



RESEARCH PAPER

Gross anatomical studies on the femur, tibio-tarsus and fibula of emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

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Abstract : The study was conducted on three adult emu birds of 2-3 years of age. The femur was a relatively short, but thick bone, measuring about 23 ± 0.43 cm in length. The fovea capitis was absent. The large trochanter major was at the same level as the head. A large pneumatic foramen was present on the caudal surface of the femur, medioventrally to the trochanter major. Distal extremity of femur showed a trochlea anteriorly and two condyles posteriorly. The tibio-tarsus was longest and formed by the fusion of the tibia and proximal row of tarsal bones. The average length was 43 ± 0.68 cm, was almost twice as long as the femur. The cranial part of the proximal end was greatly expanded which formed a large ridge, the proximal end of which was divided to form lateral and medial cranial ridges. The distal end showed lateral and medial condyles cranially and a trochlea with symmetrical ridges caudally. The fibula was shorter than the tibia, measuring about 29 ± 0.23 cm in length with a prominent head.

Key Words : Femur, Tibio-tarsus, Fibula, Emu, Gross morphology

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