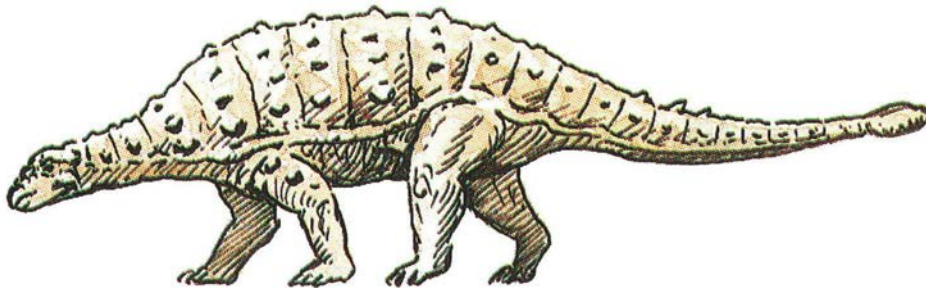


# Ankylosaur Dinosaurs

Ankylosaurs were the “armoured tanks” of the dinosaur clan. Some had clubs at the end of their tails, presumably for defence against predators and competitors. An Australian species from Queensland, called *Minmi*, holds the record for one of the shortest names of any dinosaur. The species we find along the Bass Coast appears to be very similar to *Minmi*, but more material is needed before it can be assigned to any species.

We have found ankylosaur teeth and ribs, as well as hundreds of pieces of skin armour. This bony armour was embedded in their skin and made up of small bone “blobs” called dermal ossicles and larger armoured plates called scutes or osteoderms. This armoured “shell” gave great protection from carnivore attack.



drawn by Peter Trusler