

# Dimorphodon macronyx

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Our imaginations are stirred when we see fossils of extinct life forms, especially those with wings. Some of these early winged creatures were the flying reptiles of the Jurassic period (200 - 145 million years ago). Many were the largest animals to ever lift themselves above the earth and they ruled the pre-historic skies for more than one hundred thirty-five million years.

One of the early fliers was *Dimorphodon macronyx*, a creature with features only a mother could love. The name means two form tooth, big claw - which the animal certainly possessed. Two different types of teeth are present, long fang like front teeth likely used to catch small prey and smaller teeth toward the rear, suitable for shredding the meal.



Long and short teeth  
with large claws  
1st class letter postage



Short body



Membrane between limbs

The skull is only 8 inches long and shaped like a triangle, which is much different than other species. The animal was ~3 feet long with a wingspan of ~4 feet wide. It has large hands, small feet and a long robust tail on quite a short body.

The animal was first discovered in 1828 by Mary Anning (1799–1847), an English fossil collector and paleontologist who worked in Lyme Regis, Dorset, England. It was the first pterosaur discovered outside Germany and can be seen in the Natural History Museum London.



Dimorphodon macronyx



Head like a triangle



Souvenir sheet depicting reconstructed example and fossilized bones  
The fossil was found in the seaside cliffs of Lyme Regis, England