

# MEET A.COOPERENSIS, AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST DINOSAUR

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Biodiversity, Ecology, and Wildlife Related Issues

This handout picture taken by Rochelle Lawrence on May 23, 2015 and released by The Eromanga Natural History Museum shows researchers digging for dinosaur fossils in Cooper Creek, the area near the town of Eromanga, in western Queensland where the fossils were discovered in 2007. | Photo Credit: [AFP](#)

A gigantic dinosaur discovered in Australia's outback has been identified as a new species and recognised as one of the largest to ever roam the Earth, according to palaeontologists.

*Australotitan cooperensis*, part of the titanosaur family that lived about 100 million years ago, has finally been described 15 years after its bones were first uncovered.

It is estimated to have stood at 5 to 6.5 metres (16-21 feet) high and measured 25 to 30 metres (82-98 feet) in length — which would make it Australia's biggest dinosaur.

"Based on the preserved limb size comparisons, this new titanosaur is estimated to be in the top five largest in the world," said Robyn Mackenzie, a director of the Eromanga Natural History Museum.

The fossilised bones were found on Mackenzie's family farm in 2006 about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) west of Brisbane in the Eromanga Basin and nicknamed "Cooper".

Initially kept secret as scientists painstakingly dug up and studied the bones, the skeleton first went on display to the public in 2007.

Scott Hocknull, a palaeontologist at Queensland Museum, said it had been a "very long and painstaking task" to confirm the *Australotitan* was a new species.

[The research](#), which relied on 3D scan models of bones to compare the dinosaur with its close relatives, was published in the peer-reviewed *PeerJ* journal Monday.

Numerous other dinosaur skeletons have been found in the same area, Hocknull said, adding that more work was needed as "discoveries like this are just the tip of the iceberg".

*(Subscribe to Science For All, our weekly newsletter, where we aim to take the jargon out of science and put the fun in. [Click here.](#))*

## [Our code of editorial values](#)

Please enter a valid email address.

The authors also suggest that the lines could be contemporary with the neighbouring memorial stones

END

CrackIAS.com