

# YAKSHA

Yaksha is an extinct genus of albanerpetonid aphibians that lived in Europe during the Late Cretaceous.

## Description Edit

Yaksha is known from two specimens, one and adult and the other a juvenile. Upon discovery, Yaksha was mistaken for a genus of basal chameleon, in 2016. Yaksha possessed an elongated hyoid bone, which supported a long tongue that was able to shoot out of the animals mouth and catch insects. Though Yaksha is not related to chameleons at all, the trait was convergently evolved between the two unrelated groups. After the specimens were announced in 2016, the specimens were reevaluated in 2020. Yaksha is very similar in shape to a salamander. After CT scanning the specimens, the skeleton was made into a 3D model for study. The top of the skull has a rugose texture, which likely supported reptile-like scales. The lower jaw is thin, and connects to a flat skull with large eye orbits. The skulls morphology is very similar in shape to a chameleons. Yaksha lacks the larval stage other amphibians have. Because Yaksha had the muscular elongated tongue chameleons have, it was likely a sit and wait predator.

## References Edit

- <https://www.inverse.com/science/ancient-mistaken-identity/amp>
- <https://phys.org/news/2020-11-tiny-amphibian-outlived-dinosaurs-earliest.html>

Retrieved from "<https://prehistoric-wiki.fandom.com/wiki/Yaksha?oldid=14963>"

Categories: Albanerpetonids | **ADD CATEGORY**

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## Yaksha



## Statistics

<b>Etymology</b>	After yaksha spirits
<b>Species</b>	Y. peretti
<b>Location</b>	Europe
<b>Diet</b>	Insectivorous



A specimen of Yaksha peretti.