

Earliest herd living dinosaurs

Fossilised remains of 193 million-year-old sauropods indicate that *Mussaurus patagonicus* lived in herds, providing the earliest evidence of complex social behaviour among dinosaurs



Mussaurus patagonicus

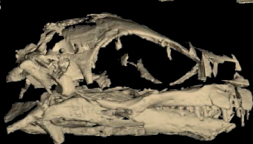
Skull of adult ▼

Earth during Jurassic period

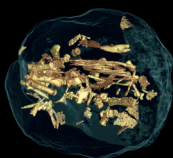


Remains of 69 individuals found in age-specific clusters of juveniles and adults – indicating gregarious behaviour

Skull of young individual ▶



▼ Fossilised egg



100 eggs in clutches of 8-30 found in 2-3 layers within trenches, suggesting nests in common breeding ground

◀ Fossilised embryos inside eggs revealed using X-ray imaging

MESOZOIC ERA
Age of dinosaurs

Dinosaurs wiped out

CENOZOIC ERA

TRIASSIC

JURASSIC

CRETACEOUS

Early humans

250 million years ago

200

150

100

50

Discovery pre-dates previous records of complex social behaviour by over 40 million years