

## First three-dimensional skull of the Middle Triassic mixosaurid ichthyosaur *Phalarodon fraasi* from Svalbard, Norway

Aubrey Jane Roberts, Victoria Sjøholt Engelschiøn, and Jørn Harald Hurum

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The marine Middle Triassic sediments of Svalbard are rich in fossiliferous material and are particularly well-known for marine reptile fossils. Here, we present a new specimen of the small-bodied mixosaurid ichthyosaur *Phalarodon fraasi* from the Botneheia Formation. PMO 235.393 is unusual in being the first three-dimensional mixosaurid skull recovered from this formation, allowing us to use computed tomography to reconstruct the obscured right side of the cranium, resulting in the first 3D model available for a mixosaurid ichthyosaur. Although separated into different slabs, the specimen preserves most of the dermatocranium as well as some partial post-cranial elements. In particular, the rostrum, external naris, dentition, quadrate and sclerotic ring are well-preserved. This methodology gave new insights into the adaptations this taxon has to durophagy, as well as a detailed look at the heterodont dentition present in PMO 235.393. After comparing with other *Phalarodon* specimens, it was clear that the maxillary heterodonty of this genus is a synapomorphy. As such this was added as a new character in our phylogenetic analysis, supporting the separation of *Phalarodon* and *Mixosaurus*.

**Key words:** Ichthyosauria, Mixosauridae, *Mixosaurus*, *Phalarodon*, Triassic, Spitsbergen, Svalbard.

Aubrey Jane Roberts [[a.j.roberts@nhm.uio.no](mailto:a.j.roberts@nhm.uio.no)], Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, box 1072 Blindern, 0318 Oslo, Norway; Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd, South Kensington, London SW7 5BD, UK. Victoria Sjøholt Engelschiøn [[v.s.engelschion@nhm.uio.no](mailto:v.s.engelschion@nhm.uio.no)] and Jørn Harald Hurum [[j.h.hurum@nhm.uio.no](mailto:j.h.hurum@nhm.uio.no)] (corresponding author), Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, box 1072 Blindern, 0318 Oslo, Norway.

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