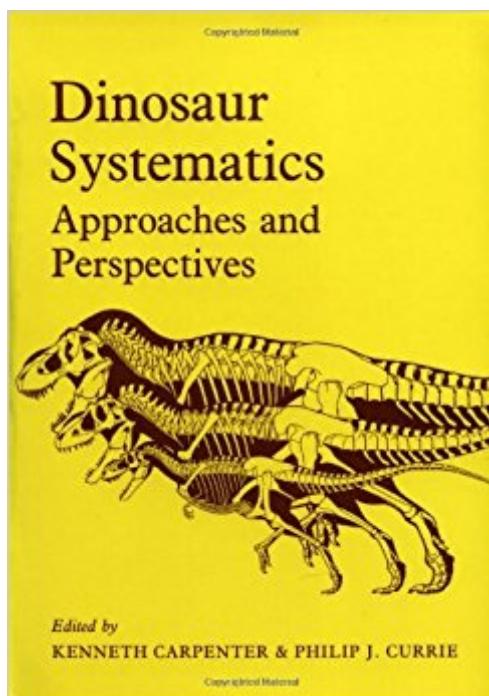


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Dinosaur Systematics: Approaches And Perspectives



Synopsis

In recent years dinosaurs have captured the attention of the public at an unprecedented level. At the heart of this resurgence in popular interest is an increased level of research activity, much of which is innovative in the field of paleontology. For instance, whereas earlier paleontological studies emphasized basic morphologic description and taxonomic classification, modern studies attempt to examine the role and nature of dinosaurs as living animals. More than ever before, we understand how these extinct species functioned, behaved, interacted with each other and the environment, and evolved. Nevertheless, these studies rely on certain basic building blocks of knowledge, including facts about dinosaur anatomy and taxonomic relationships. One of the purposes of this volume is to unravel some of the problems surrounding dinosaur systematics and to increase our understanding of dinosaurs as a biological species. Dinosaur Systematics presents a current overview of dinosaur systematics using various examples to explore what is a species in a dinosaur, what separates genders in dinosaurs, what morphological changes occur with maturation of a species, and what morphological variations occur within a species.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...presents a diverse array of original research on numerous dinosaur taxa, provides an excellent source of references, and is abundantly illustrated....succeeds in 'developing a better understanding of dinosaurs as biological species' (p. 309) and provides solid empirical evidence for ontogenetic

and dimorphic variation in a broad range of dinosaurs." Sandra J. Carlson, GSA Today"...contains many stimulating contributions and some of them (e.g. Chapter 18) are the best examples of the...palaeontological problems and frustrations....should be accessible at any reference library." Makoto Manabe, Geological Magazine"...does contain a number of useful contributions to dinosaurian systematics that will be of interest to every serious student of this topic. It should encourage all researchers to pay more attention to the historically neglected problem of morphological variation in non-avian dinosaurs and to adopt explicitly cladistic approaches for sorting our dinosaurian interrelationships." Hans-Dieter Sues, American Paleontologist"...a collection of papers on all aspects of dinosaur reproduction and development for the professional reader and advanced student...this long-awaited book sets out to review and summarize today's knowledge of one of the most exciting areas of dinosaur studies...The work is an essential addition to the dinosaur literature and is the only compact reference work covering reproductive biology."

Nature, July, 1994

Whereas earlier paleontological studies emphasized basic morphologic description and taxonomic classification, modern studies attempt to examine the role and nature of dinosaurs as living animals from the perspective of "dinosaur systematics."

A great technical volume (yeah, you might not want this book if you're buying it for your 5th grader who likes dinosaurs) that deals with dinosaurs as they were: living creatures. Included are papers on sexual dimorphism (differences between sexes), behavior, general morphology, and generally very useful papers. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is in/plans on pursuing paleontology. A great volume that is still cited today.

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