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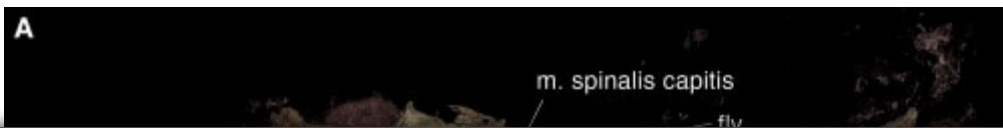
SCIENCE AND SPACE

## Smallest dinosaur ever found is actually another animal.

By **Matthew Barros**, edited by **André Lucena** | ⌚ 14/06/2021 17:44 PM, updated 14/06/2021 19:04 PM

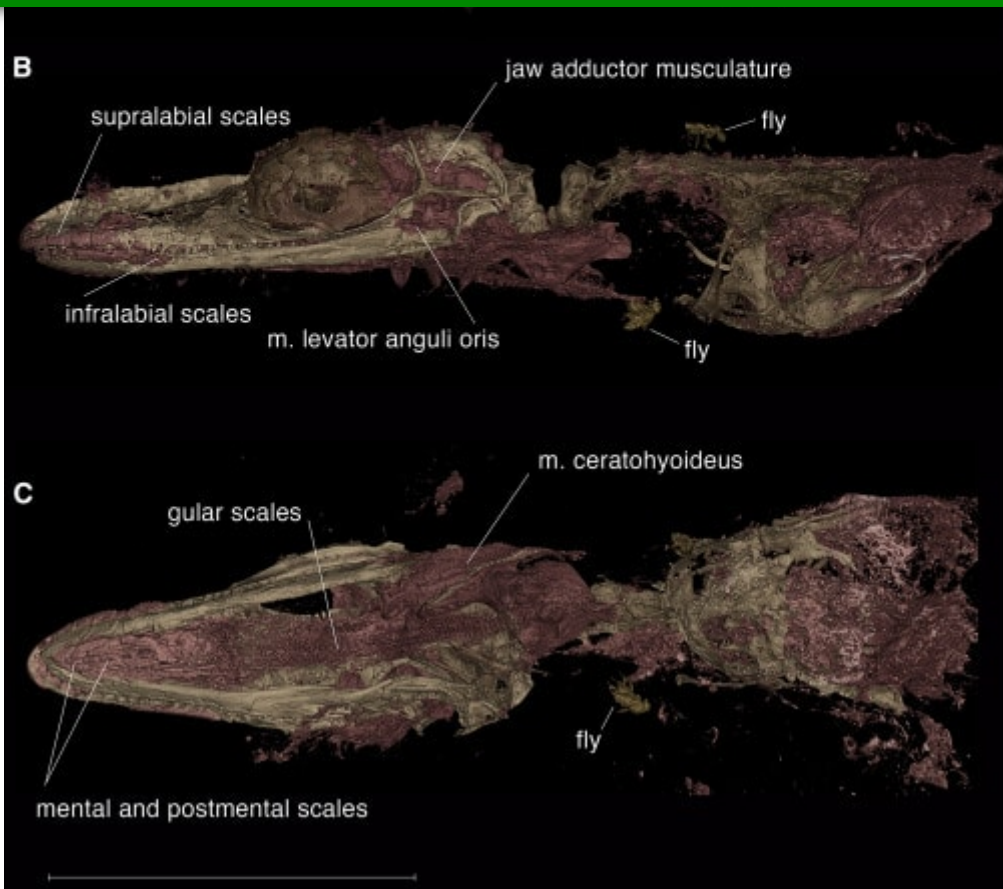
Researchers at the Institut Català de Paleontology Miquel Crusafont, in Barcelona, at [Spain](#), revealed that the fossil of the smallest dinosaur ever found in the world is actually a [lizard](#).

O [animal](#) called *Oculudentavis khaungrae* is the size of a hummingbird and has been found in amber deposits in northwestern [Myanmar](#). There was a doubt about the 99 million year old discovery, as the skeleton found was the skull of a small animal that resembled a bird, with some lizard details.



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*fossil of oculudentavis naga. Image: Reproduction/Arnau bolet*

The first **paleontologists** to have contact with the creature, they thought it was then the smallest dinosaur in the world. However, another expert team pointed out that the fossil was from a strange species of lizard.

The third team responsible for the final answer released this Monday (14) in *Current Biology* used a second fossil to clarify the doubt. Paleontologist Arnau Bolet and his colleagues said that *O. khaungraae* is the same species as the fossil dubbed *Oculudentavis naga*, a small lizard that was found with the rest of the body.

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Os **researchers** used CT scans to compare the two fossils. And important differences have been revealed that separate lizards and dinosaurs, including scales, teeth attached directly to the jaw, and a specific bone in the skull that is only present in reptiles.

However, despite not being the smallest dinosaur on the planet, the fossil reveals a species of lizard that was still unknown to scientists. This new species has unusual features such as rounded skulls and long, tapered snouts.

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