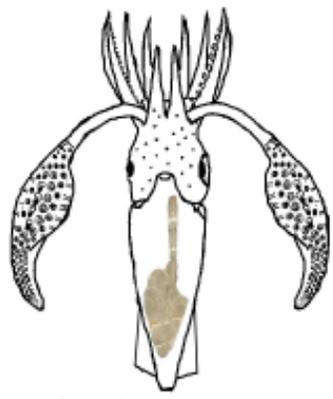


Locations where fossils have been found

Tusoteuthis longa

Common Name:
Giant squid

Classification:
Class: Cephalopoda
Order: Teuthida
Family: Kelaenidae



Position of pen within the squid body

Pen (hard support structure) of the giant squid, *Tusoteuthis*, superimposed on a sketch of the squid. Pen is 2 meters long. Cretaceous Pierre Shale. Cavalier County. North Dakota State Fossil Collection.

Description:
Tusoteuthis longa was a giant squid that inhabited the Pierre Sea that covered North Dakota about 80 million years ago. These ancient squids had a rigid support structure in their body called a pen or gladius. The pen was in many ways similar to a back bone but made of shelly material and not bone. The pens are found as fossils. Some of these squids grew to lengths of 15 feet or more. They lived in the Pierre Sea with sharks, mosasaurs, and many other animals.



Giant squid, *Tusoteuthis*, battling a mosasaur. Image from the Morden Museum, Morden, Manitoba