

A REVIEW OF ICHTHYOSAURIA FROM PORTUGAL

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The ichthyosaur fossil record of Portugal is composed of specimens from the localities of S. Pedro de Moel, Alhadas, Cadima, Murtede, Casal do Combo, Condeixa, Alvaiázere and Tomar, within the confines of the Lusitanian Basin, ranging in age from the Sinemurian to the Aalenian. Historical classifications by Zbyszewski, Moitinho de Almeida and Veiga Ferreira have identified the specimens as belonging to the genera *Ichthyosaurus* and *Stenopterygius*, and in the cases a species could be determined, *I. intermedius* and *S. uniter*. However, over half a century has passed since these specimens have first been document, and new developments in Ichthyosaur phylogeny and taxonomy have rendered these classifications invalid.

In this study, we've reviewed the specimens, providing a more detailed description, after which a phylogenetic analysis was performed to elucidate their taxonomic affinities. The fragmented condition, and in some cases poor preservation, of most specimens resulted in largely inconclusive analysis, with very low resolution of the consensus trees recovered. Only one specimen, labelled MDT-IST 85 and housed in the collections of Museu Décio Thadeu in Instituto Superior Técnico de Lisboa, was unambiguously assigned to the recently described species *I. larkini*. Further studies and new developments in ichthyosaur research are required for a more accurate classification of these historical Portuguese specimens.