



Kyhytysuka Sachicarum: New Marine Reptile

Why in News

Recently, an international team of researchers has discovered a **new marine reptile** named **Kyhytysuka sachicarum**.

Key Points //



- Kyhytysuka translates to **'the one that cuts with something sharp'** in an **indigenous language from the region in central Colombia** where the fossil was found.
- It has been **named so to honour the ancient Muisca culture** that existed there for millennia.
- The fossil is a **stunningly preserved meter-long skull**, is one of the last surviving **ichthyosaurs** - ancient animals that look eerily like living swordfish.
 - **Ichthyosaur:**
 - They are the members of an extinct group of aquatic reptiles, most of which were **very similar to porpoises in appearance and habits**.
 - They had a **very wide geographic distribution**, and their fossil remains span almost the entire **Mesozoic Era**.
 - They are first known from the **Triassic Period of Asia**, where they began as long-bodied, undulating swimmers without many of the specializations seen in later species.
- The species comes from an **important transitional time during the Early Cretaceous period** when the Earth was coming out of a relatively cool period, had **rising sea levels**, and the supercontinent Pangea (A supercontinent that incorporated almost all the landmasses on Earth) was splitting into northern and southern landmasses.

Geologic Time Scale

Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	MYA	Life Forms			
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic (CZ)	Quaternary (Q)	Holocene (H)	0.01	Age of Mammals	Extinction of large mammals and birds Modern humans		
			Pleistocene (PE)	2.6				
		Tertiary (T)	Neogene (N)	Pliocene (PL)		5.3	Age of Reptiles	Placental mammals Early flowering plants Dinosaurs diverse and abundant
				Miocene (MI)		23.0		
				Oligocene (OL)		33.9		
		Paleogene (PG)		Eocene (E)		56.0	Age of Amphibians	Mass extinction First dinosaurs; first mammals Flying reptiles
				Paleocene (EP)		66.0		
						251.9		
		Mesozoic (MZ)	Cretaceous (K)			145.0	Age of Fishes	Mass extinction First land plants Mass extinction Primitive fish Trilobite maximum Rise of corals Early shelled organisms
				201.3				
				251.9				
	Jurassic (J)			298.9	Age of Amphibians	Coal-forming swamps Sharks abundant First reptiles		
				323.2				
	Triassic (TR)			358.9	Age of Reptiles	Mass extinction First dinosaurs; first mammals Flying reptiles		
				419.2				
				443.8				
	Paleozoic (PZ)		Permian (P)	298.9	Marine Invertebrates	Complex multicelled organisms		
			Pennsylvanian (PN)	323.2				
			Mississippian (M)	358.9				
			Devonian (D)	419.2				
			Silurian (S)	443.8				
Ordovician (O)			485.4					
Cambrian (C)			541.0					
Proterozoic			2500		Simple multicelled organisms			
			4000					
			4600					
Archean	Precambrian (PC, W, X, Y, Z)		4000		Early bacteria and algae (stromatolites)			
			4600					
Hadean			4600		Origin of life			
			4600		Formation of the Earth			



[Source: IE](#)

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