

Ceratocaudia antiqua

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Ceratocaudia antiqua Latest News

Scientists recently discovered a new species of long-necked dinosaur named *Ceratocaudia antiqua* in western India that possessed a unique, horn-like tail crest.

About *Ceratocaudia antiqua*

- It is a new species of **long-necked dinosaur**.
- It was discovered following excavations in the **Kaladongar Formation** of the **Kachchh Basin** in the **Kutch district of Gujarat**.
- Living roughly **170 to 180 million years ago** during the **Jurassic period**, this diminutive giant reaches only about **seven meters** in length, **significantly smaller than** its more famous **20-meter-long relatives like Brachiosaurus**.
- *Ceratocaudia* is **distinguished** by several physical traits that set it apart from its closest relatives.
 - The most striking feature is a **curved, horn-like crest atop its front tailbones**.

- It also possessed a **unique notch on its neck vertebrae** and specific shapes in its lower leg bones, the tibia and fibula, which have not been seen in other sauropods.
- Furthermore, its tail vertebrae show a rare transition from flat-ended joints to “ball-and-socket” joints near the tip, a feature usually reserved for much later dinosaur species.
- The name *Ceratocaudia antiqua* reflects these physical and historical traits.
 - The genus name is derived from the **Greek words ‘cerato’ (meaning horn) and ‘caud’ (meaning tail)**, referring to the **unique spike on its vertebrae**.
 - The species name, ‘**antiqua**’, is **Latin for “old” or “ancient,”** highlighting that this is **one of the earliest known macronarian dinosaurs, a group of long-necked giants** characterised by their large, boxy skulls and wide nostrils.
- *Ceratocaudia* now stands as the **earliest diagnosable member of its lineage in India** and one of the oldest in the world .

News: RM

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