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A remarkable new genus of the snakefly family Mesoraphidiidae (Insecta: Raphidioptera) from the Lower Cretaceous of China, with description of a new species

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1 **A remarkable new genus of the snakefly family Mesoraphidiidae (Insecta: Raphidioptera)**
2 **from the Lower Cretaceous of China, with description of a new species**

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10

11 **Abstract**

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13 A fossil snakefly species, *Mesoraphidia obliquivenatica* (Ren, 1994), from the Lower Cretaceous
14 (upper Barremian) of the Yixian Formation in Liaoning Province, China was discovered to
15 possess an extremely prolonged occiput, which is a remarkable feature previously unknown in
16 snakeflies. Based primarily on this feature, a new genus of the family Mesoraphidiidae, namely
17 *Stenoraphidia* gen. nov., is erected to contain this species. In addition, a second and new species
18 of *Stenoraphidia* gen. nov., i.e. *Stenoraphidia longioccipitalis* sp. nov., is described from the same
19 deposit. A summary of the morphological diversification of head shapes in snakeflies is given.

20

21 **Keywords:** Mesoraphidiinae, taxonomy, head shape, Yixian Formation, Mesozoic

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