
**Recent vertebrate fossil discoveries from
the (Hettangian) McCoy Brook Formation**

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Researchers working for the Fundy Geological Museum (Parrsboro, NS) have recently collected new fossil vertebrate specimens from the Early Jurassic McCoy Brook Formation. Of particular significance is the fossilized skeletal material attributed to early lizard, crocodylian, and dinosaurian taxa. The discoveries demonstrate the benefit of regular, systematic monitoring of important fossil-producing coastal exposures.

A bone bed in the eolian/fluvial sandstone of the McCoy Brook Formation at Wasson Bluff has produced fossil skeletal material from at least four prosauropod dinosaurs. The four specimens vary in size, quality of preservation and completeness. The most recently collected specimen includes the first prosauropod skull material recovered from the McCoy Brook deposits, very important for identification to the genus level.

Other significant vertebrate fossil discoveries have been made within the intertidal exposures at Wasson Bluff. A nearly complete specimen of the sphenodontian lizard *Clevosaurus*, including three articulated feet, as well as an articulated skull of the early crocodylian *Protosuchus micmac* have been recently collected. An erosion study was designed and carried out on these intertidal outcrops to determine the rate of surface erosion caused from the enormous tidal action along the beach. The results suggest a mean vertical erosion rate of 1.5 cm per year. Given this rate of erosion, regular (monthly) prospecting of the intertidal deposits continues to be an appropriate research strategy.
