

A new pliosaurid from the Oxford Clay Formation of Oxfordshire, UK

Hilary F. Ketchum and Roger B.J. Benson

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We describe the anatomy of a new longirostrine pliosaurid, *Eardasaurus powelli* gen. et sp. nov., based on a substantially complete skeleton from the Middle Jurassic Oxford Clay Formation of Oxfordshire, UK. The specimen brings the number of pliosaurid genera known from the Oxford Clay Formation up to a minimum of six, contributing to our understanding of the most taxonomically rich pliosaurid assemblage. The teeth of *Eardasaurus powelli* gen. et sp. nov. have “carina-like” apicobasal enamel ridges, previously only identified in *Liopleurodon ferox* among Middle Jurassic pliosaurids, and which may be more widespread among early pliosaurids than has been recognised. Our phylogenetic analysis shows that *Eardasaurus powelli* gen. et sp. nov. is nested within Middle Jurassic thalassophonean pliosaurids, slightly more derived than *Peloneustes philarchus*, as sister to a group comprising “*Pliosaurus*” *andrewsi*, *Simolestes vorax*, *Liopleurodon ferox*, *Pliosaurus* spp. and brachauchenines.

Key words: Plesiosauria, Pliosauridae, Oxford Clay Formation, Jurassic, Callovian, England.

Hilary F. Ketchum [hilary.ketchum@oum.ox.ac.uk], Oxford University

Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW, UK. Roger

B. J. Benson [roger.benson@earth.ox.ac.uk], Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, 3 South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3AN, UK.

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 [Supplementary file \(1,243.1 kB\)](#)