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**VOA慢速英语新闻报道与练习**

**Study Suggests Dinosaurs May have Started as Very Small Creatures**

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**Step 1 Words in This Story**

**fossil** – n. part of an animal or plant from thousands of years ago, preserved in rock

**evolve** – v. to develop over time

**miniaturized** – adj. very small

**gigantic** – adj. extremely large

**fuzzy** – adj. covered with light, loose hairs or fibers

**feather** – n. any one of the light growths that make up the outer covering of the body of a bird

**Step 2 Listen and fill in the missing words**

A new study adds to growing evidence that dinosaurs may have developed from very small animals.

Scientists have studied 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, called Kongonaphon kely, which is believed to be an 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the dinosaurs. The name given the 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means “tiny bug slayer,” or very small killer of insects.

The 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ animal is believed to have been just 10 centimeters tall and about 40 centimeters long. Researchers say it lived 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago in what is now Madagascar.

Scientists described examinations of the fossil in a recent study 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers believe the animal came before [dinosaurs](https://www.51voa.com/a/scientists-study-dinosaur-s-last-meal-/5450938.html), which developed in the Mesozoic Era. It ended about 66 million years ago. The study notes that much 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the history of dinosaurs and their winged relatives, pterosaurs.

Scientist Christian Kammerer of the [North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences](https://naturalsciences.org/calendar/news/a-tiny-ancient-relative-of-dinosaurs-and-pterosaurs-discovered/), led the study. Kammerer told Reuters 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that based on the body size suggested by the fossil, “we argue that dinosaurs and pterosaurs evolved from a miniaturized ancestor.”

John Flynn, of New York’s American Museum of Natural History, was a 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the study. He said earlier studies have also supported the argument. “10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of gigantism from tiny ancestors is not 11 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the fossil record,” Flynn said.

The scientists said the Kongonaphon’s teeth showed signs of use in a way that suggested 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ate insects.

The team examining the fossil also found evidence of “fuzzy skin coverings,” including feathers. The researchers said the feathers may have developed in the small-bodied creature to help 13 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This would have been especially important in the [extreme climate](https://www.51voa.com/a/study-firewalker-dinosaurs-survived-south-africa-s-land-of-lava/5268955.html) of the early part of the Mesozoic Era. The days were hot, the nights, cold.

“Recent discoveries like Kongonaphon have given us a much 14 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the early evolution of ornithodirans,” Kammerer said. The ornithodiran group includes animals in the evolutionary lineage that led to dinosaurs and pterosaurs. He added that the research 15 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the creature “decreased sharply early in the history of the dinosaur-pterosaur lineage.”

On the lighter side, Kammerer told The Associated Press he thinks 16 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ “would have been quite cute animals.” He said an animal that 17 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a dinosaur and can fit in your hand, “would probably make a great pet.”

I’m Bryan Lynn.

**Step 3 Words in This Story**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – n. part of an animal or plant from thousands of years ago, preserved in rock

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – v. to develop over time

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – adj. very small

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – adj. extremely large

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – adj. covered with light, loose hairs or fibers

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – n. any one of the light growths that make up the outer covering of the body of a bird