

The choristoderan reptile *Monjurosuchus* from the Early Cretaceous of Japan

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The choristoderan reptile *Monjurosuchus* is described from the Lower Cretaceous Tetori Group of Japan on the basis of an associated specimen from the Kuwajima Formation, Ishikawa Prefecture, and more fragmentary remains from the contemporaneous Okurodani Formation, Gifu Prefecture. This is the first report of *Monjurosuchus* from Japan, but a long-necked choristodere, *Shokawa*, has already been recorded from these deposits. *Monjurosuchus* was first described from the Lower Cretaceous Jehol Biota of China, although it has only recently been recognised as a choristodere. As reconstructed, the Japanese *Monjurosuchus* differs from the type species, *Monjurosuchus splendens*, in the structure of the postorbital region, reduction of the quadratojugal, a slender parietal with a deep groove along the interparietal suture, and elongation of the jugal. As in *M. splendens*, the lower temporal fenestrae are closed. A cladistic analysis was performed in order to place Japanese and Chinese taxa, including the incompletely described Chinese long-necked *Hyphalosaurus lingyanensis*, into choristoderan phylogeny. The results support the monophyly of Neochoristodera and of a Sino-Japanese clade of long necked choristoderes. The placement of the European Tertiary *Lazarussuchus* remains problematic, but the analysis supports its placement within Choristodera rather than on the stem. The identification of *Monjurosuchus* from Japan provides an additional link between the fossil assemblages of the Tetori Group and those of the slightly younger Jehol Biota of China.

Key words: Reptilia, Choristodera, *Monjurosuchus*, Cretaceous, Tetori Group, Kuwajima Formation, Japan.

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