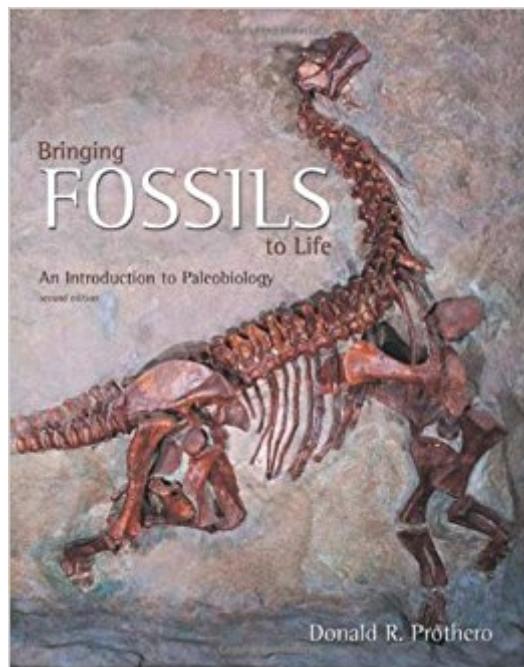


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Bringing Fossils To Life: An Introduction To Paleobiology



Synopsis

This is the first text to combine both paleontology and paleobiology. Traditional textbooks treat these separately, despite the recent trend to combine them in teaching. It bridges the gap between purely theoretical paleobiology and purely descriptive invertebrate paleontology books. The text is targeted at undergraduate geology and biology majors, with the emphasis on organisms, rather than dead objects to be described and catalogued. Current ideas from modern biology, ecology, population genetics, and many other concepts will be applied to the study of the fossil record.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In my opinion, this book provides a great introduction to the study of paleobiology. It is an introductory book in the sense that it does not require any previous knowledge, but it is a serious textbook that would typically require more than just casual reading. The first few chapters cover the basic material need to understand the history of life on Earth. It starts with fossilization and fossils, which provide the currently existing record of life in the past. The next few chapters cover the concepts of species, cladistics and evolution. There are also chapters on functional morphology which is very important when trying to determine how animals lived by studying their fossils and paleoecology which is important to understanding how they interacted. This material provides the backbone for the rest of the book. I thought it was really well done and was definitely written by someone that wanted the reader to understand the material. The next several chapters cover the evolution of animals. It is broken up in terms of phyla, with one or more phyla being covered per chapter. The coverage is not excessively deep for any phyla, if it were the book would be far too

large. The final two chapters were quite interesting. One covered the fossil evidence for animal behavior. The other covered the evolution of plants. Since the evolution of plants seems to be ignored in most books on evolution, I found this to be particularly nice. There is no coverage of human evolution. I thought this was a good choice because there are so many other resources for this topic. In addition to being a good book on paleobiology, I thought this was a good book on science in general.

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