



**Fr. Charles Leigh SJ**

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# **Zoology Museum**

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**PG and Research  
Department of  
Advanced Zoology  
and Biotechnology**



**LOYOLA COLLEGE**  
Autonomous  
Chennai 600034



*Snake Father  
Fr. Charles Leigh S.J.*

*Fr. Charles Leigh's  
tomb at Loyola College*

## ZOOLOGY MUSEUM



The Zoology Museum has been named after Fr. Charles Leigh S. J (1880 – 1969), a British Jesuit Priest and a renowned Professor of English at St. Joseph's College, Trichy. He served as Principal of St. Joseph's College, Trichy during 1921-23 and 1924-27. He moved on to Loyola College, Madras in 1927. He was affectionately called the "Snake Father" because of his unstinted interest in natural history. During the time of the construction of Loyola College, he collected several snakes including large Indian rock Pythons and venomous snakes like cobras, kraits, and vipers. He reared many of them in captivity inside the campus and made extensive observations on them and preserved them as museum specimen for future studies. Fr. Charles Leigh's contribution to Indian herpetology was immense and his remarkable observations on snakes have been cited by legendary Malcom A. Smith in his much-acclaimed work – The Fauna of British India, Volume III – Serpentes, 1943. A few of his notable early publications are as follows,

Leigh, C 1926. Notes on Snakes, J. Bombay. Nat. Hist. Soc, 31: 227-8.

Leigh, C 1928. Notes on Indian Python, J. Bombay. Nat. Hist. Soc, 33: 208-10.

After the inception of the Department of Natural Sciences in 1948, a full-fledged Zoology museum was established and all the precious personal herpetological collections of Fr. Charles Leigh were deposited at the museum. Fr. Charles Leigh died on 19th January, 1969 and his mortal remains have been buried at the Jesuits' Cemetery adjacent to Loyola Church, Loyola College, Chennai.

From Fr. Charles Leigh's personal collection

Emu Egg



Python Egg



Python skin



Cobra



Poison Apparatus of Cobra

## ZOOLOGY MUSEUM

Since 1948, the Zoology museum has been meticulously preserving rare and precious zoological collections of all kinds including skeletons, mounts and representative collections from below mentioned Phyla of Kingdom Animalia,

Phylum : Protozoa

Phylum : Cnidaria

Phylum : Aschelminthes

Phylum : Annelida

Phylum : Echinodermata

Phylum : Porifera

Phylum : Platyhelminthes

Phylum : Mollusca

Phylum : Arthropoda

Phylum : Chordata

In 1985, the department was upgraded into a postgraduate department and started offering M. Sc Zoology. From then on, the periodical field collections by the PG students have consistently strengthened the rich specimen collection of the museum.

The doyens in the field of Zoology Dr. T. N. Ananthkrishnan, former Head, former Director of Zoological Survey of India and founder Director of Entomology Research Institute (ERI), Loyola College and one of the authors of the famed textbook on Zoology "The Manual of Zoology", Dr. K. S. Ananthasubramanian, Dr. T. K. Ragunatha Rao and Dr. V. A. Murthy contributed immensely towards the establishment of world-class zoology museum at Loyola College. In 1965, the department was recognized officially as a Center for Research by the University of Madras and Dr. T. N. Ananthkrishnan was the first to complete Ph. D. In 2005, the Department was renamed as Department of Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology.

### **FR. CHARLES LEIGH ZOOLOGY MUSEUM**

***Department of Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology, Loyola College***





Elephant tooth



*Human skeleton*



*Physiology models*

Periodical training and workshops are organised by the department on collection and preservation of zoological specimen and cataloguing. Museum will be open on all working days. Students from schools and colleges could visit our museum with prior permission.

#### **Total number of specimen available**

S. No	Specimen	Number
1.	Invertebrates	456
2.	Prochordates	06
3.	Chordates	330
4.	Skull and skeleton	349
5.	Shells	213



## SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES



*For information on training and museum visit please contact*  
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