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SG 24 JUN 1968

A LIST OF REPTILIAN FOSSILS IN THE COLLECTION
OF MESSRS. C. & J. CLARK LIMITED, OF
STREET, SOMERSETSHIRE,

compiled by
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Introductory Note:

A comparatively small but scientifically very interesting collection of Liassic reptilian remains, for the most part forming skeletons or portions thereof, is preserved by Messrs. C. & J. Clark Ltd., at their premises in Street, Somersetshire, and is of particular interest in that all the constituent fossils are from the now unworked stone and lime quarries at Street or its immediate vicinity. The fact that the majority of these quarries have now been filled in and are no longer accessible, and the fact that many splendid reptilian fossils from the Lias of Street were destroyed during the last war (1939-45), renders these specimens of more than passing interest. So far as is known, no previous account of them has appeared, and the collection merits proper scientific attention, due not only to the historical significance of the specimens but also because of their generally splendid preservation.

The following brief notes form the first proper record of the individual specimens, and are the result of a brief visit paid to the collection made possible through the kindness of Mr. Stephen Clark of the above Company. It is ultimately planned to place these fossils as permanent exhibits in a museum at Street. None of the specimens are numbered.

In their present form, these notes are not for publication.

Wootton,
Berkshire.

June 1968.

1) Leptopterygius (Ichthyosaurus) ?tenuirostris.

12? The posterior part of a skull with associated lower jaws, the left forepedale, and a mass of vertebral central with ribs. There are 9 or 10 sclerotic plates in the orbit, and the phalangeals possess relatively large central foramina.

2) Leptopterygius (Ichthyosaurus) ?platyodon.

The posterior portions of both lower jaws, preserved anteriorly as far as the symphysis, and in ventral aspect. Associated vertebral centra and other bone fragments indicate a large individual.

3) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) communis.

A sectioned slab, exposing the greater part of a toothed skull, with associated vertebrae and scattered ribs, and a disrupted right fore-paddle.

Street Fossils (2).

4) Ichthyosaurus sp.

The complete lower jaws in articulation and teeth, preserved in ventral aspect. Portions of the upper jaws are just visible, and the specimen possibly merits development. Overall length of jaws, 1ft. 6 ins.

5) Ichthyosaurus sp.

The posterior portion of a vertebral column, consisting of 67 articulated contiguous centra, and one associated detached centrum, with part of a disrupted hindpaddle.

6) Ichthyosaurus sp.

Portions of very fragmentarily preserved jaws with associated teeth.

7) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) ?intermedius.

A generally complete skeleton, 4 feet long, but lacking the paddles and with the skull badly disrupted. The lower jaw is, however, complete, and measures, in antero-posterior length, 12 ins.

8) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) communis var.

An indifferently preserved skeleton, consisting of both lower jaws (preserved ventrally), the greater part of both forepaddles of which the left is the best, and most of a partially disrupted vertebral column with some associated ribs. The forepadule apparently has only four rows of carpals, but its general shape is reminiscent of the unusual paddle seen in specimen V.1179 in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.

9) Ichthyosaurus sp.

The greater part of a 4 foot long skeleton, with the dorsal and early caudal vertebrae preserved in articulation, but with the skull and paddles largely disrupted. It may prove possible to identify this specimen in due course, as the phalangeal bones of the paddles are predominantly of oblong shape.

10) Leptopterygius (Ichthyosaurus) ?platyodon.

The anterior portion of an indifferently preserved skeleton, shown in ventral aspect. Few skull features can be made out, but the phalangeals in the preserved portion of the left forepadule are typically platyodont, and probably represent this species.

11) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) communis.

An almost complete well preserved skeleton, 4 feet 11 ins. long, and consisting of a skull, the entire vertebral column, both forepaddles, and one hind paddle. The skull is slightly crushed, and there are six rows of phalangeals in the forepadle.

12) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) communis.

The greater part of a 5 1/2 feet long skeleton, with a nearly complete skull, and most of both forepaddles.

13) Ichthyosaurus sp.

A very poorly preserved individual represented by a series of disarticulated vertebral centra, and the impressions of others. This individual is not identifiable.

14) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) intermedius.

The greater part of a 7 foot 6 ins. long skeleton, showing the skull in dorsal aspect, vertebrae and associated ribs, nearly all of the right forepaddle, and the left humerus. Forepaddle with six rows of predominantly pentagonal phalangeals.

15) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) communis.

A moderately well preserved skull and lower jaws, with teeth, the anterior part of the vertebral column with associated ribs, the entire right forepaddle, and the greater part of the left forepaddle. Forepaddles with six rows of phalangeals.

16) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) ?communis.

A large portion of a skeleton consisting of most of a skull and the lower jaws with teeth, the latter 3/5ths of a vertebral column with ribs, and imperfectly preserved left fore- and hind-paddles. Overall length, as preserved, 6 feet 2 ins.

17) Eurypterygius (Ichthyosaurus) intermedius.

The anterior 2/3rds of a partly disrupted skeleton consisting of a skull and lower jaws with teeth, both forepaddles, and the left hind-paddle, the whole animal preserved in dorsal aspect. Forepaddles with five rows of phalangeals.

18) Leptopterygius (Ichthyosaurus) ?breviceps, (or new species).

A highly interesting skeleton, 7 feet 8 ins. long, characterized by an unusually short skull (antero-posteriorly), and huge forepaddles having only four rows of typically platyodont phalangeals. Length of lower jaw 12 1/2 ins. (no other cranial measurements possible); length of right (and left) forepaddle, 1 foot 3 ins. (incl. humerus). The disrupted nature of the skull in this specimen makes definite identification difficult, but the extreme antero-posterior shortness of the cranium (even shorter than the lower jaw) suggests strong affinities with the species breviceps, a form in which the forepaddles are not well known. It is possible that this specimen represents an undescribed species.

19) Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus.

A large skeleton, lacking only the cervical vertebrae and skull, all the phalangeals of the fore and hind paddles of the right side, and some of those of the fore and hind paddles of the left side. There are 36 contiguous articulated vertebrae with neural arches and associated ribs, and four separate centra detached from the column. All four humeri and femora are present, and apparently most of the pelvic and pectoral girdles.
