The Tyrannosaurus Rex is famously known for its short forelimbs, but how did it evolve that way? A new discovery by Apesteguia et al is helping to shed light on the dinosaur’s tiny arms.

Researchers discovered a new type of dinosaur skeleton in the Patagonian region of Argentina. It had the body size of a polar bear, but the forelimbs the size of a human child’s.

The theropod they discovered, with its unique characteristics, distinguishes from other discoveries in the area; the closest known theropod of that same time period only existed in Africa. This has caused researchers to create a new taxon for this fossil, now known as Gualicho shinyae.

This discovery suggests that the small forearms in these dinosaurs, including the T-Rex, have evolved multiple times and that there are links to types of theropods found around the world.

The Tiny Dino Arms Edition

References


PLOS. "New theropod dinosaur suggests that small T. rex-like arms evolved multiple times: Patagonian dinosaur has forelimbs most similar to distantly-related T.rex, indicating independent evolution of this unusual trait." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 14 July 2016. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/07/160714152519.htm>