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Anatomy of the Early Cretaceous enantiornithine bird *Rapaxavis pani*

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The exquisitely preserved longipterygid enantiornithine *Rapaxavis pani* is redescribed here after more extensive preparation. A complete review of its morphology is presented based on information gathered before and after preparation. Among other features, *Rapaxavis pani* is characterized by having an elongate rostrum (close to 60% of the skull length), rostrally restricted dentition, and schizorhinal external nares. Yet, the most puzzling feature of this bird is the presence of a pair of pectoral bones (here termed paracoracoidal ossifications) that, with the exception of the enantiornithine *Concornis lacustris*, are unknown within Aves. Particularly notable is the presence of a distal tarsal cap, formed by the fusion of distal tarsal elements, a feature that is controversial in non−ornithuromorph birds. The holotype and only known specimen of *Rapaxavis pani* thus reveals important information for better understanding the anatomy and phylogenetic relationships of longipterygids, in particular, as well as basal birds as a whole.

Key words: Aves, Enantiornithes, Longipterygidae, *Rapaxavis*, Jiufotang Formation, Early Cretaceous, China.

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