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THE DENTARY OF *SYLLOMUS CRISPATUS* COPE

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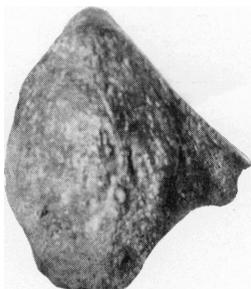
In 1937² I added to Cope's type of *Syllomus crispatus* Cope by a find consisting of the nuchal, first to seventh neurals, second postneural, first supra-pygial and portions of all the costals, portions of first, second and eleventh right peripherals, first to sixth and eleventh left peripherals, pygal, portions of left hypoplastron, right and left hypoplastron, right and left xiphoplastron, portions of right and left scapular, pubis, coracoid, ischium, the left parietal and several vertebrae.

first neural and a portion of the third, portions of the first to fourth right costals, portions of the first to third left costals, second to fifth and portions of the sixth right peripherals, first and second³ and portions of the third left peripherals and portions of the plastron which were not complete enough to identify. [7]

All of these carapace bones were slightly larger than those belonging to the specimen described in 1937. The sculpturing is the same except there is a slight differ-



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Fig. 1. Dorsal surface of dentary of *Syllomus crispatus* Cope (A.M. No. 1679). $\times 1$.

Fig. 2. Ventral surface of dentary of *Syllomus crispatus* Cope (A.M. No. 1679). $\times 1$.

This material was collected about 7 feet above the beach at the southeastern end of Horsehead Cliffs (Nomini Cliffs), Westmoreland County, Virginia. The age of the beds is Miocene.

On June 9, 1940, I revisited these cliffs and collected portions of another specimen of *Syllomus crispatus* Cope, from the same horizon and at approximately the same locality. This specimen was not nearly as complete as the first, consisting of the

ence in the location of the sulci on the costals and neurals.

In addition to these carapace bones and associated with them there was the dentary bone of the mandible. It is this bone that I wish to briefly describe.

In outline the dentary is a modified rectangle, one corner being oriented anteriorly. The two anterior sides form slightly concave margins while the posterior sides are irregular. The dorsal surface (Fig. 1) is very uneven, the anterior portion being concave while the posterior is slightly convex. Separating these two

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² More Complete Remains of a Chelonian, *Syllomus crispatus* Cope, from the Miocene of Virginia, Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 953, pp. 1-12.

regions is an area which is coarsely pitted and nearly parallel to the anterior margin. The anterior surface rises very steeply to form the thin, sharp anterior margins. The ventral surface (Fig. 2) of the bone is convex, being covered by fine grooves and ridges irregularly arranged. Near the anterior margin the surface texture abruptly changes so that there is a band around this portion of the dentary. The band decreases in width from approximately 6 mm. at the anterior apex to about 2 mm. at the posterior corner.

The right posterior corner of the plate has been broken off so that the bone is

not symmetrical. Likewise the posterior portion is rounded, as if eroded, showing no area of contact with the other bones of the mandible.

This dentary is 34 mm. broad (greatest measurement) and 38 mm. in an anterior-posterior direction.

The presence of any bone of the skull or mandible in these deposits is exceptional. Thus this incomplete specimen of the dentary and the left parietal (the latter described in 1937) are the only bones of the skull belonging to *Syllomus crispatus* Cope that are known up to the present writing.