

A new oospecies of Faveoololithidae from the Xixia Basin, Henan Province, China and the revision of *Parafaveoololithus*

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Parafaveoololithus is an oogenus within Faveoololithidae, comprising oospecies with uncertain parataxonomic status due to ambiguous microstructures. The revision of problematic taxonomy and the identification of new materials in *Parafaveoololithus* can make the classification of *Parafaveoololithus* more accurate. Here, we described a new clutch containing 13 dinosaur eggs from the Upper Cretaceous Zhaoying Formation in the Xixia Basin, Henan Province, China by macroscopic measurement and microscopic observation (PLM, CL and SEM). Compared with other oogenera of Faveoololithidae, these specimens could be assigned to *Parafaveoololithus* based on the subspherical shape, columnar eggshell units and partially developed secondary eggshell units. A new oospecies of *Parafaveoololithus*, *Parafaveoololithus xixiaensis*, was further erected on the basis of the subspherical shape (average 84 in shape index), small size (average 132.4 mm in length and 111.3 mm in width), the parallelly arranged slender eggshell units with a width of 0.05–0.11 mm and wide pore canals with a width of 0.10–0.23 mm in the radial sections, as well as the honeycomb-like structure in the tangential sections. Radial sections of *P. xixiaensis* oosp. nov. show a single structural layer composed of columnar eggshell units and straight pore canals; some secondary eggshell units are present in the radial sections. The parataxonomy of *Parafaveoololithus guoqingsiensis* is revised to *Propagoolithus guoqingsiensis* based on the branched eggshell unit and smaller pores near the outer surface of the radial section, and the smaller eggshell thickness. *Duovallumoolithus* is considered an invalid oogenus in Faveoololithidae, and *Duovallumoolithus shangdanensis* is assigned to the new combination *Parafaveoololithus shangdanensis*. The geographic distribution of Faveoololithidae is mainly restricted to China, Mongolia and South Korea of East Asia, and *P. xixiaensis* oosp. nov. provides new material and a complete clutch of *Parafaveoololithus*. The assignment of *Parafaveoololithus* provides important references for the study of parataxonomy, geographical distribution and clutch structure in Faveoololithidae.

Key words: Dinosauria, Faveoololithidae, eggs, Upper Cretaceous, Zhaoying Formation, Xixia Basin.

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