

The Late Cretaceous Chimaeroid Fish, *Ischyodus bifurcatus* Case (Chondrichthyes: Holocephali), from California, USA, and Its Paleobiogeographical Significance

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Abstract

© 2018 by the Palaeontological Society of Japan. A nearly complete right mandibular tooth plate of *Ischyodus bifurcatus* Case (Holocephali: Chimaeroidei) is reported from the Point Loma Formation (upper Campanian) of the Upper Cretaceous Rosario Group in southern California, USA. The individual is estimated to have measured nearly 1 m in total body length. Remains of *I. bifurcatus* have been reported from marine rocks deposited in epicontinental seas and continental shelf paleoenvironments of temperate latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere. Previous records of the species consist of specimens from Santonian to Maastrichtian strata of the US (Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Montana, and Wyoming), Sweden, and European Russia. The tooth plate described herein is the first verifiable record of *I. bifurcatus* from California, and, more significantly, represents the only known definite Mesozoic record of *Ischyodus* from the entire North Pacific region.

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Keywords

chimaeroid fish, *Ischyodus*, Late Cretaceous, North Pacific, tooth plate

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