

Correspondence



Revised diagnoses of *Hadrosaurus foulkii* Leidy, 1858 (the type genus and species of Hadrosauridae Cope, 1869) and *Claosaurus agilis* Marsh, 1872 (Dinosauria: Ornithopoda) from the Late Cretaceous of North America

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Hadrosauridae constitutes a very diverse clade of herbivorous dinosaurs that were extremely abundant during the Campanian–Maastrichtian (Late Cretaceous) of Europe, Asia, both Americas, and probably also Antarctica (Horner *et al.* 2004). The fact that hadrosaurids are one of the best-known clades of dinosaurs, represented by arguably the richest dinosaurian fossil record, contrasts with the scarcity of material and apparently undiagnostic nature of their type genus and species, *Hadrosaurus foulkii*. The holotype and only known specimen of *H. foulkii* is also historically significant for being the first skeletal remains of a dinosaur described outside Europe (Leidy 1858).

Recently, Prieto-Márquez *et al.* (2006) redescribed in detail the osteology of *H. foulkii* and revised the taxonomy of the genus *Hadrosaurus*. These authors concluded that *H. foulkii* is a nomen dubium because they found no autapomorphic or distinguishable characters in the type and only known materials of this taxon.

Here, I show that *Hadrosaurus foulkii* is actually diagnosable based on a combination of plesiomorphic and derived appendicular characters. An ancilliary outcome of this study is the recognition of a diagnostic combination of iliac characters (in the context of the phylogenetic framework of Prieto-Márquez 2010) in *Claosaurus agilis*, a poorly known hadrosauroid outgroup to Hadrosauridae (Fig. 1) from the middle of the North American continent.

Institutional abbreviations

AMNH American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA

ANSP Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, USA

FMNH The Field Museum, Chicago, USA

IRSNB Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium IVPP Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Beijing, China

MOR Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, USA

MPC Mongolian Paleontological Center, Academy of Sciences, Ulan Bataar, Mongolia

NHMUK Natural History Museum, London, UK

PMU Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

ROM Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada SM Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, Germany

YPM Yale Peabody Museum of Paleontology, Connecticut, USA

ZPAL Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

Systematic Paleontology

Dinosauria Owen, 1842

Ornithischia Seeley, 1887

Ornithopoda Marsh, 1881