

Eocene round herring from Monte Bolca, Italy

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Fishes of the subfamily Dussumieriinae, also known as round herrings, are a small subgroup of the family Clupeidae inhabiting tropical and subtropical marine coastal waters. A new genus and species of round herring, *Trollichthys bolcensis* gen. et sp. nov., is described from the lower Eocene micritic limestone of Monte Bolca, northern Italy. This new clupeid taxon is based on seven partially complete articulated skeletons that exhibit a unique combination of features, including: two supramaxillae, edentulous jaw and palate bones, 41–42 preural vertebrae and 22–24 pleural ribs, pleural ribs-preural vertebrae ratio ranging 0.52–0.57, five or six supraneural bones, dorsal-fin origin located at about mid-length of the body, dorsal fin with about 16 rays, two postcleithra, pelvic-fin insertion slightly behind the dorsal-fin origin, and pelvic fin with eight rays. *Trollichthys bolcensis* shares several features with the extant round herring genus *Spratelloides*. However, because of its unique combination of features, *Trollichthys bolcensis* cannot be confidently assigned to any of the extant dussumieriine lineages and present evidence does not favour any particular sister-group relationship.

Key words: Teleostei, Clupeidae, *Trollichthys bolcensis*, Eocene, Ypresian, Italy, Pesciara quarry.

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