



# Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History

By David E. Fastovsky, David B. Weishampel

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Updated with the material that instructors want, *Dinosaurs* continues to make science exciting and understandable to non-science majors through its narrative of scientific concepts rather than endless facts. It now contains new material on pterosaurs, an expanded section on the evolution of the dinosaurs and new photographs to help students engage with geology, natural history and evolution. The authors ground the text in the language of modern evolutionary biology, phylogenetic systematics, and teach students to examine the paleontology of dinosaurs exactly as the professionals in the field do using these methods to reconstruct dinosaur relationships. Beautifully illustrated, lively and engaging, this edition continues to encourage students to ask questions and assess data critically, enabling them to think like a scientist.

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# Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History

*By David E. Fastovsky, David B. Weishampel*

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## **Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History** By David E. Fastovsky, David B. Weishampel Bibliography

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"This book is a treasure. Written on several levels (amateur, teen, adult, professional) this well illustrated text covers what is known about dinosaurs, the arguments, debates, the history of paleontology and some of the folk who study it. Great index, masterfully written. A wonderful read for the novice to expert. 3 stars. A must for anyone seriously interested in the field."

Journal of the American Association of Forensic Dentists

#### Review of the first edition:

"I am excited to see that they authors have selected not to overwhelm the student with detail."

Mark Oiumette, Hardin-Simmons University

#### Review of the first edition:

"Does an excellent job of explaining cladistics."

Bill Zinsmeister, Purdue University

#### Review of the first edition:

"Well written ... the author's sense of humor makes it enjoyable to read; it summarizes most of the important topics in dinosaur paleontology using current information."

Carol Waddell-Sheets, Canisius College

#### Review of the first edition:

"This is an outstanding contribution for anyone teaching a course involving dinosaurs ... it is reasonably short and very much up to date."

Sherwood Wise, Florida State University

#### Review of the first edition:

"It's a nice length - subjects are discussed with the appropriate amount of depth and level of coverage. The writing style and tone is engaging and I like the incorporation of phylogeny."

David Varricchio, Montana State University

#### Review of the first edition:

"Very up-to-date information ... superior illustration."

John Taylor, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

#### Review of the first edition:

"It's the best fit for my course of any book out there because it's focused less on the dinosaurs themselves and more on how dinosaurs illustrate important lessons in the history of life ... I'm definitely going to adopt it for my course."

Dr J. Bret Bennington, Hofstra University

#### Review of the first edition:

"Dinosaurs remain a 'hot' topic ... To explore their past world, one needs to have a very good guide. With the publication of the book by Fastovsky and Weishampel, the latter is now available...demonstrates an outstanding degree of comprehensivity ... an outstanding synthesis of the modern knowledge on dinosaurs."

Dr Dmitry Ruban, The German Geological/Palaeontological Journal

Review of the first edition:

"It is an admirable work, something unlike I have seen in other texts in the field. The 240-page lexicon is elegant and freshly instructive. I find this text compact, self-contained and interesting to read ... I recommend it for anyone wishing to have a perspective of Dr Denn's work in process stability and rheology."

Gibson Batch, Rheology Bulletin

Review of the first edition:

"... well-written, highly visual, engaging, and informative book ... Highly recommended."

Choice

Review of the first edition:

"If you wish to know about the jaw mechanics in Euornithopoda, or if the giant femur of an adult Maiasaura makes you happy, this book will become the best gift for you! ... The indices of subjects and genera are very detailed and useful. It is great that the Latin name is translated for each taxon ... an outstanding synthesis of the modern knowledge on dinosaurs. And it will remain so for at least 1-2 decades. The reviewer has no idea other than to recommend this book strongly for everyone deeply interested in the world of dinosaurs and the evolutionary theory."

Zentralblatt für Geologie und Paläontologie

Review of the first edition:

"... it is undoubtedly the case that Fastovsky and Weishampel have been at the forefront of this genre. ... concise as well as being accessible and highly informative on the topic of dinosaurs and the science that can be applied to understanding them. As a well-structured, thoughtful and helpful undergraduate teaching guide it is absolutely excellent."

David Norman, The Geographical Journal

Review of the first edition:

"Overall I find *Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History* to be a welcome improvement over what in my opinion was already the best dinosaur textbook on the market."

William Parker, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology

"... the most comprehensive and useful text on dinosaurs on the market. It's both authoritative and whimsical, providing the student with a great background on dinosaurs and on the sciences needed to understand them. It's fun to read and [has] great illustrations too."

Kevin Padian, Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley

About the Author

David E. Fastovsky is Professor of Geology at the University of Rhode Island and tutor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. His interest in dinosaurs began in his early years when he read about a paleontologist's adventures in the Gobi Desert early in the twentieth century. Dinosaurs won out years later when he had the tough decision of choosing between a career in music or paleontology, and he has had many of his own adventures in far-flung parts of the world. He is known as a dynamic teacher as well as a respected researcher with a focus on the environments in which dinosaurs roamed. When dinosaur fossils are found he is called on to reconstruct the place where they lived. He has made several television documentary appearances, and was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the Geological Society of America in 2006.

David B. Weishampel is professor in the Center for Functional Anatomy and Evolution at The Johns Hopkins University. His research focuses on dinosaur evolution and how dinosaurs function and he is particularly interested in herbivorous dinosaurs and the dinosaur record of Europe. Among his many publications he is senior editor of *The Dinosauria* and has contributed to a number of popular publications including acting as consultant to Michael Crichton in the writing of *The Lost World*, the inspiration for Steven Spielberg's film *Jurassic Park*.

John Sibbick has been creating illustrations of extinct life forms and their environments for over twenty years, producing numerous books on dinosaurs, as well as pterosaurs, and general books on prehistoric life. His work has appeared in scientific magazines, such as *National Geographic*, and in television documentaries and museums world-wide.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Robert Miller:**

The particular book *Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History* has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research ahead of write this book. That book very easy to read you will get the point easily after scanning this book.

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to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading proficiency is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the sensation about book and reading especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to start a book and go through it. Beside that the guide Dinosaurs: A Concise Natural History can to be your friend when you're feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of these time.

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