

Remains of four species of dinosaurs found in Chilean valley

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In news— Scientists have found the remains of four species of dinosaurs, including a megaraptor, in an inhospitable valley in Chilean Patagonia.

Key findings-

- **The fossils were found in Cerro Guido, in southern Chile's Las Chinas valley near the border with Argentina,** and taken to a laboratory in 2021.
- The researchers said they belong to dinosaurs that have not previously been identified in the area.
- Inach collaborated with the University of Chile and the University of Texas on the expedition.
- They identified the remains including teeth and postcranial bone pieces -of four species of dinosaur including the megaraptor, which **belongs to the theropod family.**
- These **carnivorous dinosaurs had raptor claws, small teeth for tearing, and large upper limbs** which, according to the research, **put them at the top of the food chain in the region,** which they **inhabited between 66 and 75 million years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous period.**
- They also **identified two specimens of Unenlagiinae, closely related to velociraptors** and which have a “novel evolutionary character, which would indicate that **this is a new species of unenlagine** or perhaps a representative of a different clade (group).
- They **also found remains of two bird species: an Enantiornithe,** the most diverse and abundant group of birds of the Mesozoic; and **Ornithurinae,** a group

directly related to present-day birds.

Note: Theropods are the classic bipedal carnivorous dinosaurs, from Coelophysis to Tyrannosaurus, and also include birds. Sauropodomorphs include the enormous quadrupedal, herbivorous long-necked, long-tailed sauropods (Brachiosaurus, Diplodocus) and their cousins the “prosauropods”.