



# A Blast From The

5,792  
PAGES

ADD NEW PAGE

COMMUNITY ▾

DIRECTORY ▾

EXPLORE ▾

DISCUSS

in: [2020](#), [Discoveries](#), [Fossil taxa described in 2020](#), and [9 more](#)

## Yaksha

EDIT

COMMENTS (1)

SHARE

*Yaksha perettii*, is a genus and species of small amphibian that lived 99 million years ago had a secret weapon; A tongue that shot out of its mouth like a bullet to snatch its prey. It's the earliest known example of this "ballistic tongue" style of predation.

### Discovery

Led by paleontologist Juan Daza of Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, the team dubbed the creature *Yaksha perettii*. "Yaksha" is a type of nature spirit in Myanmar folklore, thought to protect the roots of trees, and "perettii" is in honor of Swiss mineralogist Adolf Peretti, who discovered the fossil.

The amphibian is a new species, represented by a few tiny bits of skeleton and soft tissue discovered in chunks of Myanmar amber. The centerpiece of these finds is a newly discovered complete skull, exquisitely preserved in 3-D, that includes a long thin bone connected to the creature's neck, with some remnants of tongue attached to the end. The creature, which measured just 52 millimeters long from snout to pelvis (not including a tail), used this bone to shoot its tongue out of its mouth and catch prey.

Paleontologist Susan Evans of University College London stepped in. The creature was not a reptile at all, she said: It was an albanerpetontid, an extinct group of weird amphibians that Evans has been studying for decades. Albanerpetontids first appear in the fossil record as far back as 165 million years ago

### Recent Wiki Activity

#### [Guidraco](#)

Firekong1 • 4 hours ago

#### [Plateosaurus](#)

Knightfly20111 • 4 hours ago

#### [Brachiosaurus](#)

Knightfly20111 • 4 hours ago

#### [Baryonyx](#)

Knightfly20111 • 5 hours ago

#### [Coelophysis](#)

Knightfly20111 • 5 hours ago



salamanders. But that didn't explain some of the features.

"They were strange little things with weird jaw joints and neck joints," says Evans, a coauthor on the new study. Unlike modern amphibians, this group had two separate neck joints, allowing for more flexibility, and an odd jaw joint "that seems to do a kind of flexing movement. It was clearly doing something rather specialized," Evans says. There was one known albanerpetontid specimen that did have a long, thin bone preserved near its skull, and "I suspected for a long time that they had some sort of ballistic tongue mechanism," she says. But without more detailed fossils, the hypothesis was hard to prove. That all changed with the discovery of the skull, which shows in beautiful detail the entire tongue apparatus. "The fact that you could see the long, rodlike bone actually embedded at the base of the tongue pad — that's really strong evidence that this animal was a tongue-flicker to catch its prey."<sup>[1]</sup>

## Reference

1. <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/ancient-amphibian-oldest-known-animal-slingshot-tongue>

Retrieved from "https://dinopedia.fandom.com/wiki/Yaksha?oldid=162755"



Main Page



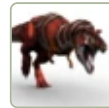
Dinosaur (movie)



Quetzalcoatlus



Spinosaurus



Tyrannosaurus rex

Categories: [2020](#) | [Discoveries](#) | [Fossil taxa described in 2020](#) | [Small animal](#) | [Amphibians](#) | [Amphibia](#) | [Amphibious](#) | [Insectivores](#) | [Late Cretaceous](#) | [Late Cretaceous extinctions](#) | [Europe](#) | [Prehistoric animals of Europe](#)

Community content is available under CC-BY-SA unless otherwise noted.



Add a comment about Yaksha

## 1 comment



AlmA888 · 11/8/2020



Watch the short documentary about Yaksha peretti



Write a reply



**EXPLORE PROPERTIES**

Fandom

Cortex RPG

Gamepedia

Muthead

D&D Beyond

Futhead

**FOLLOW US**

**OVERVIEW**

About

Terms of Use

Careers

Privacy Policy

Press

Global Sitemap

**ADVERTISE**

Media Kit

Contact

**FANDOM APPS**

Take your favorite fandoms with you and never miss a beat.



D&D Beyond

Dinopedia is a FANDOM Lifestyle Community.