

Special Issue

Continuities and Discontinuities of the Fossil Record

Message from the Guest Editors

The evolution of life on Earth is characterized by gradual variations and discontinuities. Both have led to the current level of biodiversity. The continuities show themselves in various existing species of organisms that appeared millions of years ago, whereas the great mass extinctions arise as testimony to the discontinuities that shaped evolution and permitted the emergence of new species. One of the most illuminating examples is the extinction of non-avian dinosaurs, an extinction that allowed for the development of mammals and the consequent appearance of our species. We are currently concerned about climate change, which has diminished biodiversity and led to the extinction of species at an alarming rate. Are these changes the result of geological and biological evolution only? Or are they also a consequence of human activities? In this Special Issue, we discuss and debate the importance of the continuities and discontinuities in the fossil record, as well as whether we are facing indications of a new discontinuity.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Silverio Figueiredo

Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, Tomar, Portugal

Dr. Eric Buffetaut

CNRS (UMR 8538), Laboratoire de Géologie de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure, 24 Rue Lhomond, 75231 Paris, CEDEX 05, France

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 September 2025



Fossil Studies

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI



mdpi.com/si/221994

Fossil Studies
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
fossstud@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/

fossstud





Fossil Studies

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI



[mdpi.com/journal/
fossstud](https://mdpi.com/journal/fossstud)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The aim of *Fossil Studies* is to provide a new outlet for papers on all kinds of fossils, from all periods of Earth's history, whatever approach is used. Online publishing, with no limit on the length of papers or the number of illustrations, should prove to be an advantage for authors wishing to produce long, well-illustrated monographs, which have proven so useful to palaeontological science. However, reliable peer-review and fast open access publishing, the hallmarks of MDPI publications, will also make it easier to rapidly publish reports of new discoveries. We hope that *Fossil Studies* will help palaeontologists, whatever their area of expertise, to disseminate the results of their research in the exciting field of fossils science.

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Eric Buffetaut

CNRS (UMR 8538), Laboratoire de Géologie de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure, 24 Rue Lhomond, 75231 Paris, CEDEX 05, France

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

Rapid Publication:

first decisions in 19 days; acceptance to publication in 4 days (median values for MDPI journals in the first half of 2025).

Recognition of Reviewers:

APC discount vouchers, optional signed peer review, and reviewer names published annually in the journal.