



## SCIENCE NEWS



*Coelophysis* may have looked like this

# DID DINOS WAG THEIR TAILS?

A NEW study suggests that two-legged dinosaurs wagged their tails.

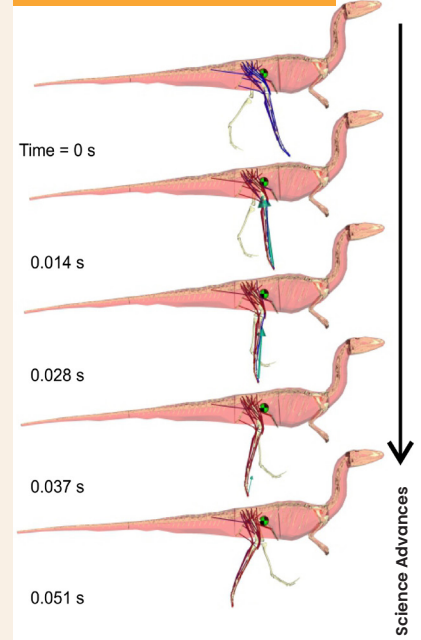
They wouldn't have wagged them to show pleasure or excitement like a dog, though. The research shows that the movement would have been for balance, a bit like how humans swing their arms while walking and running.

Over three years, a team of scientists used computer simulations to explore how a small dinosaur called *Coelophysis* would have moved. They tested lots of different scenarios, such as changing the weight of the tail or even removing it entirely.

Peter Bishop, one of the researchers from Harvard University, said he was "very surprised" at the results. The tests showed "that dinosaurs like *Tyrannosaurus* and *Velociraptor* wagged their tails from side to side when they ran, which helped them stay balanced".

Dr Jim Thompson, from the Queensland Museum in Australia, said: "This research gives us greater insight into how dinosaurs moved and may very well change the way we see dinosaurs depicted in films such as *Jurassic Park* in the future."

Part of the *Coelophysis* computer simulation



A *Tyrannosaurus* tail at the Natural History Museum of Leiden, Netherlands

### ACROSS

- 6) A sequence of events especially when imagined (plural noun 9)
- 7) Knowledge and understanding (noun 7)
- 8) The state of spreading your weight evenly so you don't fall (noun 7)

### DOWN

- 1) A period of time long ago, between the Triassic and Cretaceous periods (noun 8)
- 2) Represented or shown, eg in a film or a book (verb 8)
- 3) A feeling of happy satisfaction and enjoyment (noun 8)
- 4) Having moved something, in this case a tail, back and forth quickly (verb 6)
- 5) Imitating or recreating things, eg movement (plural noun 11)

