

Motorhead's 'Lemmy' has dino croc named after him

August 9 2017



An artists rendering of a Lemmysuchus, a Jurassic-era sea-dwelling crocodile

A team of music-mad scientists unveiled an extinct, sea-dwelling crocodile from the Jurassic period on Wednesday, which they named in honour of Motorhead lead singer Ian "Lemmy" Kilmister who died in 2015.

"Lemmysuchus"—Latin for Lemmy's crocodile—was about 5.8 metres (19 feet) long and had a skull of more than a metre—similar to a modern-day saltwater crocodile to which it is only distantly related.

"It would have been one of the largest coastal predators of its time," researchers from the Natural History Museum said in a statement.

"The teeth were large and blunt, perfect for crushing prey such as turtles."

Lemmy's croc was dug up at Peterborough in England in the early 20th century. But it was recently re-examined and found to have been incorrectly lumped with other sea [crocodiles](#) from the area.

Given that it belonged to a unique group, the creature "needed a new scientific name," said the statement.

"Natural History Museum curator Lorna Steel was still mourning the demise of her favourite band, and suggested that it should be named after her musical hero."

"Although Lemmy passed away at the end of 2015, we'd like to think that he would have raised a glass to Lemmysuchus, one of the nastiest sea creatures ever to have inhabited the Earth," the statement quoted Steel as saying.



British heavy metal band Motorhead lead singer Ian 'Lemmy' Kilmister performs during a music festival near Madrid, in 2010

Lemmy, a chain-smoker who boasted of drinking a bottle of Jack Daniel's a day and of sleeping with more than 1,000 women, died in December 2015 at the age of 70 in Los Angeles.

He formed Motorhead, a metal band, in 1975.

© 2017 AFP

Citation: Motorhead's 'Lemmy' has dino croc named after him (2017, August 9) retrieved 14 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-08-motorhead-lemmy-dino-croc.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.