

Placodontia: the Triassic Sea Cow

GEOL 204 The Fossil Record

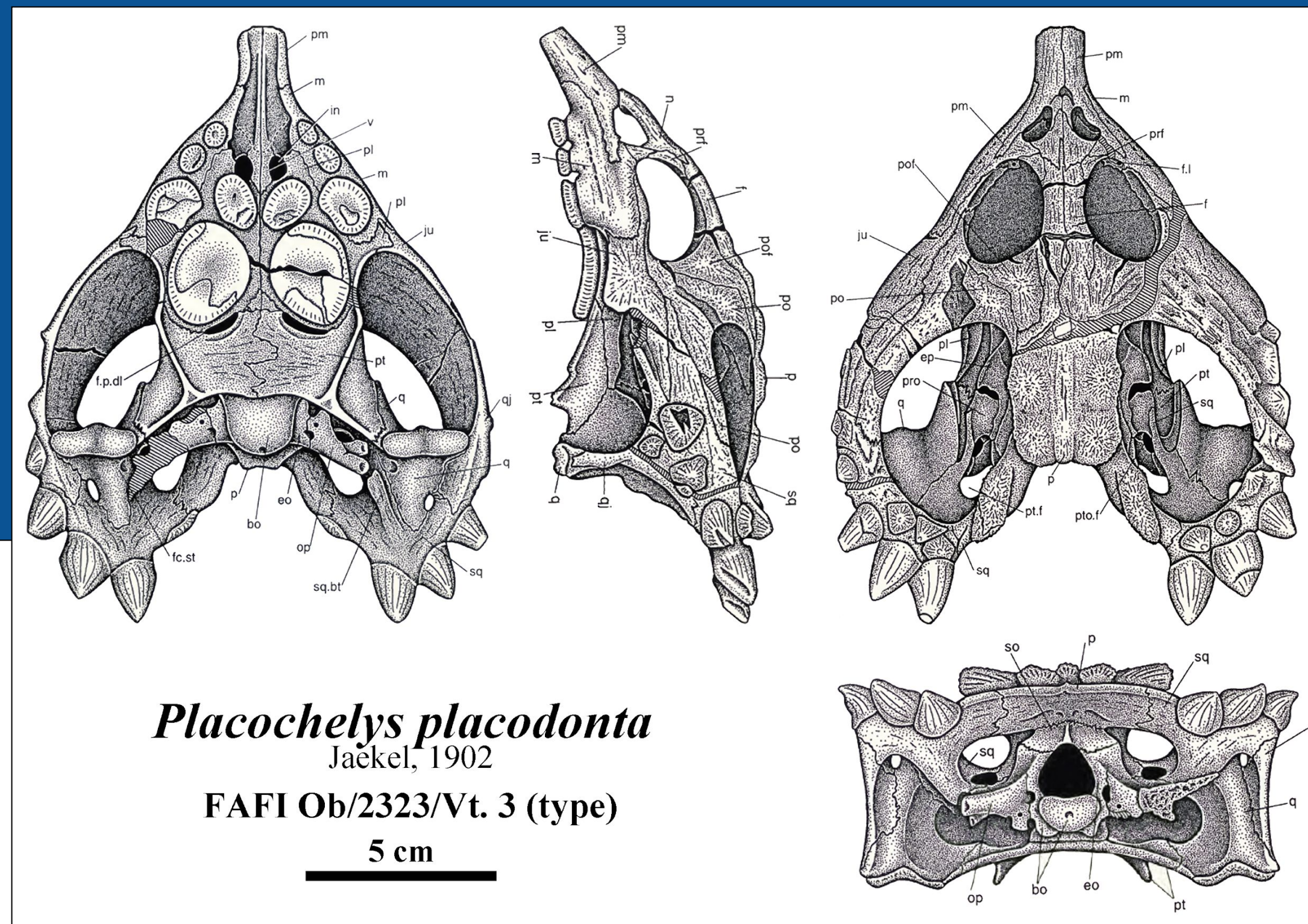
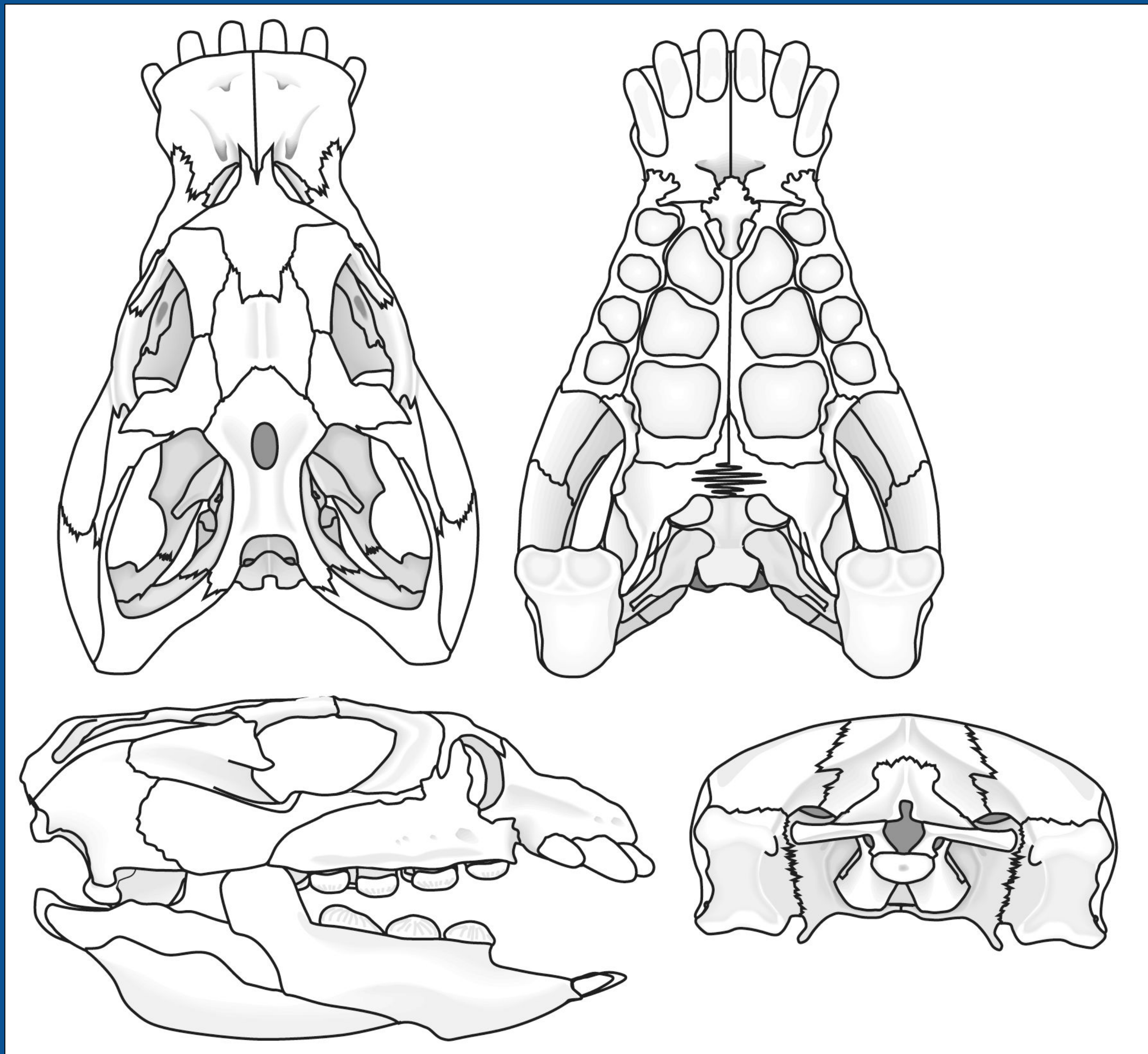
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What are Placodonts?

- A clade of shallow-water marine reptiles from the Triassic that includes the taxon placodontia and its relatives
- Found in modern day Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East, and regions in and around China
- They grazed over the bottom and used their powerful, crushing jaws to break and eat shellfish and mollusks
- Are often found with dermal armor but with a body structure resembling a modern day marine iguana

Placodontia is identified by its extremely powerful jaws built to withstand massive amounts of pressure to break open shells (5)



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