

The sexual dimorphism of *Shastasaurus tangae* (Reptilia: Ichthyosauria) from the Triassic Guanling Biota, China

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Summary

Marine reptiles, especially large-sized long-snout ichthyosaurs, are highly controversial in taxonomy in Guanling Biota (early Carnian, Guizhou, SW China). A large number of large-sized long-snout ichthyosaur skeletons have been excavated from Guanling and adjacent areas since 2000. Totally 14 specimens were used for taxonomical research and morphological description in previous works, which were originally named as different genera and species (Yin et al., 2000: Gmr 009, Gmr 015; Li and You, 2002: IVPP V 11865, V 11869; Chen and Cheng, 2003: TR 00001, SPCV 30014; Maisch et al., 2006: GNP dq-46, D-41, dq-22; Pan et al., 2006: GMPKU P1062; Chen et al., 2007: SPCV 10305, 10306; Shang and Li, 2009: IVPP V 11853; Shang et al., 2012: IGGCAS 2005F001). Based on the similarity of cranial morphology, Shang et al. (2012) referred all of these specimens to one species *Shastasaurus tangae*.

Two additional large-sized long-snout ichthyosaur specimens (IVPP V 15652, SDM 20090101) are used for further comparison. These specimens can be referred confidently to *S. tangae* based on the cranial characters, such as long snout; premaxilla without subnarial process; moderately developed anterior terrace of supratemporal fenestra; high parietal sagittal crest bifurcated both anteriorly and posteriorly; relatively short postorbital skull region. However, they are slightly different from the holotype of *S. tangae* in limb morphology.

In most described large-sized long-snout ichthyosaur specimens, the hindfin is relatively thin and long, and with no preaxial accessory digit developed. At meantime the distal tarsal, metatarsal and proximal one or two phalanges of digit II in these specimens are small in size or absent, which is named as type A (Fig. 1, type A). In contrast, the hindfin of new specimens is relatively wider and with well-developed preaxial accessory digit. On the other hand, the metatarsal and proximal phalanges of digit II are similar in size as in digits III and IV, which is named as type B (Fig. 1, type B). Furthermore, the postaxial accessory digit, as a typical feature of the forefin of type B, does not present at type A usually (Fig. 2). As indicated by the hindfin and forefin, the Guanling large-sized long-snout ichthyosaur skeletons can be assigned to two groups.

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Among the above mentioned 16 large-sized long-snout ichthyosaur specimens, eight of them are represented by both the skull and postcranial skeleton. Table 1 indicates the member of these fossils and selected features. According to the features of hindfin and (or) forefin, three of them (Gmr 009, TR 00001, IVPP V 11853) can be referred to type A, four of them (IVPP V 15652, IGGCAS 2005F001, SDM 20090101, SPCV 10306) can be assigned to type B, and one (GNP D-41) is not referable because of the poor preservation of the specimen.

Coincident with the data of the leg, the proportions between skull elements also reveal two subgroups with a slight difference of details. The skull of type A is relatively stout, with an angle of the bifurcated parietal sagittal crests more than 50° . In contrast, the skull of type B is relatively slender, with an angle of the sagittal crest around 30° . Within eight specimens, the ratio of skull/snout length reaches about 1.58 in type A while 1.49 in type B (see Table 2), respectively. The length of upper temporal fenestra, is less than twice its width in most of type A but more than twice in type B.

Among the other eight described specimens, only two skeletons can be reassigned definitely because of the limited preservation of the other six. IVPP V 11865 has an upper temporal fenestra with a length/width ratio of 1.55 and the angle of the sagittal crest in 65° . It can be probably referred to type A. The SPCV 10305 has an upper temporal fenestra with a length/width ratio of 2.38 and the angle of the sagittal crest in 31° . It probably belongs to type B. However, there are several exceptions: in GNP dq-22, the sagittal crest angle is 30° , but the length/width ratio of the upper temporal fenestra is 1.8. These skull differences of the two morphotypes need more evidences to verify.

Based on the data of the skull and limb, *Shastasaurus tangae* from Guanling Biota possibly represents two morphotypes. The skull length is within a range of 76.5 to 92 cm in type A (the skull length of V 11865 is 92 cm) and a range of 61 to 96 cm in type B, respectively.

The body size differences match those of the skull in most specimens, especially those with the poorly ossified metatarsal of digit II. The differences between the two types cannot be considered as the attribution of ontogenetic variation.

Because the number of these two morphotypes is subequal, their size ranges are similar, and all the specimens come from the same locality and same horizon, the dichotomy should most probably reflected sexual variation.

Sexual dimorphism had been mentioned in a Jurassic ichthyosaur *Eurhinosaurus huenei* (McGowan, 1979). The apparent dichotomy exhibited at the prenarial ratio (ratio of prenarial segment to mandibular length), sclerotic ratio (ratio of internal diameter of sclerotic ring to mandibular length), total digital count and the number of primary digits (McGowan, 1979: table 3). One subgroup species show the relatively long snout, large internal diameter of sclerotic ring and more digital count. Another subgroup species show the opposite features. These sexual dimorphism features are very similar to those of *Shastasaurus tangae*.

The evidence of live birth is abundantly known among ichthyopterygians. Unfortunately,

males and females cannot be identified directly because the gravid specimen is still lack in *Shastasaurus tangae*. The ratio of the trunk to tail length is 0.79 in IVPP V 11853, 0.84 in TR 00001, 0.76 in SDM 20090101, and 0.66 in IVPP V 15652. These data indicate that type A skeleton usually has a relatively long trunk and a short tail compared with type B. The most consistently dimorphic trait in living lizards is that the females have larger interlimb in length than the males, with which females could provide a space for more eggs (fecundity selection) (Olsson et al., 1998, 2002). According to the evidence of the pregnant *Keichousaurus* fossil (Cheng et al., 2004) and some pachypleurosaur fossils (Sander, 1989), the male usually has a longer tail than female. Type A most probably represents the female and type B the male.

It might be possible that the two morphotypes represent different species if those variations would be considered as interspecific differences. However, we are inclined to believe that they are most probably resulted from sexual dimorphism on the basis of the similarity of the skull anatomy, although more specimens are needed to verify this.

三叠纪关岭动物群邓氏萨斯特鱼龙的两性异形

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摘要: 贵州关岭南三叠世早期法郎组瓦窑段迄今为止已产出了大量大型长吻鱼龙化石骨架, 其中见于正式文献的有14件之多。头骨结构的相似性指示它们均归属于同一种: 邓氏萨斯特鱼龙(*Shastasaurus tangae*)。对比已发表标本和尚未发表的本种新材料的头后骨骼发现, 这些大型长吻的邓氏萨斯特鱼龙化石可以粗略地划分为两种类型: 一种类型(A型)前肢和后肢大多不发育附生指列, 且后肢第Ⅱ远端跗骨、蹠骨和第2趾前端1~2个趾节骨明显小于正常尺寸, 甚至缺失; 另一种类群(B型)前肢多发育一列后附生指, 后肢发育一列前附生指。与此相对应, A型头骨顶脊前端分叉角度大, 头骨略粗壮; B型头骨顶脊前端分叉角度小, 头骨相对略纤长。鉴于这些化石均产自同一地区的相同层位, 每一类型的骨骼数量大体相等, 身体大小范围接近, 虽然也可以据两种类型的微小差异划分为两个形态种, 但依据头骨和头后骨骼结构的相似性本文更倾向于将这些标本置于同一种, 而将彼此间区别判断为两性之间的差异。依据躯干和尾部长度比等推测A型鱼龙可能为雌性个体, B型鱼龙可能为雄性个体。

关键词: 贵州关岭, 三叠纪, 关岭动物群, 鱼龙, 两性异形

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现生物种的两性异形较易识别, 史前生物特别是脊椎动物由于化石保存的局限性和化石数量的稀少, 使生物个体差异以及性别的判断等受到很大阻碍。得益于三叠纪海生爬行动物化石在中国西南地区的大量发现, 特别是含胚胎的海生爬行类化石的发现,

使得两性区分和判别在一些海生爬行动物类群中成为可能。

三叠纪海生爬行动物的两性异形曾在肿肋龙类(pachypleurosaurs)相关各分类群中被广泛介绍(Arhaber, 1924; Kuhn-Schnyder, 1959; Rieppel, 1989; Sander, 1989; Lin and Rieppel, 1998)。含胚胎的贵州龙(*Geichousaurus hui*)化石的发现进一步证实了鳍龙类雌性和雄性个体外形的分异，并为判别雌、雄个体提供了直接的证据(Cheng et al., 2004)。Wu et al. (2011)更进一步介绍了鳍龙类(sauropterygians)乌蒙龙(*Wumengosaurus delicatomanibularis*)的两性异形现象。鱼龙类(ichthyosaurs)虽早有证据证实为卵胎生(Woodward, 1906)，且在欧洲有含胚胎和正在产仔的鱼龙化石被发现(Böttcher, 1990)，但仅早侏罗世的*Eurhinosaurus*被推测具有两性异形现象(Huene, 1951; McGowan, 1979)。

虽然目前在贵州盘县中三叠世地层中发现含胚胎的混鱼龙(*Mixosaurus*)化石和关岭晚三叠世地层中发现了含胚胎的黔鱼龙(*Qianichthysaurus*)化石，这里讨论的是另一产于贵州关岭动物群的大型长吻鱼龙类——邓氏萨斯特鱼龙(*Shastasaurus tangae*)。邓氏萨斯特鱼龙原命名为邓氏贵州鱼龙(*Guizhouichthysaurus tangae* Cao & Luo in Yin et al., 2000)，自命名以来一直争议较大，后起同义名有亚洲杯椎鱼龙(*Cymbospondylus asiaticus* Li & You, 2002)、美丽盘江鱼龙(*Panjiangsaurus epicharis* Chen & Cheng, 2003)、卧龙岗卡洛维鱼龙(*Callawayia wolonggangense* Chen et al., 2007)等。根据新标本尚庆华等(2009, 2012)曾对邓氏萨斯特鱼龙进行了详细描述，并论证了将邓氏贵州鱼龙归入萨斯特鱼龙属的依据。在多具大型长吻鱼龙标本头骨对比中，作者曾观察到顶脊前端分叉角度以及颞孔前平台的大小存在一些差异，鉴于头骨各部位骨骼特征和相互间接触关系多数均一致，推测这些不同应属于种内变异，反映个体发育不同阶段形态特征(尚庆华等, 2012)。伴随着新标本的不断增加，尤其是头后骨骼信息的不断丰富，本文进一步研究发现大型长吻鱼龙的四肢尤其是后肢在大小及比例上也存在一些差异，据此基本可以将这些骨架划归为两个类型。虽有可划分为两个形态种的倾向，但更有可能反映了邓氏萨斯特鱼龙的两性异形。本文依据已发表的材料和新标本对这两种类型进行划分，并尝试探讨邓氏萨斯特鱼龙个体发育过程中两性异形现象。

1 研究材料

迄今为止，见于正式发表文献中产自贵州省三叠纪关岭生物群的大型长吻鱼龙化石骨架共有14件。包括收藏在贵州省地质调查院两件(尹恭正等, 2000: Gmr 009, Gmr 015)、宜昌地质矿产研究所4件(陈孝红、程龙, 2003: TR 00001, SPCV 30014; 陈孝红等, 2007: SPCV 10305, 10306)、中国科学院古脊椎动物与古人类研究所3件(李淳、尤海鲁, 2002: IVPP V 11865, V 11869; 尚庆华、李淳, 2009: V 11853)、贵州省关岭国家地质公园3件(Maisch et al., 2006: GNP dq-46, D-41, dq-22)、北京大学地质博物馆1件(潘薪如等, 2006: GMPKU P1062)、中国科学院地质与地球物理研究所1件(尚庆华等, 2012: IGGCAS 2005F001)。这些标本虽保存状态和完整性各异，一些标本仅保存为头骨，但从不同方面为开展形态对比提供了重要参考，所展示的信息为个体发育学研究提供了依据。

最近，中国科学院古脊椎动物与古人类研究所新修理出两件关岭生物群的长吻大型鱼龙骨骼化石标本，目前分别保存于中科院古脊椎所(IVPP V 15652)和山东省博物馆(SDM 20090101)。这两件标本无论头骨还是头后骨骼均保存较完整，既具有肩胛骨纵

向轴线与关节窝呈约60°夹角、对应的肱骨头指向近端背侧方向、桡骨为近似四边形、桡骨宽度大于长度、桡骨大小约是尺骨的两倍、肱骨和桡骨前缘发育凹缺等萨斯特鱼龙科和属的鉴定特征(Motani, 1999; 尚庆华、李淳, 2009), 也具有吻部长、槽生齿、前颌骨鼻下支不发育、上颌骨鼻后分支发育、前额骨和后额骨构成眼眶上缘、后额骨和上颞骨相交、较窄的颊部、方轭骨和轭骨不相交、顶骨具前端呈V型分叉的窄径向脊等邓氏萨斯特鱼龙种的鉴定特征(Maisch et al., 2006; 尚庆华等, 2012), 应属确定无疑的邓氏萨斯特鱼龙。新材料为开展大型长吻鱼龙形态学研究提供了更新、更全面的信息。

2 形态特征及测量数据

前人已发表的14件标本和在研的两件长吻大型鱼龙标本中, 有8件标本既保存了头骨又保存了大致完整的头后骨骼, 它们分别是Gmr 009, TR 00001, SPCV 10306, IVPP V 11853, V 15652, GNP D-41, IGGCAS 2005F001和SDM 20090101。从骨骼形态上观察和对比, 8件标本中7件标本的后肢(SPCV 10306后肢未保存)可划分为差异较明显的两种类型(表1)。

其中一种类型, 这里称为A型, 后肢相对细长, 第2远端跗骨和第II蹠骨明显比第3、4远端跗骨和第III、IV蹠骨小(部分标本表现为缺失), 对应的第II趾近端2~3个趾节骨也明显变小, 之后向远端方向第II趾趾节骨大小恢复正常(图1: type A)。标本Gmr 009, TR 00001, IVPP V 11853和GNP D-41指示了A型后肢特征。另一种类型, 这里称B型, 后肢相对加宽, 第II蹠骨和对应的第II趾近端趾节骨未见变小现象, 均为正常大小, 且第II趾前侧发育一列前附生趾(图1: type B)。标本IVPP V 15652, IGGCAS 2005F001和SDM 20090101指示了B型后肢特征。

表1 邓氏萨斯特鱼龙部分形态特征及其两分性

Table 1 Selected characters for *Shastasaurus tangae* showing an apparent dichotomy

Type and specimen		Length of skull* (cm)	Length of skeleton (cm)	Distal tarsal size and metatarsal size of digit II	Proximal 1-2 phalanges size of digit II in hindfin	Preaxial accessory digit in hindfin	Postaxial accessory digit in forefin	Angle of bifurcated parietal crest
type A	Gmr 009	76.5	>400	small	small	absent	absent	55°
	IVPP V 11853	79	520	small	small	absent	absent	60°
	TR 00001	85.5	538	small	small	absent	absent	—
?	GNP D-41	83	550	small?	small?	—	—	45°
type B	SPCV 10306	61	—	—	—	—	present	28°
	IGGCAS 2005F001	70 ±	500 ±	normal	normal	present	—	30°
	SDM 20090101	74	450	normal	normal	present	present	—
	IVPP V 15652	96	700	normal	normal	present	present	28°

Note: Data of TR 00001 and SPCV 10306 come from Chen and Cheng, 2003; Chen et al., 2007.

* Distance from rostrum tip to parietal sagittal crest back end.

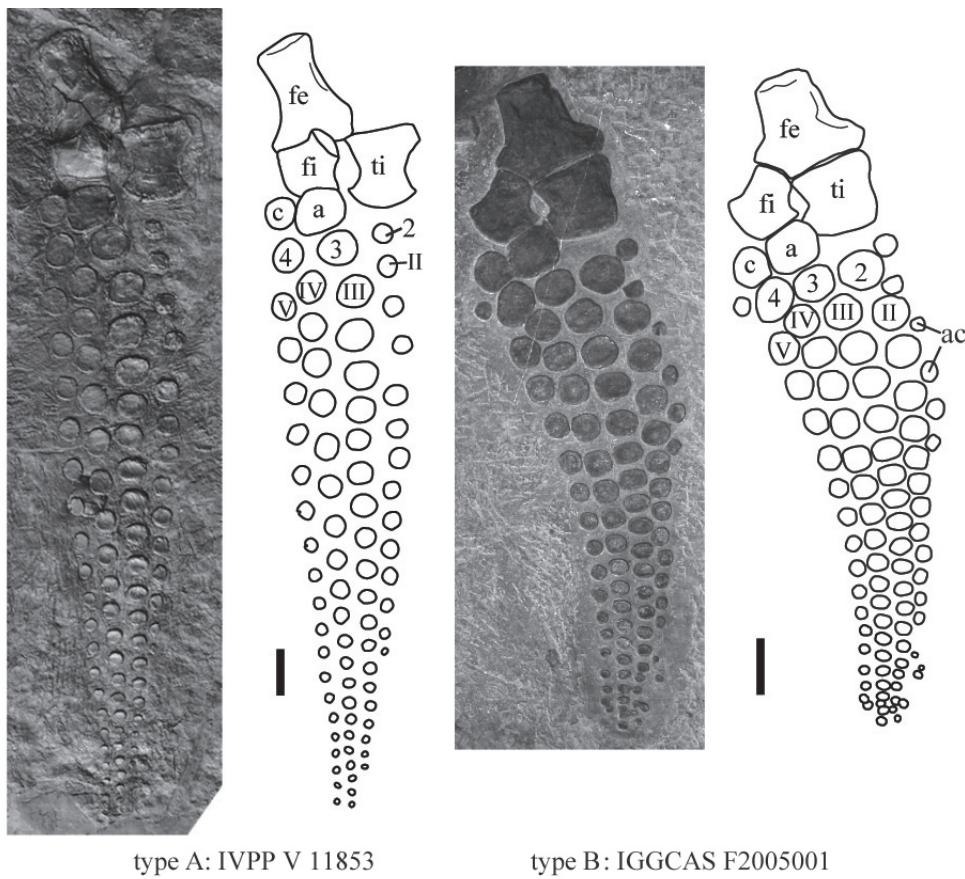


图 1 邓氏萨斯特鱼龙的两种后肢类型

Fig. 1 Two types of hindfin of *Shastasaurus tangae*

Abbreviations: a. astragalus 距骨; ac. preaxial accessory digit 前附生趾; c. calcaneum 跟骨; fe. femur 股骨; fi. fibula 胫骨; ti. tibia 胫骨; 2~4. distal tarsals 远端跗骨; II~V. metatarsals 跗骨; scale bar = 5 cm

与后肢的分化相对应，前肢也可划分为两种类型。A型标本前肢第IV指后多不发育附生指(图2: type A)，见于标本Gmr 009, TR 00001和IVPP V 11853。而B型标本的前肢第IV指后侧常发育一列后附生指(图2: type B)，可见于标本SPCV 10306, IVPP V 15652和SDM 20090101。

对比两种类型标本头骨，虽骨骼形态和彼此间接触关系基本相同，顶脊前端分叉角度似乎指示了对应的变化。A型标本顶脊前端分叉的角度为 $55^{\circ} \sim 60^{\circ}$ ；B型标本顶脊前端分叉角度为 $28^{\circ} \sim 30^{\circ}$ (表1)。标本GNP D-41例外，后肢特征指示为A型，但顶脊前端分叉角度为 45° 左右，无法具体归类。

依据标本所表现的具体形态差异，选择可以定量反映形态变化的特征进行测量，结果见表2。A型标本后肢长宽比为 $5.73 \sim 5.87$ ，B型标本为 $4.15 \sim 4.6$ ，数据指示A型标本后肢比B型标本相对细长。因前肢无足够数据，无法对两种类型前肢长宽比变化程度评判，且可能受保存程度差异影响，已获得的前肢数据值也无法指示规律性变化。头骨

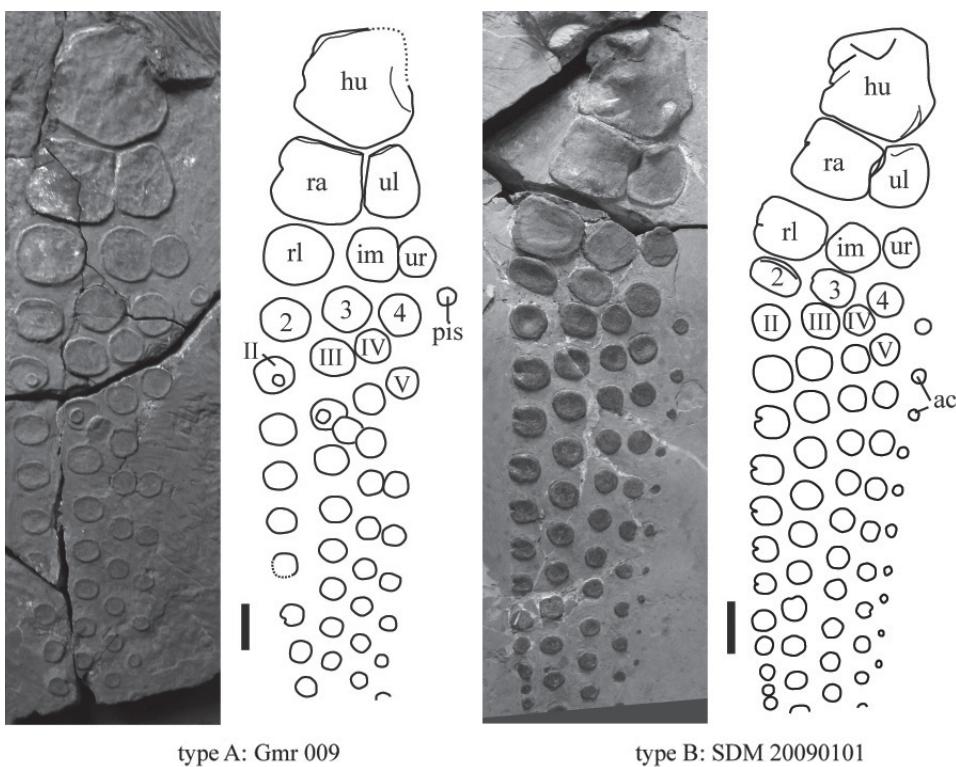


图 2 邓氏萨斯特鱼龙的两种前肢类型

Fig. 2 Two types of forefin of *Shastasaurus tangae*

Abbreviations: ac. postaxial accessory digit 后附生指; hu. humerus 胫骨; im. intermedium 中间腕骨; pis. pisiform 豌豆骨; ra. radius 桡骨; rl. radiale 桡腕骨; ul. ulna 尺骨; ur. ulnare 尺腕骨; 2~4. distal carpals 远端腕骨; II~V. metacarpals 掌骨; scale bar = 5 cm

长宽比值比较接近, A型标本头略宽, 头长小于头宽的4倍; B型标本头略窄, 头长为头宽的4倍多。因头宽数值受头骨压扁程度影响较大, 头骨的长宽比是否能够划分不同类群, 还需要更多标本验证。头骨长与吻长比指示A型标本吻部长度稍短于B型标本。颞孔长宽比表明, A型标本颞孔略宽, 长度小于宽度的两倍, 而B型标本颞孔略长, 长度是宽度的两倍多。标本GNP D-41例外, 从头骨长宽比和颞孔长宽比看, 数值接近于B型标本。由于标本GNP D-41未经过修理, 许多特征较模糊, 给精确的测量带来一定难度, 可能数据有一定误差。此外, 其前肢和后肢有明显的修补痕迹, 对该部位骨骼的真实性尚有疑问。

其他8件邓氏萨斯特鱼龙骨架, GNP dq-46和IVPP V 11869仅保存了头骨, 且均为侧面向上保存, 吻端缺失, 未展露具有分组意义的信息, 无法进一步归类。Gmr 015头骨为腹面向上保存, 四肢骨骼为后人加工, 无研究价值。GMPKU P1062仅见前肢素描图, 未有头骨和后肢骨信息。SPCV 30014也为侧面向上保存的头骨, 从并非纤长的吻部判断可能属A型。IVPP V 11865和SPCV 10305虽同样仅保存了头部骨骼, 但因较好地展露了头骨顶面特征, 可以分别被归于前文所划分的两个类型中。V 11865的头骨长宽

比为92/25, 值为3.68; 头长与吻长比为1.50, 颚孔长宽比为17/11, 值为1.55; V型顶脊分叉角度为65°, 这些数值均接近A型标本范畴。SPCV 10305的颤孔长宽比为12.6/5.3, 值为2.38; V型顶脊分叉角度为31°, 这些数值接近B型标本范畴。GNP dq-22为一件吻部缺失的头骨, V型顶脊分叉角度为30°, 似应归为B型, 但颤孔长宽比值约为1.8, 与前文结论矛盾, 颤孔长宽比是否可以作为判断两种类型的标准可能还需更多标本验证。

表2 邓氏萨斯特鱼龙部分形态特征测量数据及比值

Table 2 Selected measurements and ratios for different specimens of *Shastasaurus tangae* (cm)

Type and specimen		Hindfin L/W		Forefin L/W		Skull L/W		Upper temporal fenestra L/W		Skull L/Snout L	
type A	Gmr 009	—	—	—/21.8 -l	—	76.5/19.5	3.92	12/6.7	1.78	1.58	
	IVPP V 11853	77.5/13.2 -l	5.87	—/22 -l	—	79/22.5	3.51	14.5/9.2	1.57	1.58	
	TR 00001	82/14.3 -r	5.73	109.1/21.9 -l	4.98	85.5/-	—	—	—	—	
?	GNP D-41	74/13 -r	5.69	—	—	83/19.3	4.3	16.5/7.6 -r	2.17	1.56	
type B	SPCV 10306	—	—	—/20	—	61/15	4.07	14.5/6.6	2.20	1.49	
	IGGCAS 2005F001	62/16.5 -r	4.15	—	—	~70/16	4.38	13.5/6	2.25	~1.46	
	SDM 20090101	66/14.5 -l	4.6	80/19 -l	4.21	74/-	—	—	—	—	
	IVPP V 15652	61.8/13.9 -r	4.45	—	—	95/23.5	4.04	18.9/8.4	2.25	1.49	
		80/18.3 -r	4.37	105/23 -l	4.6	—	—	—	—	—	

Note: L. length; W. width; r. right side; l. left side; Skull length, from rostrum tip to parietal sagittal crest back end; Skull width, between two prefrontals lateral edges; Snout length, from snout tip to posterior margin of external naris; Forefin, hindfin length and width are the maximum segment size. Data of Tr 00001 and SPCV 10306 come from Chen and Cheng, 2003; Chen et al., 2007.

值得指出的是, 除以上这些标本外, 还有两件供游人参观的展览标本可间接验证本文对关岭地区长吻大型鱼龙后肢类型的划分。其中一件为贵州省关岭国家地质公园3号展厅原位保存的鱼龙骨架, 后肢第II蹠骨和第II趾近端趾骨未见明显变小, 前附生趾发育, 属本文所划分的B型后肢。另一件为台中自然科学博物馆“水中蛟龙”特展标本之一的“邓氏贵州鱼龙”骨架(程延年等, 2009:136)。如果骨骼信息全部是真实的, 则该骨架前后肢均展示了A型标本的特征。因保存等原因两件标本的头骨均无法验证头部鉴别特征的划分标准。

3 邓氏萨斯特鱼龙的两性异形

判断化石种的性别和是否具有两性异形现象具有非常大的局限性。Sander (1989)在研究肿肋龙类两性异形时, 介绍了判别爬行类化石存在两性异形的两个标准: 一是有足够的产于同一层位的标本(超过10件标本), 它们彼此特征非常相似但在一些形态上可以划分为两种类型; 二是两种形态类型的标本数量接近一致。

本文所涉及的标本均产自同一地区的相同层位, 头骨和头后骨骼特征均相似, 除前文提及的特征外, 尚未发现其他显著的区别特征。可以明确划归为两种类型的标本有

11件, 其中可归于A型标本有5件: Gmr 009, TR 00001, IVPP V 11865, V 11853和台中自然科学博物馆标本; B型标本有6件: SPCV 10305, SPCV 10306, IVPP V 15652, IGGCAS 2005F001, SDM 20090101和关岭国家地质公园3号展厅标本。

爬行动物由于广泛存在异速生长现象, 因此对研究标本的选择, 多数学者强调选择性状较稳定的成年标本(Sander, 1989; Rieppel, 1989; Cheng et al., 2004)。由于多数研究标本未能保存全部骨骼信息, 因而关岭的长吻鱼龙成年个体体长数据仍不充分, 但头骨大小对比应该可以间接提供个体相对大小的信息。Bellairs (1969)曾指出, 在多数爬行类中, 最早出现性成熟时的个体大小可能仅为最终个体大小的1/2。鉴于研究标本中头骨较小的IGGCAS 2005F001的个体体长已经大于4.5 m, 且骨化程度较高(尚庆华、李淳, 2012), 推测它们应均属于性成熟的个体。

目前尚未发现本种确切的幼年个体标本, 也未发现含胚胎的个体。通常情况下, 骨化程度的高低是判断成熟个体的标志。仅从后肢看, A型标本的第II蹠骨和第II列趾骨的骨化程度明显较B型标本差。但标本大小对比发现, 具A型后肢的IVPP V 11853个体长度要大于具B型后肢的IGGCAS 2005F001个体长度, 即存在骨化程度稍差的个体, 尺寸大于骨化程度略好的个体的现象, 说明A型与B型标本后肢的差异并非是个体发育不同阶段的表现, 在很大程度上可能反映了性别的差异, 但也可能是不同的种。

此外, 已知标本中A型标本头骨长度的范围是76.5~92 cm, B型标本头骨长度范围是61~96 cm, 范围接近一致, 说明与肿肋龙类不同, 萨斯特鱼龙的两种性别类群不存在明显的个体大小差异。

目前已经识别的肿肋龙类属种的两性差异, 主要表现在肱骨的外形和相对于体长、桡骨长、股骨长等的比例(Sander, 1989; Rieppel, 1989; Cheng et al., 2004)。乌蒙龙的两性异形表现在脊椎、肋骨和肢骨的外形圆润度以及肱骨和股骨的相对尺度等(Wu et al., 2011)。而早侏罗世鱼龙*Eurhinosaurus huenei* 的两性异形表现在头骨吻部和巩膜环内径与头长的比例和指骨列数(McGowan, 1979), 其两性个体大小无明显差别。据McGowan (1979) 表3的性状数据分析, 两个类型的*Eurhinosaurus*中, 一类吻部长、巩膜环内径大、具5列指骨, 另一类吻部略短、巩膜环内径小、具4列指骨。这些两性区别特征与邓氏萨斯特鱼龙的情况有许多相似之处。首先邓氏萨斯特鱼龙两性个体大小差异不大, 其次邓氏萨斯特鱼龙同样表现了前(后)肢指(趾)骨列数的变化。两种鱼龙对应的两性头骨差异也有部分相同, 即指骨列数较少的一类(A型)标本吻部略短, 指骨列数多的一类(B型)吻部纤长。邓氏萨斯特鱼龙巩膜内径的两性差异尚不明确, 但头骨相对宽度、颞孔相对宽度和顶脊前端分叉角度指示了更多两性差异的存在。

4 讨论

4.1 是两性异形还是不同的形态种?

因化石保存的局限性, 判断标本间差异是种内还是种间差异有很大的挑战。关岭动物群目前确定的鱼龙化石有3属3种, 分别是*Guanlingsaurus liangae* Yin in Yin et al., 2000, *Qianichthysaurus zhoui* Li, 1999和*Shastasaurus tangae* (Cao & Luo in Yin et al., 2000)。鉴于该地区产出化石的高丰富度, 与德国早侏罗世鱼龙的高丰富度和高分异度

(3属10种)(McGowan, 1979)相比, 依据形态差异建立新的形态种在生态域上应该也有其合理性, 关键看彼此间大小和形态的差异有多大。

事实上, 陈孝红等(2007)根据材料SPCV 10306和SPCV 10305在厘定的“亚洲盘江龙” (*Panjiangsaurus asiaticus*)之外, 另建立关岭长吻鱼龙一新种——卧龙岗卡洛维龙 (*Callawayia wolonggangense*)。作者强调了两种长吻鱼龙较大的相似性, 但同时认为新种区别于前者在于“鼻骨后侧支插入额骨与前额骨之间, 并向后延伸与后额骨接触; 前额骨较小; 额骨呈槽状向上颞孔方向延伸, 并参与上颞孔前边缘的形成; 后额骨与上颞骨接触而将鳞骨排除在上颞孔外侧边缘之外, 上颞骨后部发育水平伸展的顶骨架”。这些特征多数与邓氏萨斯特鱼龙的特征一致(尹恭正等, 2000; Maisch et al., 2006; 尚庆华、李淳, 2009), 似乎无法据此将之前建立的鱼龙属种彼此区分开。但差别的确存在, 如前文所述, SPCV 10306和SPCV 10305的头骨和前肢应指示了B型鱼龙特征, 而之前见于描述中的标本多数指示了A型鱼龙特征。据目前识别出的肢骨形态和头骨比例差异, 可以将多数已发现的关岭长吻大型鱼龙化石分别划入两个形态类型中。

鉴于关岭地区的众多外形特征非常接近的长吻大型鱼龙可以划归为两种类型, 且它们均产自同一地区的相同层位, 每一类型的化石数量大体相等, 身体大小范围接近, 因此虽也可以据两种类型的差异建立两个形态种, 本文依据头骨和头后骨骼结构的相似性更倾向于将这些标本置于同一种——邓氏萨斯特鱼龙, 而将彼此间区别判断为两性之间的差异。当然这种判断也需要今后更多的化石材料来验证。

4.2 指节骨前缘缺口的分类意义

邓氏萨斯特鱼龙前肢腕骨、掌骨和指骨前侧缘缺口的出现似乎是无规律的。A型标本中, Gmr 009桡腕骨、第II掌骨和第II指骨各指节的前缘均未见缺口, TR 00001桡腕骨、第II掌骨和第II指骨的前两个指节骨的前侧缘发育缺口, IVPP V 11853第II掌骨前缘未见缺口, 第II指骨前部第1~4指节的前缘发育缺口。B型标本中, IVPP V 15652桡腕骨、第II指骨的近端第1~7指节的前侧缘均发育缺口, SDM 20090101桡腕骨、第II掌骨和第II指骨的近端第1~7指节前侧缘发育缺口, SPCV 10306桡腕骨前侧缘缺口不发育(陈孝红等, 2007)。正如McGowan (1994)指出的, 鱼龙鳍状肢上缺口的出现和数量多少通常是多变的, 多数应无分类意义。

4.3 雌雄个体的判别尝试

大小及形态特征的两性异形在动物界广泛存在, 其原因主要被归结于雄性与同性竞争配偶时的性选择, 雌性增加生育力和繁殖输出的自然选择以及两性为获得特殊食物的自然选择等。

虽然关岭地区的大型长吻鱼龙可以划分出两种类型, 但由于尚未发现含胚胎的邓氏萨斯特鱼龙化石, 使得具体判断雌性或雄性个体面临很大困难, 仅能依据外部骨骼特征和身体各部位比例做尝试性推测。

目前尚未发现两类型标本具有明显的个体大小差异; 观察和对比两类型标本牙齿大小、颞骨大小、前后肢间的体长、腰带骨骼特征、前部尾椎人字骨的发育情况和尾弯角度等可能与取食、生殖和游泳能力等相关的特征, 也未发现明显的差异。但更宽的鳍

状肢可能会增加维持水力的平衡性; 长的吻部和略窄的头骨使头部更趋流线形, 可能减少水阻力获得较快的游泳速度, 因此推测B型鱼龙在水体中的灵活性和游泳速度可能大于A型鱼龙。

受化石保存条件限制, 仅4具骨架可以获取身长和尾长数据。A型的IVPP V 11853身长(为测量方便选取两乌喙骨缝合的中间点-左右髋臼连线中点)/尾长(左右髋臼连线中点-尾最末端)比值约为0.79, TR 00001为0.84; 而B型的SDM 20090101身长/尾长比是0.76, IVPP V 15652约为0.66。据测量数据, 虽然差距不很显著, 但相对而言A型鱼龙身略长、尾稍短, 而B型鱼龙身稍短、尾稍长。现代蜥蜴类的研究表明雌性通常具有较长的躯体长度, 可能为产蛋或产崽提供更大的腹腔空间(Olsson et al., 1998, 2002)。另一方面, 含胚胎的贵州龙化石证据(Cheng et al., 2004)证实了Sander (1989)有关肿肋龙雌雄两性的第二种性别判别依据: 爬行动物中雄性的尾长通常大于雌性尾长。因此, 推测A类型可能代表了雌性个体, B类型代表了雄性个体。

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