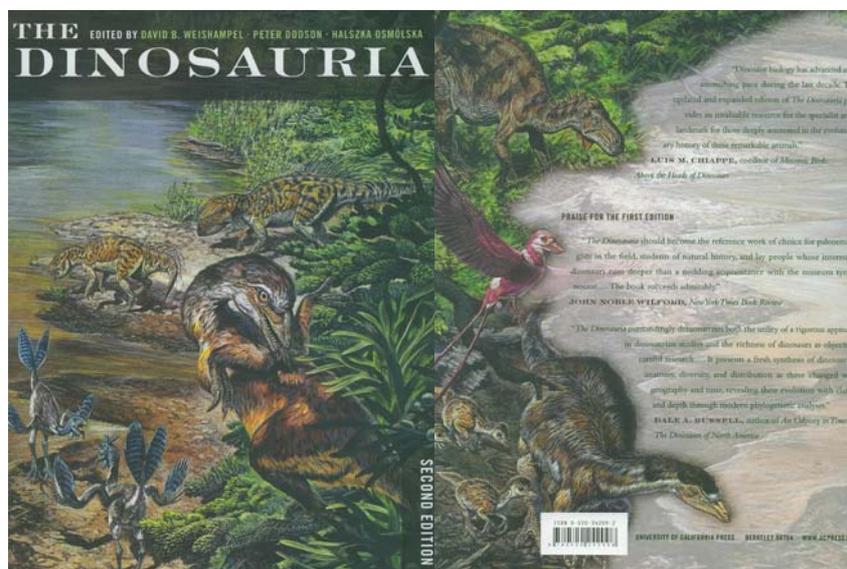


Weishampel, D.B., P. Dodson & H. Osmólska. Eds. 2004. *The dinosauria* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). – Berkeley/Los Angeles/London, University of California Press.

Book review by A.S. Schulp



The first edition of ‘The dinosauria’ was published in 1990. The new edition, published in December 2004, is bigger, more detailed, and amazingly up-to-date: until the very last deadline new discoveries seem to have made their way into this most complete overview of the non-avian dinosaurs available.

Browsing through both editions side-by-side, it becomes clear again how much has happened in the field of dinosaur palaeontology recently. The first edition listed some 300 dinosaur genera. In fourteen years’ time, more than 200 new genera were added to the list. Dinosaurs may be long extinct, dinosaur research seems more alive than ever before.

Forty-four authors contributed to the second edition of ‘The dinosauria’, a figure almost doubled compared to the first edition. All authors are among the leading experts in their fields.

The book is divided in two sections; the first section, more than 500 pages, deals with dinosaur taxonomy, the second section provides an overview of the temporal and geographical distribution of the dinosaurs, along with a discussion of their taphonomy, palaeoecology, biogeography, physiology and extinction

A considerable number of the new discoveries come from Gondwanaland. “Truly, today’s dinosaur paleontology is a grand international enterprise,” the authors write in the introduction, listing the advances in dinosaur research outside the traditional hunting areas such as North America, Europe and China/Mongolia. The overview of dinosaur occurrences, almost one hundred pages and 24 maps, lists 55% more dinosaur sites compared to the first edition.

Almost one hundred pages of references are followed by yet another hundred pages of Genera and Species Index, Stratigraphic and Geographic Index, and Subject Index, making the second edition once again and very useful reference work.

The very tangible, multi-kilogram ‘dinosauria’ is accompanied in the virtual world by a website, at <http://dinosauria.ucpress.edu/>, where supplementary information such as the character matrices used in the cladistic analyses are available for download along with a sample chapter from the dinosaur systematics part of the book.

Although the book contains over 300 illustrations, obviously that number is by far not enough to make the book useful as a ‘dinosaur bone lookup’-book. Only selected taxa are illustrated, mainly cranial material or relevant visual overviews of important anatomical differences between various groups. Collectors looking for a ‘dinosaur bone field guide’ can only use this book as a departure; the additional images, descriptions and comparative materials have to be looked up in the 2500+ references provided.

‘The dinosauria’ is a must-have for professional palaeontologists and dinosaur enthusiasts alike. Notwithstanding the generous stock the publishers brought in at its booth at last year’s Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meeting in Denver, ‘The dinosauria’ went sold-out in just a few minutes.

Weishampel, D.B., P. Dodson & H. Osmólska. Eds. 2004. *The dinosauria* (2nd edition). – Berkeley/Los Angeles/London, University of California Press. 861 pp. ISBN 0-520-24209-2. Price \$ 95.00 (hardcover).