



# **Evolution of Jaw Mechanisms in Ornithomimid Dinosaurs (Advances in Anatomy, Embryology and Cell Biology)**

*David B. Weishampel*

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# Evolution of Jaw Mechanisms in Ornithopod Dinosaurs (Advances in Anatomy, Embryology and Cell Biology)

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The Ornithopoda, one of five suborders within the Ornithischia, was originally proposed by Marsh in 1881 to include those bipedal dinosaurs possessing a prefrontal bone fitted over the rostral end of the mandibles. Ornithopods as recognized today can be further characterized by moderately long facial skeletons equipped with well-developed, often toothless premaxillae and moderate to large external nares. Maxillary and dentary dentitions vary but usually consist of at least one replacement series beneath the functional set; some have many rows of successional teeth. Tooth morphology suggests ornithopods were successful herbivores but, as will be discussed, the precise way(s) in which ornithopods chewed their food, hence lending important information about their trophic position, has not been settled. Postcranially, ornithopods show specialization for bipedality in hindlimb construction and lack well-developed protective structures on their flanks, back, and tail. The Ornithopoda can itself be divided into five families: Fabrosauridae, Heterodontosauridae, Hypsilophodontidae, Iguanodontidae, and Hadrosauridae (subdivided into the subfamilies Hadrosaurinae and Lambeosaurinae). Both fabrosaurids and heterodontosaurids, first known from the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic of Argentina and South Africa, were small animals differing in details of cranial, dental, and appendicular anatomy. Fabrosaurids are believed to represent the basal ornithopod stock (Galton 1972, 1978; Thulborn 1970a, 1972). During the Jurassic, ornithopods underwent major radiations that included the medium- to large-sized Hypsilophodontidae and the large bodied Iguanodontidae, both of which survived into the Cretaceous.

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