Dimorphodon macronyx

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 Jurrasic period (200 - 145 million years ago). Many were the largest animals to ever lift themselves above the earth and they ruled the prehistoric 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



Dimorphodon macronyx

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

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.



Head like a triangle

The animal was first discovered in 1828 by Mary Anning (1799–1847), an English fossil collector and paleontologist who worked in

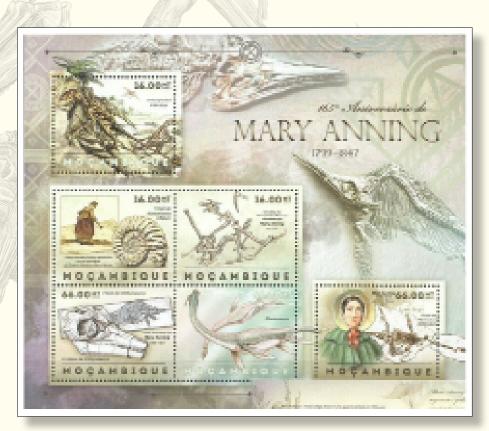
Lyme Regis, Dorset, England. It was the first pterosaur discovered outside Germany and can be seen in the Natural History Museum London.



Short body



Membrane between limbs



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