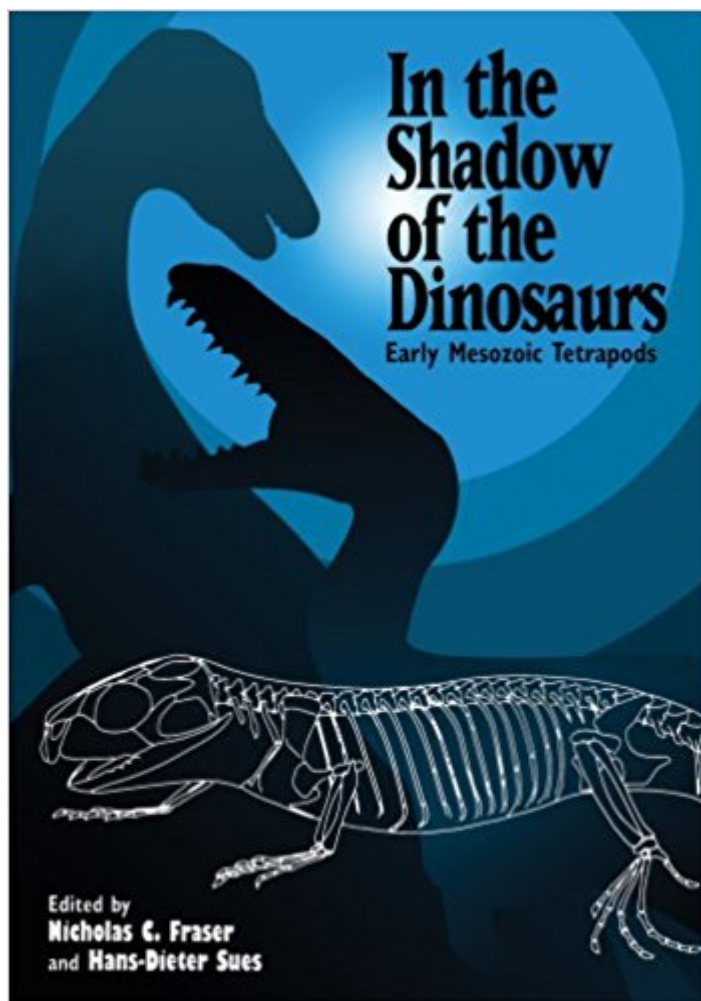


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In The Shadow Of The Dinosaurs: Early Mesozoic Tetrapods



Synopsis

This book is the first attempt to collate all the information known to date on the small vertebrates, e.g. mammals, crocodiles, turtles, lizards, frogs, salamanders, etc., and features contributions by experts with international reputations in their fields. There are chapters on the taxonomy and phylogeny of the key vertebrate groups followed by a section dealing with the most significant fossiliferous assemblages worldwide. The final section looks at how faunal turnover at this time is measured and examines the possibility of mass extinctions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...reviews and resolves a number of old questions....also explores unresolved topics and even raises several new questions." David Weishampel, Nature "...delves into an interval and a set of vertebrate species that is particularly relevant to the biodiversity of the modern world...as a manual to begin investigating the workings of the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic world, this is a good book." Science "The papers are wide-ranging, well illustrated, and authoritative, and the editors appear to have kept the authors tightly focused." E. Delson, Choice "...a comprehensive and integrated work....the book succeeds admirably, containing clear and concise reviews of the key areas and representing an excellent starting point for forays into the primary literature." Michael S.Y. Lee, TREE "...a beautifully produced and substantial book. Its contents are scholarly, enormously interesting, and on the whole clearly written....This book is a 'must' for any academic library harbouring any palaeontological pretensions." Ian Jenkins, Geological Magazine

The early Mesozoic was a critical period in the evolution of life on land when most of today's major groups of terrestrial vertebrates arose and dinosaurs and pterosaurs rose to prominence. This book collates all the information on the small vertebrates and features contributions by internationally renowned experts.

In the Shadow of the Dinosaurs (Early Mesozoic Tetrapods) is a collection of research papers presented at workshop for paleontologists and evolutionary biologists. For scientists who were unable to attend the seminar this collection of very specific papers might be valuable. (Titles such as "A new Bathonian microvertebrate locality in the English Midlands" or "Biotic and climatic changes in the Carnian of Europe and adjacent areas" are examples.) For the amateur paleontologist there is no unifying narrative and little evolutionary chronology presented to assist the reader who wants to grasp the basics of early tetrapod development. This book is inappropriate for the readers looking for an overview of reptilian fauna and evolutionary developments, in the late Paleozoic and early Mesozoic periods. An advanced degree in paleozoology should be a prerequisite for buyers.

This book seems interesting, but it is written for professional paleontologists and evolutionary biologists. The language is very difficult, and it has terms that a layman can't understand. If a reader isn't a professional paleontologist or evolutionary biologist, he probably shouldn't buy this book.

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