



New Species of Hybodont Shark

Why in News

Recently, the [Geological Survey of India](#) (GSI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee have discovered a **new extinct species of hybodont shark** from the Jaisalmer Basin of Rajasthan.

- **GSI** is a scientific agency under the Ministry of Mines, works as a repository of geo-science information required in various fields in the country.

Key Points

- **Newly discovered species:**

- The newly discovered **crushing teeth** from Jaisalmer represents a new species named by the research team as *Strophodusjaisalmerensis*. [//](#)



- The genus *Strophodus* has been identified for the **first time from the Indian subcontinent** and is only the third such record from Asia, the other two being from Japan and Thailand.
- These sharks have been **reported for the first time from the Jurassic rocks** (approximately, between 160 and 168 million years old) of the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan.
- **Hybodont Sharks:**
 - Hybodonts **dominated both marine and freshwater environments** during the Triassic and early Jurassic periods.
 - However, **hybodont sharks started to decline in marine environments from the Middle Jurassic onwards** until they formed a relatively minor component of open-marine shark assemblages.
 - They finally became **extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time** 65 million years ago.
- **Significance of the fossil:**
 - It marks an **important milestone in the study of Jurassic vertebrate fossils** in the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan, and it **opens a new window for further research** in the domain of vertebrate fossils.
- **Geological Time Scale:**

EON	ERA	PERIOD	MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO	KEY EVENTS	
Phanerozoic	Caenozoic	Quaternary	1.6	Humans evolve	
		Tertiary			
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	138	Extinction of Dinosaurs	
		Jurassic			
		Triassic			
	Paleozoic	Permian	240	Permian mass extinction	
		Carboniferous	330		
		Devonian	410	Invertebrates become common	
		Silurian			
		Ordovician	500		
		Cambrian			
	Proterozoic		Also known as Precambrian	3500	Earliest life
	Archean				
Hadean					

Source: IE

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