

Avialan status for Oviraptorosauria

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Oviraptorosauria is a clade of Cretaceous theropod dinosaurs of uncertain affinities within Maniraptoriformes. All previous phylogenetic analyses placed oviraptorosaurs outside a close relationship to birds (Avialae), recognizing Dromaeosauridae or Troodontidae, or a clade containing these two taxa (Deinonychosauria), as sister taxon to birds. Here we present the results of a phylogenetic analysis using 195 characters scored for four outgroup and 13 maniraptoriform (ingroup) terminal taxa, including new data on oviraptorids. This analysis places Oviraptorosauria within Avialae, in a sister-group relationship with *Confuciusornis*. *Archaeopteryx*, Therizinosauria, Dromaeosauridae, and Ornithomimosauria are successively more distant outgroups to the *Confuciusornis*-oviraptorosaur clade. *Avimimus* and *Caudipteryx* are successively more closely related to Oviraptoroidea, which contains the sister taxa Caenagnathidae and Oviraptoridae. Within Oviraptoridae, "*Oviraptor*" *mongoliensis* and *Oviraptor philoceratops* are successively more closely related to the *Conchoraptor-Ingenia* clade. Oviraptorosaurs are hypothesized to be secondarily flightless. Emended phylogenetic definitions are provided for Oviraptoridae, Caenagnathidae, Oviraptoroidea, Oviraptorosauria, Avialae, Eumaniraptora, Maniraptora, and Maniraptoriformes.

Key words: Dinosauria, Theropoda, Avialae, Oviraptorosauria, birds, phylogenetic analysis, phylogenetic nomenclature.

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