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## Report on small-sized theropod tracks from the Early Jurassic Ziliujing Formation of Zigong City, Sichuan, China

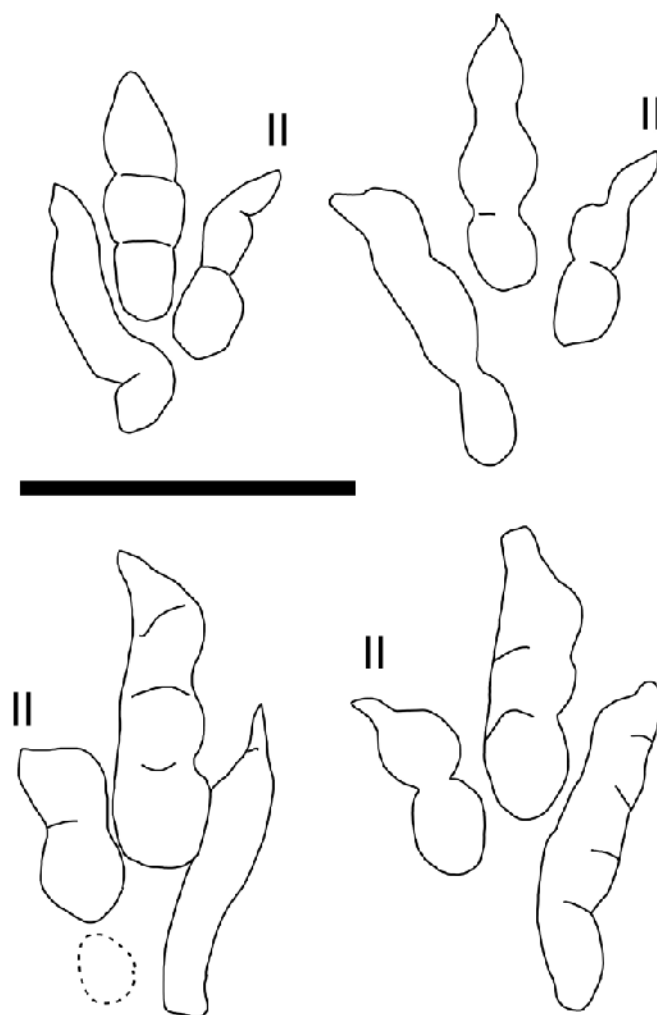
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In 1972, Junlin Ye discovered dinosaur tracks at Hejie street, Gongjing District, Zigong City. In 1996, the Zigong Dinosaur Museum collected these tracks. Peng et al.(2005) assigned them to *Grallator s-satoi*. The tracksite is located in the Early Jurassic Ma'anshan Member of the Ziliujing Formation. In 2011 and 2012, the major authors investigated the tracksite and ichnofossils. These are approximately 300 footprints, all tridactyl theropod tracks and basically consistent in morphology. No distinct trackways can be observed. Most tracks are 6–8cm in length, some are larger, 10-15 cm in length (Figure 9). Updated investigation indicates that Hejie tracks are similar to *Grallator*, but have several morphological characteristics that are different from typical *Grallator*, such as the considerable divarication angles (56° between digits II and IV) and the sub-ovoid metatarsophalangeal region of digit IV that lies nearly in line with the long axis of digit III.

Zigong is famous for the Middle Jurassic *Shunosaurus* fauna and the Late Jurassic *Mamenchisaurus* fauna. However, local fossils yielded from the Lower Jurassic are rare, mostly predominated by fragmentary prosauropoda and sauropoda. The discovery of the Hejie tracks indicates that small theropods also roamed the Zigong

Area in the Early Jurassic.



**FIGURE 9.** The outline drawing of Zigong *Grallator* type tracks. Scale bar =10cm