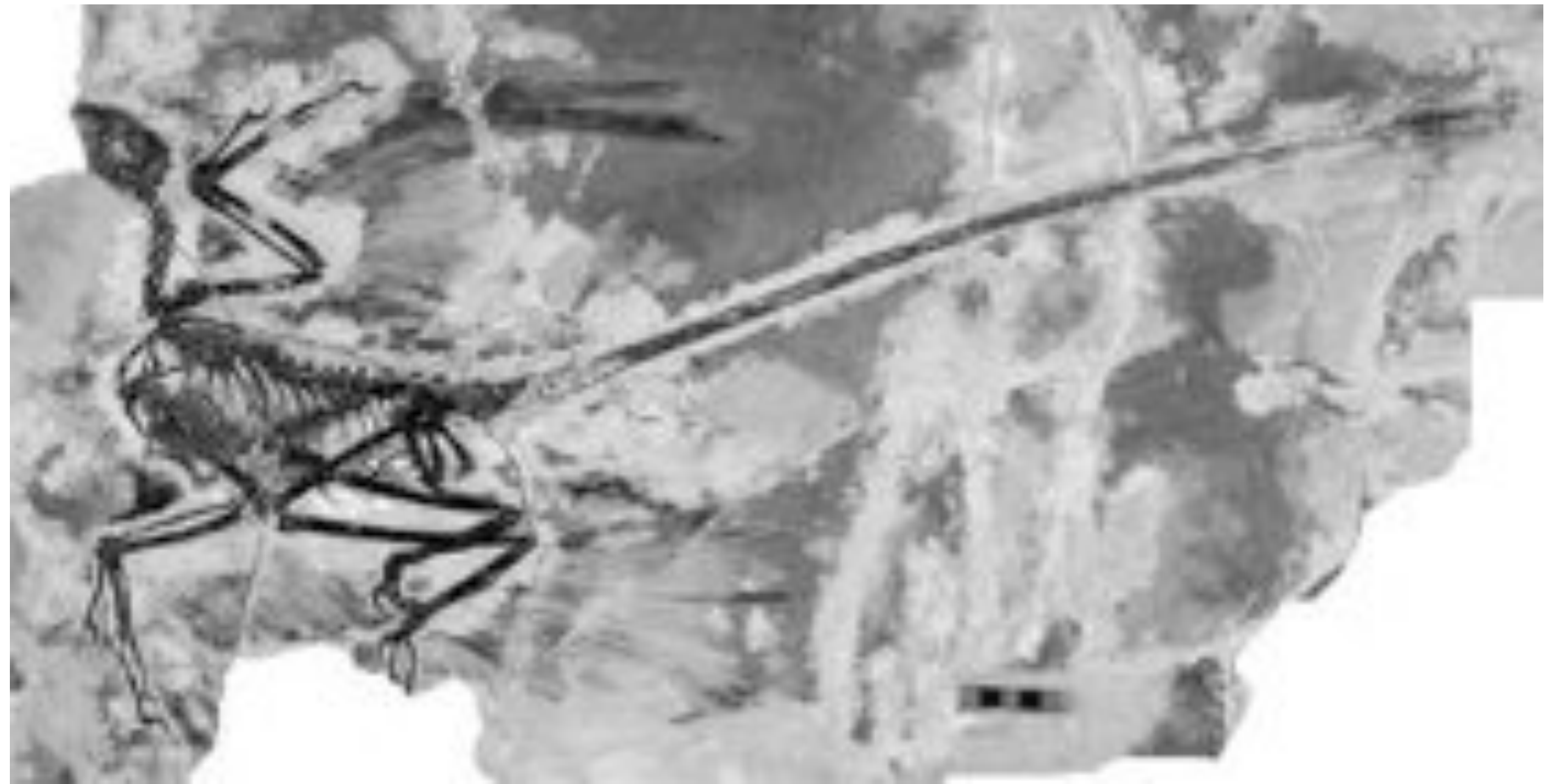


## *A Four-Winged Dinosaur from China:*



*Microraptor gui* is one of the strangest and most interesting finds to come out of China. Discovered in 2003, *M. gui*'s largely complete skeleton was accompanied by the fossil imprint of feathers. But even more strangely, this animal had not one, but **two pairs** of wings: one pair from the forelimbs, and the other pair from the hindlimbs (asymmetric flight feathers sprout from the metatarsals). A more recent paper (2007) reconstructed the animal as a **biplane**, starting with the hindwing feathers themselves (flight feathers are aligned with the short edge out in front) and modeling in simulation *M. gui* as a phugoid glider.

*Microraptor* lived in early Cretaceous forests of China, gliding efficiently from tree to tree. The biwing planform would have made *M. gui* an efficient and highly maneuverable glider.