

## Revealing body proportions of the enigmatic choristodere reptile *Khurendukhosaurus* from Mongolia

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*Khurendukhosaurus* is an enigmatic genus of choristodere, recorded from the Lower Cretaceous of East Asia, Mongolia, and Siberian Russia. Until now, it was known only from isolated skull and postcranial elements, limiting comparison with other genera. Three major morphotypes have been recognised within Choristodera: longirostrine neochoristoderes with short-necks, and brevirostrine non-neochoristoderes with either short or long necks. The morphotype of *Khurendukhosaurus* was uncertain, although it had been inferred to be long-necked, based on cervical and caudal vertebral morphology shared with the Chinese *Hyphalosaurus* and on the results of phylogenetic analysis that placed it within a clade of Sino-Japanese long-necked taxa. Newly discovered material from the Mongolian type locality, Khuren-Dukh, preserves most major postcranial elements of a single individual. This specimen confirms that *Khurendukhosaurus* belongs to the long-necked morphotype, in having at least 13 cervical vertebrae. Moreover, a new phylogenetic analysis supports the placement of *Khurendukhosaurus* as a sister group of the *Hyphalosaurus* + *Shokawa* clade. Based on the new material, *Khurendukhosaurus* is estimated to have been roughly 1 m in total length, placing it at the upper end of the size range for long-necked choristoderes.

**Key words:** Reptilia, Choristodera, *Khurendukhosaurus*, Cretaceous, Mongolia, Khuren-Dukh.

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