



The Pterosaur Database

Quetzalcoatlus northropi

The type specimen for this species was discovered in 1971 by Douglas Lawson, a student of the University of Texas, who was studying for a 'masters' under Dr Wann Langston jr. The specimens recorded as TMM 41450 to 41453 consisted of a humerus, radius, ulna, carpals, metacarpals, phalanges from the Javelina Formation at Big Bend National Park in Brewster County, Texas.



Jaw from Western Texas

In March 1999, a full scale replica of a Quetzalcoatlus skeleton was mounted in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. The reconstruction was sculpted by Matt Smith and his wife (Smith Studios) based on casts made by Dr Langston.

A further find was made in Canada in 1982 which is attributed to Quetzalcoatlus. This specimen having an estimated wingspan of 5.5 metres.

Lawson, D. A., **1975**, Pterosaur from the Latest Cretaceous of West Texas. Discovery of the Largest Flying Creature. *Science*, 187, pp. 947-948.

Currie, P. J. & Russell, D. A. **1982**, A giant pterosaur (Reptilia: Archosauria) from the Judith River (Oldman) Formation, Alberta. *Can. J. Earth Sci.* 19, 894–897.

American Museum of Natural History

AMNH FR 29079, Cast of wing bones

Liverpool Museum, U.K.

Life size model of the skeleton of Q. northropi based on specimens from the Big Bend National Park Museum