



Tracking Lower Cretaceous Dinosaurs in China: a new database for comparison with ichnofaunal data from Korea, the Americas, Europe, Africa and Australia

MARTIN G. LOCKLEY^{1*}, LIDA XING², JEONG YUL KIM³ and MASAKI MATSUKAWA⁴

¹*Dinosaur Trackers Research Group, University of Colorado Denver, CB 172, PO Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217-3364, USA*

²*School of the Earth Sciences and Resources, China University of Geosciences, Beijing 100083, China*

³*Department of Earth Science Education, Korea National University of Education, Cheongwon, Chungbuk 363-791, Korea*

⁴*Department of Environmental Sciences, Tokyo Gakugei University, Koganei, Tokyo 184-8501, Japan*

Received 1 February 2014; revised 11 March 2014; accepted for publication 12 March 2014

Following the recent rapid increase in the reports of tetrapod tracksites in the Cretaceous, especially from the Lower Cretaceous, of China and other parts of East Asia, notably South Korea, a review of the ichnofaunal database from these regions is presented as the basis for comparisons with other Lower Cretaceous ichnofaunas that are abundant and reasonably well documented. These areas include parts of North and South America, especially the western USA, and parts of Europe, including the United Kingdom, Northern Germany, Spain, Italy and Croatia. The Chinese database presently includes about 70 Cretaceous sites, the majority of which are Early Cretaceous in age. Although abundant data are available from many regions, much of it has yet to be synthesized in detail or in standard formats. Moreover, ichnotaxonomy may be variable (provincial) between different regions. Thus, while comprehensive lists of sites are available for some regions (China and South America), in other regions such as South Korea and the western USA data have been compiled primarily on a formation by formation basis. The record for Europe is moderately good, but scattered in the primary literature and in need of further synthesis. The record for Australia and Africa is sparse and also in need of synthesis. The most notable regional differences between ichnofaunas appears to be in the relative abundance of distinctive bird and pterosaur track ichnotaxa in China and Korea in comparison with their scarcity or absence in other regions. The distinctive ichnogenus *Minisauripus* is also known only in China and Korea as are the majority of known dromaeosaurid track occurrences. Ornithopod-dominated and ornithopod-rich ichnofaunas are widespread and particularly abundant in the late Early Cretaceous Barremian to Albian, of some regions. Most well documented Early Cretaceous ichnofaunas are associated with siliciclastic facies and evidently differ from those associated with carbonate facies. © 2014 The Linnean Society of London, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 2014, **113**, 770–789.

ADDITIONAL KEYWORDS: China – Cretaceous – dinosaurs – footprints – tetrapods.

INTRODUCTION

In this paper we review what is currently known of dinosaur and other tetrapod tracksites in the Early Cretaceous of China and other footprint-rich regions including Korea, the Americas and Europe. Due to variability and limitations in available databases,

only brief discussion of African and Australian track records is possible. It is well known that the rate of discovery of dinosaurs, both avian and non-avian, in China has been impressive in recent years, due not least to the steady increase in reports of feathered dinosaurs from northeastern China. The majority of these come from the Yixian Formation, which is essentially devoid of footprints, evidently because the facies is unsuitable for footprint registration (see Matsukawa *et al.*, 2014). However, this does not

*Corresponding author. E-mail: martin.lockley@ucdenver.edu

mean that tracksites are rare in the Early Cretaceous of China. On the contrary, we now know of about 70 sites reported from most of the 31 provinces, regions and municipalities of China. Here we summarize the data available from these sites and compare the results with summaries derived from other areas well-known for abundant Early Cretaceous tracksites including Korea, North and South America and Europe. We also discuss the differences between databases obtained from different regions by different methods.

Impetus for the present study derives from several sources. First, it is a contribution to the Jehol-Wealden International Conference, held in England in September 2013 (see acknowledgements). Second, is the opportunity to showcase the rapid development of Early Cretaceous tetrapod ichnology in China in the last decade. Third, the study provides an opportunity to compare the most important Early Cretaceous ichnofaunas from China with those known from other parts of East Asia, the Americas, Europe and elsewhere. As discussed, these databases are very variable and incomplete in some regions.

PREVIOUS WORK

The first attempts to summarize the fossil footprint record of China, in the English literature, was by Zhen *et al.* (1989, fig. 19.1) who identified a total of 22 'principal dinosaur footprint localities' of which only eight were reported as being Cretaceous in age. This number was more than doubled when Matsukawa, Lockley & Li (2006) reported 52 principal sites from China, including 29 in the Cretaceous, as well as an additional 20 mostly Cretaceous sites elsewhere in East Asia. Between 1999 and 2006, much of this work was spear-headed by two of the present authors (MGL and MM) culminating in short reviews (e.g. Lockley & Matsukawa, 2009). Presently this work is being continued (2007-present) under the leadership of LX and MGL, with continued participation by the other authors. As noted below these lists are always underestimates, and always in need of updating. This is because they often deal only with principal sites, or treat previously defined tracksite regions, where several discrete sites occur in close proximity, as single sites. Efforts to list tetrapod tracksites in China and East Asia have been fairly consistent, at least in style of presentation. The map produced by Zhen *et al.* (1989) formed the basis of subsequent maps (Matsukawa *et al.*, 2006; Lockley *et al.*, 2012a) and is again used here (Fig. 1). However, as noted above, the number of tetrapod tracksites reported from China has increased rapidly in recent years and is now in excess of 100, with about 70 being known from the Cretaceous (Table 1). There have been recent

efforts to simplify the 'over-split' ichnotaxonomy of Chinese tetrapod tracks (Lockley *et al.*, 2013). One outcome of this study has been to conclude that Jurassic tetrapod ichnotaxonomy was even more over-split than Cretaceous ichnotaxonomy. Nevertheless 34 Chinese tetrapod ichnospecies have been named to date (Lockley *et al.*, 2013, Table 1; Table 1 herein). As noted in the following sections work on important tracksites in Korea, the Americas and Europe has been ongoing at least since the 1980s, if not earlier in some regions. However, due to the difference in size of study areas, geology and research methods (traditions), the emergent data have proved quite variable.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Despite the aforementioned studies that review the distribution of ichnofaunas in China and East Asia, the potential data base is vast, especially when comparative data from Korea, the Americas and Europe is included. Ideally a complete database should include a list of all sites, and the number of track types and trackways reported from each. While such data are available for some sites, reliable data are by no means readily available for all sites. This is to say nothing of the variability employed in naming various track morphotypes either at the ichnospecies, ichnogenus or less-precise higher taxonomic levels. Moreover the published record is always in need of re-evaluation, as some sites are enlarged, others removed or diminished by erosion or human impact, and yet others re-evaluated by re-naming or re-surveying the various ichnotaxa, and their relative abundance. With increase interest in geoheritage studies, and the creation of national and international geoparks and World Heritage sites in areas with significant fossil footprint sites, efforts are underway to find consistent methods for evaluating the importance of tracksites, because such comparative analyses are required for such nominations and designations. Thus, several studies, pertaining to World Heritage site nominations have created lists of the globally most important tetrapod tracksites based on a number of factors: size of site, number of trackways, diversity of track types, preservation quality, and other features. These factors cannot be discussed in detail here. However, it is important to note that many factors must be considered in measuring importance, including those listed above. These factors may be of similar or different importance in evaluating sites for scientific study and for geoheritage designations. For example, large sites may appear high on the global list of importance, whereas small sites do not. Nevertheless, small sites may be of scientific significance and it is important to include all sites in databases if possible.

Table 1. List of 72 tetrapod tracksites from China, referred to as Cretaceous in at least one published source. Note that some may be associated with the Jurassic–Cretaceous boundary and some may be Upper Cretaceous in age. Holotype occurrences also noted (light green shading; light grey in print). Thero, theropod; sauro, sauropod; ornith, ornithomischian; ptero, pterosaur; croc, crocodylian

| Site | Province | Age | Fm or Gp | Thero | Bird | Sauro | Ornith | Ptero | Croc | Turtle | Holotype |
|------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|------|--------|--|
| 1 | Jilin | Cret | Tongfosi | x | | | Ornithopod | | | | <i>Grallator ssatoi</i> |
| 2 | Liaoning | Tith-Ber | Tuchengzi | X | | | | | | | <i>Pullornipes aureus</i> |
| 3 | Liaoning | Tith-Ber | Tuchengzi | x | | | | | | | <i>Changpeipus carbonicus</i> |
| 4 | Liaoning | Tith-Ber | Tuchengzi | X | X | | | | | | |
| 5 | Liaoning | Early Cret | Fuxin | X | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Hebei | Early Cret | Jiufotang | x | | | <i>Caririchnium</i> | | | | |
| 8 | Hebei | Early Cret | Jiufotang | x | x | | Ornithopod | | | | |
| 9 | Shandong | Early Cret | Longwang-zhuang | X | | | | | | | <i>Paragrallator yangi</i> |
| 10 | Shandong | Early Cret | Shuinan | X | | | | | x | | <i>Laiyangpus liui</i> |
| 11 | Shaanxi | Early Cret | Fengjiashan | X | | | | | | | <i>Magnavipes asiaticus</i> |
| 14 | Yunnan | Tur-Con | Jiangdihe | X | | X | | | | | <i>Brontopodus changlingensis</i> |
| 15 | Yunnan | Tur-Con | Jiangdihe | X | | | | | | | <i>Yunnanpus huangcaoenensis</i> |
| 16 | Yunnan | Tur-Con | Jiangdihe | x | | x | | | | | |
| 17 | Yunnan | Tur-Con | Jiangdihe | x | | x | | | | | |
| 18 | Yunnan | Tur-Con | Jiangdihe | x | | x | | | | | |
| 23 | Sichuan | Early Cret | Jiaguan | X | | | | | | | <i>Yangtzeopus yipingensis</i> |
| 24 | Sichuan | Cret | Daergun | XXXX | X | | | | | | <i>Grallator emeiensis</i> , <i>Velociraptorichnus sichuanensis</i> , <i>Minisauripes chuanzhuensis</i> , <i>Aquatilavipes sinensis</i> , <i>Iguanodopus xingfuensis</i> |
| 31 | Hunan | Late Cret | Xiaodong | XXX | | | ?ornithopod | | | | <i>Hunanpus juquanensis</i> , <i>Xiangpus chenxiensis</i> , <i>Xianxipus youngi</i> |
| 32 | Anhui | Late Cret | Qiuzhang | x | | | | | | | <i>Aquatilavipes anhuiensis</i> |
| 33 | Anhui | Late Cret | Qiuzhang | x | | | | | | | |
| 34 | Anhui | Late Cret | Qiuzhang | x | X | | | | | | |
| 36 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | x | x | | | | | | |
| 37 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | x | | x | | | | | |
| 38 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | x | | | | | | | |
| 39 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | x | | x | | | | | |
| 40 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | x | | x | | | | | |
| 41 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | X | | | | | | | <i>Asianopodus robustus</i> |
| 42 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | x | | | | | | | |
| 43 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | X | | | | | | | <i>Chapus lockleyi</i> |
| 44 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | x | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Gansu | Early Cret | Hekou Group | x | x | | | | | | |
| 51 | Henan | Early Cret | Sangping | x | | | | | | | |

| Number | Local Name | Province | Age | Group | Species | Stegosaur | Ornithischian | Notes |
|--------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---|
| 52 | Yangmeikeng | Guandong | Late Cret | Nanxiong | <i>Hadrosauropodus nanxiongensis</i> | X | | |
| 53 | Sihetun | Liaoning | Early Cret | Yixian | | | | |
| 54 | Qianjiadian | Beijing | Early Cret | Tuchengzi | | x | | |
| 55 | Luofengpo | Hebei | Early Cret | Tuchengzi | | x | | |
| 56 | Siliang | Hebei | Early Cret | Tuchengzi | | | | |
| 57 | Hailiutu | Hebei | Early Cret | Tuchengzi | | | | |
| 61 | Shaaojian | Shaanxi | Early Cret | Donghe Group | | | | |
| 62 | Bawangzhuang | Shaanxi | Early Cret | Luohe | | | | |
| 63 | Dijiaping | Shaanxi | Early Cret | Luohe | | | | |
| 65 | Guyuan | Ningxia | Early Cret | Liwaaxia | | x | | |
| 67 | Huazhuang | Gansu | Early Cret | Hekou Group | | | | |
| 68 | Xiapujia | Gansu | Early Cret | Hekou Group | | x | | |
| 69 | Zhingpu | Gansu | Early Cret | Hekou Group | | x | | |
| 71 | Wuerthe | Xinjiang | Early Cret | Tugulu Group | | x | | <i>Deltapodus curriei</i> , <i>Koreanaornis dodsoni</i> , <i>Mogutiornipes robusta</i> |
| 72 | Asphaltite | Xinjiang | Early Cret | Tugulu Group | | x | | |
| 73 | Weixiyuan | Shandong | Early Cret | Qugvzhang | | x | | |
| 74 | Zhangzhuhewang | Shandong | Early Cret | Tianjialou | | x | | |
| 75 | Huanglonggou | Shandong | Early Cret | Longwangzhuang | X | | | <i>Corpuentapus lilasia</i> |
| 76 | Junan | Shandong | Early Cret | Tianjialou | XXX | | | <i>Dromaeopodus shandongensis</i> , <i>Shandongornipes muxtai</i> , <i>Minisauripus zhenshouani</i> |
| 77 | Linshu | Shandong | Early Cret | Tianjialou | x | | | |
| 78 | Qingguansi | Shandong | Early Cret | Tianjialou | | | | |
| 79 | Malingshan | Shandong | Early Cret | Tianjialou | x | | | |
| 81 | Lishui | Zhejiang | Early Cret | Shouchang | | | | |
| 82 | Dongyang | Zhejiang | Late Cret | Jinhua | | | | |
| 83 | Gushi | Guandong | Late Cret | Nanxiong | | | | |
| 86 | Hemenkou | Yunnan | Early Cret | Puchmaghe | | | | |
| 89 | Sanbiluoga | Sichuan | Early Cret | Feitianshan | | | | |
| 90 | Jeufanggou | Sichuan | Early Cret | Feitianshan | | | | |
| 91 | Yangmozou | Sichuan | Early Cret | Feitianshan | | | | |
| 95 | Lotus | Sichuan | Early Cret | Feitianshan | X? | | | |
| 96 | Baoyuan | Sichuan | Early Cret | Jiaguan | X | | | <i>Carririchnium lotus</i> , <i>Wupus agilis</i> |
| 98 | Yongnan | Heilongjiang | Early Cret | Jiaguan | | | | |
| 99 | Chabu 10 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Yong ancutn | | | | |
| 100 | Chabu 11 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | | | | |
| 101 | Chabu 12 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | | | | |
| 102 | Chabu 13 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | | | | |
| 103 | Chabu 14 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | | | | |
| 104 | Chabu 15 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | | | | |
| 105 | Chabu 16 | Nei Mongol | Early Cret | Jianchuan | | | | <i>Jiayinosauripus johnsoni</i> |

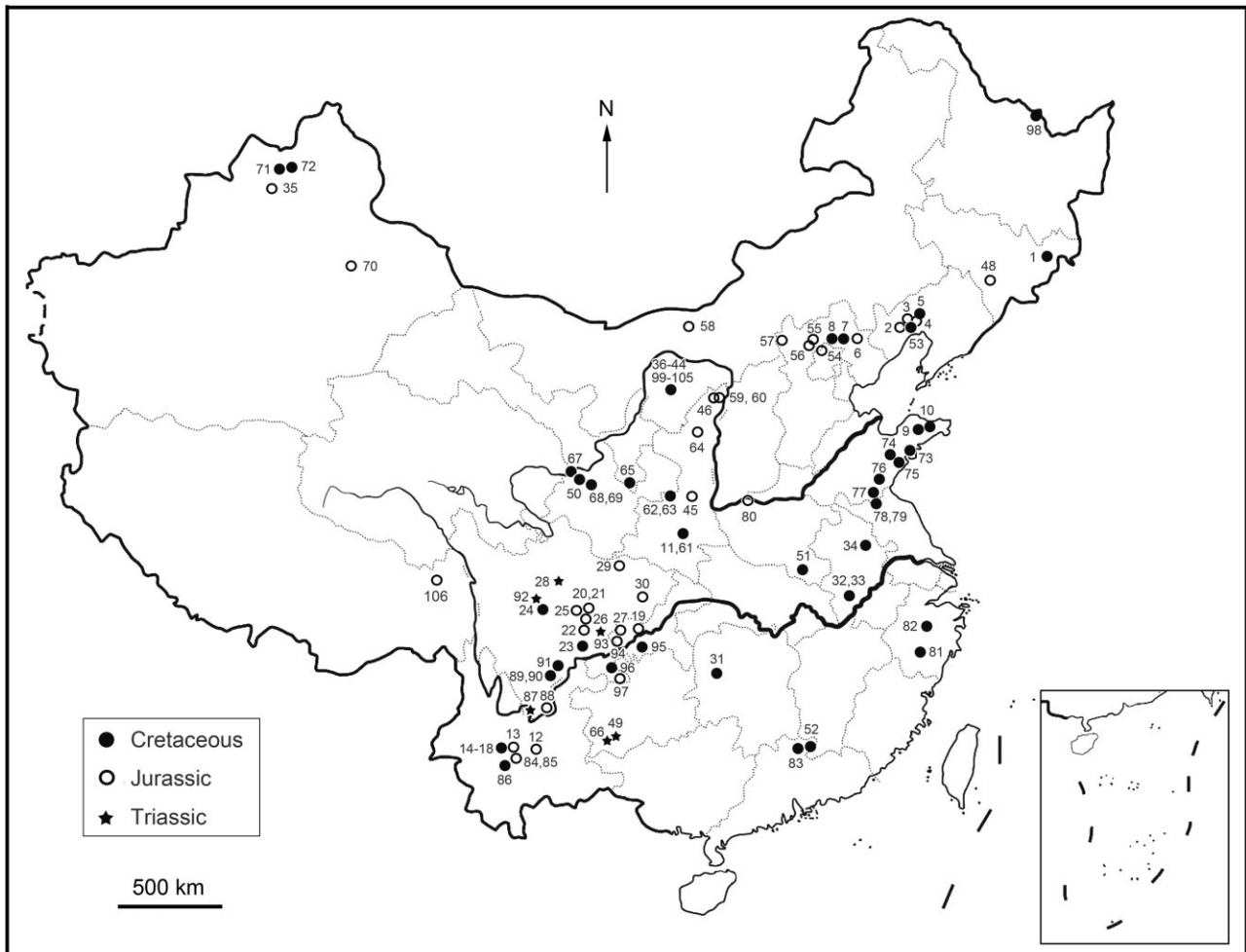


Figure 1. Mesozoic tetrapod tracksites in China. Note separate symbols for Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous sites. To date the present authors have recorded at least 106 Mesozoic sites. About 70 of these are Cretaceous in age (see Table 1). Precise dating is not available for all sites. Thus, differentiating which sites are just above or below the Jurassic–Cretaceous and Lower to Upper Cretaceous boundaries is difficult in some cases.

As noted above, researchers studying Chinese tetrapod tracksites have been relatively consistent in compiling lists of tracksites, often with precise GPS coordinates, name of track-bearing unit (formation or group) and comments on the track types present, especially holotypes: see, for example, the appendix of 52 Chinese sites provided by Matsukawa *et al.* (2006 pp. 19–20). However, the number of trackways of any given type has not been reported for many of these sites, and may not be precisely known from the primary literature. Nevertheless, for consistency, the current updated list of Chinese sites is based on a significant expansion of the 2006 list, and also includes formation or group name, and reference to holotypes and known track types. In order to protect sites GPS information is not published here, although it may

appear in other publications and be obtainable from the authors for *bona fide* research purposes. Such consistency makes comparative study easier, allowing us to compare Chinese sites with those from other regions, from which comprehensive data are available. These regions, in approximate order of publication include South America (Leonardi, 1989, 1994), North America (Lockley *et al.*, 2006a, 2010a) South Korea (Lockley *et al.*, 2006a, 2012a, b; Lockley, Huh & Kim, 2012c) and Europe. Lockley *et al.* (2012a) also compiled a list of all significant Cretaceous tracksites, but did not number the sites, or break them down into regional groupings. The methods used in compiling data, the geographical areas included in the studies, and the stratigraphic precision with which they have been recorded are summarized as follows.

South Korea is a relatively small area in comparison with neighboring China, and the track-bearing regions of North and South America discussed below. Nevertheless it has yielded hundreds of tracksites since the first were reported in the early 1980s. One of the distinctive features of the Korean sites is that many occur in close proximity at different stratigraphic levels in small geographical areas. For example Lockley *et al.* (2006b) compiled measurements for ~300 individual dinosaur trackways from several hundred horizons in the Jindong Formation at four named locations within the Goseong Tracksite, a geographic stretch of coastline only about 3 km long (see Houck & Lockley, 2006: table 2 here). This, compilation was exclusive of dozens of bird tracks from at least 30 horizons identified in the same outcrops. As noted below, this type of data is comparable with data obtained from single track-rich formations in other regions. However, in the case of Korea it is only part of the picture as there are many other tracksites in other Cretaceous formations throughout the whole country.

The work of Leonardi (1989, 1994) is truly continental in scope and his data is comparable in scale and stratigraphic range to the compilations reported for China. Leonardi (1989) reported 28 principal Cretaceous tracksites of which 23 are identified as Early Cretaceous. This number was considerably increased in a more detailed compilation (Leonardi, 1994) which referred to about 38 sites. In this latter publication map locations and approximate coordinates, formation names and track types were given for all sites, and individual trackways were counted in many cases. As noted below, it has been possible to update the data of Leonardi (1994) by adding information from a number of new Cretaceous tracksite reports published during the last 2 decades.

By contrast, the data available for North America are of a different order. The most comprehensive compilations of data currently available are for various track-rich formations that have been intensively studied. For example, Lockley *et al.* (2010a) compiled the number of track types and trackways from 70 'Mid' Cretaceous Dakota Group tracksites east of the continental divide in Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas and Utah. Recently, this number was increased to 80, and an additional 40 sites have been reported from west of the Continental Divide (Lockley *et al.*, 2014a). Likewise Pittman (1989) reported 42 tracksites from the Comanche Series of Texas, mostly from the well known Glen Rose Formation. The number of track types and trackways recorded from many of these sites, as well as additional sites reported since 1989, is known from scattered literature sources but such data have not been compiled into a coherent database. Finally, any reference to

Cretaceous tetrapod tracksites from North America must include reference to the abundant, sites reported from western Canada. These are scattered geographically as well as stratigraphically (McCrea *et al.*, 2014).

RESULTS

EARLY CRETACEOUS TETRAPOD ICHTHOFAUNAS IN CHINA

As shown in Table 1, ~70 tetrapod tracksites localities (locs.) are known from the Cretaceous of China, and to date have been identified from all but four provinces (the exceptions being Qinghai, Guangxu, Fujian and Hubei: see Fig. 1). The precise age of many formations is uncertain, according to primary sources. Nevertheless, in most cases age determinations or estimates exist in the literature and are used here. As expected the distribution of geological formations causes some areas to have higher concentrations of tracksites. Likewise the variation in age, facies and ichnological content of these formations results in significant variation in track types and significance of tracksites in different regions. For these reasons, we focus attention on the more important tracksite regions (C1–C6) and track-bearing units as follows:

C1: Northeastern China. This region is historically important for having produced some of the first named dinosaur tracks from China. These include *Grallator ssatoi* (formerly named *Jeholisauripus s satoi*) an abundant small theropod track from the Tuchengzi Formation (Yabe, Inai & Shikama, 1940; Matsukawa *et al.*, 2006) in Liaoning Province. This unit is currently considered to represent the Jurassic-Cretaceous (Tithonian-Berriasian) transition, and thus may include some of the oldest Cretaceous ichnofaunas in Asia (locs. 2–4 of Fig. 1), for example bird tracks (*Pullornipes aureus*) reported by Lockley *et al.* (2006c) may be among the oldest known from Asia. Saurischian tracks occur in this formation elsewhere in the region including Hebei Province (Xing *et al.*, 2009a; Xing, Harris & Gierliński, 2011a) and the Beijing Municipality, where sauropod tracks also occur in the recently designated Yanqing International Geopark (loc. 54) (Zhang *et al.*, 2012).

C2: Shandong Province. Tetrapod tracks were first reported from Shandong province by Young (1960) who named *Laiyangpus liui* from the Shuinan Formation (loc 10), and mistakenly assigned it to theropod dinosaur, when it is likely of crocodile affinity (Lockley *et al.*, 2010b). Since 1960, other tracks found at the site include bird tracks (ichnogenus *Tatarornipes*: Lockley *et al.*, 2011). Small theropod tracks are also abundant in Shandong including the problematic ichnotaxon *Paragrallator yangi* (cf. *Grallator*), from loc. 9, and have been found at most of the other localities known in the province (Fig. 1). The most important localities reported to date include the Junan site (loc. 76) which has yielded a high diversity of forms from multiple levels in the Tianjialou

Formation, which is thought to be Barremian-Aptian in age. These include both large and small dromaeosaur tracks, *Dromaeopodus* and *Velociraptorichnus* respectively (Li *et al.*, 2007, 2014), highly distinctive small theropod track *Minisauripus* (Lockley *et al.*, 2008), the unique roadrunner-like track *Shandongornipes* (Lockley *et al.*, 2007) and more typical bird tracks (*Koreanaornis*). Ornithopod tracks also occur at this site. Recent studies of other Tianjialou tracksites in the region report other dromaeosaur tracks, sauropod tracks and possible psittacosaur tracks (Xing *et al.*, 2013a). Another very important site occurs at Huanglongou (Yellow Dragon Valley) in the Lower Cretaceous Longwangzhuang Formation near Zhucheng, here (loc. 75) more than 2000 tracks have been mapped on a single surface including abundant *Grallator* tracks, the distinctive theropod track *Corpulentapus* (Li *et al.*, 2011b; Lockley *et al.*, 2012d), sauropod tracks and some of the first turtle tracks reported from China (Lockley *et al.*, 2012e). Pterosaur tracks have also been reported from the Qugezhuang Formation (Xing *et al.*, 2012). Collectively the above-listed Shandong sites have yielded among the most diverse ichnofaunas reported from the Chinese Lower Cretaceous.

C3: Inner Mongolia. The Ordos Basin region of Inner Mongolia (Nei Mongol) has yielded at least 17 tracksites (locs. 36–44 and 99–105) in the Chabu region near Otog Qi (Li *et al.*, 2009; Li, Bai & Wei, 2011a). These occur mainly in the Jianchuan Formation and include assemblages dominated by saurischian tracks including the non-avian theropod tracks *Chapus* and *Asianopodus* (Li *et al.*, 2006, 2011a respectively), the sauropod track *Brontopodus* (Lockley *et al.*, 2002) and the bird (avian theropod) track *Tatarornipes* (Lockley *et al.*, 2011).

C4: Gansu Province. A number of tracksites have been reported from the Hekou Group in the Yellow River (Hwang He) valley near Lanzhou in Gansu Province. The two largest sites occur side by side at Yangouxia National Geopark (loc. 50). They reveal a remarkable diversity of track types including tridactyl and didactyl theropod tracks, the latter representing the first reported *Dromaeosauripus* from China (Xing *et al.*, 2013b), unusually large sauropod tracks, ornithopod tracks, pterosaur tracks (*Pteraichnus*) which were the first reported from China (Peng *et al.*, 2004; Zhang *et al.*, 2006) and bird tracks (cf. *Aquatilavipes*).

C5: Sichuan Province and Chongqing City. Until recently the Xingfu Cliff site in Emei County has been regarded as one of the best known and most important Cretaceous tracksites in China. It is a very small site (Loc. 24), but it has yielded the type material for the well known ichnogenera *Minisauripus* and *Velociraptorichnus*, as well as new ichnospecies of *Aquatilavipes* and *Grallator* (Zhen, Li & Zhang, 1994) The ichnogenus *Iguanodonopus* has been declared a *nomen dubium*. (Xing *et al.*, 2009b; Lockley *et al.*, 2013). In contrast to the Emei County site, new tracksites in the Zhaojue area reveal very large surfaces associated with large copper mine excavations. These sites reveal with very long trackways of theropods, sauropods, ornithopods and a few pterosaurs. The Lotus site in the Qijiang area (Chongqing City) is also a large tracksite associated with a historically famous cliff fortress. It

has yielded well preserved quadrupedal *Caririchnium*, and the bird-like track *Wupus* (Xing *et al.*, 2007) and pterosaur tracks (Xing *et al.*, 2013c). The Sanbiluoga site in the Zhaojue County also reveals theropod, sauropod ornithopod and pterosaur tracks (Xing *et al.*, 2013c), including the first definitive non-avian theropod swim trackway from China (Xing *et al.*, 2013d).

C6: Xinjiang Autonomous Region China. Xinjiang is a huge region of western China that remains largely unexplored for its tetrapod tracks potential (Fig. 1). However in recent years two important tetrapod tracksites have been described from the region. The first, the Wuerhe site has yielded a diverse assemblage of non-avian and avian theropod, thyreophoran (*Deltapodus*), pterosaur and turtle tracks. This is first record of *Deltapodus* from the Cretaceous of China (Xing *et al.*, 2013e). The second, the Asphaltite site also yields non-avian and avian theropod tracks together with pterosaur tracks (He *et al.*, 2013; Xing *et al.*, 2013f). The area has huge potential for more tracksite discoveries.

EARLY CRETACEOUS TETRAPOD ICHOFAUNAS IN KOREA

Since the discovery of Cretaceous dinosaur tracks in Korea in the early 1980s (Yang, 1982) the rate of report of diverse tetrapod ichnofaunas, all pertaining to the Cretaceous, has increased rapidly. In fact the abundance of sites, especially at localities along the southern coast has led to the concept of the Korea Cretaceous Dinosaur Coast (KCDC). Probably the most accessible summaries of the many discoveries since 1982 are found in the special issue of *Ichnos*, vol. 19 (1–2), entitled *Tracking on the Korean Cretaceous Dinosaur Coast: 40 years of vertebrate ichnology in Korea* (Lockley *et al.*, 2012b) and the Mesozoic terrestrial ecosystems of the Korean Cretaceous dinosaur coast: a field guide to the excursions of the 11th Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems Symposium (Lockley *et al.*, 2012c). Lee *et al.* (2000) also provided summary information on Korean dinosaur tracksites.

As is the case in China, many of the Cretaceous deposits in Korea have proved difficult to date, partly because of the widespread effects of thermal and regional metamorphism (Houck & Lockley, 2006). However, we may summarize the present state of knowledge as follows. The majority of track-bearing deposits have been reported from the Gyeongsang Supergroup of the Gyeongsang Basin which occupies much of the southeastern sector of the Korean peninsula (Fig. 2). The Gyeongsang Supergroup is divided into three groups: the predominantly sedimentary lower and middle groups, the Sindong and Hayang Groups respectively, which succeed each other conformably and the upper, predominantly volcanic Yucheon Group which overlies the older

sequences unconformably. Recent literature has dated the track-rich Sindong and Hayang Groups as Hauterivian to Albian (Houck & Lockley, 2006) or as somewhat younger, Aptian to Campanian (Paik *et al.*, 2012). In the southwestern sector of the Korean peninsula there are a number smaller basin with track-rich deposits, that have tended to yield Late Cretaceous dates, but many of the stratigraphic sequences in this area remain unnamed.

In recent years tetrapod tracks from the region have become very well-known. As indicated in Table 2, there have been relatively few important tracksites reported from the older Sindong Group, which has however, yielded some tetrapod body fossils (Fig. 2A). The more significant reports include the oldest Korean report of pterosaur tracks (*Pteraichnus*, Lee *et al.*, 2008) from the Hasandong Formation and the oldest *Dromaeosauripus* from the Jinju Formation Kim *et al.* (2012a). However, the vast majority of significant tracksites has been reported from the overlying Hayang Group, much of which is made up of the track-rich Haman and overlying Jindong Formations usually dated as Aptian-Albian (Houck & Lockley, 2006). As indicated in Table 2 and the aforementioned summary publications (Lockley *et al.*, 2012b, c) the Haman Formation has yielded six tetrapod track holotypes attributable to avian and non-avian theropods, sauropods and pterosaurs. These are assigned to the avian ichnogenus *Koreanaornis* (Kim, 1969), *Ignotornis* (Kim *et al.*, 2006; Kim *et al.*, 2012b), dromaeosaurids (*Dromaeosauripus* Kim *et al.*, 2008), sauropods (*Brontopodus*) (Kim & Lockley, 2012) and pterosaurs (*Haenamichnus*) (Kim *et al.*, 2012c). The Haman Formation has also produced a relatively large number of reports of the small theropod ichnogenus *Minisauripus* (Lockley *et al.*, 2008; Kim *et al.*, 2012d), which is currently only known from the Cretaceous of China and Korea.

The Jindong Formation is perhaps even richer in tracks than the Haman Formation. The southwestern part of Goseong County referred to as the Samcheonpo tracksites (Fig. 2B) is also designated as Korea Natural Monument 411, and is also referred to as the Goseong Tracksite, although it is one of many tracksite areas in Goseong County. In this area (Monument 411) hundreds of track-bearing levels have been documented in great detail (Lockley *et al.*, 2006b; Houck & Lockley, 2006). Several avian theropod (bird) holotypes have been named and assigned to the ichnogenus *Jindongornipes* (Lockley *et al.*, 1992), *Goseongornipes* (Lockley *et al.*, 2006b) and *Gyeongsangornipes* (Kim *et al.*, 2013). In addition the ornithopod ichnogenus *Ornithopodichnus* (Kim *et al.*, 2009) is from the Jindong Formation. For more information on bird tracks see Lim *et al.* (2000, 2002).

There are a number of other important tetrapod tracksites in the Cretaceous of Korea, including three, like the Goseong area, which are designated as Korea Natural Monuments 394, 434 and 487. All three of these sites have been reported as Upper Cretaceous in age, or of uncertain age, and so are not included here in Table 2. Briefly they are as follows: Natural Monument 394 is the Haenam Tracksite where ornithopod (*Caririchium*) pterosaur (*Haenamichnus*) (Lockley *et al.*, 1997) and bird tracks (*Hwangsanipes* and *Uhangichnus*) occur in the Uhangri Formation. The latter tracks show traces of a fully developed interdigital web and are convergent with small ducks (Yang *et al.*, 1995; Lockley & Harris, 2010). Natural Monument 434 is the Yeosu Tracksite associated with an unnamed formation yielding theropod, sauropod ornithopod and bird tracks (Huh *et al.*, 2012; Lockley *et al.*, 2012b, c, f, g). The Hwasun tracksite, Natural Monument 487 yields theropod, sauropod and ornithopod tracks from the Jindong Tuff (Huh *et al.*, 2006; Lockley, Huh & Kim 2012c, h).

Although other tracksites occur in elsewhere in southeast Asia, they are not abundant. For example, Matsukawa *et al.* (2006) reported only nine tracksites from Japan and five from Thailand, and this number has not increased significantly as a result of new reports. However, it is worth noting that some of these ichnofaunas contain named ichnotaxa that are not reported from other ichnofaunas discussed here. For example, the distinctive theropod ichnogenus *Siamopodus* (Fig. 3) is currently known only from Thailand (Lockley *et al.*, 2006d), and small theropod ichnogenus *Toyamasauripus* is known from Japan. *Asianopodus*, also a theropod ichnogenus, originally based on a Japanese holotype (Matsukawa *et al.*, 2005), is also abundant at some sites in Thailand. The only known Cretaceous report of *Batrachopus* is also from Thailand (Le Loeuff *et al.*, 2010), as is the only known Asian report of *Neoanomoepus* (Lockley, McCrea & Matsukawa, 2009). Most other dinosaur tracksites from Japan and Thailand have yielded only small assemblages of theropod and ornithopod tracks few of which have been named. Sauropod tracks occur at one locality in Laos (Matsukawa *et al.*, 2006).

EARLY CRETACEOUS TETRAPOD ICHNOFAUNAS IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

It is outside the scope of this review to outline the work of Leonardi (1989, 1994) in detail. Initially, in 1989 he reported 23 Cretaceous sites, increasing this number to 38 in a later compilation (Leonardi, 1994). The majority of these (about 28) are Lower to Mid-Cretaceous in age. His continent-wide survey is comparable to the compilation presented here for China which identified 105 tracksites. In the case of South

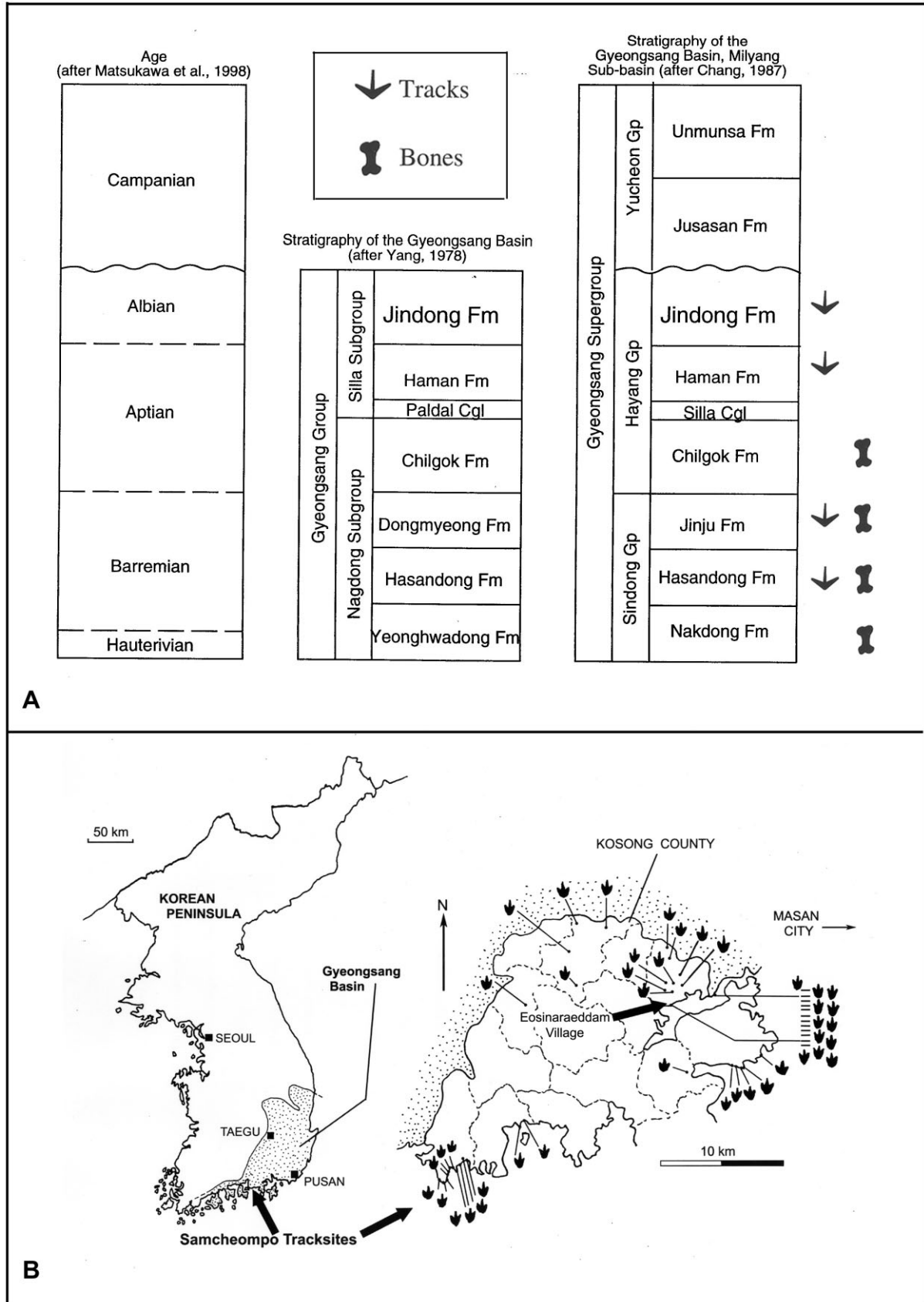


Figure 2. Aspects of the stratigraphy and distribution of tracksites in the Cretaceous of Korea. A: the main track-bearing formations in the Sindong and Hayang Groups Gyeongsang Basin. Note that the age of these formations is debated in the literature (see text for details). B: distribution of tracksites in Goseong County, with special reference to the Samcheompo tracksite also designated as the Goseong Tracksite and Korea Natural Monument 411. Compare with Table 2.

and Central America Leonardi (1994) identified 115 sites including 88 that are reported as Mesozoic in age. Since 1994 approximately 16 Cretaceous sites have been added for a total of about 54 sites: data were taken from Lockley *et al.* (2012a) and other sources. Approximately ten of the newly added sites are Lower or Mid-Cretaceous in age, giving an estimated total of about 38 Lower to 'Mid' Cretaceous sites.

The largest concentration of Early Cretaceous sites is in the Sousa Basin of Brazil, where Leonardi (1994) listed 18 sites. All but one reveal theropod tracks with seven sites yielding ornithopod tracks, including the important type specimen of ichnogenus *Caririchnium* (Leonardi, 1984) which has been widely identified on other continents, and five sites also yielding sauropod tracks. None of the other sites shows strong geographical concentrations or highly distinctive ichnofaunas. Bird tracks are conspicuous by their absence in the Lower Cretaceous although there are three reports from the Upper Cretaceous (Lockley & Harris, 2010). Pterosaur tracks are also scarce (Calvo & Lockley, 2001).

EARLY CRETACEOUS TETRAPOD ICHNOFAUNAS IN NORTH AMERICA

Important Early Cretaceous tetrapod ichnofaunas from North America are mostly known from the western USA and western Canada. In both regions there are major gaps in the Neocomian successions, leaving only the Aptian and Albian well represented. Only one significant ichnofauna is known from the eastern USA containing a diverse assemblage of mostly small tracks of theropods, ornithopods, sauropods and pterosaurs (Stanford, Lockley & Weems, 2007) from the Aptian Patuxent Formation. The size-frequency of the track assemblage is biased by the unusual preservation in small pieces of reworked sediment. In the western USA the oldest significant *in situ* assemblages are those reported from the Cedar Mountain Formation (Aptian-Albian) of eastern Utah. Relatively few sites are known but they show a high diversity of tracks attributed to birds (*Aquatilavipes*) and non-avian theropods (*Dromaeosauripus* and *Irenesauripus*), sauropods (*Brontopodus*) and ornithischians (*Caririchnium* and *Deltapodus*) (Lockley *et al.*, 2014a, b).

In contrast to the diverse Patuxent and Cedar Mountain ichnofaunas associated with clastic fluvio-

lacustrine facies, the Albian Glen Rose Formation ichnofaunas occur in carbonate platform sequences in Texas. These were described by Pittman (1989) as dominated by ichnites of large, theropods, attributed to *Acrocanthosaurus*, (Farlow, 2001) and large wide gauge (*Brontopodus*) trackways described in some detail by Farlow, Pittman & Hawthorne (1989) and attributed to titanosauriform sauropods.

Again in contrast to the Texan ichnofaunas the slightly younger (Late Albian-Cenomanian) track-rich siliciclastic, coal-bearing facies of the Dakota Group is rich in ornithischian tracks, and apparently devoid of sauropod tracks, despite reports of at least 120 sites (Lockley *et al.*, 2014c). This lack of sauropod evidence is apparently due to facies differences and what has been referred to as the North American 'sauropod hiatus' (Lucas & Hunt, 1989) beginning in the Late Albian. The dominant ornithischian tracks are of ornithopod affinity (*Caririchnium*) especially in eastern Colorado and northeastern New Mexico, but ankylosaur tracks (*Tetrapodosaurus*) are more common in western Colorado. Theropod tracks, especially *Magnoavipes*, probably representing a gracile ornithomimid, are moderately common, and crocodylian swim tracks (*Hatcherichnus*) are also common. Bird tracks (*Ignotornis* and *Koreanaornis*) are rare (Mehl, 1931; Lockley & Harris, 2010), but tracks of small and large pterosaurs (cf., *Pteraichnus*) are moderately common. According to a regional synthesis of more than 1000 trackways from ~70 Dakota tracksites (Lockley *et al.*, 2010a, table 6), across the then-known eastern outcrops the dominant track type is *Caririchnium*, representing ornithopod trackmakers. This ichnogenus outnumbered all other tracks types by an order of magnitude (i.e. by at least 10:1, or more). Preliminary study of at least 40 tracksites across the western outcrops indicates that the ornithopods were far less dominant and that ankylosaur trackmakers were common (Lockley *et al.*, 2014c).

While the ichnofaunas from the four stratigraphic units outlined above (Patuxent, Glen Rose, Cedar Mountain and Dakota) are representative of well-studied and locally or regionally track-rich deposits from the lower 48 states of the USA, many other track-rich Cretaceous deposits are known from western Canada. These were recently reviewed by McCrea *et al.* (2014). It is outside the scope of this paper to discuss these ichnofaunas in detail.

Table 2. Distribution of Early (–Mid’) Cretaceous track types in main units of the Sindong and Hayang Groups (Gyeongsang Basin) Korea, with associated holotype occurrences. Thero, theropod; sauro, sauropod; ornith, ornithomischian; ptero, pterosaur; croc, crocodylian. Note that tracksite occurrences in other basins, where purported Upper Cretaceous tracks are reported, are not included. See text for details

| Site or section | Age | Strat unit | Track levels | | Thero tways | Bird tways | Sauro tways | Ornitho tways | Ptero tways | Holotypes | Reference |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | levels | tways | | | | | | | |
| Goseong 1 Silbawi | Early Cret. | Jindong | 65 | 1 | n | | 20 | 14 | | | Lockley <i>et al.</i> , 2006b |
| Goseong 2 Bongwhagol | Early Cret. | Jindong | 17 | | n | | 6 | 17 | | | Lockley <i>et al.</i> , 2006b |
| Goseong 3 Dekmyeong-ri | Early Cret. | Jindong | 79 | 2 | n | | 31 | 76 | | <i>Jindongornipes kimi</i> | Lockley <i>et al.</i> , 1992, |
| | | | | | | | | | | <i>Goseongornipes markjonesi</i> | Lockley <i>et al.</i> , 2006b, |
| | | | | | | | | | | <i>Geongsangornipes lockleyi</i> | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2013 |
| Goseong 4 Sangjok | Early Cret. | Jindong | 57 | 1 | n | | 38 | 92 | | | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2013 |
| Goseong 5 Donghae-myeon | Early Cret. | Jindong | 6 | 4 | | | 28 | 35 | | | Lee <i>et al.</i> , 2000 |
| Goseong 6 Hoewha-myeon | Early Cret. | Jindong | 9 | 1 | | | 39 | 21 | | | Lee <i>et al.</i> , 2000 |
| Masan site | Early Cret. | Jindong | 1 | | | | | 12 | | <i>Ornithopodichnus masanensis</i> | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2009 |
| Docheon-ri | Early Cret. | Jindong | 1 | | | | 10 | | | | Hwang <i>et al.</i> , 2004 |
| Subtotals | | All Jindong | 235 | 9 | N | N | 172 | 267 | | | |
| Yongsan-myeon | Early Cret. | Haman | | | | | | | | <i>Koreanaornis hamanensis</i> | Kim, 1969 |
| Changseon Island Gain-ri | Early Cret. | Haman | | | 11 | | | | | <i>Ignotornis yangi</i> | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| Sinsu Island | Early Cret. | Haman | | | | | | 3 | | | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| Changseon Island Gain-ri | Early Cret. | Haman | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 5 | <i>Haenamichnus gainensis</i> | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2012c |
| Changseon Isle Buyun-ri | Early Cret. | Haman | | 38 | | | | | | | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2012d |
| Changseon Island Godu | Early Cret. | Haman | | 5 | | | | | | | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2012d |
| Changseon & Adu isles | Early Cret. | Haman | | | | | | 1 | | <i>Dromaeosauripus hamanensis</i> | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2012c |
| Changseon & Chu isles | Early Cret. | Haman | | 1 | | | | | | <i>Brontopodus pentadactylus</i> , | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2008 |
| Gajjin-ri | Early Cret. | Haman | | 1 | | | N = 100 s | 2 | | <i>Ignotornis gajjinensis</i> | Kim & Lockley 2012 |
| Bito Island | Early Cret. | Jinju | | 1 | | | | | | <i>Dromaeosauripus jinjuensis</i> | Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2012a |
| Hadong | Early Cret. | Hasandong | | | | | | 1 | | <i>Pterachnus koreanensis</i> | Lee <i>et al.</i> , 2008 |

2014) ichnofaunas from the Wealden Group are among the first ever reported from the Lower Cretaceous. Historically most reports refer to *Iguanodon* tracks, which appear to be the dominant track type (Lockwood *et al.*, 2014). However, because the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) do not permit use of a genus name based on skeletal material to describe trace fossils, Sarjeant, Delair & Lockley (1998) erected the ichnogenus *Iguanodontipus*, based on relatively small pre-Wealden ichnites from the Purbeck Group (Tithonian-Berriasian). These are significantly different from the Barremian age Wealden Group ornithopod tracks which have mostly been assigned to *Caririchnium*. Thus, in essence the Purbeck and Wealden ornithopod footprints mostly represent the two distinct, respective ichnogenera named above (Lockley *et al.*, 2014). Few other ichnotaxa from the Wealden Group have been described in detail, but it appears that tracks of theropod, sauropods and other ornithischians (ichnogenera *Tetrapodosaurus* and possibly *Deltapodus*) are also represented.

Ichnofaunas from the Berriasian deposits of northern Germany include unnamed ornithopod (iguanodontid tracks) which resemble *Iguanodontipus* (Lockley, Wright & Thies, 2004). This ichnogenus has recently been identified in rocks of the same age in Spain (Castanera *et al.*, 2013), where, like the German tracks a small proportion show manus prints. It is possible that quadrupedal progression was less common among Tithonian-Berriasian ornithopods than among larger varieties represented by younger (Barremian-Albian) track-makers. However, we admit that this inference is speculative. As noted below a recent review by Moratalla & Hernán (2010) of Spanish ichnofaunas from the Cameros Basin provides useful data on the proportion of theropod, ornithopod and sauropod tracks found in the Lower Cretaceous (Berriasian) Huérteles Formation and the much younger (Aptian) Enciso Group.

Other Lower Cretaceous tracksites reported from Europe include those associated with carbonate platform paleoenvironments in Switzerland (Meyer & Thuring, 2004), Italy (Sacchi *et al.*, 2009; Petti *et al.*, 2010) and Croatia (Dalla Vecchia, 2008). Collectively these reports deal with quite different paleoenvironments from those described from the clastic facies of the Wealden Group and equivalent beds of England, Germany and Spain. Thus, we can generally differentiate between clastic facies in northern European and carbonate facies in southern Europe. In the case of the Swiss site from the Albian Schrätkalk Formation an iguanodontid trackway, similar to *Caririchnium*, but not explicitly attributed to that ichnogenus, was reported as an unusual

example of this track type in association with a carbonate substrate, which typically yields theropod-sauropod assemblages characteristic of the *Brontopodus* ichnofacies (sensu Lockley *et al.*, 1994). The Italian sites have yielded a number of trackways of quadrupedal dinosaurs of uncertain ichnotaxonomic affinity. According to Sacchi *et al.* (2009, fig. 13) theropod, sauropod ornithopod and thyreophoran footprints are all represented in the Lower Cretaceous, although in most cases these are all very poorly preserved, and in our opinion there is no definitive evidence of ornithopods, or strong evidence to differentiate the purported trackways of ankylosaurs and sauropods. In this regard the ichnogenus *Apulosauripus* reported by Nicosia *et al.* (1999) from Upper Cretaceous carbonates of Italy and attributed to a hadrosaurian track makers, was reinterpreted as being of likely ankylosaurian affinity (Gierlinski & Sabath, 2008). Petti *et al.* (2010) described purported ankylosaur trackway, but again this identification is uncertain. Dalla Vecchia (2008) has identified many theropod and sauropod tracks from the Lower Cretaceous of Croatia. Such assemblages are consistent with the theropod-sauropod assemblage typical of the *Brontopodus* ichnofacies associated with carbonate platforms. The combined reports of tracksites from these three areas (Switzerland, Italy and Croatia) indicate that tracks are abundant in the Lower Cretaceous carbonates of the region, as well as in the Upper Cretaceous. However, in general they are poorly preserved and saurischian (theropod and sauropod dominated) with reports of ornithischians (ornithopods and ankylosaurs) generally being either rare, uncertain or both.

EARLY CRETACEOUS TETRAPOD ICHOFAUNAS IN AFRICA

Relatively few Lower Cretaceous dinosaur tracksites are known from Africa, although recent studies have indicated that several sites are known in North Africa, some extending into the 'Mid' Cretaceous (Cenomanian). As reported by Bellair & Lapparent (1948) Mid-Cretaceous tridactyl (theropod) tracks have been known from Algeria since 1880. Recent studies in this region have identified well preserved theropod tracks of Valanginian age (Bensalah *et al.*, 2005). Other significant Lower Cretaceous sites include those reported from Morocco including a theropod-sauropod tracksite from the Barremian-Aptian Tazought Formation northeast of Agadir (Masrour *et al.*, 2013) and two sites theropod-sauropod tracksites from the Mid-Cretaceous (Cenomanian) Kem Kem Formation (Belvedere *et al.*, 2013; Ibrahim *et al.*, 2014). The former report also documents turtle and crocodylian swim tracks. There

are a few other reports of confirmed Mid-Cretaceous age including a report of bird tracks from Tunisia (Contessi & Fanti, 2012). Jacobs *et al.* (1989) reported well preserved theropod tracks from Cameroon in West Africa. Thus, despite recent reports, the African track record for the Early Cretaceous remains very sparse and scattered.

EARLY CRETACEOUS TETRAPOD ICHTNOFAUNAS IN AUSTRALIA

Relatively few tetrapod tracksites are known from the Cretaceous of Australia (Long, 1998). Moreover, the few that are known, although significant, are also very controversial making track identification problematic. According to Thulborn (2013) and Thulborn & Wade (1984) the well-known Lark Quarry site, from the 'Mid' Cretaceous Winton Formation in Queensland, yielded two ichnogenera *Wintonopus* and *Skartopus* representing small ornithopods and small theropods respectively. Both track types were reported as abundant, and interpreted as evidence of a stampede. Neither ichnogenus has been reported outside Australia. However, according to Romilio, Tucker & Salisbury (2013) these are swim tracks and *Skartopus* is not a valid ichnotaxon: i.e., it is a junior synonym of *Wintonopus*. Romilio & Salisbury (2010) also reinterpreted large-theropod tracks as ornithopodan. Thus there is no consensus on the ichnotaxonomy, trackmaker identity or trackmaker behavior. Tracks from the Broome Sandstone in western Australia include only one named, uncontroversial ichnogenus, *Megalosauropus* (Colbert & Merriam, 1967). Almost all other tracks, although representing unnamed theropod, sauropod and ornithischian ichnotaxa (Long, 1998) are associated with heavily trampled substrates (Thulborn, 2012), and have not been described in detail. Martin, Vickers-Rich & Vazquez-Propkopec (2012) recently described theropod tracks and first Cretaceous bird tracks (Martin *et al.*, 2014) from Victoria, Australia. Thus, the entire Lower Cretaceous track record from Australia is concentrated in three widely-separated regions and consists of three named, tridactyl, non-avian dinosaur tracks, including one in dispute, a few avian theropod (bird) tracks and unnamed mostly poorly preserved sauropod and ornithischian tracks. Even assuming disputes over track interpretation can be resolved, this database is very sparse in comparison with that available from other continents.

DISCUSSION

Among the aims of contributions to this volume are comparison between the Lower Cretaceous faunas of

China and the Wealden Group in England. Comparisons based on the ichnofaunas of the two regions are possible, but hampered by various uncertainties. The most significant problems relate to the uncertain age of many of the Chinese deposits, due to the complex structure of Cretaceous basins across China and East Asia in general (Haggart, Matsukawa & Ito, 2006). Nevertheless, there is no shortage of new ichnological data emerging from China and elsewhere in the region (notably Korea and Thailand). Given that the Wealden ichnofaunas are heavily ornithopod dominated it is easy to select a few examples of ornithopod-dominated ichnofaunas, such as the *Caririchium*-dominated Qijiang ichnofauna (Xing *et al.*, 2007) or the Jindong ichnofauna where *Caririchium* is also abundantly represented. In general however, many of the Chinese ichnofaunas are not ornithopod dominated, even though numerically ornithopod trackways represent a small or intermediate component in many. As cited elsewhere in this volume Lucas (2007: 22) suggested that 'Cretaceous tetrapod footprints can be distinguished from Jurassic tracks primarily by the abundance and near ubiquity of large ornithopod tracks'. This statement deserves analysis, because while it is true that large ornithopod tracks are relatively ubiquitous, not 'near ubiquitous', they are only abundant in certain regions and deposits, including the Wealden and Dakota Groups (Fig. 3). Lockley *et al.* (2012a) have already suggested that East Asian ichnofaunas are significantly different in composition, being dominated in many regions by an abundance of small non-avian theropod (grallatorid) tracks (*Grallator s.l.* and *Asianopodus*), and avian theropod (bird) tracks as well as forms like *Minisauripus* and various dromaeosaurid tracks (*Velociraptorichnus*, *Dromaeopodus* and *Dromaeosauripus*) which are apparently rare or absent in all other regions. In this regard it is interesting to note that the South American ichnofaunas are also heavily theropod-dominated, as are the Spanish ichnofaunas, and in both these examples these conclusions are based on substantial data sets.

Although vertebrate ichnology has progressed rapidly in recent decades, there have been relatively few efforts to synthesize the large volume of data now available. We have cited the Chinese data set (Table 1) as an example of a comprehensive compilation of tracksites, comparable to the South American data set provided by Leonardi (1994). However, we stress that other comprehensive data sets such as those provided by Lockley *et al.* (2006b) for the Jindong Formation of Korea, by Lockley *et al.* (2010a) for the Dakota Group of the western USA and by Moratalla & Hernán (2010) for the Cameros Basin of Spain are regional in scope, and refer to discrete

stratigraphic units. However, in these cases as well as counting tracksites, the number of individual trackways have been recorded allowing a quantitative assessment of the proportion of different track types, rather than simple presence/absence data. Ultimately such relative abundance data is necessary in order to better characterize the ichnofaunas and their facies relationships.

As an example of this potential to show quantitative trends we cite the evidence for an increase in the proportion of ornithopods between the basal Early Cretaceous (Berriasian) and the later Early Cretaceous (Aptian–Albian). This trend was recorded independently in Spain (Moratalla & Hernán, 2010) and northeastern China (Matsukawa *et al.*, 2014). This trend can also be inferred in Korea (Table 2, Fig. 2) where the abundance of ornithopods in the Jindong Formation is far greater than in any of the underlying (older) units. Likewise the trend is evident in Canada (McCrea *et al.*, 2014) where track-rich formations from both intervals are available for study, and where track-rich formations from both intervals are available for study and where Currie (1995) has stated that ornithopod tracks are very abundant (dominant) in the Aptian Gething Formation. As hinted above, the increase in abundance of large ornithopods may also correlate with an increase in average size during the Early Cretaceous.

Such differences in the types of data available for widely different regions make for very generalized syntheses. Here we claim only to provide an overview of track-bearing Lower Cretaceous deposits from which relatively abundant data is available (Fig. 3). It is beyond the scope of the present study to extract data in a standardized format for all regions discussed; indeed it is doubtful that anything more than presence/absence data can be extracted from some of the primary literature (see appendix in Lockley *et al.*, 2012a). These obstacles to a standardized approach are compounded by the lack of consistency in ichnotaxonomic practice. However, ichnologists are aware of this problem and have attempted to address the problem of ‘over-splitting’, especially in the case of Chinese ichnotaxonomy (Lockley *et al.*, 2013). In short it is necessary to have a consistent ichnotaxonomy before making meaningful comparative analyses. Elsewhere in this volume for example, the ichnotaxonomy of large ornithopod tracks is reviewed (Lockley *et al.*, 2014), with a view to highlighting both obvious and subtle differences, and moving towards a manageable ichnotaxonomy that is useful in practice. For example, while acknowledging that there are subtle differences of opinion regarding the similarities and differences between *Amblydactylus* and *Caririchnium* (the latter ichnogenus being represented by four different ichnospecies on three

continents) there seems to be little dispute over the fact that both ichnogenera represent large facultatively bipedal ornithopods, that are abundantly represented in the post-Neocomian Early Cretaceous (Aptian–Albian). In contrast *Iguanodontipus* is more typical of the basal Cretaceous.

Finally it is important to note that while Early Cretaceous ichnofaunas are quite distinct from those for other epochs, causing Lucas (2007) to recognize a distinct Lower Cretaceous biochron, many ichnofaunas are facies-controlled, or facies-related. The best example among the ichnofaunas cited here would be the differentiation between the Texas (Pittman, 1989) and southern European ichnofaunas associated with carbonate platform facies (Dalla Vecchia, 2008; Sacchi *et al.*, 2009) and all others associated with diverse clastic facies. Lockley, Hunt & Meyer (1994a) suggested that such differences are evidence of distinctive vertebrate ichnofacies, later also referred to as tetrapod ichnofacies (Hunt & Lucas, 2007; Lockley, 2007). Ichnofacies may be controlled by regional and global scale environmental factors such as latitude, climate and depositional environment (Lockley, Hunt & Meyer, 1994b). In short, ichnofacies, like sedimentary facies, are variable and may intergrade in complex ways. All these factors, as well as age, and the dynamics of evolutionary turnover, influence the composition and distribution of ichnofaunas on a global scale. In many regions tracks are extremely abundant, and the compilation of data sets is potentially very useful, especially when the age of the ichnofaunas, their ichnotaxonomy and facies relations are well understood and provide well documented context. As stressed here, uncertainties about the age, ichnotaxonomy and other factors may compromise the utility of data and comparative analyses, at least in the short term. However, as we hope to have shown, in the long term, databases are growing steadily in volume and quality, as is their potential utility for ichnofaunal analysis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Gareth Dyke for his efforts to organize the Jehol-Wealden International Conference, held at Southampton University, England, in September 2013. Support to attend this conference was provided to the senior author (MGL) by the offices of the Dinosaur Trackers Research Group (University of Colorado Denver). We also thank Richard McCrea for providing access to in press information on the Canadian ichnofaunas. We thank Stuart Pond, University of Southampton and Matteo Belvedere, University of Padova for their helpful reviews.

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