

PALÆONTOLOGICAL NOTES No. II:  
MEIOLANIA PLATYCEPS Owen and VARANUS (MEGALANIA)  
PRISCUS (Owen).

By

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(Plates xlvii-li.)

LIMB BONES OF MEIOLANIA PLATYCEPS Owen.

Since a description of this extinct chelonian was published in these RECORDS,<sup>1</sup> additional specimens have been secured at Lord Howe Island by the efforts of my colleague, Mr. E. Le G. Troughton, and Messrs. Baxter, Hines, and Nicholls, residents of the island. These afford further evidence regarding its structure and mode of life, for, fortunately, some of the bones were found associated in such a manner that one is justified in regarding them as belonging to one and the same individual. Thus, for the first time it is possible to draw conclusions as to the relative proportions of the limb bones.

The associated bones consist of right humerus, right radius and ulna, both femora, tibiæ, and fibulæ, left astragalo-calcaneum, and a number of tarsal, metatarsal, phalangeal, and dermal bones. Of these the radius and tibia have already been adequately described by Owen,<sup>2</sup> the others have not been described before.

*Ulna* (Pl. xlvii, figs. 1-3).—This is a stout bone, somewhat longer and heavier than the radius; its proximal end rises higher than that of the radius, but its distal end does not pass so low. It is flattened somewhat in a dorso-ventral plane and is slightly twisted, but not so much as the ulna of *Testudo*. The surface of articulation with the humerus (fig. 2) is roughly triangular in shape. There is an extensive rugose area near the proximal end for attachment to the radius. The olecranon is fairly well developed. Greatest length, 107 mm.

*Fibula* (Pl. xlvii, figs. 4-6).—A much slighter bone than the tibia, which it exceeds a little in length. It expands at both ends, particularly the distal, and the long axes of the proximal and distal articular surfaces are approximately at right angles to one another. Near the distal end on the tibial side is a prominent rugosity for attachment of the *ligamentum tibio-fibulare inferius*. Length, 94 mm.

<sup>1</sup> Anderson.—Rec. Austr. Mus., XIV, 1925, pp. 223-242.

<sup>2</sup> Owen.—Phil. Trans., CLXXIX, 1888, B, pp. 187-189.