



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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DINOQUEST: A TROPICAL TREK THROUGH TIME Featured Dinosaurs and Reptiles

BAMBIRAPTORS (AND EGG NEST) (*BAM-bee-RAP-tors*)

Name Means: “Baby Raider”

Description: A tiny, bird-like dinosaur that is believed to have been covered in feathers and fuzz, similar to that of a baby bird. It had long arms and hands, with a mouth full of sharp teeth and a claw similar to that of the Velociraptor.

Lived: Late Cretaceous period

Fossils Found: Montana, U.S.

Fun Fact: Bambiraptor is an important piece of the puzzle linking dinosaurs to birds. A 90-percent complete skeleton was discovered by a 14-year-old boy in 1995.

Installation Dimensions: Four four-foot-long dinosaurs; two 30-inch-diameter egg nests

CITIPATI (AND EGG NEST) (*sit-ih-PA-tee*)

Name Means: “Funeral Pyre Lord”

Description: Citipati’s skull was unusually short and ended in a toothless beak. It is one of the best known of the bird-like dinosaurs. It has an unusually long neck and shortened tail, compared to most other theropods.

Lived: Cretaceous period

Fossils Found: Mongolia

Fun Fact: At least four specimens of Citipati have been found sitting on their nests, indicating that Citipati took care of its young like modern birds.

Installation Dimensions: Three three-and-a-half-foot-long dinosaurs; two 30-inch-diameter egg nests

COMPSOGNATHUS (AND EGG NEST) (*komp-sog-NAY-thus*)

Name Means: “Pretty Jaw”

Description: The Compsognathus was a bird-like carnivore with short arms, two-clawed fingers, long legs and three-toed feet. It had a long neck and small head with pointy teeth.

Lived: Late Jurassic period

Fossils Found: Germany and France

Fun Fact: Compsognathus was about the size of a chicken.

Installation Dimensions: Five three-foot-long dinosaurs; three two-foot-diameter egg nests

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DIMETRODON (*die-MET-roh-don*)

Name Means: “Two Measures of Teeth”

Description: Not a dinosaur, but a carnivorous pelycosaur, a mammal-like reptile that lived before dinosaurs evolved. It had a large sail-like dorsal fin on its back and walked on four legs that stretched out from the sides of its body. Paleontologists believe that Dimetrodon’s sail helped raise its body temperature during the day, after a cold nighttime state.

Lived: Permian period (late Paleozoic Era)

Fossils Found: Texas and Oklahoma, U.S.; footprints found in Nova Scotia, Canada

Fun Fact: Dimetrodon’s sail-like fin was composed of bony spines covered with a leathery skin.

Installation Dimensions: Eight-foot-long dinosaur

HETERODONTOSAURUS (*HET-er-oh-DAHNT-oh-SORE-us*)

Name Means: “Different-Tooth Lizard”

Description: A small bipedal dinosaur with three types of teeth: sharp front upper teeth for biting food; cheek teeth for grinding food; and four long teeth with sockets for tearing food. Heterodontosaurus was an herbivore.

Lived: Late Triassic period to the early Jurassic period

Fossils Found: South Africa

Fun Fact: Heterodontosaurus was bird-footed, beaked and about the size of a turkey.

Installation Dimensions: Two four-foot-long dinosaurs

HYSIBEMA (AND EGG NEST) (*hip-syh-BEAM-a*)

Name Means: “High Platform Reptile”

Description: Hypsibema is a type of hadrosaur with similarities to Kritosaurus. In 1942, a tail section of 13 vertebrae was found near the town of Glen Allen, Mo. At that time, the bones were thought to be from a sauropod dinosaur like Apatosaurus. In recent times, the skeleton of a sub-adult Hypsibema has been found which will shed light on the true identity of the Missouri dinosaur.

Lived: Late Cretaceous period

Fossils Found: Southern Missouri, U.S.

Fun Fact: Geologist Dan Stewart was the first person to discover dinosaur bones in Missouri in 1942. He liked to be known as “Dinosaur Dan.”

Installation Dimensions: 30-foot-long dinosaur; six-foot-diameter egg nest

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PARASAUROLOPHUS (AND BABIES) (*par-a-SORE-al-o-fuss*)

Name Means: “Crested Lizard”

Description: Duck-billed herbivore with a toothless beak, pointy tail, and long, hollow, bony crest. The crest, which was larger than the rest of its skull, may have been used to produce a low-frequency sound, to enhance smell, or to court mates. The skin of Parasaurolaphus was pebbly-textured like that of a hadrosaur. The dinosaur was a relatively fast biped (walked on two feet), although it is possible that it used all four appendages to forage for plants.

Lived: Late Cretaceous period to the end of the Mesozoic period

Fossils Found: Alberta, Canada; Utah and New Mexico, U.S.

Fun Fact: It is unclear whether this dinosaur had webbed fingers. Web-like fossilized hands have been discovered, but it is debated as to whether this was caused by the fossilization process.

Installation Dimensions: 30-foot-long dinosaur; three two-foot-long babies

PLACERIAS (*plah-SEE-ree-us*)

Name Means: Is a Dicynodont, meaning “Two Dog Teeth”

Description: Placérias was a dicynodont, a pre-dinosaur age, mammal-like reptile. Placérias was a herding herbivore that walked on four short legs, had a short neck and a bulky body, similar to that of a hippopotamus. It had two tusks and a toothless beak.

Lived: Late Triassic period

Fossils Found: Arizona, U.S.

Fun Fact: Placérias weighed about one ton.

Installation Dimensions: Eight-foot-long reptile

POSTOSUCHUS (*POST-oh-SOOK-us*)

Name Means: “Post Crocodile”

Description: Postosuchus was part of a group known as the archosaurs, or “ruling reptiles,” which included dinosaurs, crocodiles, pterosaurs and birds. The carnivore walked upright on four legs underneath its body, and its two back legs were longer than the front ones. The back of Postosuchus was covered with rows of protective plates.

Lived: Late Triassic period

Fossils Found: Arizona and Texas, U.S.

Fun Fact: Postosuchus was a predator of Placérias.

Installation Dimensions: Eight-foot-long reptile

QUETZALCOATLUS (*KET-sol-koh-AT-lus*)

Name Means: Named for Quetzalcoatl, the Aztec feathered god

Description: A carnivorous flying reptile with wings covered by a thin, tough, leathery membrane. Quetzalcoatlus had a small, light body with a large, 36-foot wingspan and a long, thin beak.

Lived: Late Cretaceous period

Fossils Found: Texas, U.S.

Fun Fact: Quetzalcoatlus was a pterosaur, not a dinosaur. Dinosaurs all had an upright stance with legs straight under the body; pterosaurs were only semi-upright.

Installation Dimensions: 30-foot-long flying reptile; two four-foot-long baby reptiles in a nest (separate installations)

RHAMPHORYNCHUS (*ram-for-INK-us*)

Name Means: “Beak Snout”

Description: A carnivorous flying reptile known as a pterosaur, Rhamphorynchus had hollow bones and wings made of skin. Its long, narrow jaw was filled with sharp teeth that pointed outwards.

Lived: Late Jurassic period

Fossils Found: Germany and Tanzania

Fun Fact: The wings of Rhamphorynchus stretched out from its fourth finger.

Installation Dimensions: Three-foot-long reptile

SORDES (*SORE-dees*)

Name Means: “Hairy Demon”

Description: A small, carnivorous pterosaur (flying reptile), about the size of a pigeon. Fossils indicate that its body was covered with thick hair. The wings and tail of Sordes were hair-free. Its wing membranes were attached to the legs, and a second membrane stretched between its two legs.

Lived: Late Jurassic period

Fossils Found: Kazakhstan

Fun Fact: The name “Sordes” means “devil” in Greek.

Installation Dimensions: Three 18-inch-long reptiles

SYNTARSUS (*sin-TAR-sus*)

Name Means: “Fused Ankle”

Description: A light, carnivorous predator that walked on two legs and had light, hollow bones. Syntarsus had four-fingered hands, four-toed feet and fused ankle bones, for which it was named.

Lived: Early Jurassic period

Fossils Found: Zimbabwe and Arizona, U.S.

Fun Fact: About 30 Syntarsus fossils were found together in Zimbabwe, suggesting they lived in packs.

Installation Dimensions: 12-foot-long dinosaur

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TYRANNOSAURUS REX (*tie-RAN-o-sore-us*)

Name Means: “T. Rex” or “Tyrant Lizard King”

Description: Perhaps the most well-recognized of all dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus Rex was a fierce, large-headed (about five-foot-long) carnivorous predator. It walked upright on two strong legs, had tiny, two-fingered arms, and bird-like feet with three toes each. Its large, strong tail was used for balance and to aid in quickly changing direction when running after prey. The T. Rex’s skin texture was bumpy and similar to that of an alligator.

Lived: Late Cretaceous period

Fossils Found: Montana, Texas, Utah and Wyoming, U.S.; Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada; Mongolia

Fun Fact: T. Rex had an excellent sense of smell.

Installation Dimensions: 32-foot-long dinosaur

For more information, contact the Public Relations Department at (314) 577-0254 or (314) 577-5141 or check the Garden’s Web site at www.mobot.org. Media materials may be downloaded at www.mobot.org/press. For 24-hour recorded visitor information, call (314) 577-9400 or 1 (800) 642-8842 toll-free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden’s mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life.” Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science and conservation, education and horticultural display.