

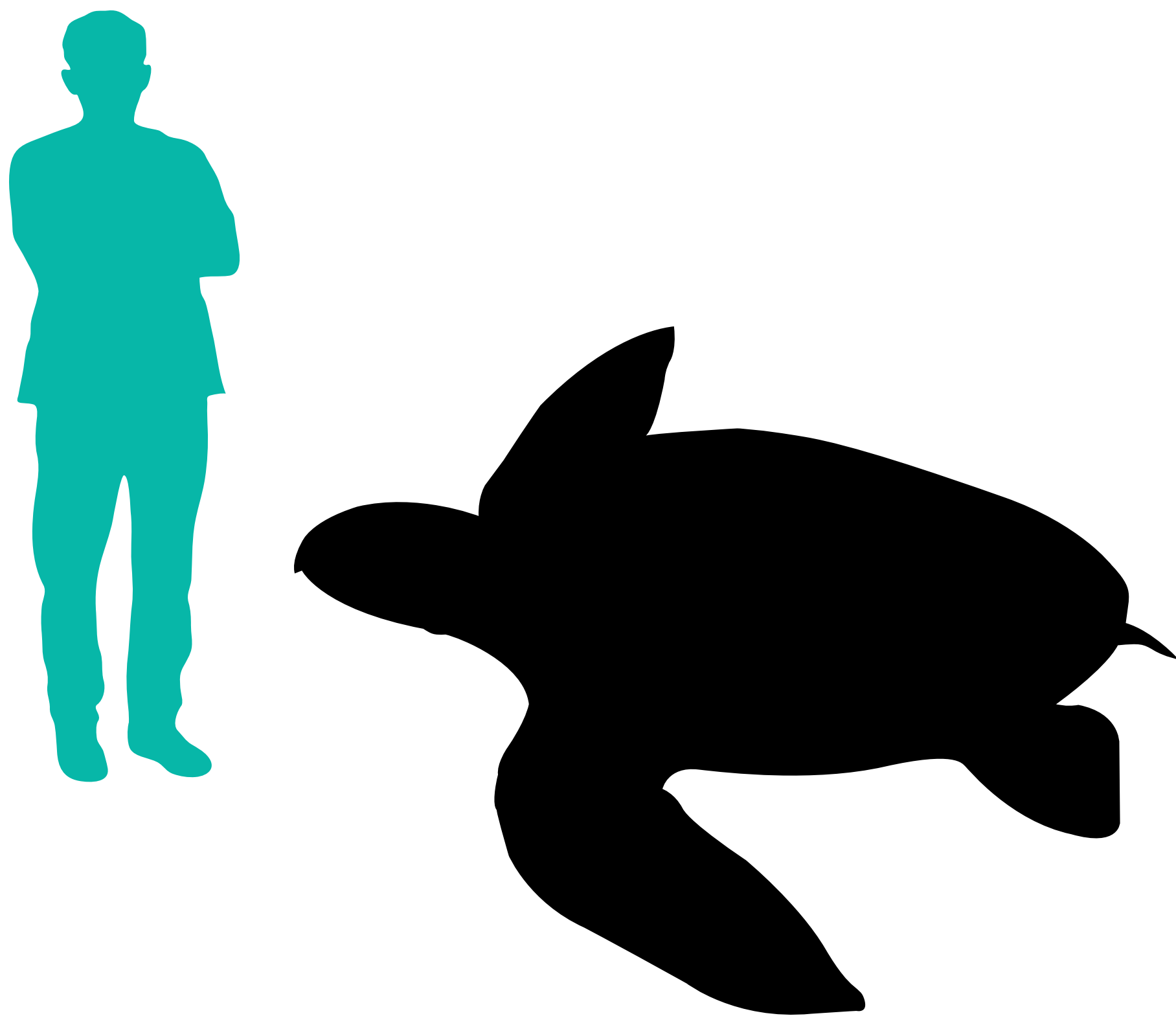
WHY WAS THIS MARINE SPECIMEN FOUND IN THE MOUNTAINS?

In **1972**, the fossil remains of this sea turtle were found in a quarry in the **Lessini Mountains (VR)**, where, during the **Cretaceous era**(about **65 million years ago**) a sea existed.

A naturalist, Giovanni Capellini gave it the name of *Protosphargis veronensis*, because he recognized some affinity with the current leatherback turtle (*then known as Sphargis*) as well as to remember the province where it was found. **The only visible part is the skeleton, the fleshy parts have since decomposed.**

However, referring to the shape of a leatherback turtle, it is thought that it must have had a hydrodynamic body that could exceed 2 m in length and had the longitudinal hulls along its back.

Perhaps it fed on jellyfish or small cephalopods (marine molluscs).



Did you know?

The difference between turtle and tortoise?

The term turtle indicates the aquatic turtles (be they freshwater - such as the Emydidae, with webbed feet - or marine - like the *Caretta caretta*, with limbs transformed into fins), carnivorous and with low-profile shell.

The term tortoise, from the Latin *testudo*, includes all the species adapted to terrestrial life (such as the *Testudo hermanni*), they are herbivorous, with powerful claws and (generally) have a more convex shell.