



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# Previously Unknown Dinosaur Discovered in Argentina

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Scientists in Argentina have found the ancient remains of a new **species** of meat-eating dinosaur.

They say the creature lived about 70 million years ago and had very small arms and a large head. The researchers say it may have used its head to beat and capture **prey**.

The skull of the dinosaur, named *Guemesia ochoai*, was discovered in Argentina's northwestern Salta province.

Researchers said it likely belongs to a meat-eating, or carnivorous, group of dinosaurs called abelisaurids. These dinosaurs walked on two legs and had very short arms, even shorter than those of North America's *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

The short arms may have forced *Guemesia* to depend more on its powerful skull and jaws, the researchers said.

Federico Agnolin is the lead writer of a study on the dinosaur that was published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

*Guemesia* is so different from other meat-eating dinosaurs “which **allows** us to understand that we're dealing with a totally new species,” Agnolin said.

The animals existed for a few million years before an asteroid hit what is now Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. That event, about 66 millions years ago, led to a series of disasters that killed all the dinosaurs and many other animals. In total, about 75 percent of Earth's species were destroyed as a result of the asteroid.

Scientists believe abelisaurs lived on what is now Africa, South America and India. Several abelisaurs have been dug up in Argentina in the past but almost all of them were in southern Patagonia, far from the site where Guemesia was found.

"We know it had a very sharp sense of smell and was **shortsighted**," said Agnolin. He noted also that the animal would have walked upright on its large feet, with its weighty head leading the way.

"Some scientists think that could mean the animal hunted its prey by charging them with its head," he added.

Guemesia takes its name from Argentine independence hero Martin Miguel de Guemes and Javier Ochoa, a museum worker who made the discovery.

I'm Caty Weaver.

*Miguel Lo Bianco and Claudia Martini reported on this story for Reuters. John Russell adapted it for VOA Learning English.*

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## Words in This Story

**species** – n. biology : a group of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants :

**prey** -- n. an animal that is hunted or killed by another animal for food

**allow** -- v. to make it possible for something to happen

**shortsighted** – adj. unable to see things that are far away