiving a flange from the postorbital or postorbitofrontal. There is no additional posterior facet and it is unlikely that the jugal and squamosal were in contact. The postorbital ramus

bears a dorsolateral concavity, but this does not appear to represent an articulation surface. Posteroventrally, the bone terminates in a rounded angle. This is relatively smooth laterally, but bears a posteromedial rugosity that may have been associated with the lateral head of the ectopterygoid or a thickening of the temporal fascia.

A slender, curved and mediolaterally compressed rod-like element is interpreted as the posterior part of a squamosal (Fig. 5, A), probably the left. The bone has the classic 'hockey-stick' shape found in many lizards with the downcurved tip meeting the dorsal head of the guadrate.

The quadrate may be represented by the ventral part of a robust shaft and narrower articular surface (Fig. 5, B, C). The dorsal tympanic crest has been lost, but from traces of the lateral conch, this appears also to be a left bone. A large concavity is present on the medial side, presumably for muscle attachment.

The left pterygoid (Fig. 5, D, E) is relatively well-preserved. It has a wide, flat, palatine plate that appears triangular but is broken anteriorly. The medial border of the palatal plate bears a conspicuous emargination, adding to the posterior breadth of the interpterygoid vacuity. Laterally, the palatal plate tapers into a facetted process that articulated with the ectopterygoid. As preserved, the palatal surface appears smooth, but unfortunately the anterior edge is eroded, so it is impossible to know whether pterygoid teeth were present. Posteriorly, the plate narrows, meeting the quadrate ramus at a fairly sharp angle. The articular surface for the basipterygoid process of the basisphenoid lies at the medial point of the angulation. Dorsal to it, the bone bears a narrow, elongated pit for the epipterygoid (fossa columellae). The quadrate process itself is straight and narrow, with a triangular cross-section. A longitudinal ventral groove accommodated part of the pterygoideus muscle. The strong angulation of the palatal plate in relation to the quadrate process suggests the interpterygoid vacuity may have been quite wide.

As preserved, the left mandible (Fig. 6) is relatively long and slender. It has a somewhat sigmoid shape, due to the pronounced posteroventral concavity and an apparent reduction in posterior height. The individual elements are in articulation but the bones have separated slightly at the sutures, suggesting these were not fully closed at death. The dentary tapers slightly from posterior to anterior. The anterior part is lost and it is difficult to judge the original length. The alveolar margin is represented by a deep, almost vertical surface with no subdental shelf or ridge (Fig. 6, C). However, no teeth are preserved nor are tooth positions evident. Either this region was originally edentulous or

the tooth sockets were shallow and their edges have been eroded. Laterally, there are no neurovascular foramina on this portion of the bone. Medially, the posterior part of the Meckelian fossa is filled by a splenial, which tapers postero-anteriorly and has a small exposure on the anterolateral surface (Fig. 6, C), indicating that the Meckelian fossa was more ventral than medial in its anterior part. Towards its anterior end, the dorsal margin of the splenial is emarginated by a long low notch, interpreted here as the margin of an anterior inferior alveolar foramen lying between the splenial and dentary. If this is correct, it is likely that there was originally a significant length of dentary anterior to this point. Ventral, and slightly posterior to this emargination the splenial bears an ovoid depression which may represent the anterior mylohyoid foramen. There is a relatively wide gap between the dorsal margin of the splenial and the dentary, suggesting connective tissue attachment in life, Posteriorly, the splenial overlaps the angular, surangular, and coronoid, but does not extend to the level of the coronoid apex and it lacks the strongly triangular shape seen in some monstersaurs (e.g. Heloderma, Gobiderma) (Fig. 6, C). This could be due to damage, but it is not obviously so. The dentary-postdentary overlap is not extensive, and the lateral suture between the dentary and surangular is almost vertical, but slightly imbricated (Fig. 6, A). However, there was not an intramandibular joint. Where the dentary and surangular have pulled apart slightly, it is clear that a flange from the surangular passed medial to the dentary, but it is not possible to judge how far this reached anteriorly. There is no posterodorsal dentary coronoid process. The coronoid itself is preserved in its antero- and posteroventral parts, although the coronoid process is broken through its base. The anterior and posterior rami are roughly equal in length. The coronoid lies entirely medial to the surangular, but its articulation with the dentary is a little more complex. The surangular and dentary meet lateral to the coronoid but the posterodorsal margin of the dentary turns through an angle of almost 90 degrees to the long axis of the surangular, forming a distinct 'corner' into which the anterolateral edge of the coronoid fits (Fig. 6, B). At this point, therefore, the coronoid abuts the dentary. However, an anterior flange of the coronoid overlaps the medial surface of the dentary just behind the alveolar margin. Thus the coronoid both abuts and clasps the posterodorsal end of the dentary. Seen in medial view, however (Fig. 6, C), only the overlap is apparent. The coronoid posteroventral process extends from the dorsal margin of the surangular to the edge of the small mandibular fossa. The angular is long and thin, with a relatively narrow exposure on both the medial and lateral surfaces of the mandible. Medially, it lies below the prearticular, which forms the ventral

151

152

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170

171

172

173

174

175

176

177

178

179

margin of the mandibular fossa. The surface of the angular is damaged but seems to be pierced laterally at the level of the dentary-surangular suture. This may be a posterior mylohyoid foramen.

The original photographs show no evidence of associated osteoderms, but without the skull roof bones (frontal, parietal) we cannot be certain whether they were originally completely absent.

3.6.2 Postcranial skeleton

The postcranial skeleton is represented by a left scapulocoracoid and humerus, as well as a single metapodial element and a curved element that may have been a rib or clavicle.

The left scapulocoracoid (Fig. 8, A, B) is broad and relatively flat with a large posterolateral glenoid fossa. The two components are completely fused, although a trace of the suture is visible medially (note that there is also a deep crack across the bone ventral to the real suture line). The coracoid plate is perforated by a large coracoid foramen. Ventromedially, it is moderately expanded and bears a curved posterior extension (metacoracoid process). This margin is thickened and, in life, would have supported the epicoracoid cartilage. Further anteriorly, the bone is thinner and partially damaged (but see below). The scapula component is relatively short with a wide, rugose dorsal margin that would have been continued in life by the cartilage suprascapula. Overall, as is typical, the scapulocoracoid is thickest along the posterior margin and thins anteriorly. The anterior margin is damaged in part, but there is certainly a scapulocoracoid emargination. A thickening at the level of the scapulocoracoid suture (base of the procoracoid process) separates the scapulocoracoid emargination from a second emargination at the level of the coracoid foramen (anterior coracoid emargination). This, in turn, is limited anteroventrally by a second thickening, below which the bone appears to thin again. However, it is not clear whether there is an accessory coracoid emargination at this position.

On the original block (Fig. 3), a curved bone lies close to the dorsal border of the scapula. Only one half of the bone is preserved, but the impression on the matrix appears to become wider. This could be a rib, but the difference in the width of the two ends suggests it may be a clavicle.

The left humerus (Fig. 7) is generally well-preserved, although parts of the distal condylar surfaces are missing. The epiphyses are fully fused. Overall, the bone is robust with strong muscle attachment crests and rugosities. The broad proximal and distal ends are set at almost 90° to one another and are separated by a relatively short, narrow shaft. The shaft is straight and sub-cylindrical in cranial view, and is slightly curved anteriorly in lateral view. The proximal and distal ends are both

about 40 mm in width. At the proximal end, there is a screw-shaped surface for articulation with the glenoid cavity. Close to it, and pointing slightly laterally, is a strong area of attachment for the subcoracoscapularis muscle. On the opposite side, a prominent deltopectoral crest curves slightly interiorly, forming a deep proximal concavity. At the distal end of the bone, a deep concavity, widest distally, separates the ectepicondyle and entepicondyle. An ectepicondylar foramen is visible in superior view (Fig. 7, C).

One metapodial element is preserved. From its size and length, it is probably a metacarpal (Fig. 8, C). The bone is slender, with proximal and distal expansions.

3.7 Remarks

Few of the described Late Cretaceous Asian taxa preserve forelimb elements to compare with the very robust humerus of *Asprosaurus*. However, the scapulocoracoid resembles that of *Gobiderma* and differs from *Heloderma* in having both scapulocoracoid and anterior coracoid emarginations, but differs from *Gobiderma* in that the scapula component is shorter and of similar width throughout (dorsally expanded in *Gobiderma*). *Asprosaurus* is also substantially larger than any Late Cretaceous terrestrial lizard described to date, although size should be used with caution in diagnosis, particularly with monotypic specimens. Based on jaw, pterygoid and jugal proportions, the skull of *Asprosaurus* is estimated to have been ~180-200 mm in length. This compares to those of the largest Asian Cretaceous anguimorphs currently known, *Gobiderma* (~60mm, Conrad et al., 2011b), *Telmasaurus* (~55-70mm, Conrad et al., 2011b), *Estesia* (~125mm, Conrad et al., 2011b) and *Chianghsia* (175-180mm, Mo et al., 2012).

4. Phylogenetic position

KDRC-BB4 represents parts of a single, mature reptile skeleton (fused scapulocoracoid components, humeral epiphyses fused to shaft) that was large and terrestrial (robust humerus with powerful muscle crests). The morphology of the scapulocoracoid (fused components, emarginated anterior margin) and the slender curved squamosal identify this as a squamate, not a testudine as originally proposed. Within squamates, the deep dentary alveolar margin with no subdental shelf is suggestive, even without the teeth, of the kind of modified pleurodonty (Zaher and Rieppel, 1999) found in anguimorphs (Conrad, 2008; Conrad et al., 2011a; 2011b; Gauthier et al., 2012). Other features of the mandible, including the reduced mandibular fossa, anteroventral Meckelian canal, and shortened splenial are consistent with this attribution.

In order to explore the phylogenetic position of *Asprosaurus*, we coded it into two recent morphological data matrices - that of Conrad et al. (2011b) and of Gauthier et al. (2012).

Gauthier et al. (2012) represents the largest morphological character matrix to date (610 characters; 192 taxa). As they ran their analysis using PAUP, we used the same programme, with their ordering of characters. A heuristic search yielded 179 equally parsimonious trees (L=5196; Cl=0.187; RC=0.148), of which a strict consensus placed *Asprosaurus* in an unresolved polytomy with *Lanthanotus*, *Saniwa*, *Varanus* (3 species), *Heloderma* (2 species), and *Aiolosaurus*, *Estesia* and then *Gobiderma* were placed as consecutive outgroups to this clade. We then ran a Branch and Bound analysis with 15 taxa (the 11 listed above + *Shinisaurus*, *Xenosaurus*, *Elgaria* and *Anniella*, the latter three as a monophyletic outgroup). This second analysis resulted in six trees (L=520; Cl=0.621; RC=0.38), in which *Asprosaurus* moved between a helodermatid clade (2 trees) and a varanid clade (4 trees). Its position in both the strict consensus and an Adam's consensus was therefore unresolved with respect to these two positions, although a Bootstrap analysis gave weak (56%) support to a relationship with varanids.

However, extensive though the Gauthier et al. (2012) matrix is, it included few of the fragmentary Late Cretaceous anguimorph taxa that cluster around *Heloderma* and *Varanus* in other analyses (e.g., Conrad, 2008). We therefore coded *Asprosaurus* into the anguimorph matrix of Conrad et al. (2011a), adding the genus *Chianghsia* (Mo et al., 2012) from southern China and using *Gephryosaurus*, rather than *Sphenodon* (which was omitted) as outgroup, but otherwise using their characters and ordering. This analysis was run with the programme TNT, using the New Technology search with Ratchet (20 iterations, 1000 random addition sequences), followed by a Traditional search using the trees from the Ratchet search as starting trees. The Ratchet analysis yielded two trees (L=1315) which were then used as starting trees for a Traditional Search. This second analysis produced 72000 trees for which we generated Strict Consensus, Combinable Component Consensus, and 70% Majority Rule Consensus trees. In the Strict and Combinable component trees, *Asprosaurus* was placed in an unresolved position within a clade comprising monstersaurs and varaniforms. In the 70% MRT (Fig. 9), it lay within Monstersauria (sensu Conrad et al., 2011a; 2011b), one node crownward of *Gobiderma*. However, a bootstrap analysis did not recover this topology.

5. Discussion

5.1 Phylogenetic position

The phylogenetic analyses described above confirm the squamate affinities of *Asprosaurus* and its placement within Anguimorpha (Gauthier et al., 2012 matrix analysis). There is no support for a relationship with anguids or their fossil relatives (Anguioidea), but the position of *Asprosaurus* in relation to the clades centred on *Heloderma* and *Varanus* remains ambiguous. This is partly due to the fragmentary nature of the material, but it also mirrors a wider controversy as to the relationships of *Heloderma* within Anguimorpha.

271

272

273

274

275

276

277

278

279

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289

290

291

292

293

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

Most recent cladistic analyses of squamates, whether morphology-only (e.g., Conrad, 2008; Gauthier et al., 2012), molecular (e.g., Townsend et al., 2004; Vidal and Hedges, 2005, 2009; Pyron et al., 2012), or combined data (e.g., Wiens et al., 2010; Conrad et al. 2011a,b), recognize five main clades of living Anguimorpha: Anguidae, Xenosaurus, Shinisaurus, Heloderma and Varanidae (Varanus+Lanthanotus). There is general agreement that Xenosaurus is more closely related to Anguidae than to Varanidae (e.g., Conrad, 2008; Conrad et al., 2011a; 2011b; Pyron et al., 2012; Wiens et al., 2010; 2012; Jones et al., 2014), providing a dichotomy between anguioid (Anguidae+Xenosaurus) and varanid anguimorphs, but there are significant differences in the hypothesized relationships of both Heloderma and Shinisaurus. The traditional classification, based on morphological characters (e.g., Estes et al., 1988; Lee, 1997; Caldwell, 1999; Conrad, 2008; Conrad et al., 2011a; Gauthier et al., 2012) places Heloderma as the sister group of Varanidae (=Varanoidea, Gauthier et al., 2012). However, molecular analyses (e.g., Townsend et al., 2004; Vidal and Hedges, 2005; 2009; Wiens et al., 2012; Pyron et al., 2012; Jones et al., 2014) have consistently found Heloderma to be the sister taxon to Anguioidea, a position also proposed in the pioneering work of Camp (1923). Combined morphology-molecular analyses have also tended to support this arrangement (e.g., Wiens et al., 2010), although that of Conrad et al. (2011a) yielded the traditional topology when based only on extant taxa and the 'molecular' topology when fossils were included. Shinisaurus is similarly problematic. Estes et al. (1988) grouped Shinisaurus and Xenosaurus in the Xenosauridae, a position supported by Gauthier et al. (2012). However, molecular analyses (e.g., Townsend et al., 2004; Vidal and Hedges, 2005; Pyron et al., 2012; Wiens et al., 2012; Jones et al., 2014) have consistently placed Shinisaurus closer to Varanidae, as did the morphology-based analysis of Conrad (2008), and the morphology-based, molecular, and combined evidence analyses of Conrad et al. (2011a: but see Conrad et al., 2011b).

These differences impact on the placement of fossil taxa. Anguimorpha is well represented in the

Late Cretaceous, particularly in China and Mongolia (e.g., Borsuk-Bialynicka, 1984; Gao and Norell, 1998; Conrad et al, 2011a; 2011b). Some of these fossil taxa group consistently with Anguidae (e.g., glyptosaurs), Xenosaurus (= Carusioidea, sensu Conrad et al., 2011a), Shinisaurus (=Shinisauria, sensu Conrad, 2008), Heloderma (=Monstersauria sensu Norell and Gao, 1997, emend. Conrad et al., 2011a; 2011b, but see Gauthier et al., 2012) and Varanidae (=Varaniformes, sensu Conrad, 2008; Conrad et al., 2011a). However, the placement of other taxa (e.g., Proplatynotia, Parviderma, Paraderma, Palaeosaniwa, Necrosaurus) is less resolved and tends to vary with that of the major clades (e.g., Conrad et al. 2011a; 2011b; Gauthier et al., 2012). Heloderma and varanids share many characters (e.g., of tooth morphology and implantation, jaw morphology). Under the traditional classification, these characters were regarded as synapomorphies of 'Varanoidea' and could support inclusion of a fossil within that clade. However, if Heloderma and varanids belong to different branches of Anguimorpha, then these characters have arisen convergently and are less informative. This is relevant to placement of Asprosaurus. It possesses a suite of characters (no subdental shelf, dentary with no post-coronoid process, dentary with convex ventral margin, splenial not reaching posterior to coronoid apex, dentary contributing to dorsal margin of anterior inferior alveolar foramen) that would support its attribution to Varanoidea (sensu Gauthier et al., 2012), as in the strict consensus trees described above, but could equally support a relationship to either Monstersauria or Varaniformes (sensu Conrad, 2008; Conrad et al., 2011a; 2011b).

301

302

303

304

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322

323

324

325

326

327

328

329

330

For *Asprosaurus*, other characters are contradictory, and the absence of teeth further complicates discussion. Like varaniforms, *Asprosaurus* lacks thick pentagonal osteoderms, but it differs in having a strongly angular jugal, a coronoid lacking a long horizontal anterodorsal ramus and posterior displacement of the coronoid process, and an anteriorly expanded surangular. With monstersaurs like *Heloderma* and *Gobiderma*, *Asprosaurus* shares a strongly angulated jugal, straight posterior dentary margin, and convex-concave ventral profile of the mandible, but it lacks their short triangular splenial, enclosure of the anterior inferior alveolar foramen within the splenial (Conrad et al., 2011b), and the characteristic thick osteoderms. In the latter character state, it more closely resembles *Estesia* (Norell et al., 1996; Norell and Gao, 1998), another Mongolian genus usually placed with monstersaurs (but see Yi and Norell, 2010).

On balance, *Asprosaurus* appears to be morphologically closer to monstersaurs (whatever their affinity) than to varaniforms, but further material - especially of the dentition, is needed to test this.

5.2 Life history

More than 200 individual dinosaur egg specimens have been collected from the Boseong Bi-bong ri Dinosaur egg site, including the ootaxa *Spheroolithus* (possible hadrosauroid eggs) and *Faveoloolithus* (possible sauropod eggs) (Huh and Zelenitsky, 2002). Both *Heloderma* and *Varanus* take the eggs of birds and other reptiles. Although there are no direct evidence of nest raiding, other large Cretaceous anguimorphs, such as *Palaeosaniwa* (Judith River, Montana), *Estesia* (Lizard Hill, Khulsan South Gobi Aimak, Mongolia), and *Chianghsia* (Nankang, China), have been found in direct proximity to dinosaur egg sites (Gilmore, 1928; Norell et al., 1992; Mo et al., 2012). As *Asprosaurus* was recovered from a similar type of locality (Huh et al., 2006) (Fig. 1), it may also have been a nest raider. The robust scapulocoracoid (Fig. 8, A, B) and the large proximal crests on the humerus (Fig. 7) suggest that *Asprosaurus* had powerful forelimb limb muscles, possibly as an adaptation for digging into nests.

6. Conclusion

Specimen KDRC-BB4 is reclassified from testudine to anguimorph squamate, and is named as a new taxon, *Asprosaurus bibongria* gen. et sp. nov. *Asprosaurus* is the first lizard fossil recorded from South Korea and the largest Mesozoic terrestrial lizard known to date. Its phylogenetic position in relation to the extant *Heloderma* and *Varanus* remains uncertain, but this partially reflects a wider uncertainty with respect to the ingroup relationships of Anguimorpha. *Asprosaurus* provides another example of a large predatory lizard found in proximity to a dinosaur egg site.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Prof. Ren Hirayama, Waseda University, Japan; Dr. Tai Kubo and Mr. Masateru Shibata, Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum, Japan; Mr. Tetsuto Miyasita, University of Alberta, Canada; Mr. Caio Geroto of the Universidade Estadual Paulista, Brazil, for valuable suggestions and information. Mr. Tae-Won Lee, Hanguk Life Science Museum, South Korea, provided access to comparative material of extant reptiles. The authors are grateful to all staff members of the Boseong Dinosaur Egg Site Research Project from 1999 to 2003 for their field work, and especially to Dr. Hyun Joo Kim for the excellent fossil preparation work during the project. This research was supported by the Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), funded by the Ministry of Education [grant number 2013R1A1A2061021].

References

- 361 Borsuk-Bialynicka, M., 1984. Anguimorphans and related lizards from the Late Cretaceous of the Gobi
- Desert, Mongolia. Palaeontologia Polonica 46, 5-105.
- 363 Caldwell, M.W., 1998. Squamate phylogeny and the relationships of snakes and mosasauroids.
- Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society 125, 115-147.
- Camp, C.L., 1923. Classification of the lizards. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History 48,
- 366 289-481.
- 367 Choi, D.K., 1985. Spores and pollen from the Gyeongsang Supergroup, southeastern Korea and their
- 368 chronologic and paleoecologic implications. Journal of Paleontological Society of Korea 1, 33-50
- 369 (in Korean).
- Conrad, J.L., 2008. Phylogeny and systematics of Squamata (Reptilia) based on morphology. Bulletin
- of the American Museum of Natural History 310, 182pp.
- Conrad, J.L., Ast, J.C., Montanari, S., Norell, M.A., 2011a. A combined evidence phylogenetic analysis
- of Anguimorpha (Reptilia: Squamata). Cladistics 27, 230-277.
- 374 Conrad, J.L., Rieppel, O., Gauthier, J.A., Norell, M.A., 2011b. Osteology of Gobiderma pulchrum
- 375 (Monstersauria, Lepidosauria, Reptilia). Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History 362,
- 376 **1-88**.
- Dong, Z.M., Paik, I.S., Kim, H.J., 2001. A preliminary report on a sauropod from the Hasandong
- Formation (Lower Cretaceous), Korea, in: Deng, T., Wang, Y. (Eds.), Proceedings of the 8th Annual
- Meeting of the Chinese Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. China Ocean Press, Beijing, pp. 41-53.
- Estes, R., De Queiroz, K., Gauthier, J., 1988. Phylogenetic relationships within Squamata, in: Estes,
- R., Pregill, G. (Eds.), Phylogenetic relationships of the lizard families. Stanford University Press,
- 382 Stanford, pp. 119-281.
- Evans, S. E., 2008. The skull of lizards and Tuatara, in: Gans, C., Gaunt, A.S., Adler, K. (Eds.),
- Biology of the Reptilia, Vol.20 (The skull of Lepidosauria). Society for the Study of Amphibians and
- Reptiles, Ithaca, New York. pp. 1-347.
- Fürbringer, M., 1900. Beitrag zur Systematik und Genealogie der reptilien. Jenaischen Zeitschrift für
- 387 Naturwissenschaften 34, 596-682.
- 388 Gao, K., Norell, M.A., 2000. Taxonomic composition and systematics of late Cretaceous lizard
- assemblages from Ukhaa Tolgod and adjacent localities, Mongolian Gobi Desert. American
- Museum of Natural History Bulletin 249, 1-118.

- 391 Gauthier, J., Kearney, M., Maisano, J.A., Rieppel, O., Behlke, A.D.B., 2012. Assembling the
- 392 squamate Tree of Life: perspectives from the phenotype and the fossil record. Bulletin of the
- 393 Peabody Museum of Natural History 53, 3-308.
- 394 Gilmore, C.W., 1928. Fossil lizards of North America. Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences
- 395 22(3), 1-201.
- 396 Huh, M., Zelenitsky, D.K., 2002. Rich dinosaur nesting site from the Cretaceous of Bosung county,
- 397 Chullanam-do province, South Korea. Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology 22, 716-718.
- Huh, M., Paik, I.S., Lee, Y.I., Kim, H.K., 1999a. A basic research report on the Bosung Dinosaur Egg
- 399 Site, Korea. -102pp. Korea Dinosaur Research Center of Chonnam National University and
- 400 Boseong-gun County (in Korean).
- 401 Huh, M., Paik, I.S., Lee, Y.I., Kim, H.K., 1999b. Dinosaur Eggs and Nests from Bosung, Chullanam-do.
- Journal of the Geological Society of Korea.35, 229-232 (in Korean).
- Huh, M., Hwang, K.G., Paik, I.S., Chung, C.H., Kim, B.S., 2003. Dinosaur tracks from the Cretaceous
- 404 of South Korea: distribution, occurrences and paleobiological significance. The Island Arc 12, 132-
- 405 144.
- Huh M., Paik, I.S., Lee, Y.I., Park, K.H., 2006. A Research Report on the Boseong Dinosaur Egg Site,
- Korea (II). 229pp. Korea Dinosaur Research Center of Chonnam National University and Boseong-
- 408 gun County (in Korean).
- Huh, M., Lee, D.-G., Kim, J.-K., Lim, J.-D., Godefroit, Pascal., 2011. A new basal ornithopod dinosaur
- from the Upper Cretaceous of South Korea. Neues Jahrbuch fur Geologie und Palaeontologie,
- 411 Abhandlungen 259, 1-24.
- Huh, M., Park, J.-Y., Woo, Y., 2013. Gas containing hollow dinosaur egg fossil from the Late
- Cretaceous Seonso Conglomerate of South Korea. Abstract book of 2013 Earth Science Tecnology
- 414 symposium. Geological Society of Korea.p. 326 (English abstract).
- Hwang, I.J., Cheong, C.S., 1968. Explanatory text of the geological map of Boseong sheet (1:50,000).
- Geological Survey of Korea, 9 pp (in Korean).
- Hwang, G.K., Huh, M., Lockley, M.G., Unwin, D.M., Wright, J.L., 2002. New pterosaur tracks
- 418 (Pteranichnidae) from the Late Cretaceous Uhangri Formation, south-western Korea. Geological
- 419 Magazine 139, 421-435.

- Jones, M.E.H., Anderson, C.L., Hipsley, C.A., Müller, J., Evans, S.E., Schoch, R.S., 2013. Integration
- of molecules and new fossils supports a Triassic origin for Lepidosauria (lizards, snakes, and
- 422 tuatara). BMC Evolutionary Biology 13, 208, doi:10.1186/1471-2148-13-208.
- 423 Kim. C.-B., 2008. The K-Ar age of the volcanic pebbles in Lake Shiwa Formation and its geological
- 424 implication. Journal of the Geological Society of Korea 44, 399-408 (in Korean, English abstract).
- 425 Kim. C.-B., Kim, J.M., Huh, M., 2008. Age and stratification of dinosaur eggs and cluches from
- 426 Seonso Formation, South Korea. The Journal of the Korean Earth Science Society 29, 386-395 (in
- 427 Korean).
- 428 Kim, H.M., Gishlick, A.D., Tsuihiji, T., 2005. The first non-avian maniraptoran skeletal remains from the
- Lower Cretaceous of Korea. Cretaceous Research 26, 299-306.
- 430 Lee, M.S.Y., 1997. The phylogeny of varanoid lizards and the affinities of snakes. Philosophical
- Transactions of the Royal Society of London B Biological Sciences 352, 53-91.
- 432 Lee, M.S.Y., 2000. Soft anatomy, diffuse homoplasy, and the relationships of lizards and snakes. Zool.
- 433 Scripta 29, 101-130.
- 434 Lee. Y.-N., Lee, H.-J., 2007. The first ornithopod tooth in Korea. Journal of Paleontological Society of
- Korea 23, 213-225 (in Korean, English abstract).
- Lee, Y.-N., Yu, K.-M., Wood, C.B., 2001. A review of vertebrate faunas from the Gyeongsang
- Supergroup (Cretaceous) in South Korea, Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology
- 438 165, 357-373.
- Lim, J.D., Martin, L.D., Baek, K.S., 2001. The first discovery of a brachiosaurid from the Asian
- continent. Naturwissenschaften 88, 82-84.
- 441 Mo, J.-Y., Xu, X., Evans, S.E., 2012. A large predatory lizard (Platynota, Squamata) from the Late
- 442 Cretaceous of South China. Journal of Systematic Palaeontology 10, 333-339.
- Norell, M.A., Gao, K.-Q., 1997. Braincase and phylogenetic relationships of *Estesia mongoliensis*
- from the Late Cretaceous of the Gobi Desert and the recognition of a new clade of lizards.
- 445 American Museum Novitates 3211, 1-25.
- Norell, M.A., Gao, K., Conrad, J., 2008. A new platynotan lizard (Diapsida: Squamata) from the Late
- Cretaceous Gobi Desert (Ömnögov), Mongolia. American Museum Novitates 3605, 1-22.
- 448 Norell, M.A., McKenna, M.C., Novacek, M.J., 1992. Estesia mongoliensis, a new fossil varanoid from
- the Late Cretaceous Barun Goyot Formation of Mongolia. American Museum Novitates 3045, 1-24.

- 450 Oppel, M., 1811. Die Ordnungen, Familien und Gattungen der Reptilien, als Prodrom einer
- Naturgeschichte derselben. Joseph Lindauer, Munich, 87 pp.
- Paik, I.S., Lee, Y.I., 1998. Desiccation cracks in verticpaleosols of the Cretaceous Hasandong
- 453 Formation, Korea: genesis and palaeoenvironmental implications. Sedimentary Geology 119, 161-
- 454 179.
- Paik, I.S., Kim, J.Y., 1995. Calcareous paleosols from the upper Hasandong Formation in the vicinity
- 456 of Jinju, Korea: implications in floodplain sedimentation and paleoclimate. Journal of the
- 457 Geological Society of Korea 31, 482-498 (in Korean, English abstract).
- Paik, I. S., Lee, J. D., Kim, J. J., Kim, I. S., Park, C. W., 1997. Compound calcrete deposits from the
- Dadaepo Formation in Dusong peninsula, Pusan: origin, paleoenvironments, and stratigraphic
- 460 implication. Journal of Korean Society of Environmental Engineers 30, 263-275 (in Korean, English
- 461 abstract).
- 462 Paik, I.S., Huh, M., Kim, H.J., 2004. Dinosaur egg-bearing deposits (Upper Cretaceous) of Boseong,
- Korea: occurrence, palaeoenvironments, taphonomy, and preservation. Palaeogeography,
- 464 Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology 205, 155-168.
- Paik, I.S., Kim, H.J., Huh, M., 2012. Dinosaur egg deposits in the Cretaceous Gyeongsang
- Supergroup, Korea: Diversity and paleobiological implications. Journal of Asian Earth Sciences 56,
- 467 135-146.
- Pyron, R.A., Burbrink, F.T., Wiens, J.J., 2013. A phylogeny and revised classification of Squamata,
- including 4161 species of lizards and snakes. BMC Evolutionary Biology 13, 93, doi:10.1186/1471-
- 470 2148-13-93
- Townsend, T.M., Larson, A., Louis, E., Macey, J.R., 2004. Molecular phylogenetics of Squamata: the
- 472 position of snakes, amphisbaenians, and dibamids, and the root of the squamate tree. Systematic
- 473 Biology 53, 735-757.
- 474 Vidal, N., Hedges, S.B., 2005. The phylogeny of squamate reptiles (lizards, snakes, and
- amphisbaenians) inferred from nine nuclear protein-coding genes. Comptes rendus Biologies 328,
- 476 1000-1008.
- 477 Vidal, N., Hedges, S.B., 2009. The molecular evolutionary tree of lizards, snakes, and
- 478 amphisbaenians. Comptes Rendus Biologies 332, 129-139.
- Wiens, J.J., Brandley, M.C., Reeder, T.W., 2006. Why does a trait evolve multiple times within a

- 480 clade? repeated evolution of snake like body form in squamate reptiles. Evolution 60, 123-141.
- Wiens, J.J, Kuczynski, C.A., Townsend, T., Reeder, T.W., Mulcahy, D.G., Sites, J.W. Jnr., 2010.
- 482 Combining phylogenomics and fossils in higher-level squamate reptile phylogeny: molecular data
- change the placement of fossil taxa. Systematic Biology 59, 674-688.
- Wiens, J.J., Hutter, C.R., Mulcahy, D.G., Noonan, B.P., Townsend, T.M., Sites, J.W. Jr, Reeder, T.W.,
- 485 2012. Resolving the phylogeny of lizards and snakes (Squamata) with extensive sampling of
- genes and species. Biology Letters, doi:10.1098/rsbl.2012.0703.
- Yun, C.S., Yang, S.Y., 2001. First discovery of big pterosaur teeth in Korea. Journal of Paleontological
- Society of Korea 17, 69-76 (in Korean, English abstract).
- 489 Yun, C.S., Lim, J.D., Yang, S.Y., 2004. The first crocodyliform (Archosauria: Crocodylomorpha) from
- the Early Cretaceous of Korea. Current Science 86, 1200-1201.
- Zaher, H., Rieppel, O., 1999. Tooth implantation and replacement in squamates, with special
- reference to mosasaur lizards and snakes. American Museum Novitates 3271, 1-19.
- 493 Appendix
- 494 Coding used in phylogenetic analyses
- 495 A. Coding for *Asprosaurus* in Conrad et al. (2011a)

- 498 ????????? ????????? ?????0?000 011200000/11 0?0?00000? 0000??????

- B. Coding for *Asprosaurus* in Gauthier et al. (2012)

505	?0???01020 000121000? ??001????? ????????? 12???????? ????????? ????????
506	?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ??????
507	??????0??0 ????????? ????????? ????????
508	??????1100 ? 00??100 1010?10100 1013201?00 00101??200 000??????? ?????????
509	????????? ????????? ????????? ?????????
510	?01?1???00 00???????? ?????????? ????????
511	???????????????????????????????????????

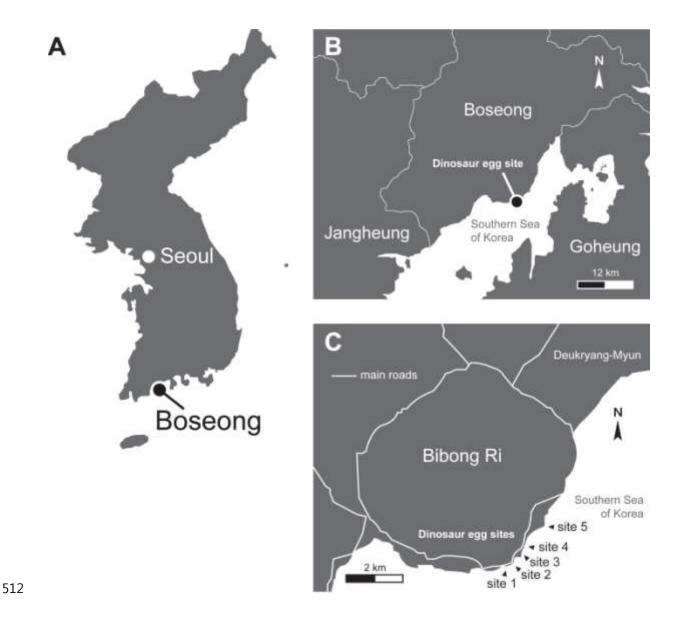


Fig 1. Location of the Boseong Bibong-ri Dinosaur Egg Site. A, map of the Korean Peninsula; B, enlarged map of Boseong area; C, enlarged map of Bibong Ri area showing the five main dinosaur egg sites. Modified from Paik et al., 2004.

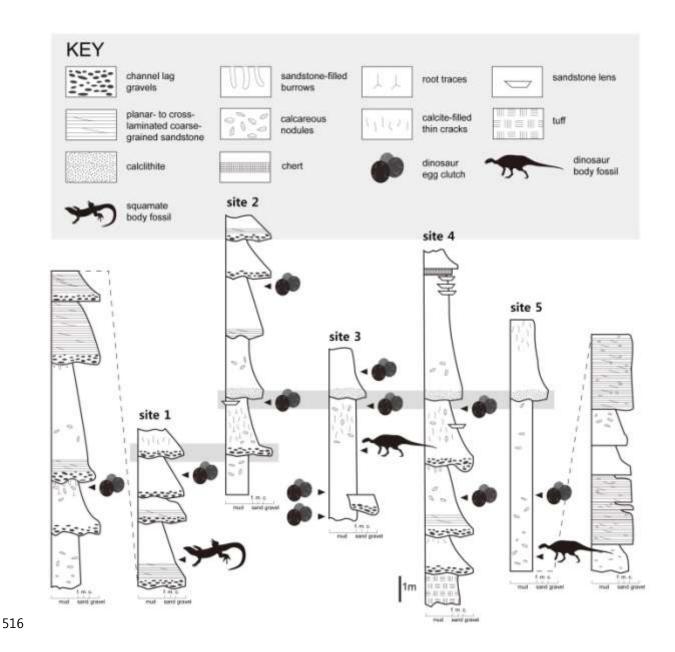


Fig 2. Stratigraphic sections of five sites of Boseong Dinosaur Egg Site, modified from Huh et al.,

1999a; 1999b; Paik et al., 2004; Huh et al., 2006; 2011; Paik et al., 2012.

517

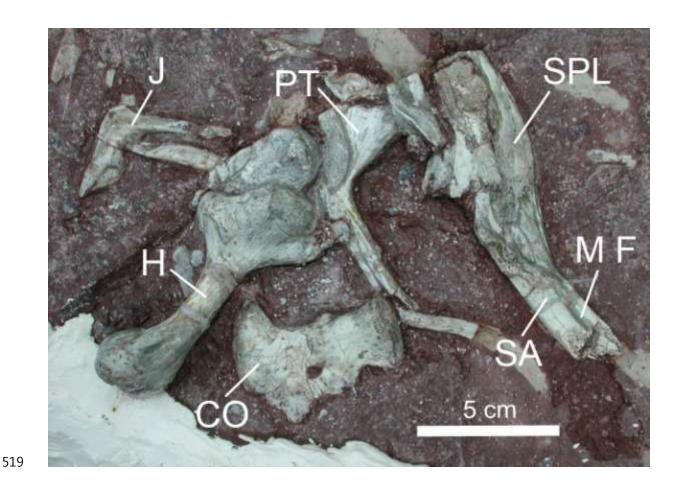


Fig 3. Photo of associated specimen of *Asprosaurus bibongria* gen. et sp. nov. (holotype; KDRC-BB4) in original single block. Abbreviations CO, scapulocoracoid; H, humerus; J, jugal; M F, mandibular fossa; PT, pterygoid; SA, surangular; SPL, splenial.

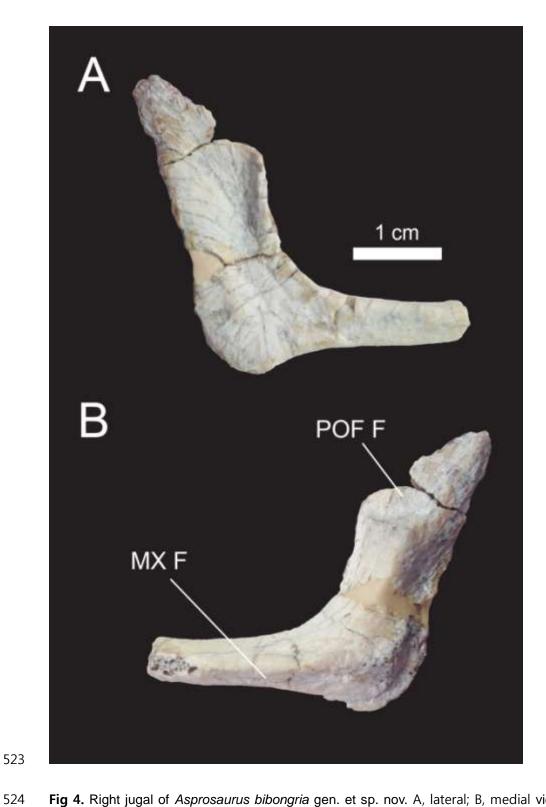
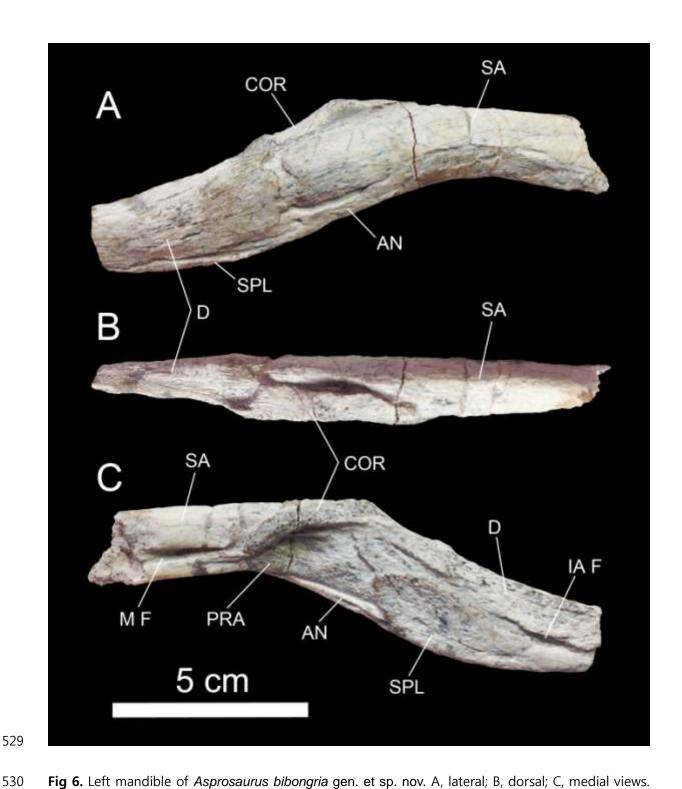


Fig 4. Right jugal of *Asprosaurus bibongria* gen. et sp. nov. A, lateral; B, medial view. Abbreviations MX F, maxillary facet; POF F, Postorbitofrontal facet.



Fig 5. Skull material of *Asprosaurus bibongria* gen. et sp. nov. A, squamosal in lateral view; B, lateral, and C, medial views of left quadrate; D, dorsal, and E, palatal views of left pterygoid.



Abbreviations AN, angular; COR, coronoid; D, dentary; IA F, inferior alveolar foramen; M F, mandibular fossa; PRA, prearticular; SA, surangular; SPL, splenial.

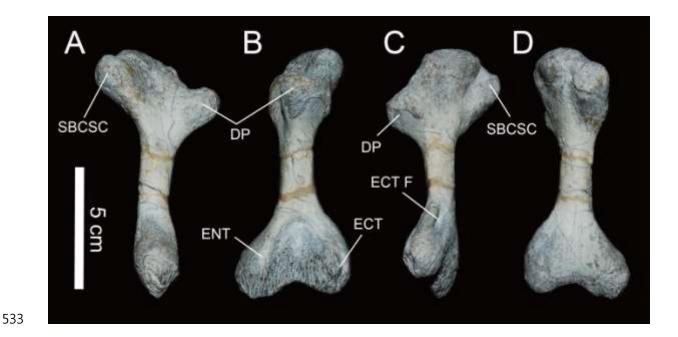


Fig 7. Left humerus of *Asprosaurus bibongria* gen. et sp. nov. in A, ventral; B, anterior; C, dorsal; and D, posterior views. Abbreviations DP, deltopectoral crest; ECT, ectepicondyle; ECT F, entepicondylar foramen; ENT, entepicondyle; SBCSC, subcoracoscapularis.

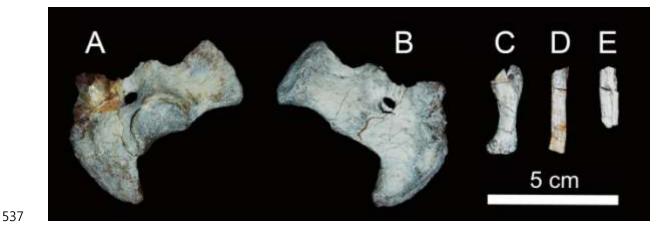


Fig 8. Postcranial materials of *Asprosaurus bibongria* gen. et sp. nov. A, lateral, and B, medial views of scalpulocoracoid; C, metacarpal; D, E, possible rib or clavicle.

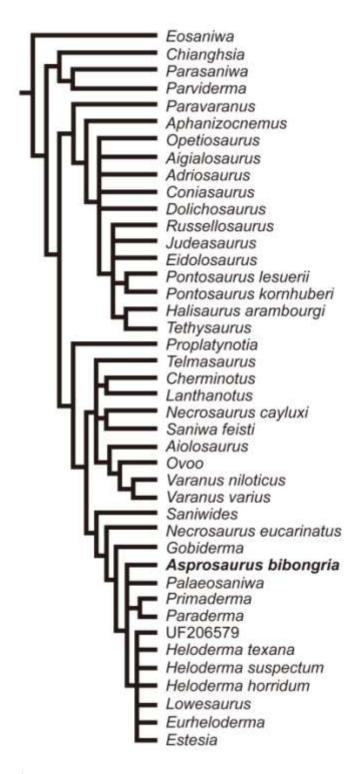


Fig 9. Phylogenetic position of *Asprosaurus bibongria* gen. et sp. nov. in relevant part of 70% MRT with Gauthier et al. (2012) data matrix. Abbreviations UF, Florida State Museum (University of Florida), United States.