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Tracking Thyreophorans and Related Ornithischian Dinosaurs: a review

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Until recently tracks of large thyreophorans (ankylosaurs and stegosaurs) have proved relatively rare and difficult to differentiate or attribute with confidence to different groups of trackmakers. In this paper we review all significant reports of tracks and trackways attributed to thyreophorans and their ornithischian relatives with special reference to footprints of quadrupedal track makers, with convergent pedal and manual morphologies. These include 15 formally named ichnogenera, in order of erection: *Anomoepus* (1848), *Metaterapous* (1923) *Tetrapodosaurus* (1932), *Delatorrichnus* (1964), *Ravatichnus* (1964) *Moyenisauripus* (1972), *Ligabueichnium* (1984), *Ceratopsipes* (1995), *Stegopodus* (1998), *Apulosauripus* (1999), *Deltapodus* (2001), *Hypsilophichnus* (2004), *Qijiangpus* (2007) *Neoanomoepus* (2009) and *Shenmuichnus* (2012). Although not all authors agree on the probable identity of the trackmakers of these ichnites, there is reasonable consensus in most cases.

It is concluded that thyreophoran pes tracks may indicate either tridactyl or tetradactyl morphologies, as in the case of *Deltapodus* and *Tetrapodosaurus* respectively, attributed by most but not all authors to stegosaurs and ankylosaurs. The former ichnogenus displays a very elongate heel trace. Robust thyreophoran pes tracks may be convergent with the tracks of large ceratopsids. Thyreophoran manus

tracks are pentadactyl, a conservative ornithischian morphological feature that they share with both basal ornithischians and ceratopsians.