

REDISCOVERY OF WILBUR KNIGHT'S *MEGALNEUSAURUS REX* SITE: NEW MATERIAL FROM AN OLD PIT

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ABSTRACT

We report the rediscovery of Wilbur Knight's 1895 excavation site of the large Jurassic (Oxfordian) pliosaur *Megalneusaurus rex* from the Sundance Formation. The type specimen (UW4602) is housed at the University of Wyoming and is the only known pliosaur from the Sundance Formation. Recent examination of the excavation site has uncovered new fossil material including possible gastric contents. We can now verify that *Megalneusaurus rex* was collected from the upper Redwater Shale member of the Sundance Formation, about 10 m below the Windy Hill sandstone of the Morrison Formation. It appears that *M. rex* frequented the shallower portions of the Sundance Sea during the last regressive phase. The discovery of the site is significant in establishing the stratigraphic context of this largest member of the Sundance marine reptile fauna.