SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The Endoskeletal Origin of the Turtle Carapace

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Supplementary Figures



Supplementary Figure S1. Development of the carapace in the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*. (a) Transverse section of the trunk of the Chinese soft-shelled turtle (*Pelodiscus sinensis*) embryo at stage 17. Scale bar, 200 μ m. (b) Transverse section of the trunk of the loggerhead turtle embryo at stage⁶¹ IV. Scale bar, 200 μ m. (c) Cleared and double-stained juvenile specimen of the loggerhead turtle. Scale bar, 5 mm. (d) Enlarged image of the immature costal plates in c. Box in c indicates the positions of d. Scale bar, 2 mm. cr, carapacial ridge; vbwm, primordia of ventral body wall muscles.



Supplementary Figure S2. Histology of the costal plates in *P. sinensis* juvenile. The body size of this individual is 12.8 cm in snout-to-vent length and 6.9 cm in carapace length. (a) Mid-part of the developing costal plate. Scale bar, 100 μ m. The bony trabeculae (btr) develop within the periosteum (pos). (b) Enlarged image of a. Box in a indicates the position of b. Scale bar, 100 μ m. (c) Proximal part of the costal plate. Scale bar, 100 μ m. The periosteum is dismantled to lose its clear structure. (d) Enlarged image of c. Box in c indicates the position of d. Scale bar, 100 μ m. (e) More proximal part of the costal plate, showing the initial stage of the suture between neighbouring costal plates. Scale bar, 100 μ m. (f) Enlarged image of e. Box in e indicates the position of f. Scale bar, 100 μ m. btr, bony trabecula; chr, chromatophore; ost, osteoblast; pos, periosteum; stc, stratum corneum; stg, stratum germinativum.



Supplementary Figure S3. Development of neural plates in *P. sinensis* embryo. (a) Transverse sections of the trunk at stage 18. Scale bar, 200 μ m. (b) Enlarged image of a. Scale bar, 200 μ m. (c) Transverse section of the trunk at the vertebral level at stage 27. Arrows indicate protrusion of bone trabeculae. Scale bar, 200 μ m. (d) Transverse section of the trunk at the intervertebral level at stage 27. Scale bar, 200 μ m. drm, dermis; epd, epidermis; ibm, intrinsic back muscle; icm, intercostal muscle layer; pob, periosteal bone collar; sdc, subdermal connective tissue.



Supplementary Figure S4. Development of the osteoderm in *A. mississippiensis* embryo. (a) Transverse section of the anterior thoracic region of a stage 22 embryo. Scale bar, 100 μ m. Boxes indicate the positions of **b** and **c**. (b) Enlarged image of **a**, showing cell aggregation for the formation of the osteoderm. Scale bar, 100 μ m. (c) Enlarged image of **a**, showing boundary between the dermis and the subdermal mesenchyme. Scale bar, 100 μ m. dgl, dorsal gland; drm, dermis; epd, epidermis; mlo, longissimus muscle group; mtsp, transversospinalis muscle group; ns, neural spine; posd, precursor of the osteoderm.



Supplementary Figure S5. Axial skeleton of the Late Triassic *Odontochelys semitestacea* (IVPP V 15653). (a) Ventral view of the ribs and vertebrae. Scale bar, 2 cm. Red arrows, articular facets of the rib head; blue arrows, vertebral parapophyses; black arrows, synarthroses between rib and vertebra. (b) Enlarged image of articular surfaces of a rib and vertebra. Scale bar, 2 cm. (c) Enlarged image of a synarthosis between the rib and vertebra. Scale bar, 2 cm.



Supplementary Figure S6. Detailed osteology of *Sinosaurosphargis yunguiensis.* (a) Holotype (IVPP V 17040). Scale bar, 10 cm. (b) Enlarged images of osteoderms. (c) Paratype (IVPP V 16076). Scale bar, 10 cm. cla, clavicle; dosd, dorsal osteoderm; hum, humerus; losd, lateral osteoderm; lr15 and 16, left ribs corresponding to the 15th and 16th presacral vertebrae; sca, scapula; vt, vertebra; vt10–14, positions of 10–14th presacral vertebrae.



Supplementary Figure S7. Histology of the surface of the distal phalanx underlying the claw in G. gallus adult. (a) Cross section of the dorsal part of the distal phalanx of the third digit. Scale bar, 100 μ m. (b) Enlarged image of a bony trabecula incorporating fiber bundles of the dermis in a. Box in a indicates the position of b. Scale bar, 100 μ m. drm, dermis; bon, bony tissue of the distal phalanx; btr, bony trabecula; ost, osteoblast; stc, stratum corneum of the claw.

Supplementary Methods

Loggerhead turtle samples. Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) eggs were legally collected at Shirahama, Wakayama, Japan in 1984, as described previously⁶¹. Histological sections of the loggerhead turtles (10 μ m) were stained with hematoxylin and eosin.

Chicken distal phalanx samples. Histological sections of the distal phalanx of the chicken (8 μ m) were stained with Alcian blue, hematoxylin, and eosin.

Supplementary Reference

61 Kuratani, S. Development of the chondrocranium of the loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta. Zool Sci* **16**, 803-818 (1999).