

# Australia discovered dinosaur fossils turned into gems

Among the many minerals found in Australia, there is a gemstone called opal (a cat's eye stone), considered a priceless treasure in the Middle Ages and respected by the Greeks. But paleontologists have discovered dinosaur fossils have somehow turned into opal in Australia.

Opal is said to be a phrase derived from the Roman - Opalus (meaning color). This stone was considered a priceless treasure in the Middle Ages and is respected by the Greeks. They believe that Opal is a cat's eye stone that will help the wearer increase vision. A few others thought that cat eye stones would keep the blonde hair color of the girls from being grayed out.



Australia is home to the most Opal stones in the world and is famous for its quality. Lightning Ridge is the locality with the most beautiful black opal. Volcanic opals are volcanic, possessing a crystal-clear translucency and striking colors such as yellow or magenta, mined primarily in Mexico, rarely with a garish color. Fire opal is also found in Oregon in the US.

Opal is an amorphous hydrated solid with silicon as its main constituent. This stone can refract a lot of different colors in light, and create different color-changing effects, so this cat eye has long been considered a gem. Among many opal mining and producing countries, Australia is considered to be home to the highest reserves of opal, black opal is produced in Lightning Ridge, New South Wales in southern Australia, and here. Also considered to be the most valuable opal.



**Location of Lightning Ridge.**





**Black Opal is a special product of Lightning Ridge.**

Although it is called Lightning Ridge, it is actually the name of a rather small town, but because it possesses a huge gem reserve, many people have come to Lightning Ridge to look for opal, and they are called gem hunters.



Robert Foster is a gem hunter and has been to Lightning Ridge early. In 1986, Foster discovered an opalized paleontological fossil in an opal quarry called the Wee Warra. Foster initially thought that the fossil was just a horseshoe, but later discovered many more similar fossils.

Because of that, Foster reached out to local paleontologists and talked about his findings. After seeing this discovery, paleontologists believe that these are fossils of an entirely new species. They contacted the nearby Australian army to send people to assist paleontologists to conduct large-scale excavations and later more than 100 such fossils were discovered.

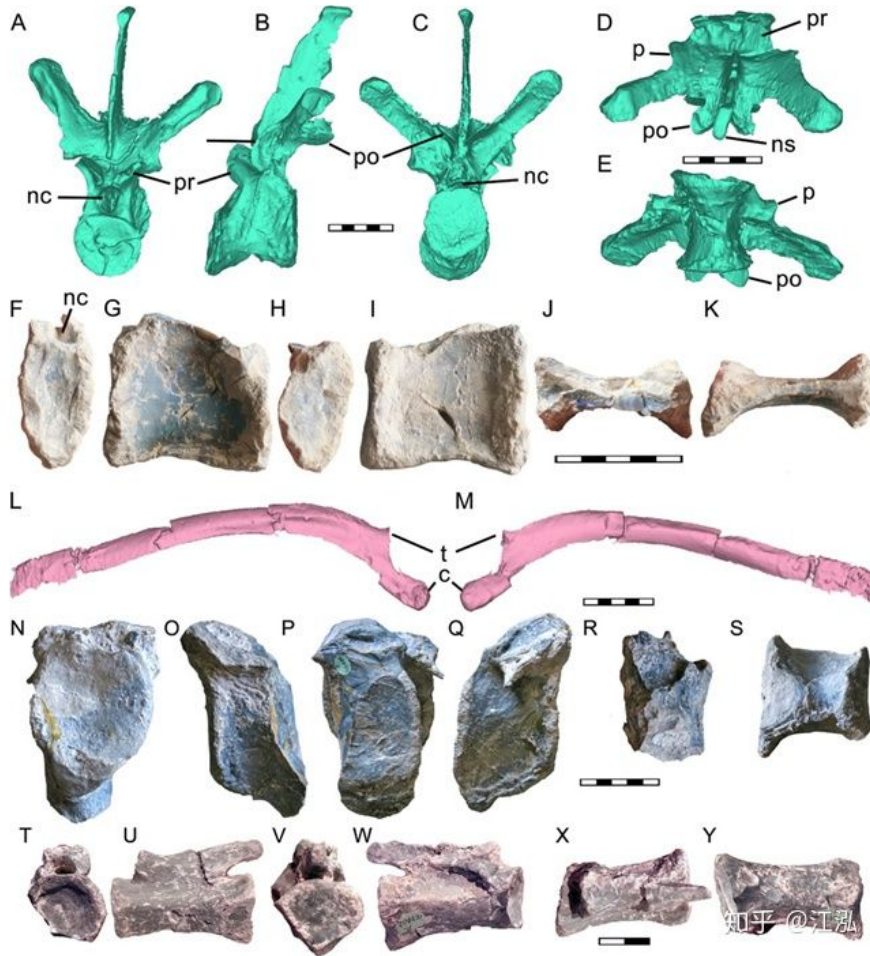


*A large number of dinosaur fossils have been discovered at the Wee Warra gem mine.*

Fossils discovered by Foster and paleontologists were then stored in museums and were largely forgotten by humans for 15 years.

After this time, Foster learned that there were some fossils on display in an opal shop in Sydney, and that they could be sold, so he bought them home and gave them back to Bao. Australian Opal Museum to study about them.

In 2019, paleontologists published a study in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, entitled "Fostoria dhimbangunmal - a new dinosaur from Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia".



The study describes and names fossils discovered by Foster, Fostoria, to commemorate his contribution to the discovery and protection of fossils and the full name of this new dinosaur, Fostoria dhimbangunmal.



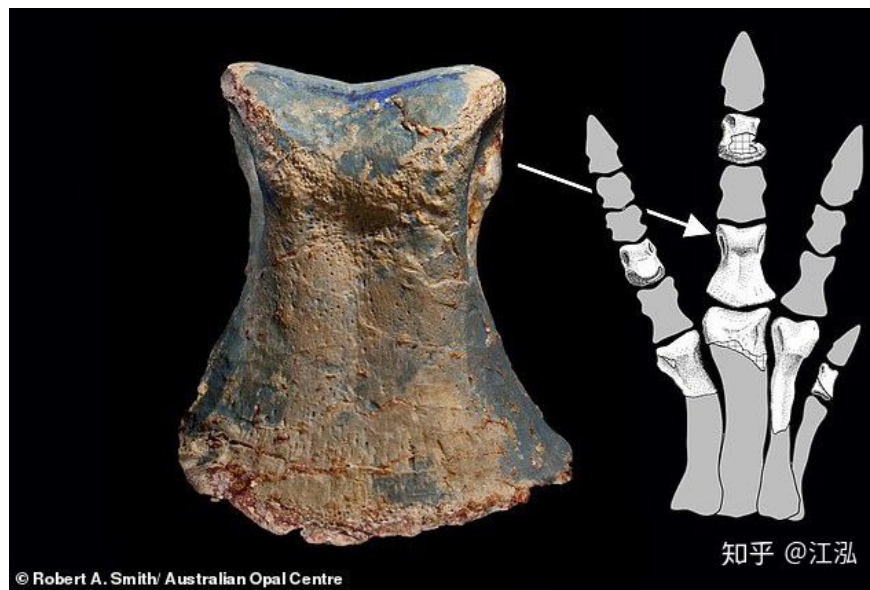
Through fossil analysis shows that the new dinosaur has a body length of about 5 meters and weighs about 200 kg, they belong to the group of Iguanodontia dinosaurs and is a typical herbivorous dinosaur.

Fostoria has a fairly long head and possesses a hard horn beak at the front. They also own two rows of teeth in pieces. This dinosaur possessed eyes on the sides of the head, accompanied by extremely fast vision, helping them detect the danger from afar.

Their necks are not long, but they are bent in an S-shape. From the overall appearance, they can be seen as having a large body and a long tail, which is correlated to a dinosaur that can run fast. Because their hind legs are quite long and strong.

To be precise, the dinosaur's hind legs are longer than the front legs, with five toes on the front feet and four toes on the hind legs, three of which are in contact with the ground.

In fact, Fostoria can walk on all fours and stand up with his hind legs. When in danger, they will rely on their feet to run fast, and under normal circumstances they will walk slowly on all fours.

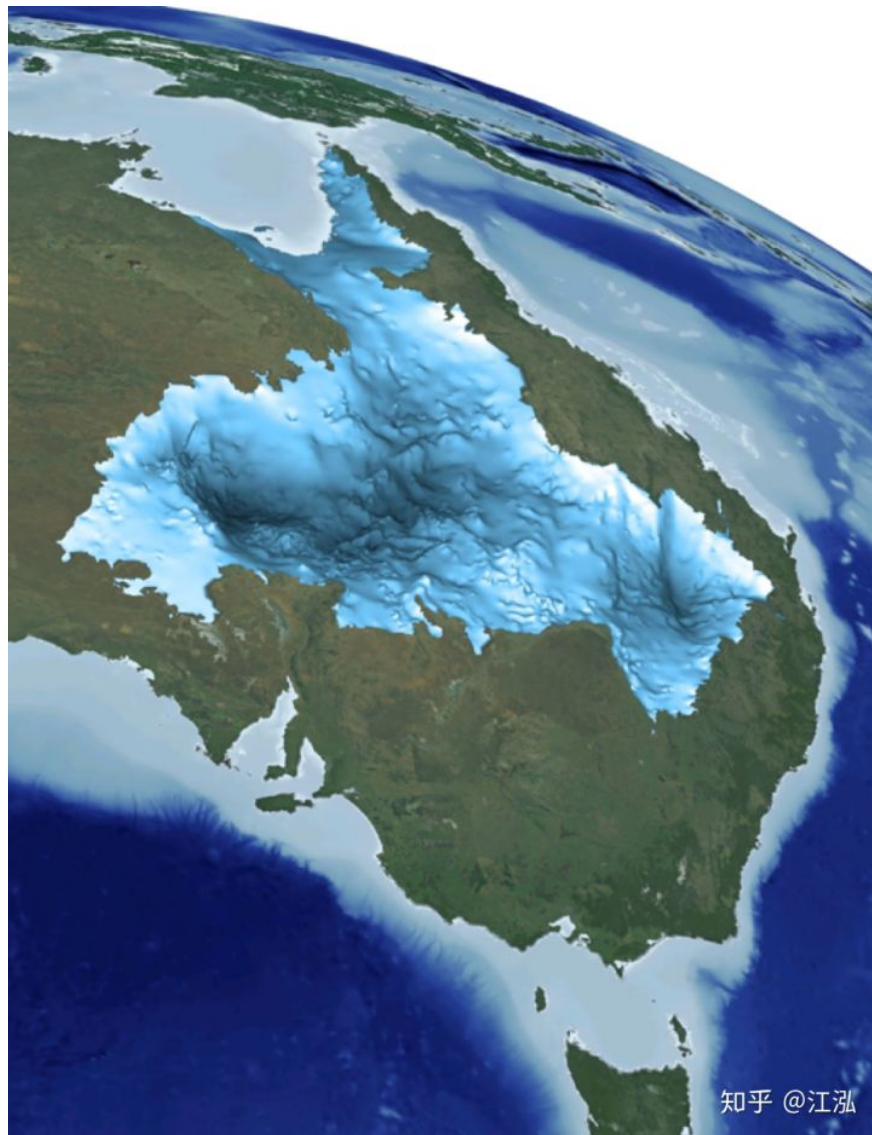


**Toe bone fossils.**



Iguanodontia is a group of grass-eating dinosaurs from the middle Jurassic to the Late Cretaceous.

Fossils of this dinosaur were found in New South Wales, southwest Australia in the Griman Creek Formation Formation, dating from the Albian Stage to the Cenomanian geological phase, about 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous period.



For a long time, paleontologists have discovered a large number of paleontological fossils in the opal mines of Lightning Ridge, suggesting that 100 million years ago was a large plateau. .

Large lakes and rivers accumulate together to form the Eromanga sea and create an environment for forest development, making it an ideal habitat for dinosaurs. In addition to Fostoria, it also discovered many other dinosaurs such as Fulgurotherium, Muttaborrasaurus, Walgettosuchus and Weewarrasaurus.



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**Fulgurotherium.**



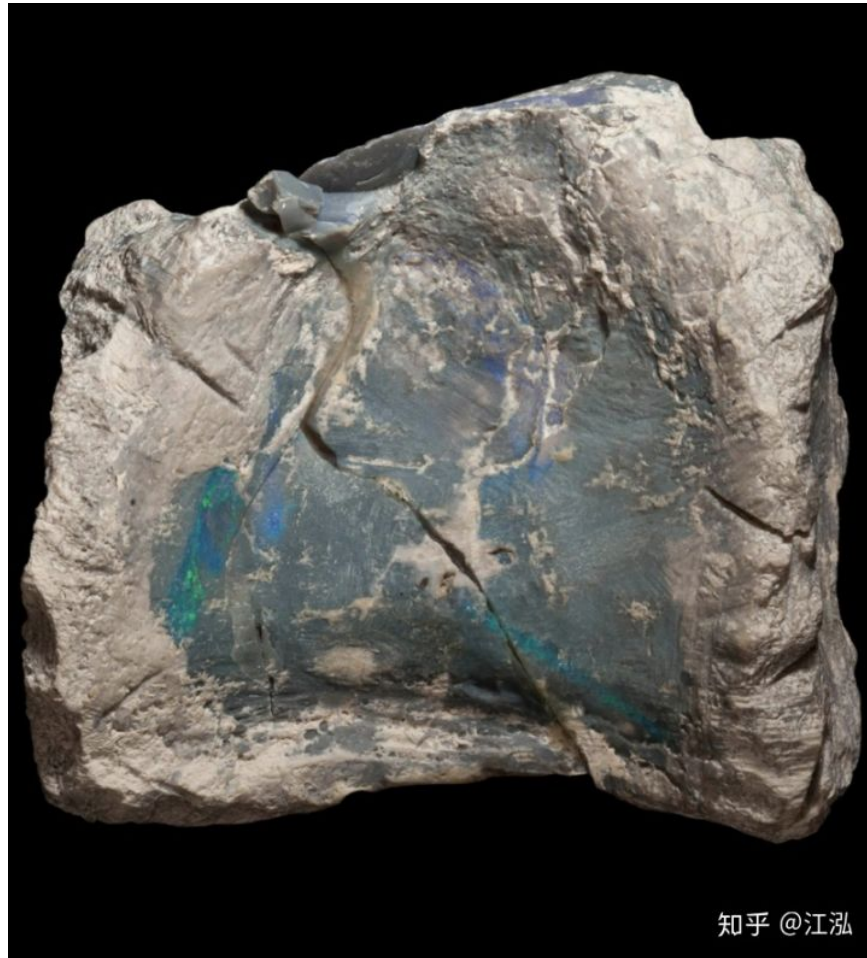
**Muttaburrasaurus.**



**Walgettosuchus.**



In fact, Fostoria dinosaur fossils in Australia do not come from a single organism. After analysis of paleontologists found that there are 4 different size shoulder blades. There are about 60 opalized bones from an adult dinosaur, including part of the skull. Parts of the four Fostoria skeletons were found, including juveniles and adults. This led researchers to believe that this was a dinosaur family or at least a small herd.



Paleontologist Phil Bell in New England, Armidale, found that the fossil belonged to a previously unknown dinosaur. But when Bell and his colleagues took a closer look, they determined the bones belonged to many dinosaurs.

"At first we thought it was a skeleton, but when I looked at a few bones, I realized we had four different size shoulder blades. There were about 60 opalized bones from a chief dinosaur. into, including part of the skull," Bell said.

Dr. Bell and his team are currently working hard to sketch out more opalized fossils. However, this is a difficult task because they are often broken during opal quarrying.

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