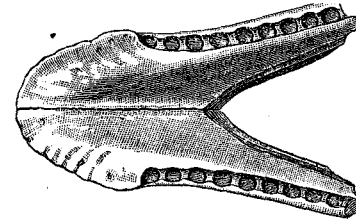


ART. XXXIX.—*A new order of extinct Jurassic Reptiles*
(MACELOGNATHA); by O. C. MARSH.

A NEW type of reptilian life is represented in the Yale Museum by various remains, the most characteristic of which are the two dentary bones of the lower jaws. These bones resemble in many respects the corresponding parts of a Turtle, but are broader, and more nearly horizontal. The jaws were evidently covered with a horny beak in front, but further back they contained teeth. The edentulous portion is flat and thin, and nearly horizontal. The two rami meet in nearly the same plane, and are united at the symphysis by a close suture. The form and general characters of these specimens are represented in the cut below.



Jaws of *Macelognathus vagans*, Marsh. Seen from above. One-half natural size.

The teeth were implanted in distinct sockets, in front, but further back, the walls between them become thinner, and a groove appears to gradually take their place. The form of the teeth cannot be determined from the present specimen.

The remains found with these jaws were mostly Chelonian, but none were associated with them in such position as to warrant the conclusion that they pertained to the same animal.

These fossils indicate a new order of reptiles, which may be called the *Macelognatha*, and the family, *Macelognathidae*. The genus and species may be termed *Macelognathus vagans*.

These jaws are too solid and massive for Birds or Pterodactyles. With Serpents and Lizards they have evidently only remote affinities. The close union of the rami by suture separates them from the Dinosaurs, and the edentulous beak, from Crocodiles. So far as now known, they appear to be nearest allied to the Chelonia, although Turtles without teeth occur in the same strata with them.

The geological horizon of these peculiar remains is in the Atlantosaurus beds of the Upper Jurassic. The locality is in Wyoming Territory.

Yale College, March 21st, 1884.

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