

New data on the dentition of the scincomorphan lizard *Polyglyphanodon sternbergi*

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Polyglyphanodon sternbergi Gilmore, 1940 is a large-bodied lizard from the Late Cretaceous of North America distinguished by its transversely oriented, interlocking teeth. Initially the teeth of *P. sternbergi* were described as smooth and blade-like, but recent discoveries of new specimens from the type locality and re-examination of the original material indicate that the chisel-like teeth of *P. sternbergi* have small, irregular serrations along the blades. These serrations are similar in size to those found on the teeth of the modern herbivorous lizard *Iguana iguana* and were likely used in a similar manner to crop vegetation, but was also capable of a degree of oral food processing due to the transverse orientation and interlocking arrangement of the dentition of *P. sternbergi*. Additionally, the presence of transversely oriented teeth with V-shaped blades in the anterior portion of the tooth row of *P. sternbergi* represents an additional shared characteristic in tooth structure between *P. sternbergi* and *Dicothodon moorensis*, *Bicuspidon numerosus*, and *Peneteius aquilonius*; all transversely-tooth polyglyphandontine lizards from the Cretaceous of North America. It appears that the unique dentitions of *Polyglyphanodon sternbergi* (large teeth with transverse, serrated blades) and *Peneteius aquilonius* (small teeth with mammal-like specializations) present by the end of the Cretaceous were derived from a bicuspid, transversely oriented precursor tooth with a V-shaped blade.

Key words: Squamata, Polyglyphanodontinae, Polyglyphanodon, dentition, Cretaceous, North America.

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