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The Sauropods: Evolution And Paleobiology



Synopsis

Sauropod dinosaurs were the largest animals ever to walk the earth, and they represent a substantial portion of vertebrate biomass and biodiversity during the Mesozoic Era. The story of sauropod evolution is told in an extensive fossil record of skeletons and footprints that span the globe and 150 million years of earth history. This generously illustrated volume is the first comprehensive scientific summary of sauropod evolution and paleobiology. The contributors explore sauropod anatomy, detail its variations, and question the myth that life at large size led to evolutionary stagnation and eventual replacement by more "advanced" herbivorous dinosaurs. Chapters address topics such as the evolutionary history and diversity of sauropods; methods for creating three-dimensional reconstructions of their skeletons; questions of sauropod herbivory, tracks, gigantism, locomotion, reproduction, growth rates, and more. This book, together with the recent surge in sauropod discoveries around the world and taxonomic revisions of fragmentary genera, will shed new light on "nature's greatest extravagances."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For palaeontologists with an interest in sauropods, this volume is simply and unequivocally indispensable. Matt Wedel's chapter on postcranial skeletal pneumaticity is a particular highlight, but most of the papers are very valuable. The contributions are on the whole more substantial than those in the recent Carpenter and Tidwell volume on the same subject, "Thunder Lizards", being mostly written by sauropod specialists. Be careful, though! This is not a book for the casual dinosaur enthusiast: the chapters are academic papers that are heavy going for those without the necessary

background.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in dinosaurs, fossils and evolution. This book gives you all the information you would ever want about the Sauropod dinosaurs. The price of this book on .com may seem high, but you will never find this book anywhere else at a better price.

Great book intended for practicing paleontologists & advanced graduate students only. Too dense for the casual person interested in dinosaurs. Requires through knowledge of advanced cladistics, reptilian osteology and more.

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