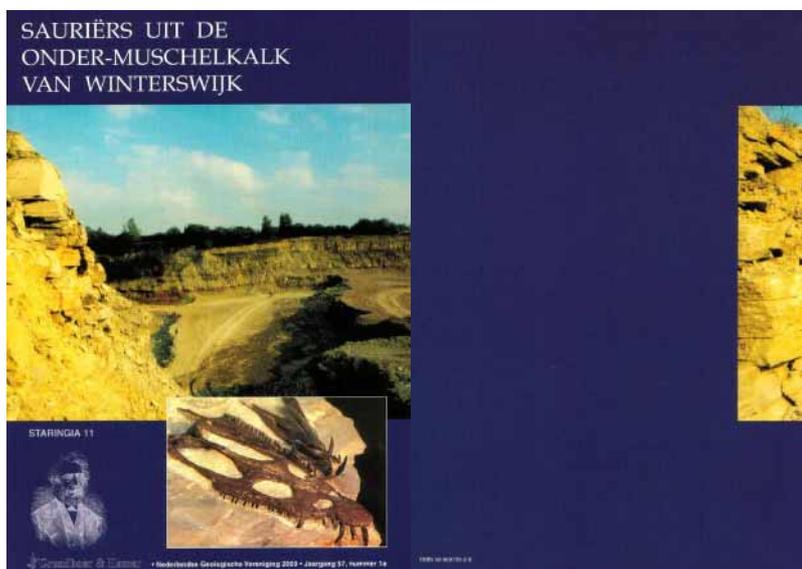


**Oostering, H., W. Berkelder, Ch. de Jong & H. Winkelhorst. 2003. Sauriërs uit de Onder-Muschelkalk van Winterswijk. – Staringia 11 (Maastricht, Nederlandse Geologische Vereniging)**

Book review by A.J. Veldmeijer



The Working group Muschelkalk Winterswijk was founded in 1991 by members of the section Winterswijk of the Dutch Geological Society. The working group has the following objectives: collecting, drawing up inventory, drawing, photographing, studying, classifying, exhibit and publishing the fossils from the Muschelkalk of Winterswijk, which is situated in the east of the Netherlands at approximately the same longitude as Arnhem, near the German border. The working group has contacts with specialists in Trias fossils.

The book starts with an account on geology (timetable, a description of the geology) and stratigraphy (litho- and biostratigraphy). A short general chapter on the evolution of the reptiles from the Trias follows (chapter 3) after which the main chapter of the book presents the fossils, excavated from the Muschelkalk at Winterswijk. This chapter is started with two general paragraphs on the history of these prehistoric animals, the collecting of the fossils and how classification is done. The following paragraphs deal with the various genera. A list of osteological terms and an explanation of terms are included as well as three appendices (drawings, photographs and an overview of all fossils known to date from the Muschelkalk at Winterswijk).

The text is well readable, despite some minor inaccuracies, and gives an overview of the species and the problems involved. There are many illustrations, which makes it easy to visualize the information given in the text. Unfortunately, most of the drawings in the appendix are without a scale bar. Though there are indications given in the figure-text, this makes it far less easy to comprehend the size of the illustrated bone. Despite the fact that the drawings are pleasing to the eye and a lot of energy was put in, they are in general rather dark with thick and often crude lines. A drawback is the fact that the abbreviations in the drawings of the skulls are handwritten. The photographs in the second appendix are of very good quality: sharp, clear and with a proper layout. However, they also lack the much needed scale bar (again indications of size are stated in the figure text).

The Dutch term 'sauriërs' refers to 'lizards,' thus reptiles. But not all of the animals discussed in the book are reptiles; amphibians are also discussed. The clarification given states that 'sauriërs' are prehistoric reptiles and amphibians, which is not true. The heading is therefore slightly misleading.

The statement that the sclerotic plates are especially seen with marine reptiles is not true because these rings were present generally in reptiles; indeed in most vertebrates except mammals and cyclostomes but due to its delicate structure often not fossilized.

Finally, I think it is a pity, although understandable, that the book is not in English, especially because of the importance of the site. This importance is emphasized by the fact that a new species from Winterswijk will be published in 2003.

Summarizing, the book is a nice addition to the library (of those who read Dutch) giving an overview of the finds from the Muschelkalk at Winterswijk.

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