

1926

Proboscidian Remains from Red Oak and Ottumwa, Iowa

A. O. Thomas

Copyright © Copyright 1926 by the Iowa Academy of Science, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias>

Recommended Citation

Thomas, A. O. (1926) "Proboscidian Remains from Red Oak and Ottumwa, Iowa," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 33(1), 222-223.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol33/iss1/48>

This Research is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

on the pedicle than on the brachial valve, on the lobes than in the sinuses, and are meagerly developed or absent on the cardino-lateral regions of the brachial valve. Muscle scars and other internal features not seen. Young shells about one millimeter long are wedge-shaped, their umbones are far apart, the pedicle openings and cardinal area are unduly large, their valves are quadrilateral in outline and are without any indications of sinuses. At a length of less than two millimeters bilobation has definitely begun.

Occurrence.— In beds of the Hopkinton stage, Niagaran series of the Silurian at Scotch Grove, Jones county, Iowa. The first specimens were observed in residues remaining after dissolving blocks of the porous coralline dolomite in hydrochloric acid. Further examination of more material resulted in the finding of a series of perfectly preserved and thoroughly silicified white shells. They range in size from less than a millimeter in youth to adults four millimeters long.

PROBOSCIDIAN REMAINS FROM RED OAK AND
OTTUMWA, IOWA

A. O. THOMAS

(*ABSTRACT*)

During the past year several very interesting proboscidian bones have been found in the Pleistocene deposits of Iowa. The first of these is the skull of a mastodon unearthed at some depth in an excavation near Red Oak. The mandible and tusks are lacking and the brain case has been broken away posteriorly. The face is well preserved and shows clearly the sutures, the various foramina, the anterior nares, the high forehead, and the great alveoli for the massive tusks. A well preserved molar is in place in each half jaw. The damaged condition posteriorly reveals unusually well the cancellated bony structure or diploë characteristic of proboscidian skulls. From tip of alveoli to top of skull the face measures 36 inches and the width of the face between the eyes 20.5 inches.

The second find is the mandible of a mastodon from the bed of the Des Moines river near Cliffland below Ottumwa. The jaw was discovered at time of low water firmly imbedded in a hard red gravel. Two molar teeth are in place in each half jaw and there is an alveolar depression 1.5 inches in diameter on each side of the symphysis. The animal did not have mandibular tusks.

The condylar portions of the ascending rami are lost. Length of jaw 33 inches, greatest width back of last molar 19 inches.

The distal end of a large proboscidian femur found in the bed of the Skunk river near Mt. Pleasant preserves most perfectly the articulating surface of the bone. This specimen is in museum of Iowa Wesleyan College.

Complete descriptions and illustrations of these finds are in preparation.

DINOSAUR EGG REMAINS FROM MONGOLIA

A. O. THOMAS

(ABSTRACT)

There was recently added to the paleontological collections at the University several fragments of shells of eggs of the dinosaur *Protoceratops andrewsi*. They come from the Dja-doch-ta beds of Cretaceous age at Shabarakh Usu, Outer Mongolia, China. The bits of egg-shells and a piece of the skull with teeth in place and a part of the frill were collected and presented by Dr. Ralph W. Chaney a member of the Third Asiatic Expedition. (See NATURAL HISTORY, volume xxv, Nov.-Dec. number, 1925, pages 622, 623).

The egg-shell fragments are over one millimeter thick, are smooth on the inside and are marked by a maze of grooves and ridges on the outside. The pieces are from one to three centimeters across and judging from their curvature the entire eggs were several inches long. They occur in a brick-red friable sandstone, blocks of which were packed for shipment to America in camel's hair, the only available packing in that part of the desert.