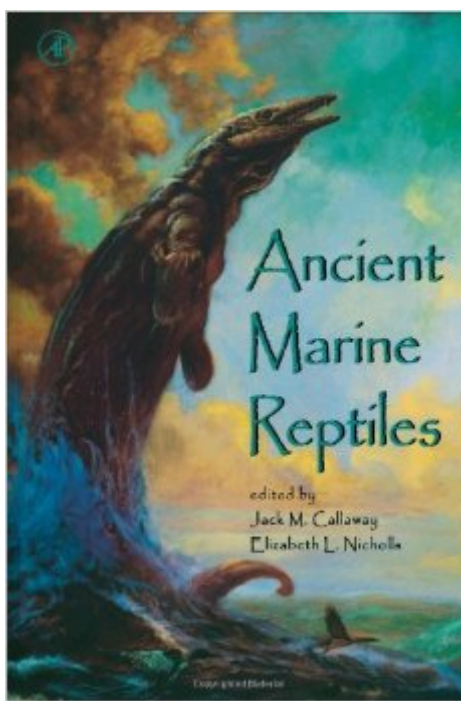


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Ancient Marine Reptiles



Synopsis

Vertebrate evolution has led to the convergent appearance of many groups of originally terrestrial animals that now live in the sea. Among these groups are familiar mammals like whales, dolphins, and seals. There are also reptilian lineages (like plesiosaurs, ichthyosaurs, mosasaurs, thalattosaurs, and others) that have become sea creatures. Most of these marine reptiles, often wrongly called "dinosaurs", are extinct. This edited book is devoted to these extinct groups of marine reptiles. These reptilian analogs represent useful models of the myriad adaptations that permit tetrapods to live in the ocean. Key Features* First book in more than 80 years devoted exclusively to fossil marine reptiles* Documents the most current research on extinct marine reptiles* Prepared by the world's most prominent experts in the field* Well illustrated

Book Information

Hardcover: 501 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The editors, Callaway and Nicholls, have assembled 17 papers describing the results of current research by the experts on the various groups of extinct marine reptiles (Ichthyosaurs, Plesiosaurs, Turtles, Mosasaurs and Crocodiles), and their associated faunas, behavior and evolution. Well researched and profusely illustrated, this book is a must read for those seriously interested in the biology, ecology and paleontology of this diverse and fascinating group of animals.

I basically agree with the three other reviews until the date of this review; however, just because some disappointed individuals were thinking they were getting a childrens book with cool artists

renditions of some marine reptiles doesn't make it bad. This book is certainly geared towards the professional individual. I recommend it to those looking for a tome of information on ancient marine reptiles compiled from peer reviewed scientific literature. It may also be of interest to those who are serious about reptiles and want to learn more of their prehistoric past.

If you were thinking about buying this book for your kids or a dinofan friend, a word of advise: it might be a bit over their heads. This book is basically an amalgamate of scientific papers without any editorial intrusion; they are true scientific papers for scientists in the style of scientific journals. Though profusely illustrated, it is not a field guide with lots of recreations and dioramas which might be what most kids and dinofans would want. Most of the illustrations are maps of the areas where a sample fossil was found or drawings and pictures of actual fossil bone at the site where found. Only the turtles and crocodiles sections of the book have some recreations of the creatures; but you will not find a single recreation drawing of an ichthyosaur. For the scientific reader this is a definite 5 star, for most everyone it might be only 2 or 3 star.

The depth of knowledge and technical approach to the studies covered in the book was very satisfying.

Unless your a paleontologist yourself, this book will probably be too technical to read and too dry to enjoy. Specialists familiar with serious scientific jargon may delight in Ancient Marine Reptiles. Otherwise, you're bound to get a headache trying to understand what's going on.

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