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

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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.

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