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TECHNICAL COMMENT ABSTRACTS
COMMENT ON "Ascent of Dinosaurs
Linked to an Iridium Anomaly at
the Triassic-Jurassic Boundary"

T. Thulborn

Olsen *et al.* (Reports, 17 May 2002, p. 1305) suggested that predatory dinosaurs of the suborder Theropoda did not attain large size until the Early Jurassic, in the wake of mass extinction at the Triassic-Jurassic boundary (~202 My). Fossil footprints, however, reveal that theropods bigger than *Allosaurus* inhabited East Gondwana some 20 million years before the close of the Triassic.

Full text at

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/301/5630/169b

RESPONSE TO COMMENT ON "Ascent of
Dinosaurs Linked to an Iridium
Anomaly at the Triassic-Jurassic
Boundary"

P. E. Olsen, H.-D. Sues, E. C. Rainforth, D. V. Kent, C. Koeberl, H. Huber, A. Montanari, S. J. Fowell, M. J. Szajna, B. W. Hartline

Thulborn's only salient point is the extraordinary claim that very large theropod dinosaurs were present about 20 million years before the Triassic-Jurassic boundary. However, the only extant paleontological evidence is a plaster cast of a footprint that is not convincingly theropod in origin, and skeletal evidence is completely lacking.

Full text at

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