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A new tritylodontid synapsid from Mongolia

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The Upper Jurassic Ulaan Malgait Beds in the Shar Teg locality of southwestern Mongolia have yielded remains of a new tritylodontid therapsid (Synapsida), *Bienotheroides shartegensis* sp. nov. The specimen consists of a fragmentary skull associated with lower jaws. It is assigned to *Bienotheroides* based on its short snout, a premaxilla-palatine contact, very reduced maxilla, relatively rounded corner of upper postcanine teeth (PC), and PC cusp formula of 2-3-3. It differs from the other species of *Bienotheroides* in having a much more reduced middle mesial cusp of PC. It further differs from *B. zigongensis* and *B. ultimus* in having shorter and wider PC, from *B. ultimus* in lacking a projection at the middle mesial margin of PC, and from *B. wansienensis* in lacking the vestigialmost mesiobuccal cusp of PC and in lacking a diastema between upper I1 and I2. This is the first discovery of the Tritylodontidae in Mongolia. This discovery extends the taxonomic (morphological) diversity and geographic range of *Bienotheroides* and underlies the success of the genus in the Middle to Late Jurassic biota of eastern Eurasia.

Key words: Synapsida, Tritylodontidae, *Bienotheroides*, Jurassic, Gobi Desert, Mongolia.

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