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Carolinidae a new family of xenosaurid-like lizards from the Upper Cretaceous of Mongolia

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Two lizards, *Carolina intermedia* gen. et sp. n, and *Shinisauroides latipalatum* gen. et sp. n, from the Late Cretaceous (?Middle Campanian) of the Gobi Desert are assigned to the new family Carolinidae. A hypothesis of a scincomorphan affiliation of this family is supported by two synapomorphies: the dentary overlap on the lateral surface of the coronoid, and the finger-like descensus parietalis, as well as by some other characters which best correspond with this affiliation. Xenosaurid characters displayed by the described lizards: the hour-glass shaped frontals and the diffuse osteodermal skull covering, are considered as homoplasy .

Key words: Cladistics, Reptilia, Sauria, Cretaceous, Mongolia.

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