

**REASSESSMENT OF A PUTATIVE PELTOPLEURID FISH FROM THE SINEMURIAN
(LOWER JURASSIC) OF OSTENO (COMO, ITALY): PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

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Between 1964 and 1980, the Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano conducted a series of excavations in the Sinemurian Osteno Quarry (Lugano Lake, Como, Italy), resulting in the discovery of hundreds of fossils, including exceptionally preserved plants, invertebrates, and about 100 fish specimens (Duffin & Patterson, 1993). Notably, one of the most distinctive fossil fish from this Jurassic site is a specimen (MSNM V659) that consists of part and counterpart of an almost complete actinopterygian, measuring about 90 mm in length. Although briefly described by Duffin & Patterson (1993), its taxonomic attribution is challenging due to the inadequate preservation, which precludes observation of most of the skull traits and offers a limited view of the unpaired fins. Duffin & Patterson (1993) suggested a certain degree of similarity to the genus *Peripeltopleurus*, primarily based on the presence of vertically elongated scales on the body flanks and broad pectoral fins. Recent research on the actinopterygian fauna of Osteno prompts a re-evaluation of its taxonomic position, taking into account that this specimen probably represents the only known Jurassic survivor of the order Peltopleuriformes, hitherto considered as restricted to Middle-Upper Triassic (Xu & Ma, 2016). Summarizing, this study will contribute to a better understanding of the evolution of actinopterygian fishes during the Lower Jurassic and of the possible persistence of the order Peltopleuriformes after the Triassic-Jurassic boundary.

Duffin C. & Patterson C. (1993). I Pesci fossili di Osteno: una nuova finestra sulla vita del Giurassico inferiore. *Palaeocronache*, 1993: 18-38.

Xu G.-H. & Ma X.-Y. (2016). A Middle Triassic stem-neopterygian fish from China sheds new light on the peltopleuriform phylogeny and internal fertilization. *Science Bulletin*, 61: 1766-1774.