Dinosaur Tyrants and Terrors

Marcus Ross Ph.D.
I would like to personally thank you for watching the Origins television program. This show was special, near to the heart of my parents, Russell and Norma Bixler.

I trust that the information in this presentation will be helpful in your study of creation science. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Origins… you’re making the television production of this program possible!

Paul R. Bixler
Producer/Editor
What is a dinosaur, and why?

- Dinosaurs were:
  - Land-dwelling
  - Diapsids
  - Archosaurs

Features characterizing all dinosaurs.
From Fastovsky and Weishampel (2005).

Figure 5.5. Some of the derived characters uniting Dinosauria. (A) Elongate deltopectoral crest on humerus; (B) brevis shelf on ventral surface of postacetabular part of ilium; (C) extensively perforated acetabulum; (D) tibia with transversely expanded subrectangular distal end; and (E) ascending astragalar process on front surface of tibia.
Biblical Context: Creation Week

- Dinosaurs were Day 6 creations
  - Land-dwelling
  - Air-breathers
  - “Beasts of the field”
The Big Divisions of Dinosaurs

- Based on hip structure

Ornithischian

Saurischian
Saurischians—Thunder Lizards and Terrible Claws

Defining Traits:

- “Lizard-hipped” dinosaurs
- No predentary bone
- Sauropod and theropods
Theropods: So many “Kinds”
Different Lizards to Tyrant Kings

All are bipedal & carnivorous

Carnosaurus. Illustration by Toumas Kouvurinne

Baryonyx. Illustration by Luis Rey.
“Ebenezer”, a specimen of *Allosaurus fragilis* from the Creation Museum.
Photo by M. Ross.

*Allosaurus fragilis* from the BBC’s *Walking with Dinosaurs.*
Skull of “Sue”, a *Tyrannosaurus* at the Field Museum of Chicago
Ulnae of *Velociraptor* (a,b) and turkey vulture (c,d). From Turner *et al.*, 2007 (*Science*).
Microraptor gui (Lower Cretaceous)
Microraptor gui (Lower Cretaceous)
Citipati, an oviraptorid dinosaur. This specimen ("Big Mama") is sitting over a clutch of eggs with limbs stretched around them, similar to a brooding posture.
*Citipati*, an oviraptorid dinosaur. This specimen (“Big Mama”) is sitting over a clutch of eggs with limbs stretched around them, similar to a brooding posture. And fossilized embryos in the eggs!
Pack behaviour

- Evidence of changes in lifestyle: hunting packs in *Deinonychus* and *Tyrannosaurus*

Illustration by John Sibbick
But are dinosaur fossils really very young?
Dinosaur Tyrants and terrors

Marcus R. Ross, Ph.D.