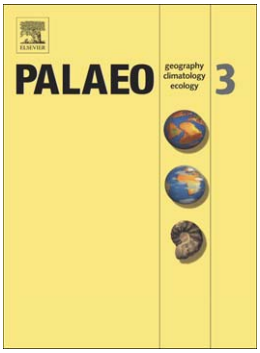

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Novel insect traces on a dinosaur skeleton from the Lower Jurassic Lufeng Formation of China

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ABSTRACT: Dense networks of burrow-like traces on the surfaces of bones are preserved on a partial skeleton of a prosauropod dinosaur (cf. *Yunnanosaurus*) from the Lower Jurassic Lufeng Formation in Yunnan, China. The traces, which gently meander across and, in places, shallowly excavate the surfaces of several axial and appendicular skeletal elements (total cumulative length over 29 m) consist of simple burrows, Y-shaped branches, overlapping intersections, and chambers. This unusual network is morphologically most similar to foraging traces of eusocial insects, particularly termites. Comparisons of known continental ichnofossils, demonstrate the novelty of this trace, which thus pertains to a new ichnotaxon, *Taotieichnus orientalis* ichnogen. et ichnosp. nov. *Taotieichnus*