



The Pterosaur Database

Nurhachius ignaciobrito

An Istiodactylid Pterosaur of Aptian age from the Jiufotang Formation, Gonggao, Chaoyang, western Liaoning, China. This specimen is a partial skeleton, including skull.

The genus is named after Nurhachi, the founder of the Ch'ing Dynasty in China and the specific name is in honour of the Brazilian palaeontologist Ignacio M. Brito. It was originally assigned as a Dsungeripterid pterosaur.



Holotype: IVPP V-13288

A partial skeleton at the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology, Beijing, China.

Wang X., Kellner A. W. A., Zhou Z. and Campos D. de A., **2005**, Pterosaur diversity and faunal turnover in Cretaceous terrestrial ecosystems in China. *Nature* 437:875-879.

Abstract: New specimens and an analysis of the Jehol pterosaur faunae of northeastern China show an unexpected diversity of flying reptile groups in terrestrial Cretaceous ecosystems. Here we report two new pterosaurs that are referred to European groups previously unknown in deposits of northeastern China. *Feilongus youngi*, from the Yixian Formation, is closely related to the Gallodactylidae and is distinguished by the presence of two independent sagittal crests and a protruding upper jaw. *Nurhachius ignaciobrito*, from the Jiufotang Formation, has teeth formed by labiolingually compressed triangular crowns, only previously reported in *Istiodactylus latidens* from England. With these new discoveries, the Jehol pterosaurs show a wide range of groups including both primitive and derived forms that are not matched by any other deposit in the world. The discoveries also document the turnover of pterosaur faunae, with the primitive Anurognathidae and early archaeopterygoids being replaced by derived pterodactylids. Furthermore, these deposits offer an opportunity to examine the interaction and competition between birds and pterosaurs—it indicates that the avian fauna during the Lower Cretaceous (and possibly most of the Mesozoic) dominated terrestrial, inland regions, whereas pterosaurs were more abundant in coastal areas.