

# NEW DINOSAUR FOUND IN MEXICO WAS 'VERY COMMUNICATIVE': STUDY

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

An illustration of the Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) represents a new species of a dinosaur named *Tlatolophus galorum* after palaeontologists found its 72 million-year-old fossilised remains almost a decade ago, in General Cepeda, Coahuila, Mexico in this undated illustration obtained by Reuters on May 13, 2021. | Photo Credit: [REUTERS](#)

A new species of dinosaur identified by Mexican paleontologists is believed to have been "very communicative" and used low-frequency sounds like elephants to talk to each other, a researcher said Friday.

The specimen, which has been named *Tlatolophus galorum*, is thought to have died around 72 million years ago in what is now Mexico's northern state of Coahuila.

After initially discovering the tail, paleontologists said they later found most of its skull, a 1.32-meter (4.3-foot) bony hollow crest through which it communicated, as well as bones such as its femur and shoulder.

"We are calculating the size, which could be between eight meters and 12 meters long because just the tail is around six meters," said paleobiologist Angel Alejandro Ramirez. "We believe that these dinosaurs were very communicative. They even produced and perceived low-frequency sounds like those made by elephants, which travel several kilometers and are imperceptible to humans."

These "peaceful, but talkative" dinosaurs could also have had the ability to emit loud sounds to scare off predators, the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) said on Thursday when it announced the discovery.

Mexican researchers think *Tlatolophus galorum*'s crest may have been red.

"We believe that these dinosaurs, like modern birds, saw in colour and so these structures like the crest were possibly brightly colored. They could have been completely red, or multi-colored, with spots," Ramirez said.

The discovery is still under investigation, but [research about the ancient reptile has already been published](#) in the scientific journal *Cretaceous Research*, according to the INAH.

"It is an exceptional case in Mexican paleontology," it said. "Highly favorable events had to occur millions of years ago, when Coahuila was a tropical region, for it to be conserved in the conditions it was found in."

The name *Tlatolophus* is derived from *tlahtolli* — which means word in the indigenous Nahuatl language — and *lophus*, meaning crest in Greek, the researchers said.

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The Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched in September 1977, is currently located about 22.7 billion km from Earth

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