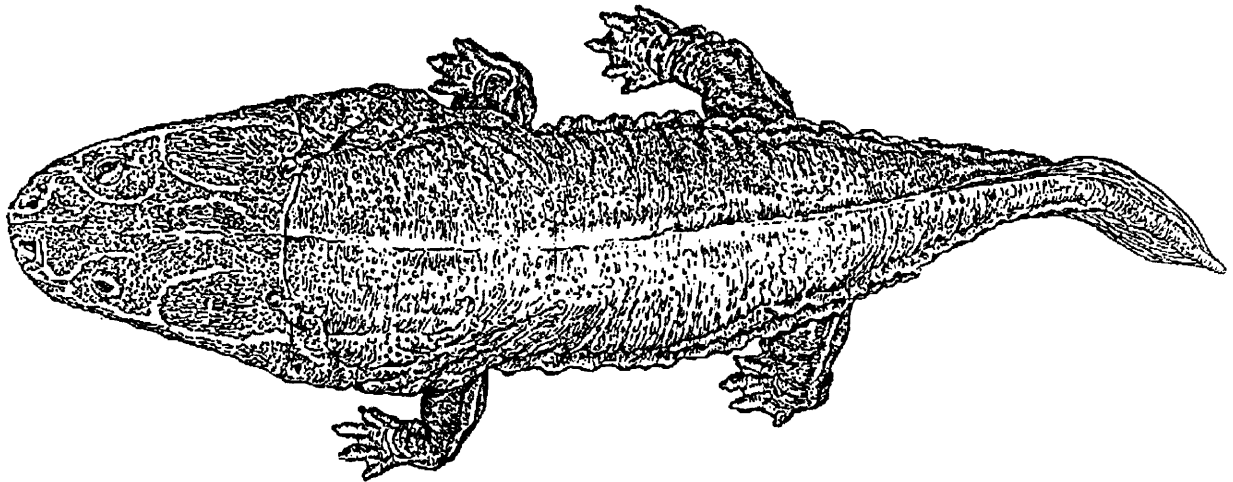
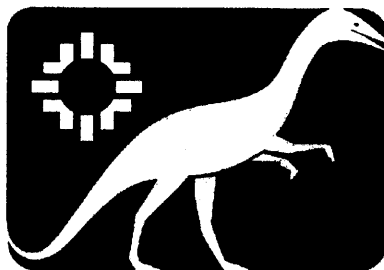


DAWN OF THE
AGE OF DINOSAURS
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST



Editors
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PREFACE

About 18 months ago, we sat with Rob Long in Albuquerque discussing various aspects of Triassic paleontology and he presented us with an intriguing idea: why not have a field conference where Triassic aficionados visited all the major localities in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas? We embellished this idea by pointing out that at each locality discussion could focus on the stratigraphy, sedimentology, taphonomy and history of fossil collecting. Realizing how much we stood to learn from such an excursion, we there and then agreed to organize a trip through "Triassicland." This book is one of the by-products of our efforts to run this excursion.

To provide roadlogs for the more than 1000 miles to be driven between (and around) Cameron, Arizona and Lubbock, Texas clearly would be impossible. Instead, we sought in-depth reviews of each locality to be visited (as well as some others off our route) by experts who had worked at each locality. The result is articles by Kirby, Murry and Long, Hunt and Lucas, Murry and Small that provide the documentation of the conference.

Beyond that, these articles present much information on the Late Triassic of the Southwest not previously published. It is thus appropriate that they are followed by a series of articles that provide reviews of key groups, new stratigraphy and paleontology and synthesis of sedimentologic, faunal, paleoecological and biochronological data. The result, we feel, is a major increment in our knowledge of the Late Triassic, what we like to think of as the dawn of the age of dinosaurs.

It is a great pleasure to dedicate this volume to Joe Gregory, who has had so significant an impact on our understanding of the Late Triassic. It is also our pleasure to thank those people who helped with the production of this book—typing, computing, photography, artwork and drafting—and thereby made it possible. They are John Arnold, Joan Barton, Al Braun, John Chadwick, Gareth Hunt, Rick McCrea, Randy Pence, Ann Smetana, Rebecca Smith-Sealey, Robert Miles Sullivan, Tom Williamson and Marjorie Williamson. Finally, we thank Jon Callender, Director of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, as well as the New Mexico Museum of Natural History Foundation, who supported this project, in spirit and in the pocketbook, from its inception.

Spencer G. Lucas
Adrian P. Hunt

Albuquerque
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