



Dendroolithus – Dinosaur egg



Hadrosaurids or duck billed dinosaurs was a common herbivore in the upper cretaceous period of what is now Asia, Africa, Europe, Antarctica, south America and

North America. They were facultative bipeds, with the young of some species walking mostly on two legs and the adults walking mostly on four. Their jaws were designed for grinding plants, with multiple rows of teeth replacing each other as the teeth wore down. They laid their eggs in nests with a dozen or more eggs.

This egg is estimated to be 88 million years old and was found in the Henan province in China. It is unlikely that the egg has an embryo inside. It is often the eggs which have not hatched because the embryo had died which fossilise. If the egg had a crack in it, the soft tissues and fluids inside would have leaked out, broken down or dissipated before fossilisation occurred.

The shell itself is already made of calcium, so it doesn't physically change much during the fossilization process. Groundwater containing minerals seeps through the shell, replacing the hollow space where the embryo did not develop.

