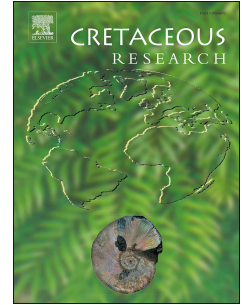


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First report of gastroliths in the Early Cretaceous basal bird *Jeholornis*

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1 **First report of gastroliths in the Early Cretaceous basal bird *Jeholornis***

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16

17 **Abstract**

18 Seeds preserved in association with the holotype of *Jeholornis prima* provided the

19 first direct evidence of granivory in any Mesozoic bird. Although this long boney-tailed

20 bird also displays several morphological indicators correlated with herbivory such as

21 reduced dentition and a deep mandible, *Jeholornis* has not been previously reported to

22 possess a gastric mill. However, this feature is commonly linked to herbivory in theropod

23 dinosaurs and present in at least one sympatric ornithuromorph and the basal pygostylian

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