

A NEW SPECIES OF FOSSIL TURTLE FROM  
THE PLIOCENE OF OREGON, WITH NOTES  
ON OTHER FOSSIL *CLEMmys* FROM  
WESTERN NORTH AMERICA

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The genus *Clemmys* has an interesting geographical distribution with species in southern Europe, southeast Asia, northeastern North America, and one species in western North America. In contrast to many Cenozoic reptile groups, there are a number of fossil forms known. It is the purpose of this paper to discuss new and previously described fossil *Clemmys* from the Pacific Coast of North America.

Most of the material referred to below comes from the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum, including the recently acquired California Institute of Technology collection (L.A.C.M. and C.I.T.) and the Museum of Paleontology of the University of California, Berkeley (U.C.M.P.) and was studied through the courtesy of Dr. Theodore Downs and Dr. R. A. Stirton, respectively.

Hay (1908) lists the following species of fossil *Clemmys* from western North America: *C. morristi* (Bridger Eocene), *C. saxea* (Upper Miocene Mascall beds of Oregon), and *C. hesperia* (Pliocene, Rattlesnake beds of Oregon). Several specimens of Pleistocene *Clemmys marmorata* have been recorded (Brattstrom, 1953a, 1953b, 1955, 1958). The oldest known member of the genus is *C. boeckmani* from the Paleocene of Saskatchewan.

*Clemmys owyheensis* new species

TYPE: L.A.C.M. (C.I.T.) no. 5123, an entoplastron.

TYPE LOCALITY AND HORIZON: C.I.T. Loc. 62, Owyhee, Hemphillian Pliocene, near Rome, Malheur County, Oregon. It was found along the east side of Dry Creek, a tributary of Crooked Creek.

DIAGNOSIS: The specimen is a large emydoid turtle with the humeral-pectoral sulcus crossing the entoplastron, gular-humeral sulci forming an acute angle with the mid-line of 33 degrees or less. The entoplastron is curved posteriorly and laterally, but is tapered anterior-laterally with a prominent anterior knob.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: The type consists of an entoplastron 33.5 mm. long and 36.0 mm. wide (Plate 21) with the humeral-pectoral sulcus crossing it, and with the humeral-gular sulcus forming an angle of about 28 degrees with the mid-line (or the two sulci forming an acute angle of 65 degrees or less). The

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