

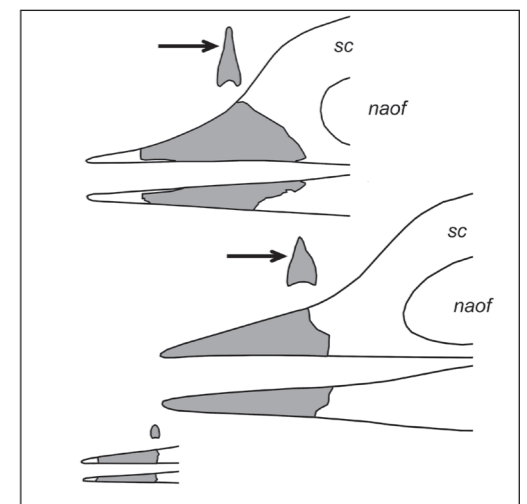


Azhdarchidae is the last group of pterosaurs, flourished and distributed world-wide during the Cretaceous. It includes the largest flying creatures, such as *Quetzalcoatlus*, *Hatzegopteryx*, and *Arambourgiania*. The mode of life of these pterosaurs has been variously interpreted during the recent years. Some researches claimed that these were terrestrial “stalkers,” in contrast to most other pterodactyloids, who lived near marine shore and fed on fish. The review of all known azhdarchid occurrences (51 skeletal and tracks) showed that likely inhabited a variety of environments, but were abundant near large lakes and rivers and most common (35% of all localities) in near shore marine paleoenvironments.

## REVIEW OF TAXONOMY, GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, AND PALEOENVIRONMENTS OF AZHDARCHIDAE (PTEROSAURIA)

BY

ALEXANDER AVERIANOV



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