

# Kronosaurus

## *Kronosaurus*

Temporal range: [Lower Cretaceous](#)

[Harvard](#) Museum of Natural History:  
restored with too many vertebrae

### [Scientific classification](#)

Kingdom: [Animalia](#)  
Phylum: [Chordata](#)  
Class: [Reptilia](#)  
Order: [Plesiosauria](#)  
Family: [Pliosauridae](#)  
Genus: ***Kronosaurus***  
Longman, 1924

*K. queenslandicus* scale diagram, showing the size of the restored Harvard skeleton with a more accurate estimate

another species

***Kronosaurus*** was a large [pliosaur](#), one of the largest.<sup>[1][2]</sup> It is named after the leader of the Greek [Titans](#), [Kronos](#). It lived in the [Lower Cretaceous](#).

Body-length estimates, based on the 1959 [Harvard](#) reconstruction, had put the total length of *Kronosaurus* at 12.8 meters (42 feet).<sup>[3]</sup> However, a recent study compared fossil specimens of *Kronosaurus* to other pliosaurs. The Harvard reconstruction may have included too many vertebrae, exaggerating its length. Its true length was probably only 9–10.9 meters (30–36 feet).<sup>[4][5]</sup>

## References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- <sup>↑</sup> Longman H.A. 1924. A new gigantic marine reptile from the Queensland Cretaceous, *Kronosaurus queenslandicus* new genus and species. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* **8**: 26–28.
- <sup>↑</sup> Hampe O. 1992. Ein großwüchsiger Pliosauride (Reptilia: Plesiosauria) aus der Unterkreide (oberes Aptium) von Kolumbien. *Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg* **145**: 1–32.
- <sup>↑</sup> Romer A.S. & Lewis A.D. 1959. A mounted skeleton of the giant plesiosaur *Kronosaurus*. *Breviora* **112**: 1–15.

4. [↑](#) Kear B.P. 2003. Cretaceous marine reptiles of Australia: a review of taxonomy and distribution. *Cretaceous Research* **24**: 277–303.
5. [↑](#) McHenry, Colin R. 2009. Devourer of Gods: the palaeoecology of the Cretaceous pliosaur *Kronosaurus queenslandicus*. The University of Newcastle, N.S.W. Australia, Web. [\[1\]](#)

## Other websites

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

- [Genus \*Kronosaurus\* Archived](#) 2012-05-03 at the [Wayback Machine](#). The Plesiosaur Directory.

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