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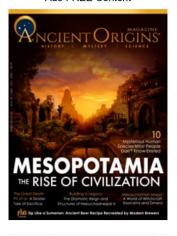
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UPDATED 24 AUGUST, 2022 - 22:53 ASHLEY COWIE

Extreme Drought Exposes Theropod Dinosaur Tracks in Texas River

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A record drought in Texas has exposed a bunch of 110-million-year-old dinosaur tracks in yet another example of how climate change is both revealing new things and making us uncomfortable.



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As lakes, rivers and streams dry up around the world, archaeological and anthropological gold is being revealed. This was made evident in Europe over the last week after a wealth of finds were reported.

Six days ago *The Guardian* reported that in the River Elbe, which connects the Czech Republic with Germany, a collection of mysterious 15th century "hunger stones" were revealed. Then, four days ago, *Business Insider* reported that in the Danube, near the Serbian village of Prahovo, two Nazi shipwrecks from 1944 appeared from the riverbed.

Now, in a freshly dried up riverbed at The Dinosaur Valley State Park in Texas, rare dinosaur tracks of have been exposed, measured, and filmed.



One of the previously discovered theropod dinosaur footprints discovered at Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose, Texas. (**Dinosaur Valley State Park**)

Rare Dinosaur Tracks On The Cretaceous Dino Highway of Texas

This summer has seen a severe lack of rain and record high temperatures in **Texas**. The Texas Tribune *reports* "27 percent of Texas is under an "exceptional **drought** warning while a further 62 percent is enduring an extreme drought."



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A report in *IFLScience* said the Dinosaur Valley State Park in Texas "was like a prehistoric highway in the early Cretaceous Period" but it is only after the recent severe droughts in the Paluxy River that silt was revealed in shallow water, in which the giant footprints were spotted.

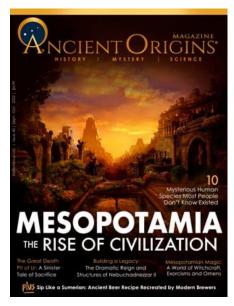
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The **dinosaur tracks** were first discovered in the early 20th century following a **massive flood** on the Paluxy River. At that time, paleontologists described three-toed theropod prints but later research also identified sauropod footprints which represent the first distinct sauropod tracks ever discovered, anywhere. So why here?

Texas Was T-Rex Turf But There Are Many Kinds of Theropods

According to the *Bureau of Economic Geology* website, about 120 million years ago in Texas bays and lagoons on the west shore of a shallow sea, dinosaurs walked across muddy-lime **sediments**. Fine silt and clay sediments then washed in from land areas to the north and west and buried the tracks beneath lime sand bars, which quickly cemented into hard limestone. Over the last 100 million years erosion of the Paluxy River has stripped off the softer shale but has left the limestone ledges in which the prints were identified.

A video posted to Facebook by the *Friends of Dinosaur Valley State Park* shows each of the dinosaur footprints. The big, deeply embedded, claw marks indicated that the prints were made by a theropod. This family of **ancient monsters** represents a group of diverse bipedal dinosaurs that is best known for including *Tyrannosaurus rex*.





Size comparison of selected giant theropod dinosaurs, which include T-Rex (blue), which is clearly not as big as the green Giganotosaurus. (KoprX / CC BY-SA 4.0)

Tracking The High Spined Lizard

Measuring over 30 centimeters (11.81 inches) each, from heel to claw, these new tracks are too small for T-rex, and were created by its cousin, *Acrocanthosaurus*.

According to **ABCDino** this "very large genus" was first discovered in Atoka County, **Oklahoma** in the 1940s, but it also roamed the ancient plains of what are today the states of Wyoming and Texas, around 110 million years ago.

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The UK's Natural History Museum refers to this particular creature as "an enormous carnivore" and its physical description is locked within its name. Pronounced "ah-kroh-kan-tho-sore-us," this means "high-spined lizard," a name chosen after scientists calculated it was 11 meters (36 feet) long.

However, as fascinating as these tracks are, they'll have to go a long way to compete with the "twin sets of tracks" discovered in 1908 in limestone deposits along the Paluxy River, that brought the **academic world** to a standstill.

Some scholars argued that archaic humans and dinosaurs co-existed for a while. (**Kovalenko I** / Adobe Stock)

Did Archaic Humans And Dinosaurs Co-exist?

In 1908 it was clear that one of the sets of tracks was left by a giant dinosaur. However, the second set of prints was much smaller, and they were interpreted as "human," sparking the debate as to whether humans and non-avian dinosaurs lived at the same time, or not?

Shocked, two leading anti-creationists, D. H. Milne, and S. D. Schafersman, at that time pushed back and wrote "such an occurrence, if verified, would seriously disrupt conventional interpretations of biological and geological history and would support the doctrines of creationism and catastrophism," stated the Milne and Schafersman report.

- New Mexico Mammoth Bones from 37,000 years ago "Upend" Clovis Theory
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Eventually, after a long professorial fight, the second track was officially recognized as having been created by a small dinosaur. Notwithstanding, the modern Institute of Creation Research still finds a way to use these twin-prints to their advantage.

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The institute's website currently says that while the second set of prints are "too ambiguous to be used as an anti-evolution argument, they just might be coming into their own as good evidence for Flood catastrophism."

Top image: These rare dinosaur tracks were exposed to the light, as it were, by extreme dryness in a Texas riverbed gone dry. Source: **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**

By Ashley Cowie

References

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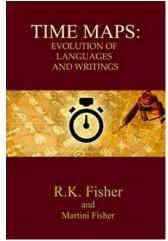
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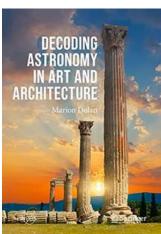
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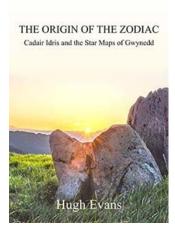
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