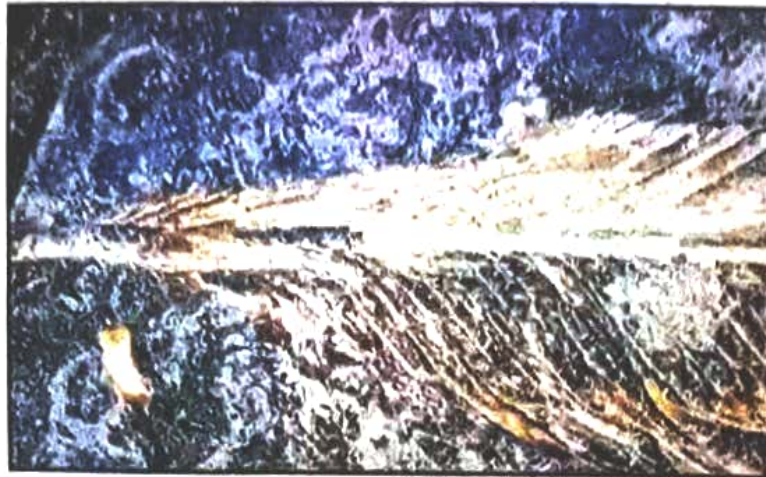


Fossil feather



COURTESY: O'CONNOR ET AL

■ About 66 million years ago, a large dinosaur, possibly a *T. rex* or *Nanotyrannus*, swallowed a bird. Remarkably, evidence of that ancient meal survived in fossilised poop, preserving what researchers at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, US, describe as the finest feather specimen yet discovered from the age of dinosaurs. The feather hints at why modern birds survived the asteroid catastrophe. The extinct bird it came from had more primitive insulating feathers, suggesting superior plumage may have helped the ancestors of living birds endure the deadly winter following the asteroid impact.