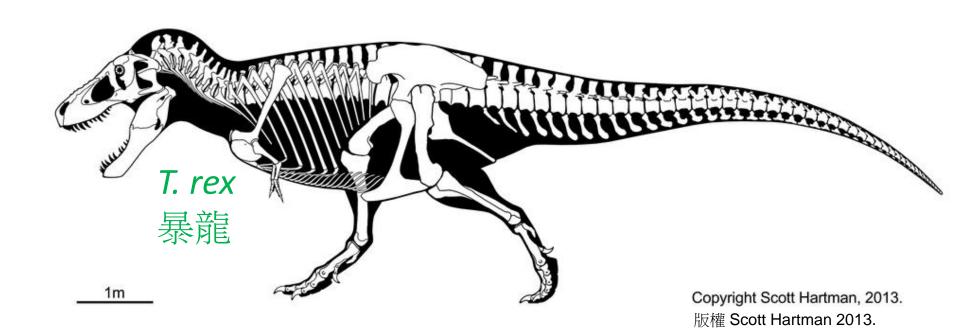
HKU Earth Scientist Reconstructs Feathered Dinosaurs in the Flesh with High Power Lasers



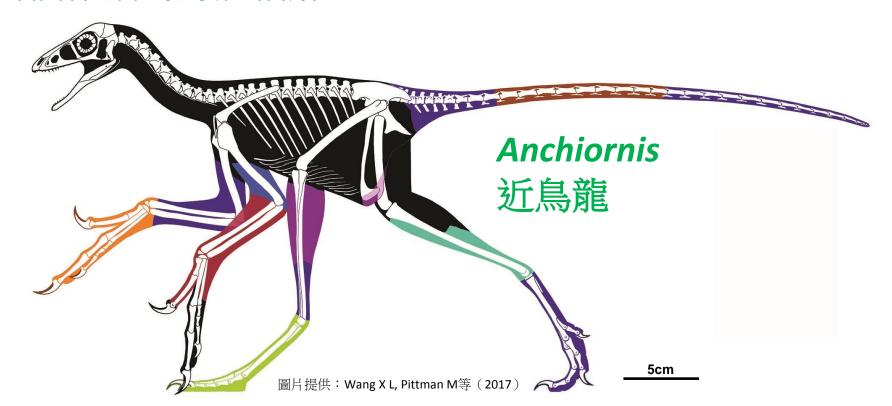
Dr. Michael Pittman, HKU Earth Sciences 香港大學地球科學系文嘉琪博士 Until now it has been hard to get an accurate idea of the shape of a dinosaur from its fossilised remains, as only their bones are usually preserved.

從化石準確地推敲恐龍外觀向來都是個難題,因爲牠們被保存下來的通常只有骨骼。



Dr Michael Pittman and his collaborators reconstructed the first highly detailed body outline of a feathered dinosaur based on high-definition images of its preserved soft tissues.

文嘉棋博士聯同合作夥伴利用一種嶄新技術,根據已保存軟組織的高清影像,為一種帶羽毛的恐龍重塑了首個仔細的身體輪廓。



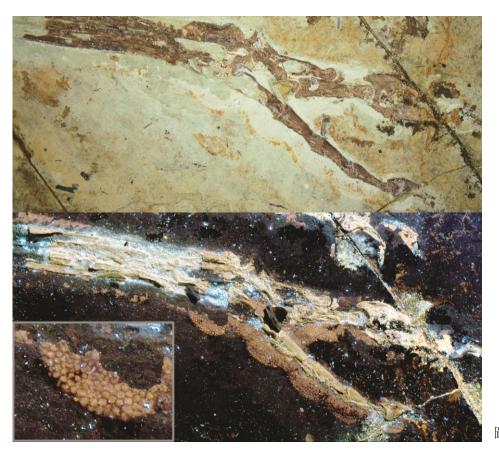
Laser-stimulated fluorescence (LSF) uses high power lasers to makes unseen soft tissues preserved alongside the bones, literally "glow in the dark" by fluorescence.

激光誘導螢光技術(LSF)是一種革命性的新技術,主要利用高强度激光令到在骨頭周圍、肉眼看不到的軟組織「在黑暗中發

出螢光」。

under normal light 在普通光線下

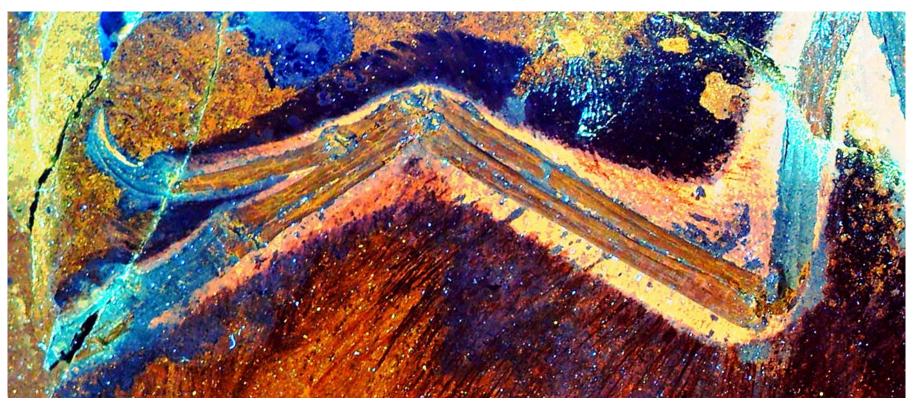




Anchiornis foot 近鳥龍的腿部

圖片提供: Wang X L, Pittman M等 (2017)

Anchiornis wing 近鳥龍翅膀



under laser light 在激光下

圖片提供:Wang X L, Pittman M等(2017)

The technique developed by collaborator Tom Kaye of the Foundation for Scientific Advancement, scans the fossils with a violet laser in a dark room.

這個技術由合作夥伴Foundation for Scientific Advancement的 Tom Kaye研發,利用紫色激光在黑房中

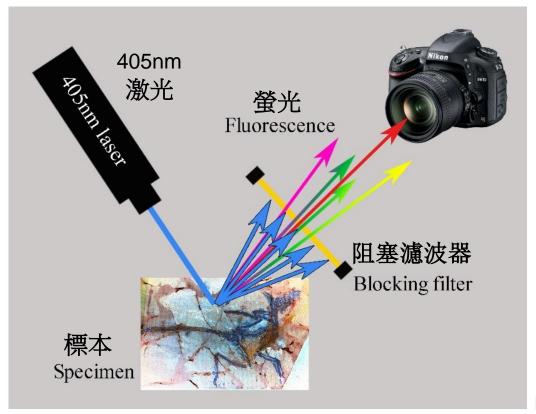
掃描化石。



圖片提供:T Kaye 2017

The laser "excites" the few skin atoms left in the matrix making them glow, to reveal what the shape of the dinosaur actually looked like.

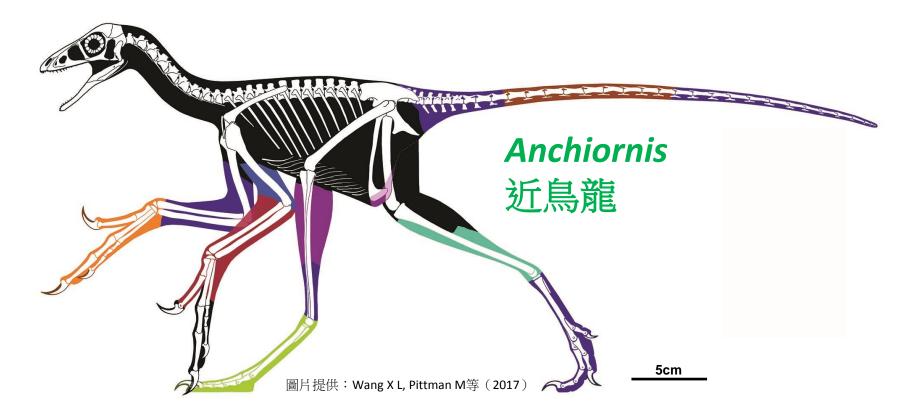
激光會「刺激」一些保留在岩石基質的皮膚原子,令到它們發光,以揭示恐龍真正的外形。



圖片提供:T Kaye & M Pittman 2017

The quantitative reconstruction shows the contours of the wings, legs and even perfectly preserved foot scales, providing new details that illuminate the origin of birds.

這個定量重建顯示了該恐龍身體各部分的輪廓,包括翅膀、腿部、甚至腿部上保存完好的鱗片,為研究鳥類的起源提供了新的資訊。



Over 200 specimens of the feathered bird-like dinosaur *Anchiornis* were examined to find those with special preservation.

文博士和他的研究夥伴檢視了超過二百件近鳥龍的標本(一種帶羽毛,類似鳥類的恐龍),去尋找保存了特別組織的十幾件。



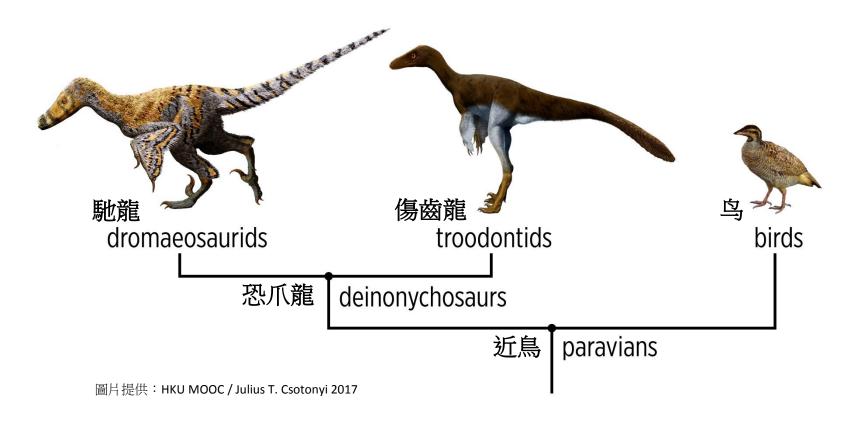
圖片提供:M Pittman 2017



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This Late Jurassic animal (~160 million years old) lived close to the time when palaeontologists think birds first appeared.

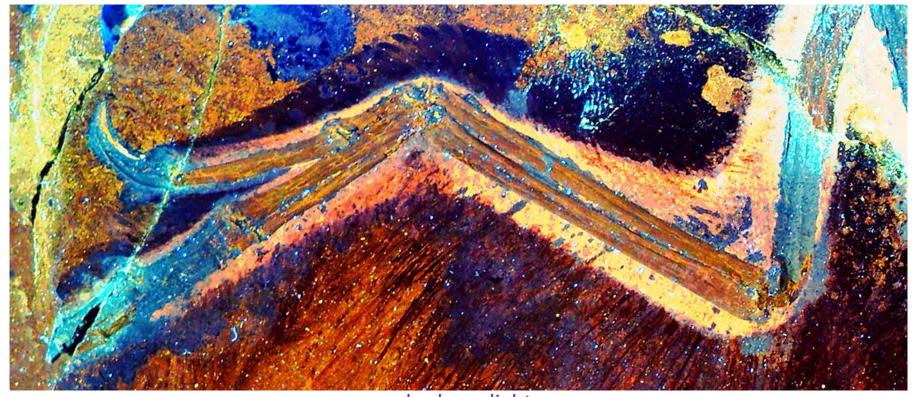
這種侏羅紀晚期的動物(約一億六千萬年前)生活的時期和古生物學家認爲鳥類首次出現的時間十分接近。



Dr. Pittman and his colleagues found that the shape of wing was in many ways similar to modern birds,

文博士和研究夥伴發現其翅膀的形狀和現代鳥類在各方面都很相似,

Anchiornis wing 近鳥龍翅膀

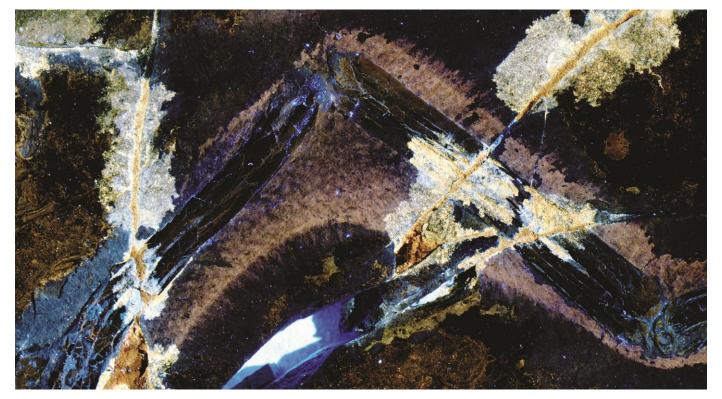


under laser light 在激光下

圖片提供: Wang X L, Pittman M等 (2017)

but it also had some seemingly primitive characteristics like feathers arranged more evenly across the wing rather than in distinct rows.

但也保留了一些看似原始的特徵,例如羽毛是較平均地分佈,而不是一行行排列的。



Anchiornis wing 近鳥龍翅膀

under laser light 在激光下

圖片提供: Wang X L, Pittman M等(2017)

These new insights provide crucial information for reconstructing how dinosaurs experimented and eventually achieved flight.

這些全新的見解為重建恐龍如何試驗和獲得飛行能力提供了重要的資訊。





Free HKU online course Dinosaur Ecosystems

免費讀港大網上課程:恐龍生態系統

http://tl.hku.hk/elearningblog/?pid=20662

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我與徐教授坐在一起,前面是一塊非常 有趣的化石。

我們所看到的是腳上部的骨頭。

一塊蹠骨、一塊腳趾骨

和在蹠骨上面的骨頭、

脛骨和腓骨・

像這樣的鑑定已經是很仔細的,

因為標本沒有完全露出來。

是的。

所以我們需要的是把這些標本

帶回到實驗室並充分清理,

然後我們可以根據化石所有形態學的信 息進行分類。

以便找出牠是什麼物種。

正確。

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圖片提供: M Pittman 2017

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