

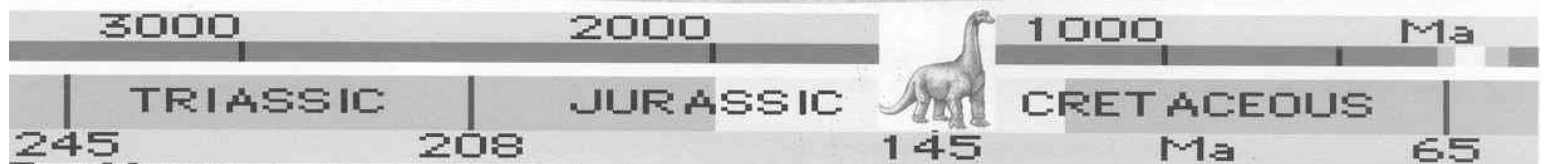
Mineral of the Month

Scolesite

The mineral is colorless or white, transparent, and vitreous in luster. It has a Mohs hardness is 5 and a specific gravity 2.2. Chemical formula - $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10}\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Its name came from the Greek word, skolec 'worm', because of its reaction to the blowpipe flame. It is a calcium zeolite and mainly occurs as acicular and fibrous aggregations. Fine divergent groups of prismatic crystals are found in the basalt in Iceland and in the Deccan Traps near Pune in India; Other occurrences include Riverside County, California; Scotland and Brazil. The white crystal from the editor's collection measures about 4 inches long. This is a specimen from Nasik, India.



Dinosaur of the Month



Brachiosaurus, which dates from the late Jurassic, about 150 million years ago, was really huge, weighing in at as much as 70 tons and 60 feet in length, but at least they were herbivores rather than those nasty raptors of later years. Their unusually long and upright necks gave them access to the leaves of treetops that would have been inaccessible to other sauropods. Their long, spoon-shaped teeth were capable of processing tougher plant material than some other sauropods like Diplodocus. Remains in the US have been found in Utah and Colorado. The photo at left of the largest mounted Brachiosaurus was taken in the Humboldt Museum in Berlin, Germany. The photo at right is from the collection of Joe Tucciarone in Florida. Joe sells copies of these paintings if you are interested.

