A Gradual Accumulation of Pterosaurian Traits within a Series of Lepidosauriformes

David Peters

Truly pterosaurian features have been revealed in archosaurs. However, studies on pterosaur archosaurs, archosauriforms, and lepidosaurs demonstrate a gradual escalation of pterosaurian traits. From phytosaurs, lepidosaurs, to archosauromorphs, the range of possible pterosaurian-like traits is extended. Pterosaurian traits include a hyperproportional skull, a functional jaw joint, a gular sac, dorsal frill, uropatagia, and post-ulna fibers. From these, the pterosaurian condition emerges. The process of pterosaurianization does not often include all these traits at the same time, but the overall trend is toward these traits. The gradual acquisition of pterosaurian traits is a key aspect of pterosaurian diversification.

1. Paliguana
2. Sharovipteryx
3. Tepexiptyx
4. Palaeorhopterus
5. Aneuropteryx
6. Cemophora
7. Pterodactylus
8. Pterodactylus
9. Pterodactylus
10. Pterodactylus
11. Pterodactylus
12. Pterodactylus
13. Pterodactylus
14. Pterodactylus
15. Pterodactylus
16. Pterodactylus
17. Pterodactylus
18. Pterodactylus
19. Pterodactylus
20. Pterodactylus

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