

Thescelosaur

Thescelosaurus assiniboensis

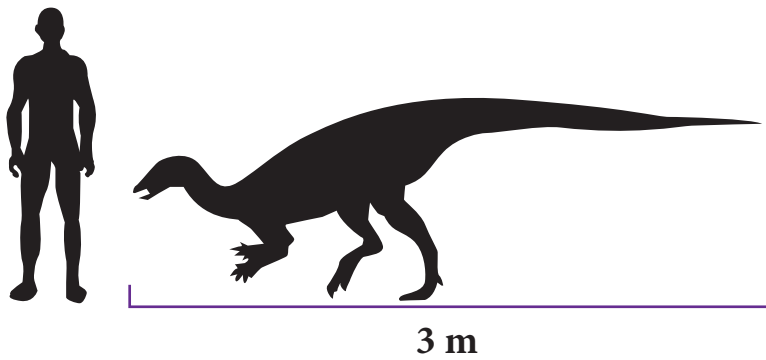
Name means: 'Wondrous Lizard' from 'the District of Assiniboia.'

Notable specimen from Saskatchewan: Type Specimen. (A type specimen is the one specimen that is used as reference for the description of a new species)



Size:

At about 3 m long and just over 1 m tall, *Thescelosaurus assiniboensis* is one of the smallest thescelosaur species. It is one of the more common dinosaurs from Saskatchewan, but this species is unique to this province.



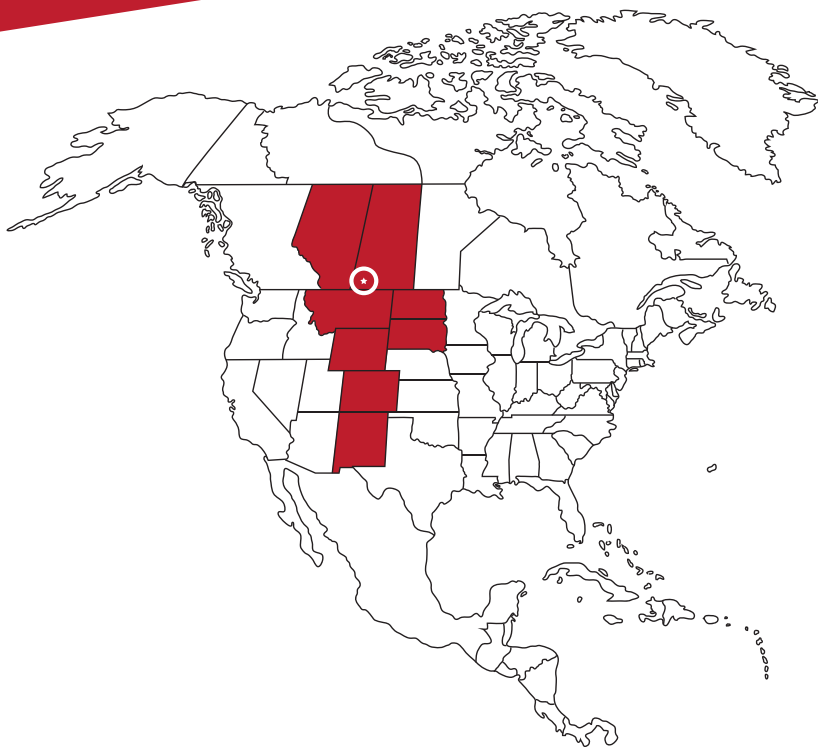
Age

Thescelosaurus assiniboensis lived between 65-67 million years ago. In Saskatchewan, they have been found in the geological unit called the Frenchman Formation.

Geographic range:

The genus *Thescelosaurus* includes at least three species, and is found from Saskatchewan to New Mexico

In Saskatchewan: The genus *Thescelosaurus* is known from southwestern regions, from Grasslands National Park to the Cypress Hills. The species *Thescelosaurus assiniboensis*, is known only from the Frenchman River Valley and was first discovered in 1968.



Food Preference:

This dinosaur was a herbivore, likely shearing tougher plant material with its bladed, interlocking teeth.

Habitat:

Thescelosaurus assiniboensis lived at the same time as *Tyrannosaurus rex*. This was a time when lush vegetation dominated Saskatchewan, with forests dominated by deciduous conifers and broad leafed, flowering trees. The flora suggests a warm-temperate to subtropical climate, with moderate seasonality (although it was never cold enough to freeze). Shallow streams and rivers would have flowed eastward to what remained of the Western Interior Seaway.

Geologic Timeline

Period	Epoch
NEOGENE (23 million years ago - Present)	Holocene
	Pleistocene
	Pliocene
PALEOGENE (65 million - 23 million years ago)	Miocene
	Oligocene
	Eocene
CRETACEOUS (144 million - 65 million years ago)	Paleocene
	Late
	Early

Relations

Thescelosaurus assiniboensis is known from only one specimen, and that is from Saskatchewan. Currently, there is only one other species of *Thescelosaurus* known from Saskatchewan, *T. neglectus*.