



Elasmosaurus

Means "thin plate lizard"

Scientific name: *Elasmosaurus platyrus*

Period:

Late Cretaceous (~ 80.5 Ma - {Mega annum, or million years ago})

Diet:

Carnivore (meat eater)

Current day location found:

Cosmopolitan distribution
(nearly everywhere)

More information:

- One of the largest plesiosaurs (a type of marine reptile) of the Cretaceous period
- Had a long neck, short tail
- Had paddle like limbs used to propel itself through the water
- The paddles were too rigid and specialised to have allowed them to have come onto land to lay eggs
- Its discoverer put it together as best he could and placed the head on the wrong end, incorrectly giving it the appearance that it had a short neck and very long tail
- Some plesiosaurs, like *Polycotylus*, are known to have given birth to live young
- Estimated length about 14 m (46 ft)
- Estimated weight over 2 tonnes (about the same as 3 dairy cows)