

# How the dinosaurs caught cold

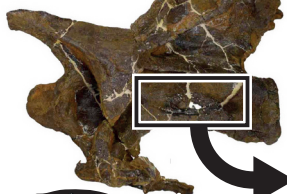
Evidence of a respiratory infection in the fossilised remains of a young diplodocid – a large, long-necked herbivorous sauropod – increases our understanding of the illnesses that affected dinosaurs

*Diplodocid* roamed Earth in **Late Jurassic** period (150m years ago)

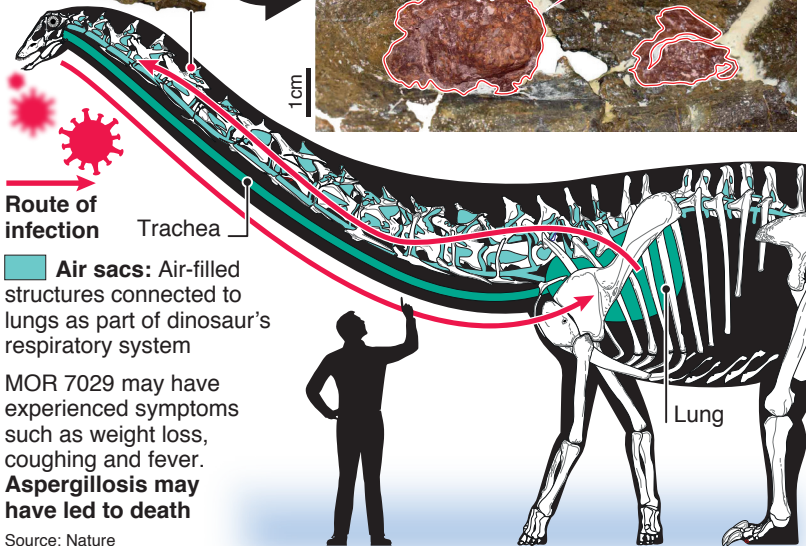
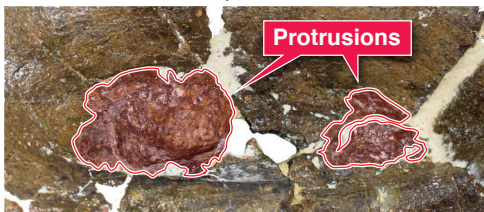
Specimen known as **MOR 7029** discovered in U.S. state of Montana in 1990



Neck vertebra



Bony protrusions on vertebra where bone was attached to air sacs believed to have formed in response to fungal infection similar to **aspergillosis** – common respiratory illness in birds and reptiles



MOR 7029 may have experienced symptoms such as weight loss, coughing and fever.

**Aspergillosis may have led to death**

Source: Nature

Pictures: Woodruff et al. (2022), Corbin Rainbolt and Francisco Bruñén Alfaro

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