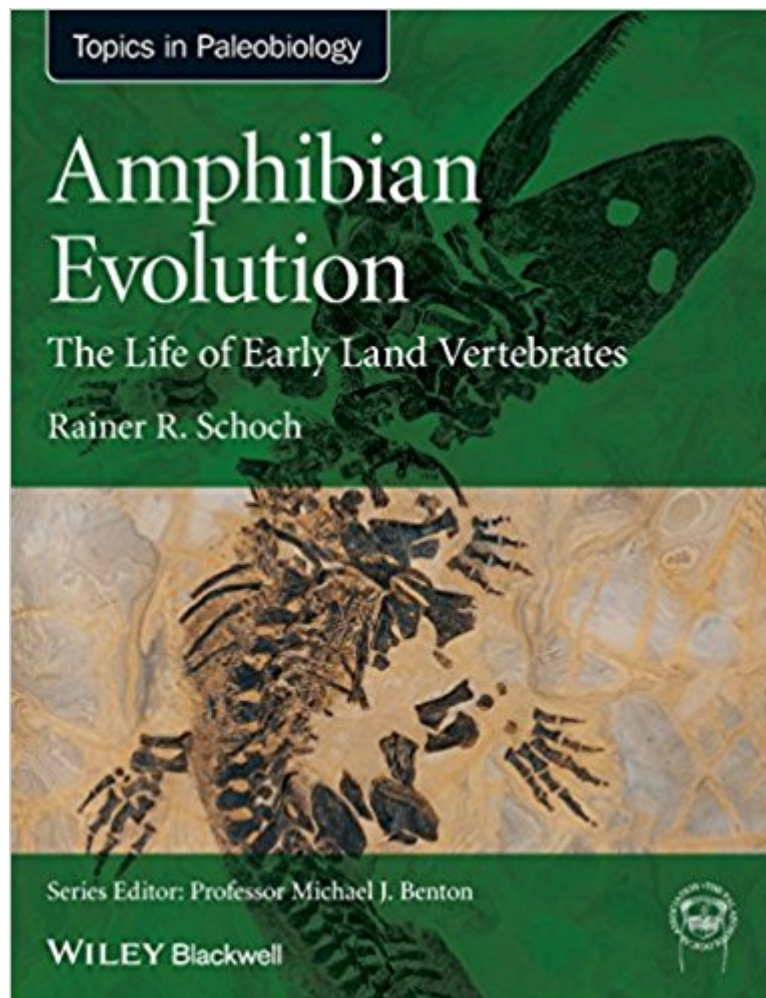




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Amphibian Evolution: The Life Of Early Land Vertebrates (TOPA Topics In Paleobiology)



Synopsis

This book focuses on the first vertebrates to conquer land and their long journey to become fully independent from the water. It traces the origin of tetrapod features and tries to explain how and why they transformed into organs that permit life on land. Although the major frame of the topic lies in the past 370 million years and necessarily deals with many fossils, it is far from restricted to paleontology. The aim is to achieve a comprehensive picture of amphibian evolution. It focuses on major questions in current paleobiology: how diverse were the early tetrapods? In which environments did they live, and how did they come to be preserved? What do we know about the soft body of extinct amphibians, and what does that tell us about the evolution of crucial organs during the transition to land? How did early amphibians develop and grow, and which were the major factors of their evolution?

The Topics in Paleobiology Series is published in collaboration with the Palaeontological Association, and is edited by Professor Mike Benton, University of Bristol. Books in the series provide a summary of the current state of knowledge, a trusted route into the primary literature, and will act as pointers for future directions for research. As well as volumes on individual groups, the series will also deal with topics that have a cross-cutting relevance, such as the evolution of significant ecosystems, particular key times and events in the history of life, climate change, and the application of a new techniques such as molecular palaeontology. The books are written by leading international experts and will be pitched at a level suitable for advanced undergraduates, postgraduates, and researchers in both the paleontological and biological sciences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Amphibian Evolution” delivers a wide-ranging synthesis of viewpoints and data on early tetrapods and the ancestry of lissamphibians. This conveniently sized volume suits a higher-level undergraduate course on palaeobiology or introductory graduate class. Clearly written and illustrated, the text provides just enough historical context to give a sense of where the topics come from and where new developments seem to be heading. In summary, this is a thoroughly useful volume to have on your shelf (as well as recommending several copies for the college library). (Acta Zoologica, July 2017) “In summary, this is a comprehensive work that could be used as a guide to focus on specific aspects of one of the most exciting chapters of vertebrate history.” (Ameghiniana, 1 April 2015) “It provides rewarding reading, useful for students and researchers/professionals studying amphibians as well as other vertebrates. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.” (Choice, 1 December 2014)

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Being poor, I buy books removed from libraries. I splurged and bought a NEW book on amphibian evolution. Well worth it!!!! Great book! A must read that updates all those interested! Thank you, R. Schoch!

Very objective, wide-scoping text that addresses every aspect of amphibian evolution as possible as

far as I can tell. The author provides a wealth of information in this relatively compact 250+ page text, but in a way that is not dry or boring (still has a handful of jargon of course). Plenty of images/renderings of fossils, overviews of ancient amphibian groups and phylogenetic diagrams. Would be difficult to read cover to cover, but seems like a manageable read in any order. Wouldn't be surprised if this were used as a textbook somewhere. Recommended to professionals and passionate amateurs like me who are interested in the underlying questions and features of amphibian evolution.

perfect

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