

Reading for this week:  
Fastovsky & Weishampel

**Chapter 4: Who are the  
dinosaurs?**

**Chapter 5: Dinosaurs in the  
beginning**

After this we will start  
skipping around

# **CHANGE TO THE SYLLABUS AND EXAM DATE**

Today: End-Permian and Intro to Dinosauria

Monday (2/5): DinoFilm - attendance required

Wednesday (2/7): Finish up / Exam review

**Monday (2/12): EXAM I**

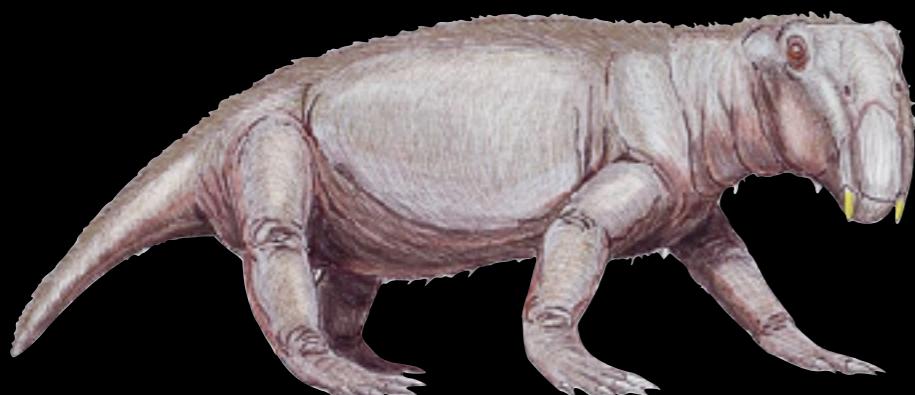




*Tetraceratops*

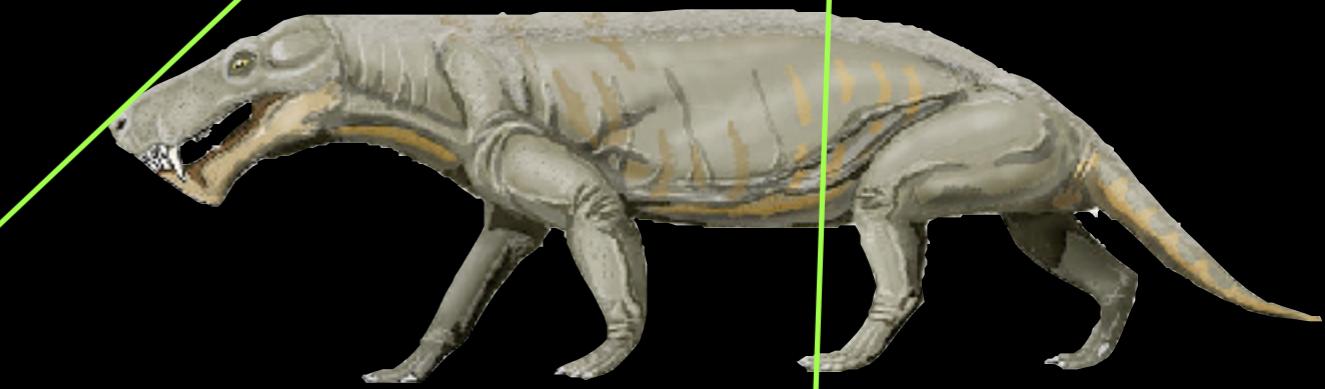


*Moschops*



*Lystrosaurus*

- Basal
- Dinocephalia
- Dicynodontia
- Gorgonopsids
- Mammal Ancest.



*Arctognathus*



*Cynodontia*

Derived Synapsids  
Therapsida: Mid-Late Permian



**Synapsida**

**Anapsida**



**Lepidosauria**



**Archosauria**

**Diapsida**

**Eureptilia**

**Amniotes**

Anapsids  
-Late Permian  
**Pareiasaurs**  
-Vegetarians



**Scutosaurus**

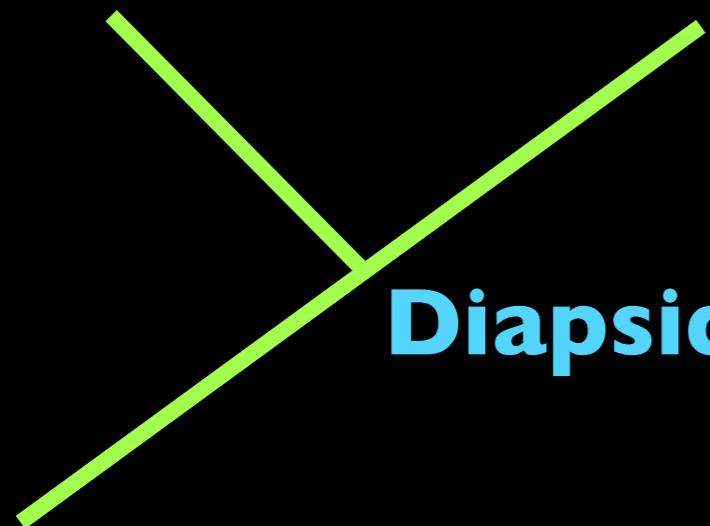




Lepidosauria



Archosauria

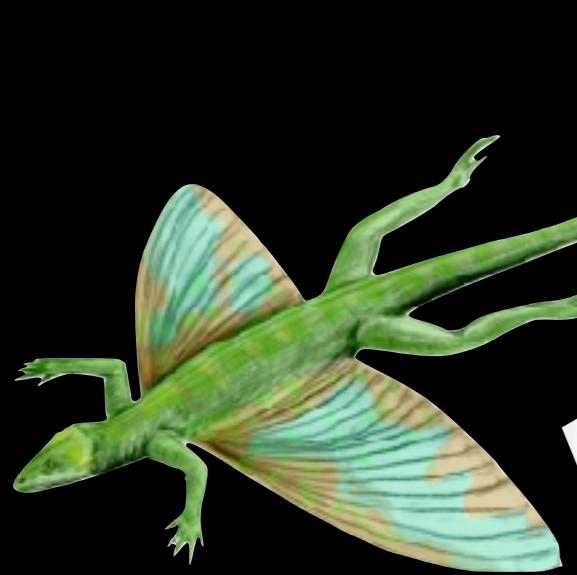


Diapsida

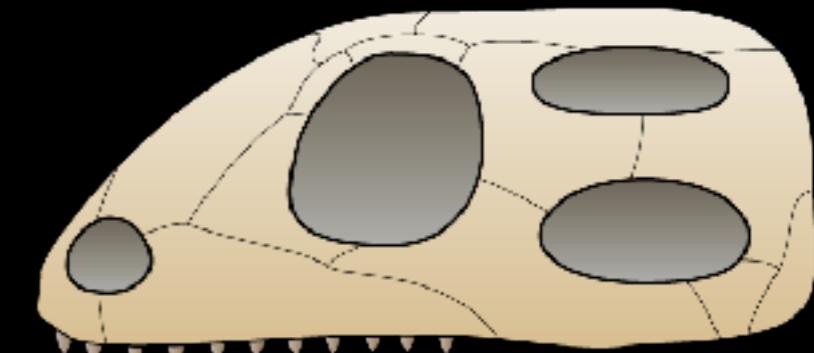
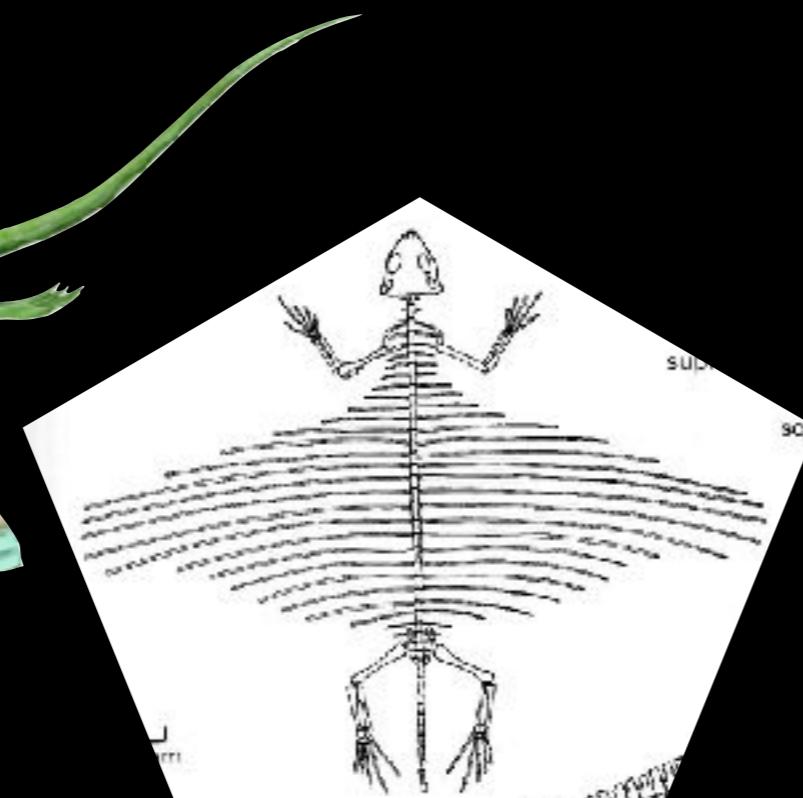


Diapsids in the Permian

Weird, Wonderful,  
and Rare



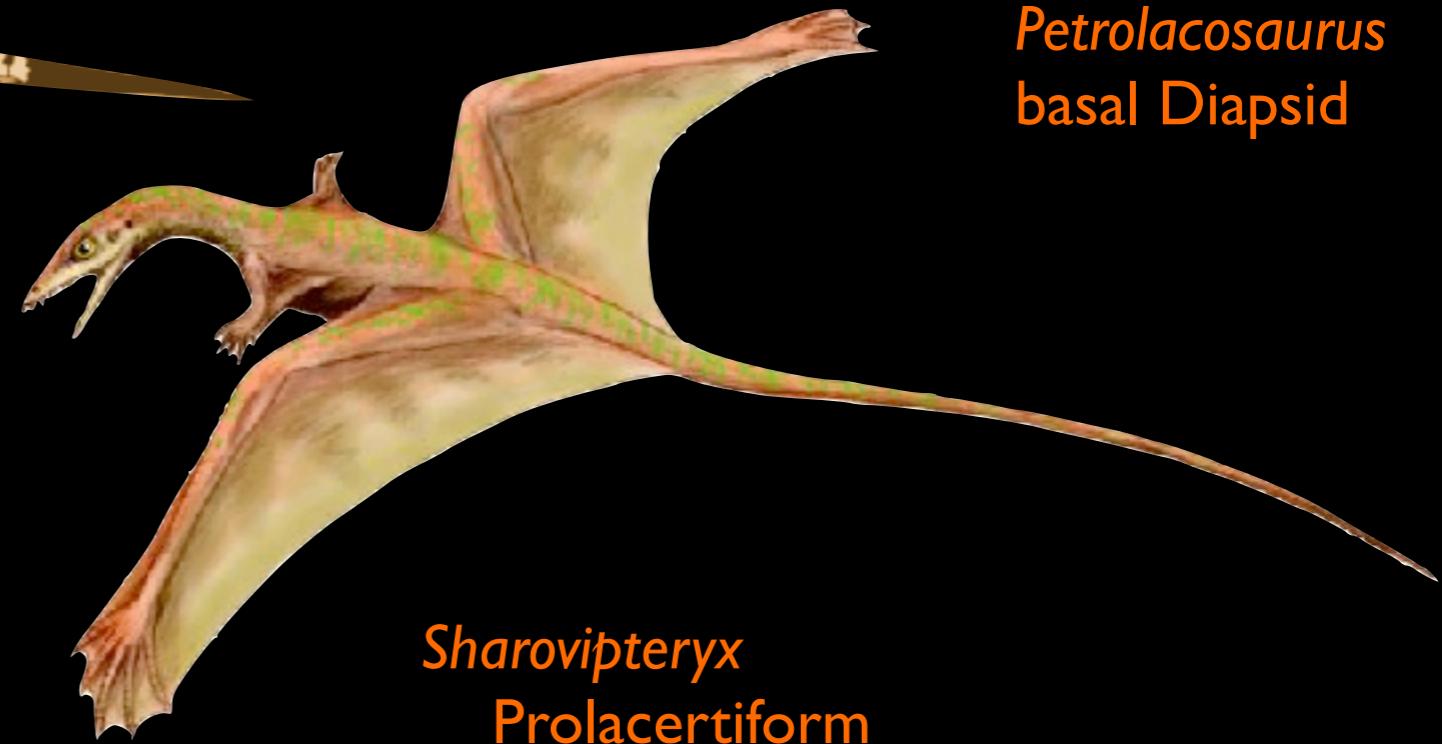
*Coelurosauravus*



*Petrolacosaurus*  
basal Diapsid



*Protorosaurus*  
Prolacertiform

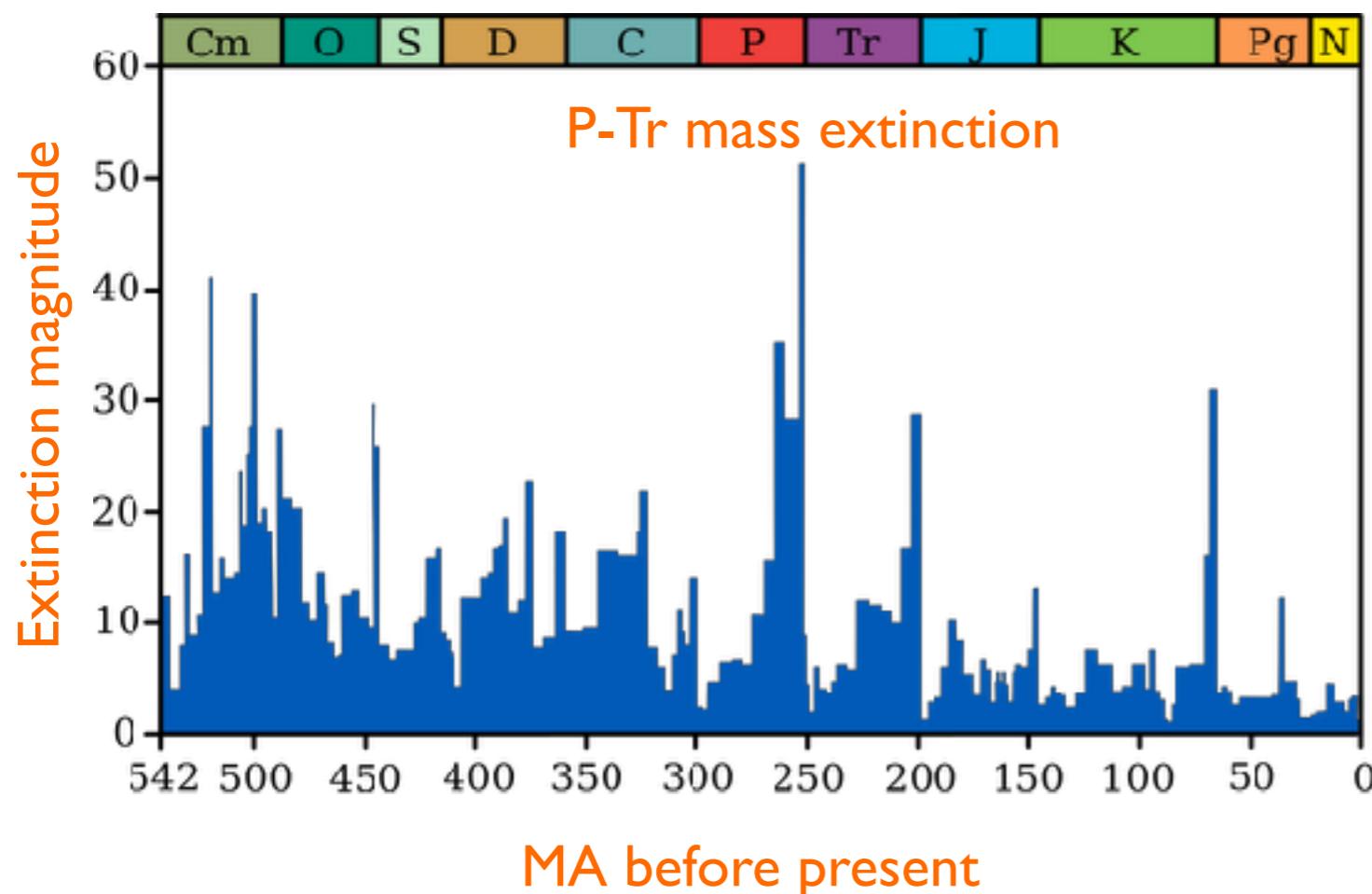


*Sharovipteryx*  
Prolacertiform

# The Permo-Triassic Extinction: The ‘Great Dying’



# The ‘Death Curve’

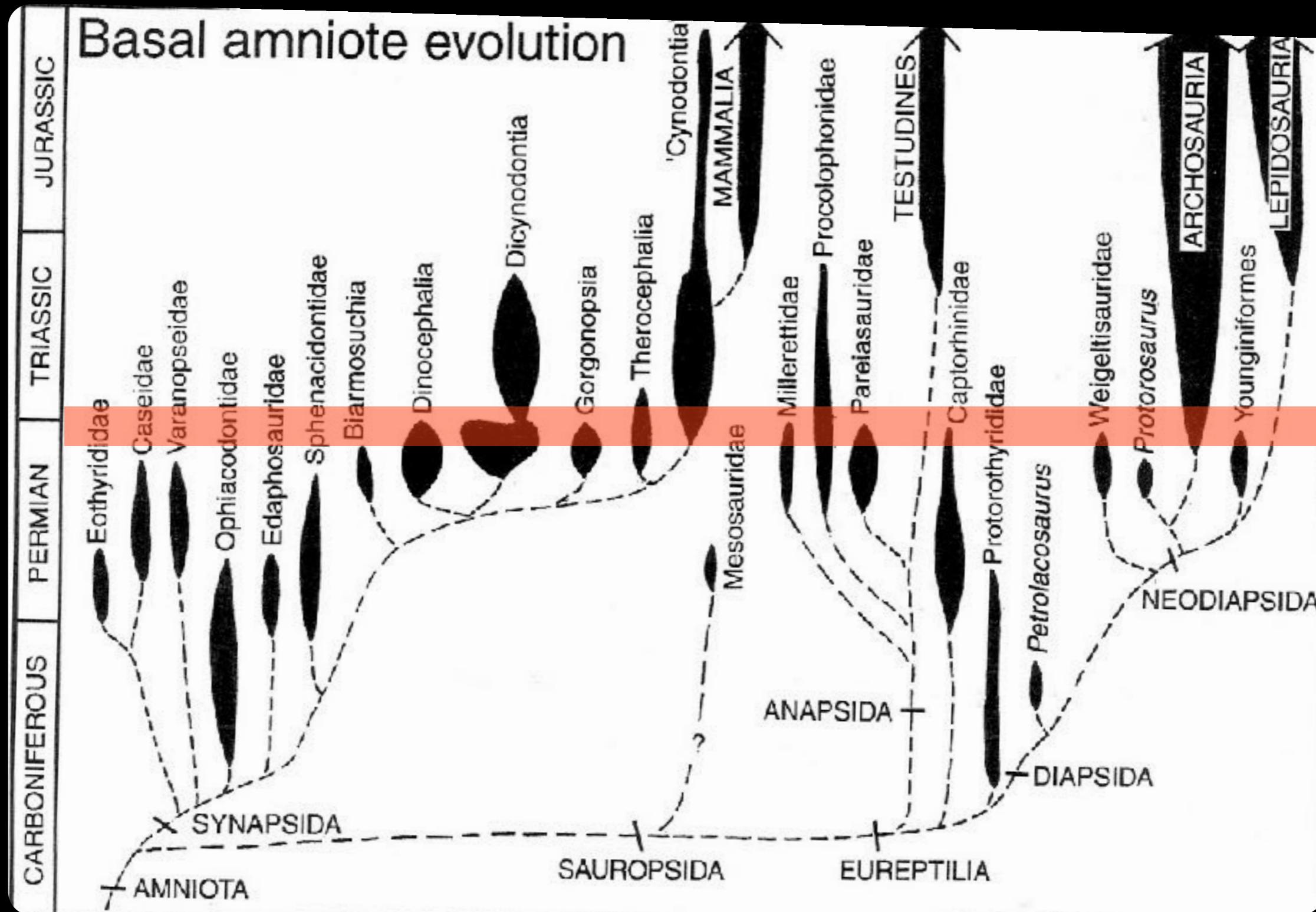


50% of marine families were lost  
across the Permo-Triassic @ 251 Ma

scales to ca. 96% species loss in the  
sea

70% vertebrate species lost on land

Only known mass extinction of  
insects



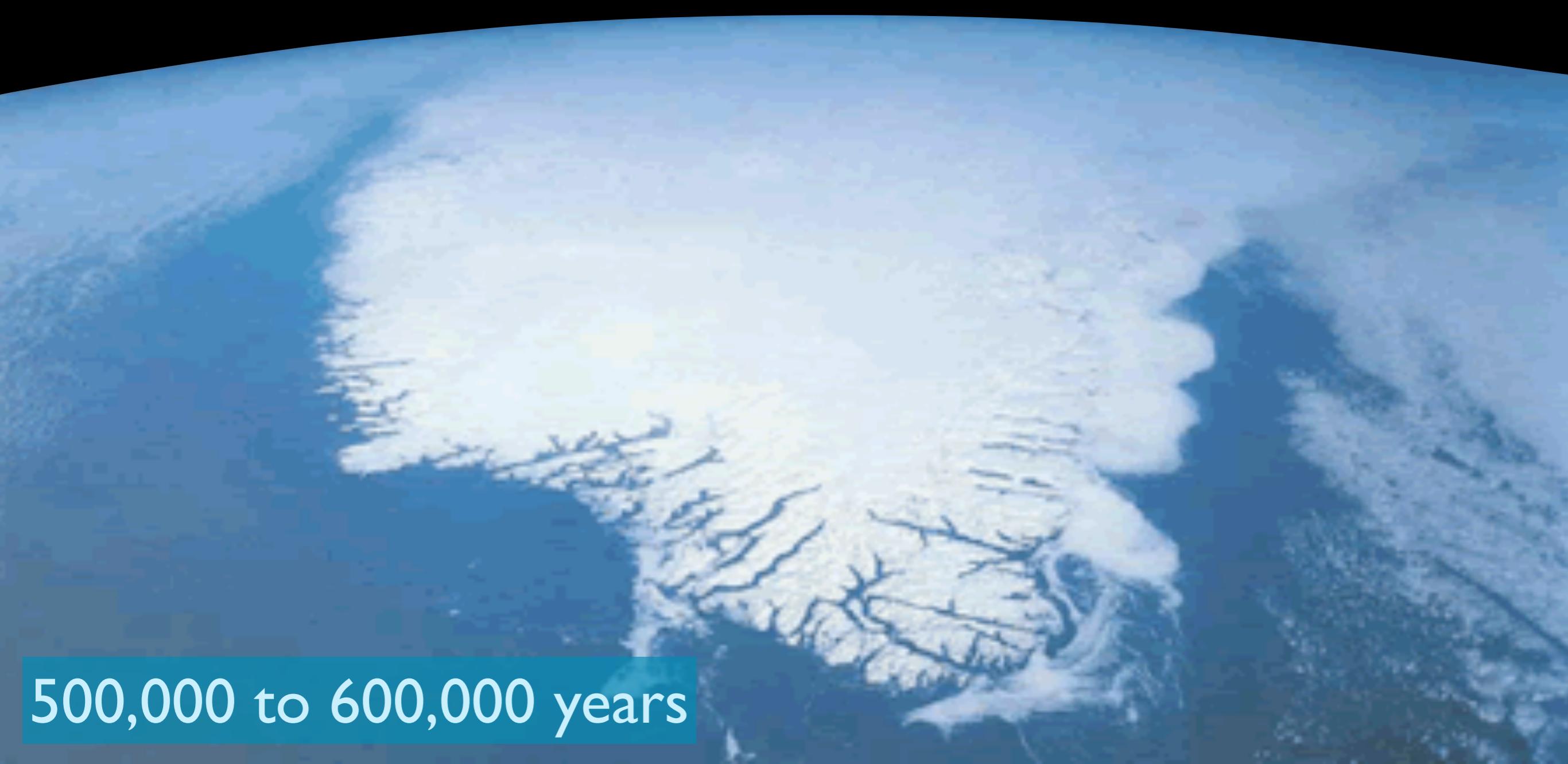
# Plant Dieback => Catastrophic Erosion



- Evidence:**
- Increased erosion
  - Fungal explosion
  - Worldwide distribution
  - Coal Gap

## Slow Terrestrial Floral Collapse- Greenland Pollen/Spore Cores

- Fungal activity followed loss of forests and herbaceous veg
- Successional weedy vegetation takes hold
- Fern and cycad expansion
- Most successional plants vanish, lycopsids remain
- Plant abundance is drastically reduced (few pollen/spores)



500,000 to 600,000 years

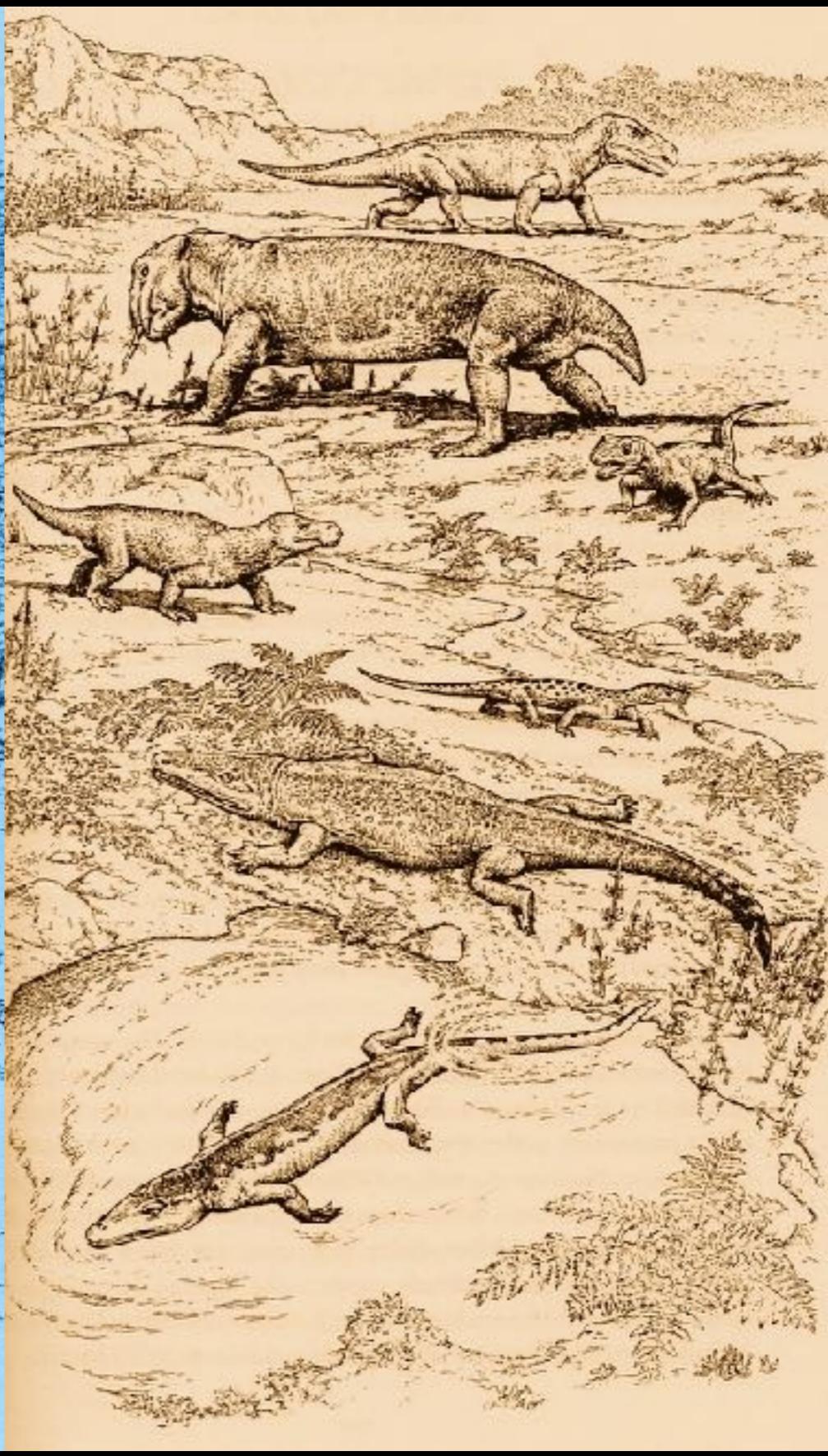
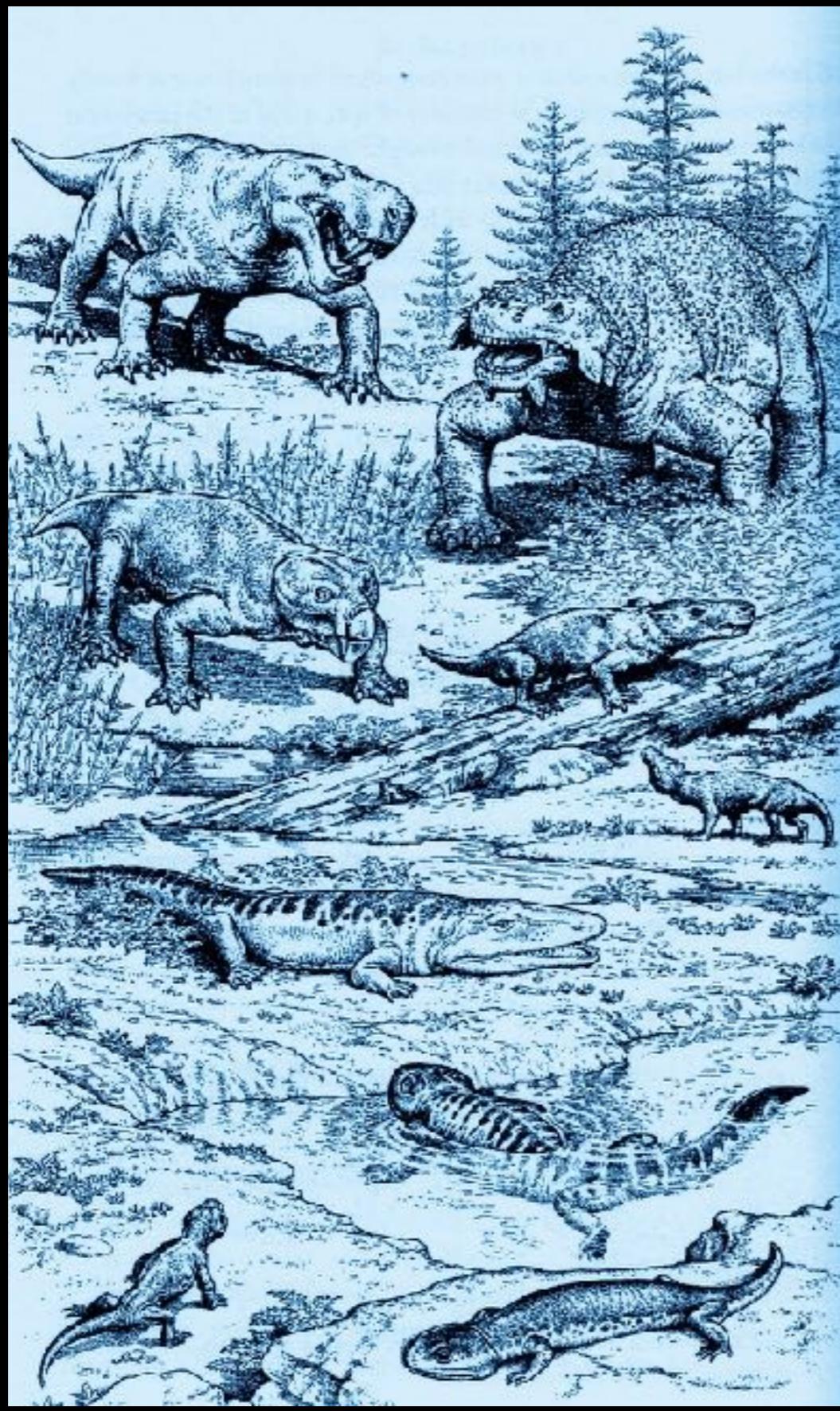
If plant collapse initiated terrestrial extinctions, what caused the plant collapse???



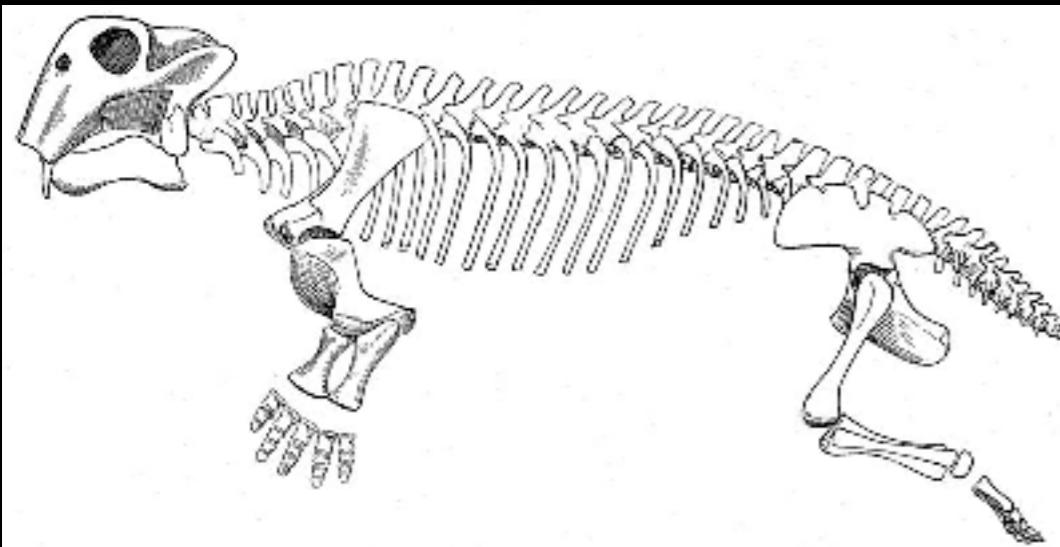
## Flavor of the Day: The Siberian Traps



Poisoned the atmosphere and led to massive plant death

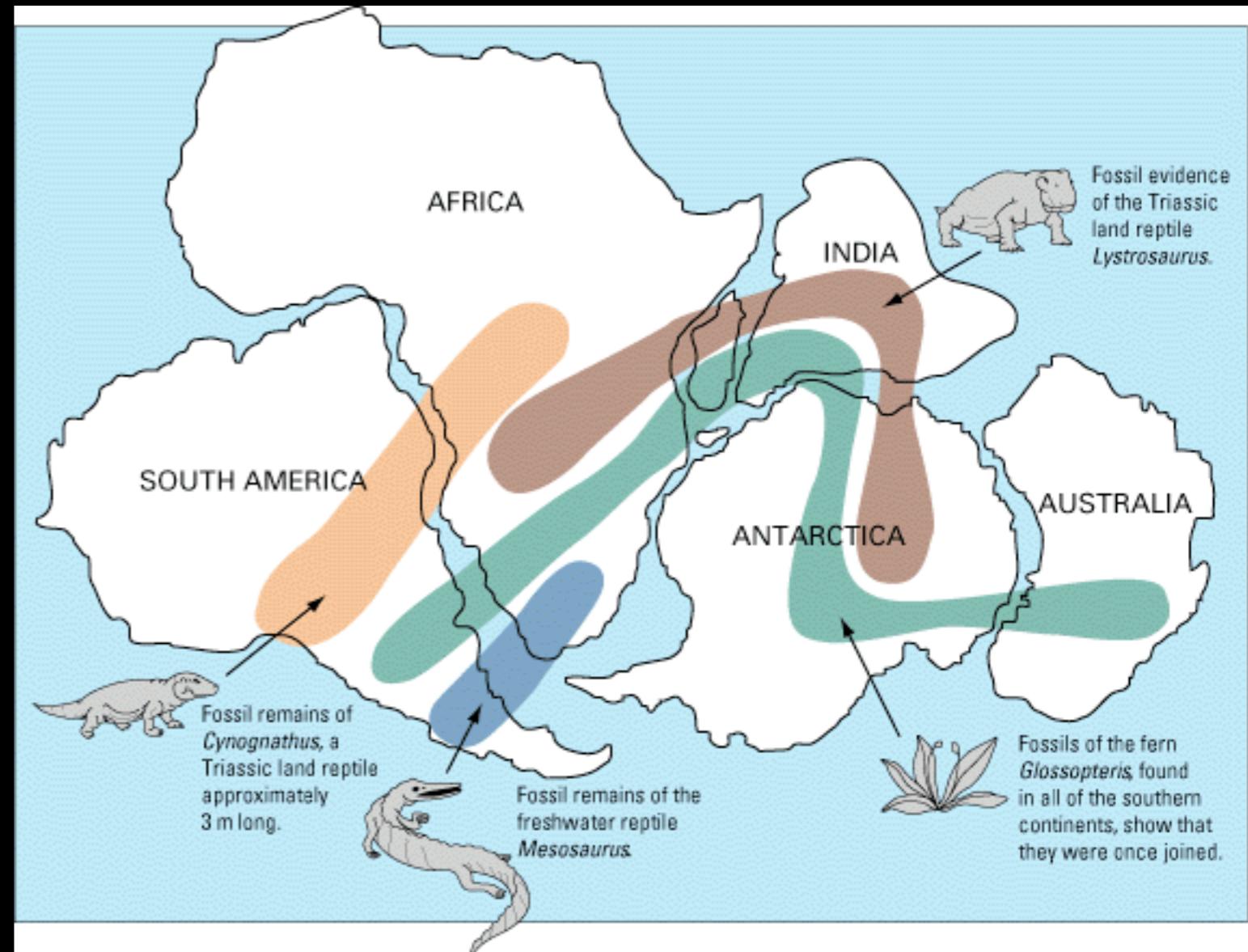


# *Lystrosaurus*: the Disaster Taxon



## Expansion

- Few herbivorous competitors
- Few carnivorous predators
- 95% terrestrial faunas!
- @ 1 meter, the largest animal on earth



There was probably nothing 'special' about *Lystrosaurus*...  
It was just lucky... this is a pattern in extinction events.



Temnospondyl amphibians

*Mastodonsaurus*  
(aquatic)



*Cynognathus*  
early Triassic synapsid

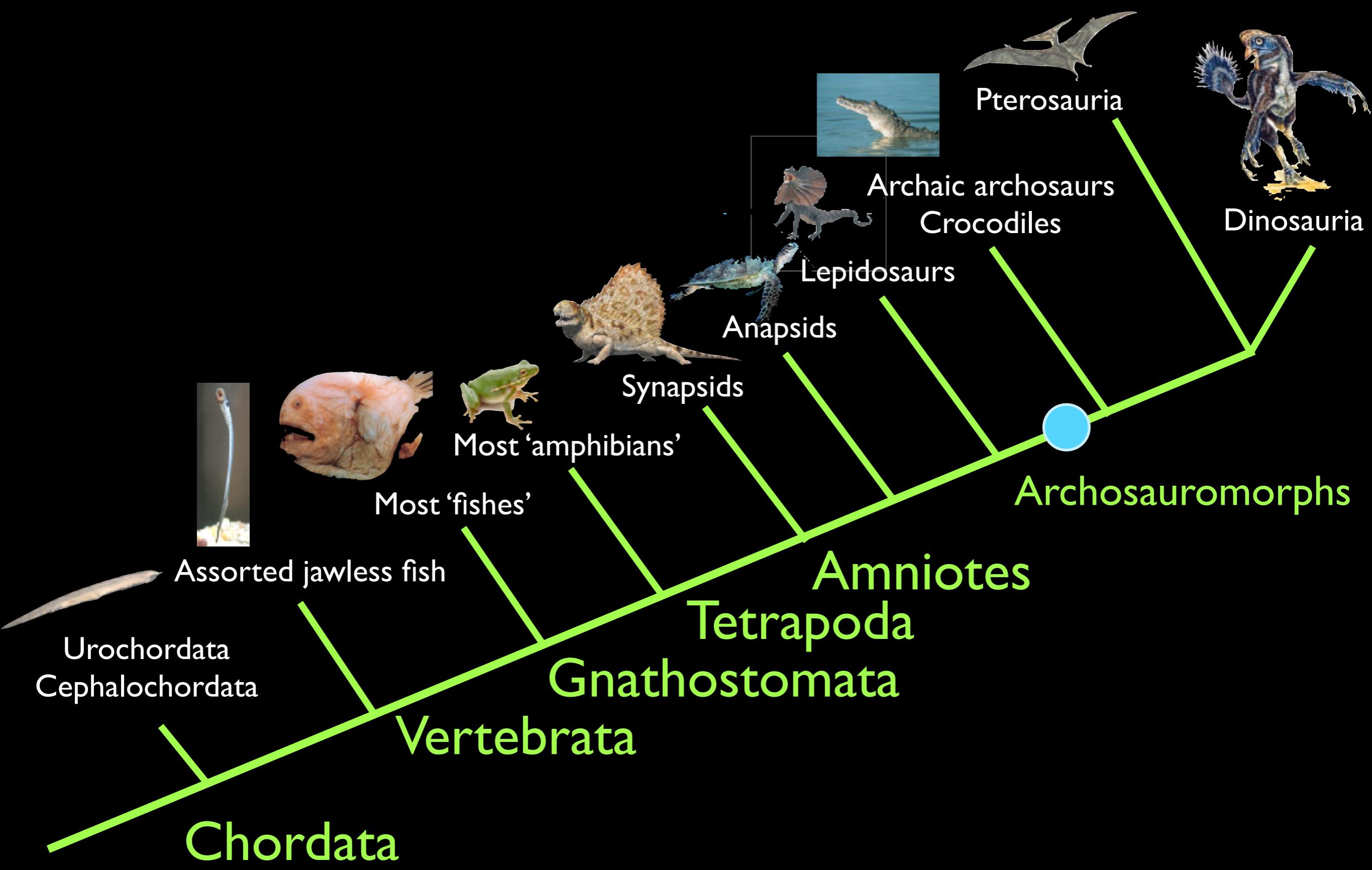


*Proterosuchus*  
Archosaur

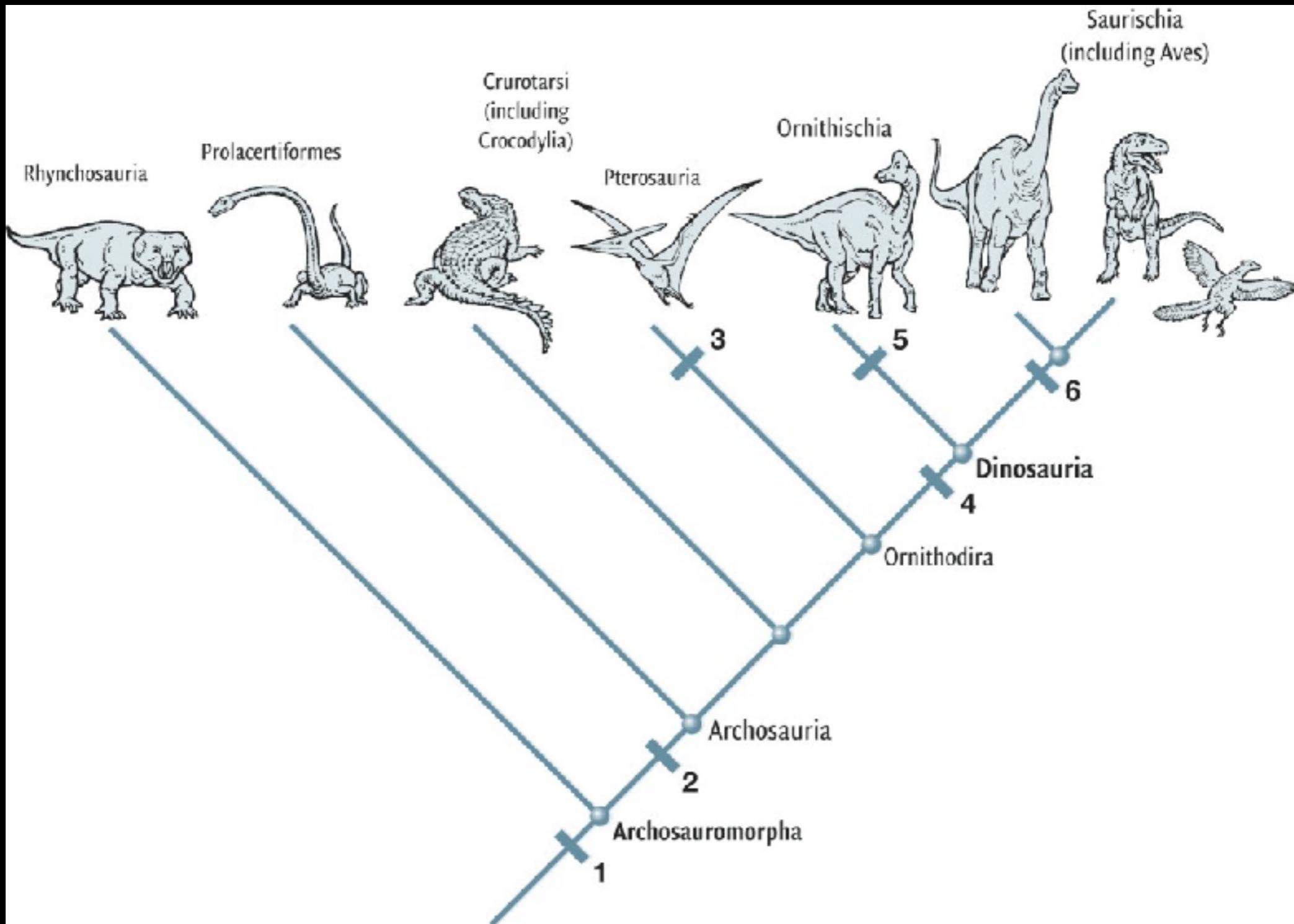


Dicynodonts  
Cynodonts

Remained important  
Herbivores



# The RISE of the ARCHOSAUROMORPHS!



# Rhynchosauria

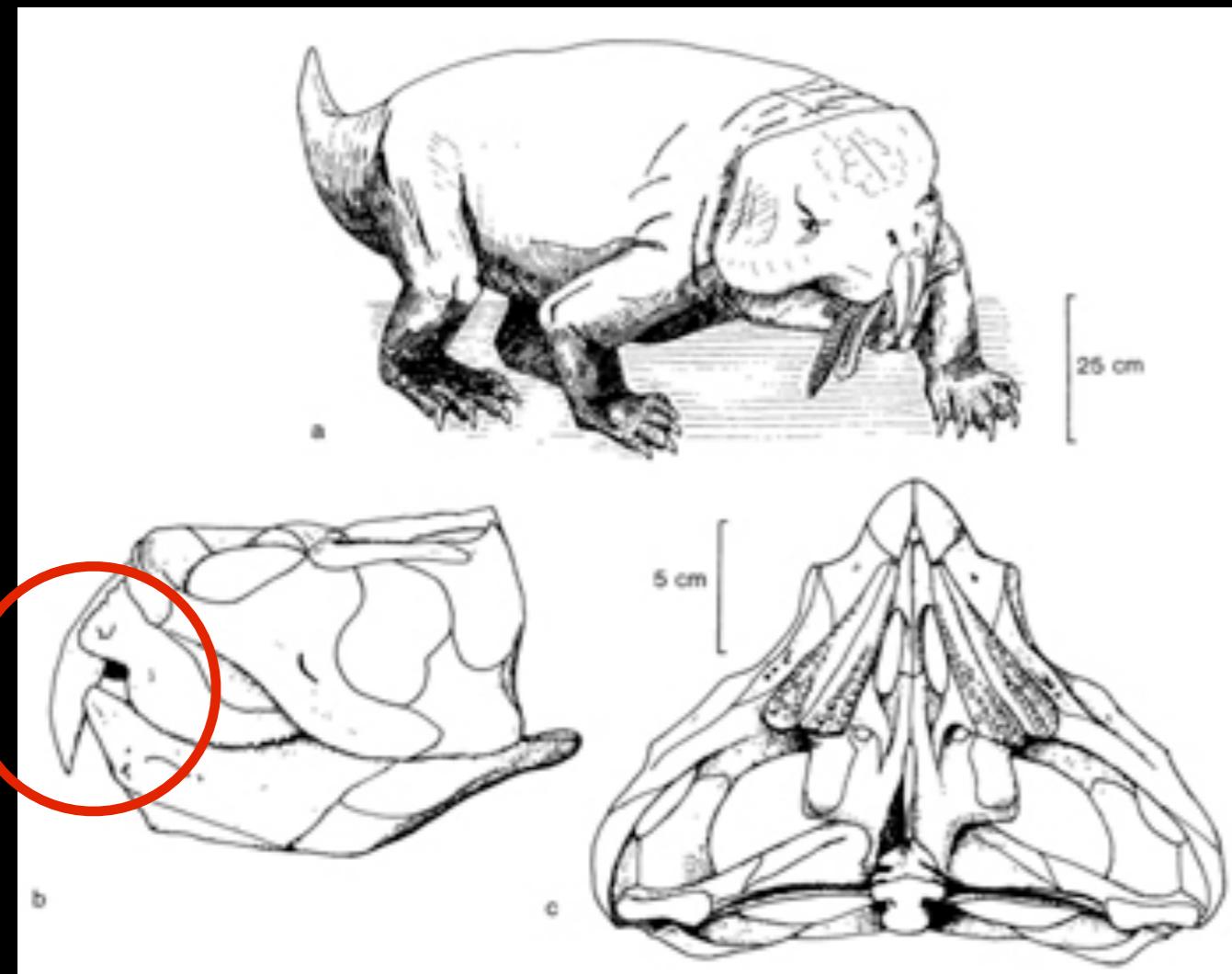
early Triassic

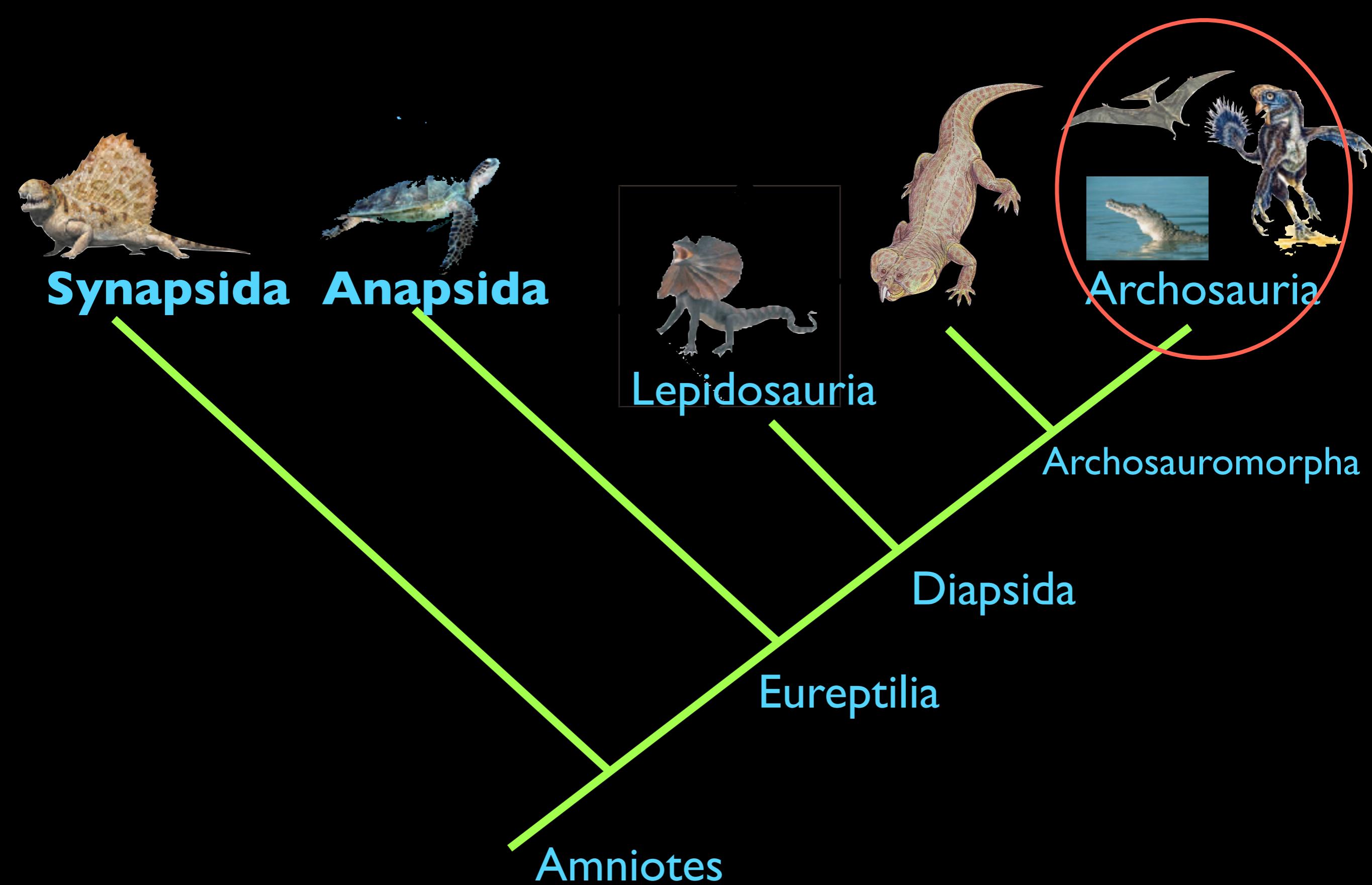
VERY abundant

Herbivorous

Pen-Knife Premaxilla/Dentary vs. 'rostral bone'

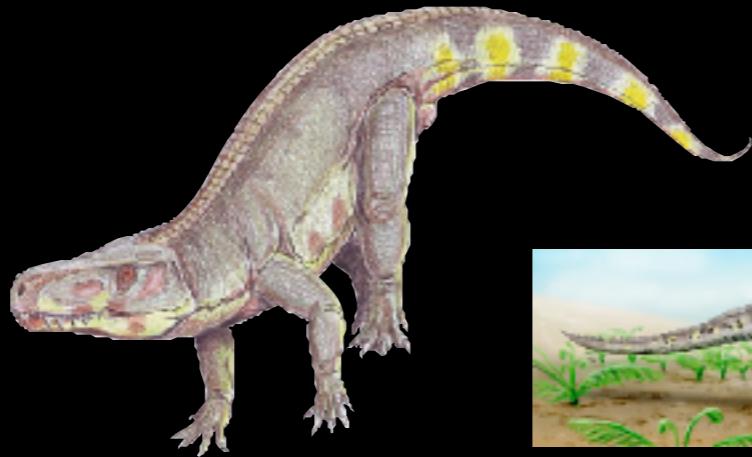
Precision Shear







Crocodylomorpha



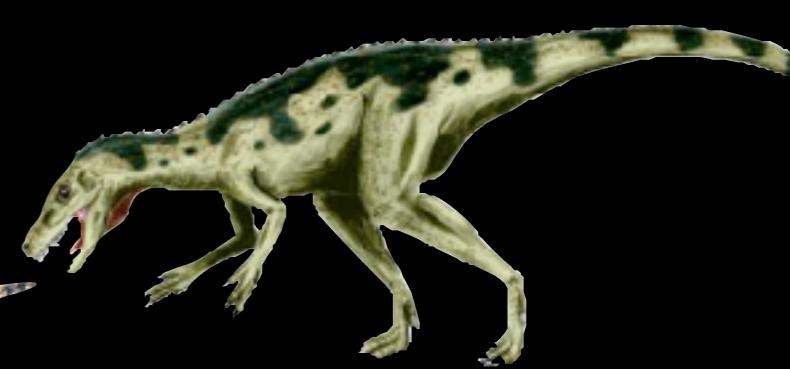
“Rauisuchia”



Ornithosuchidae



Pterosauria



Dinosauria

Ornithodira

Crown-clade Archosauria

Crurotarsi

Basal archosaurs

Archosauria

# Archosauria: synapomorphies

Antorbital fenestra (in front of eye)

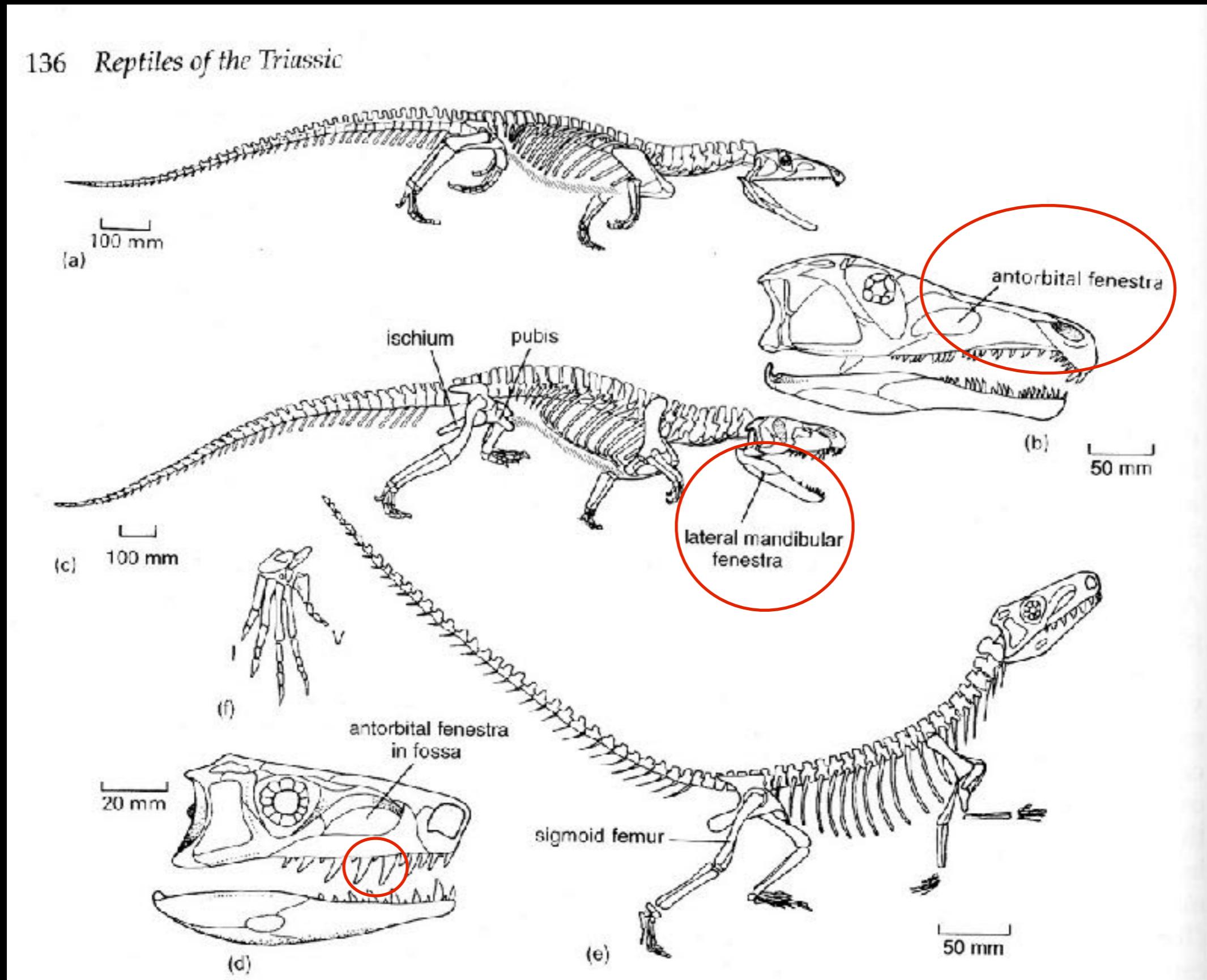
Teeth with serrated margins

Mandibular fenestra



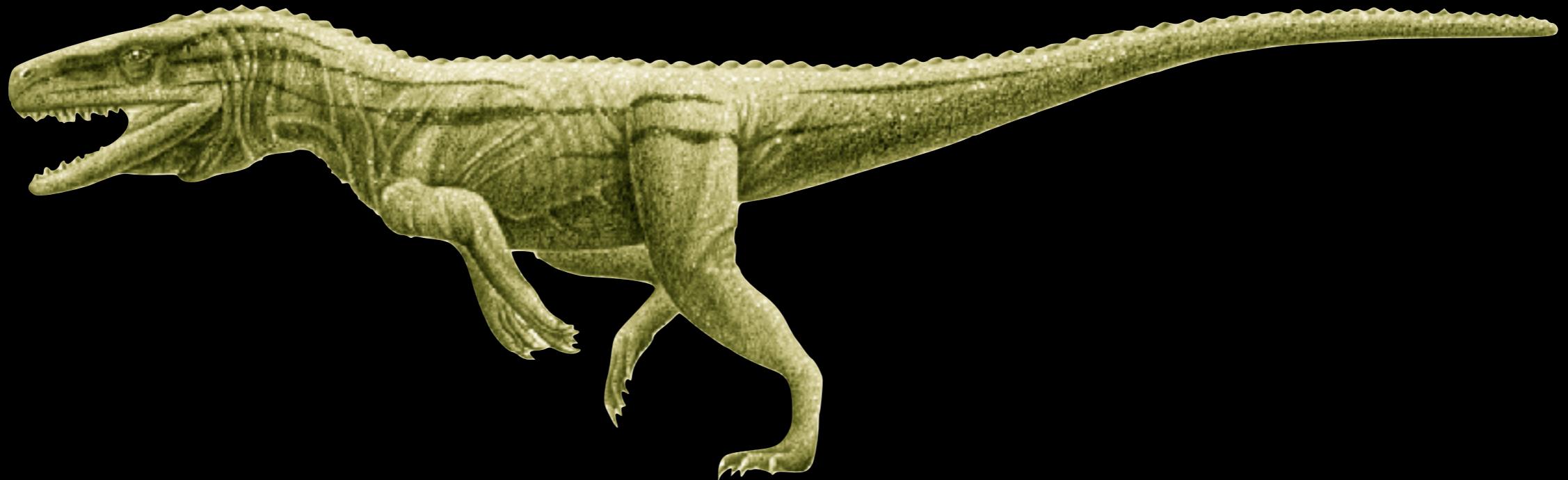
*Proterosuchus*

Basal Archosaur



**Fig. 6.2** Early Triassic archosaurs: (a, b) the proterosuchid *Proterosuchus*, skeleton in running posture, and skull; (c) the erythrosuchid *Vjushkovia*, skeleton in running posture; (d-f) the agile *Euparkeria*, skull in lateral view, skeleton, and foot. [Figures (a, c) based on Greg Paul, in Parrish 1986; (b) after Cruickshank, 1972; (c-f) after Ewer, 1965.]

## Facultative biped vs. Obligate biped



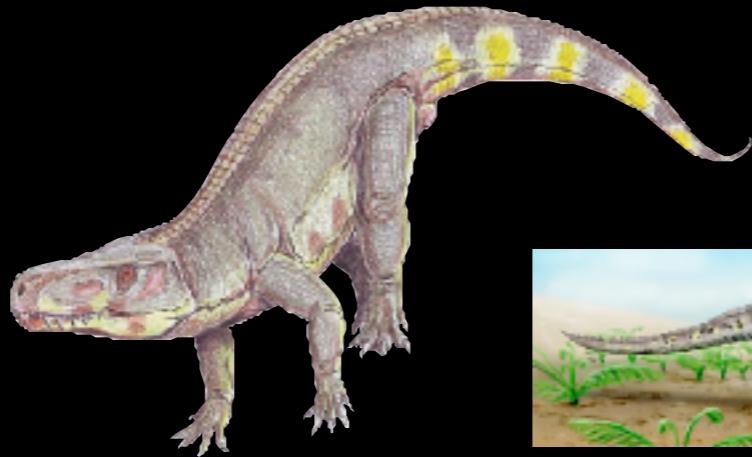
*Euparkeria*

Derived, Basal Archosaur

Bony dermal plates down back



Crocodylomorpha



“Rauisuchia”



Ornithosuchidae



Pterosauria

Dinosauria

Ornithodira

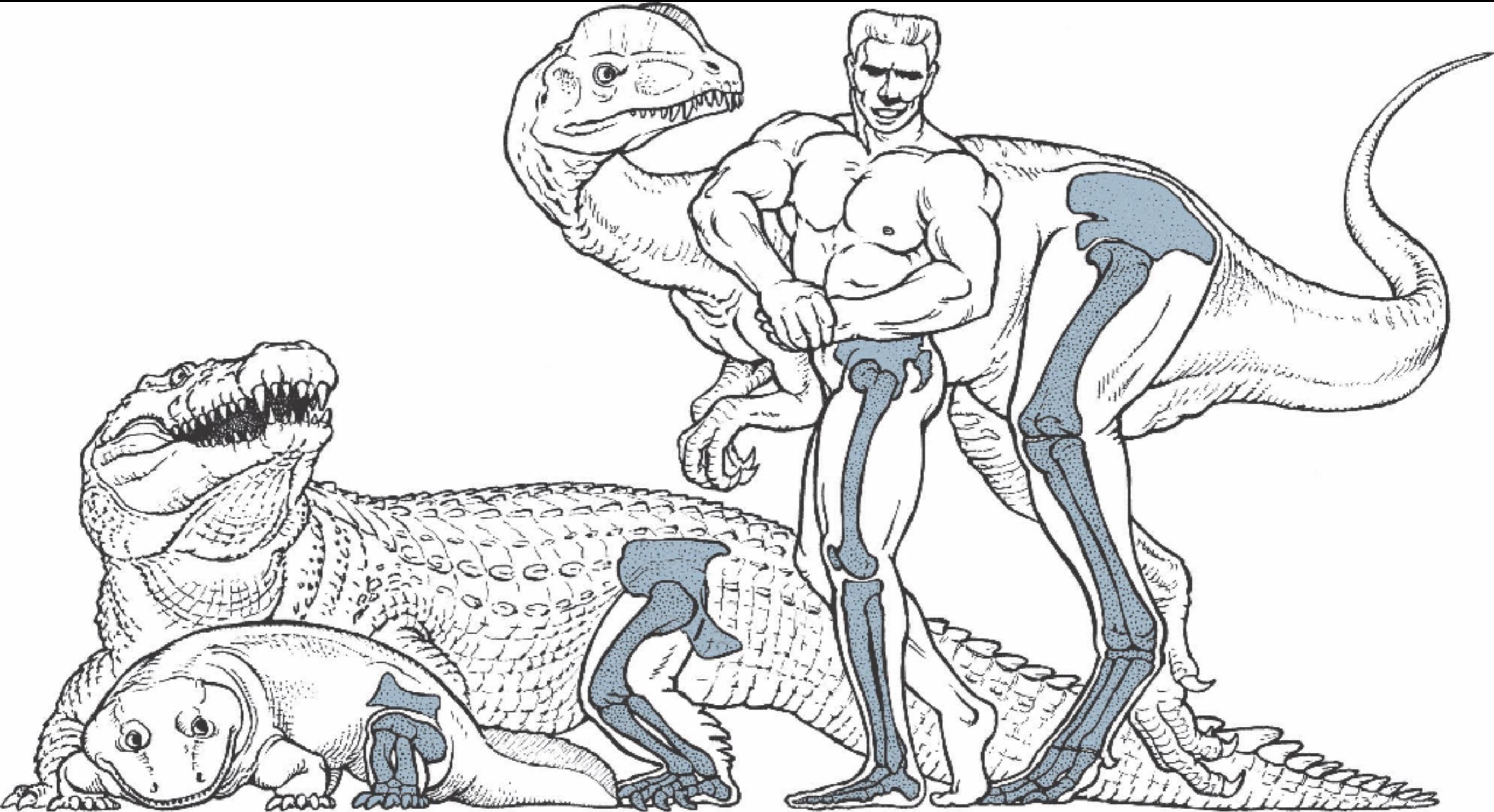
Crurotarsi

Basal archosaurs

Crown-clade Archosauria

Archosauria

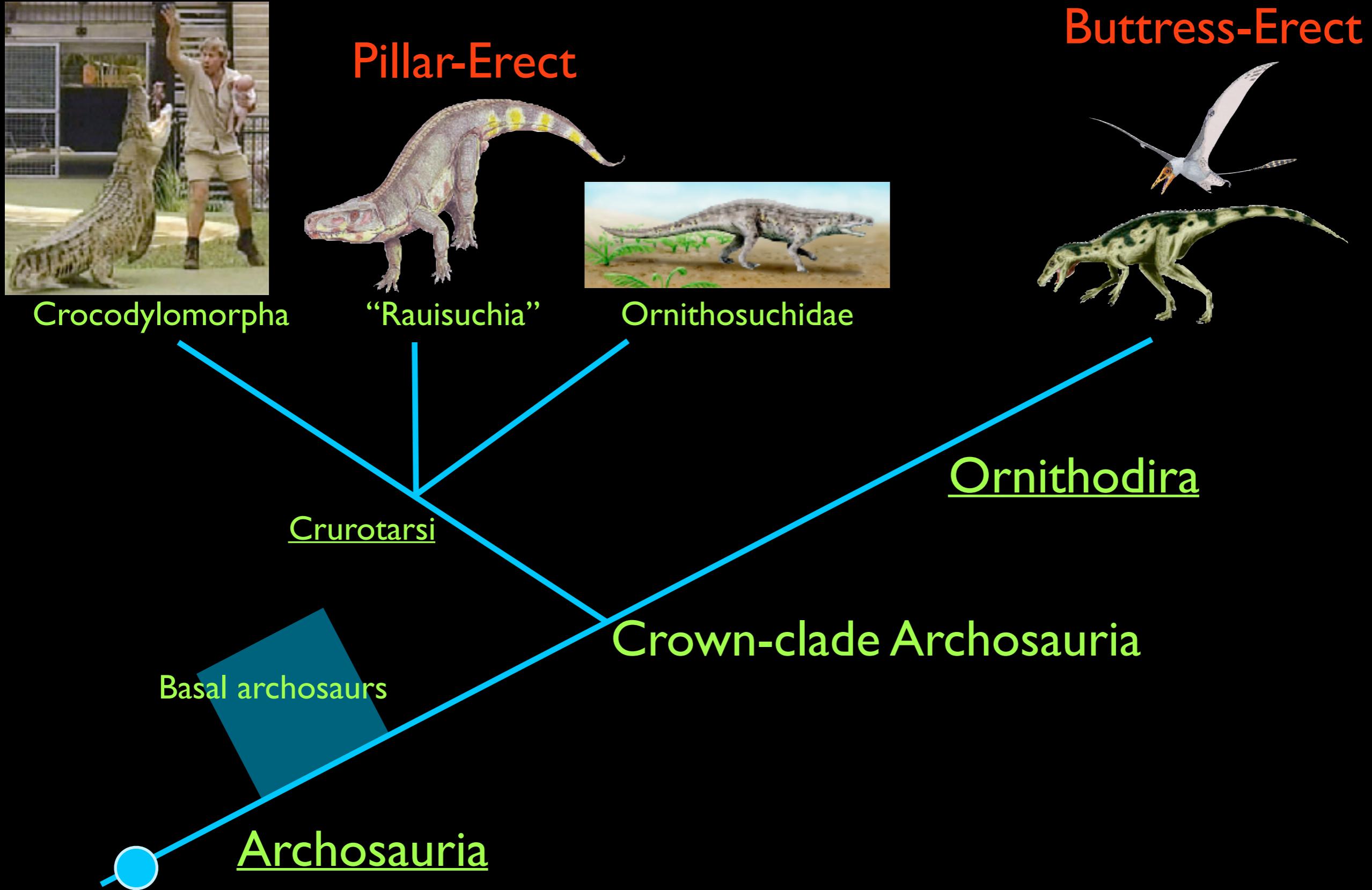
Stances:  
sprawling <=> semi-erect <=> erect  
aquatic <=> terrestrial



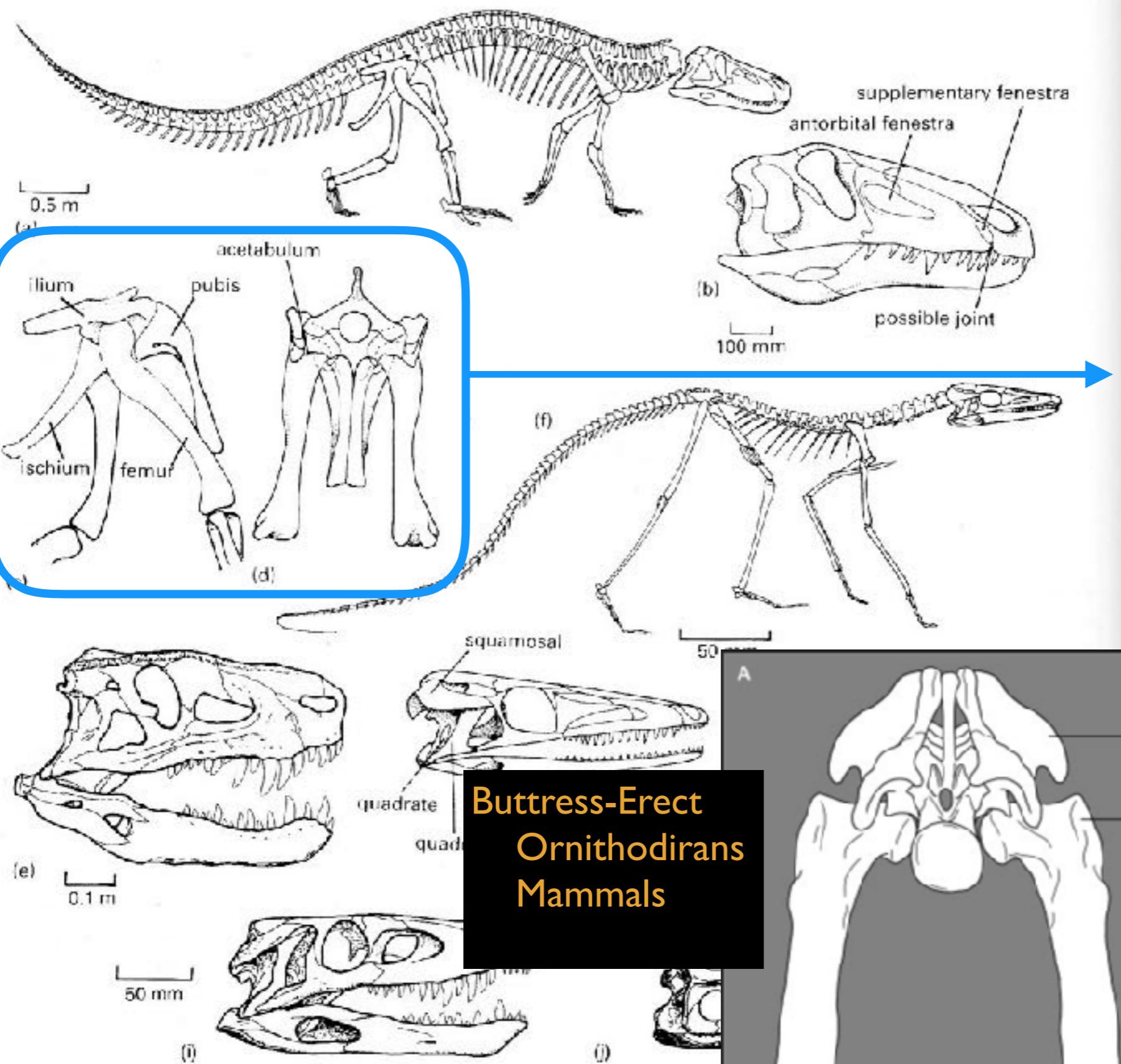


5reb.com

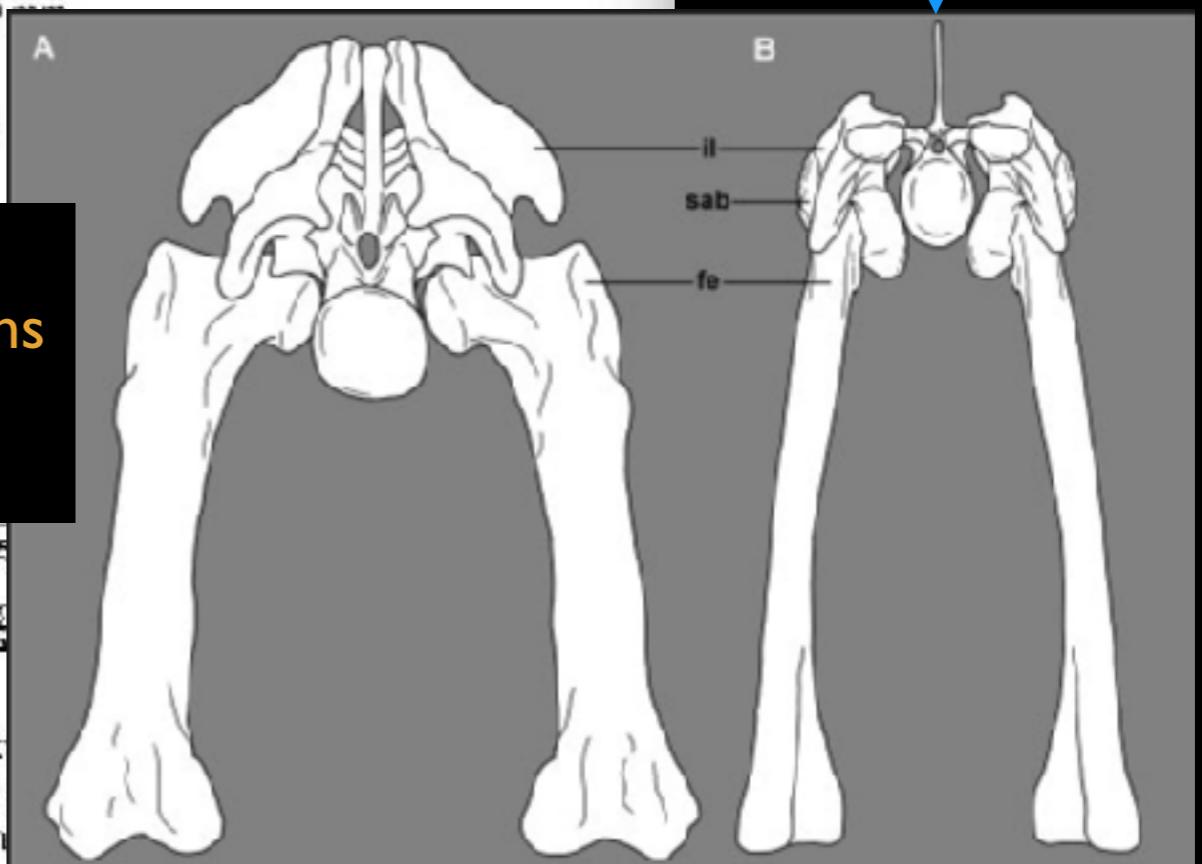
# Locomotion: Pelvic/Hind leg conditions:



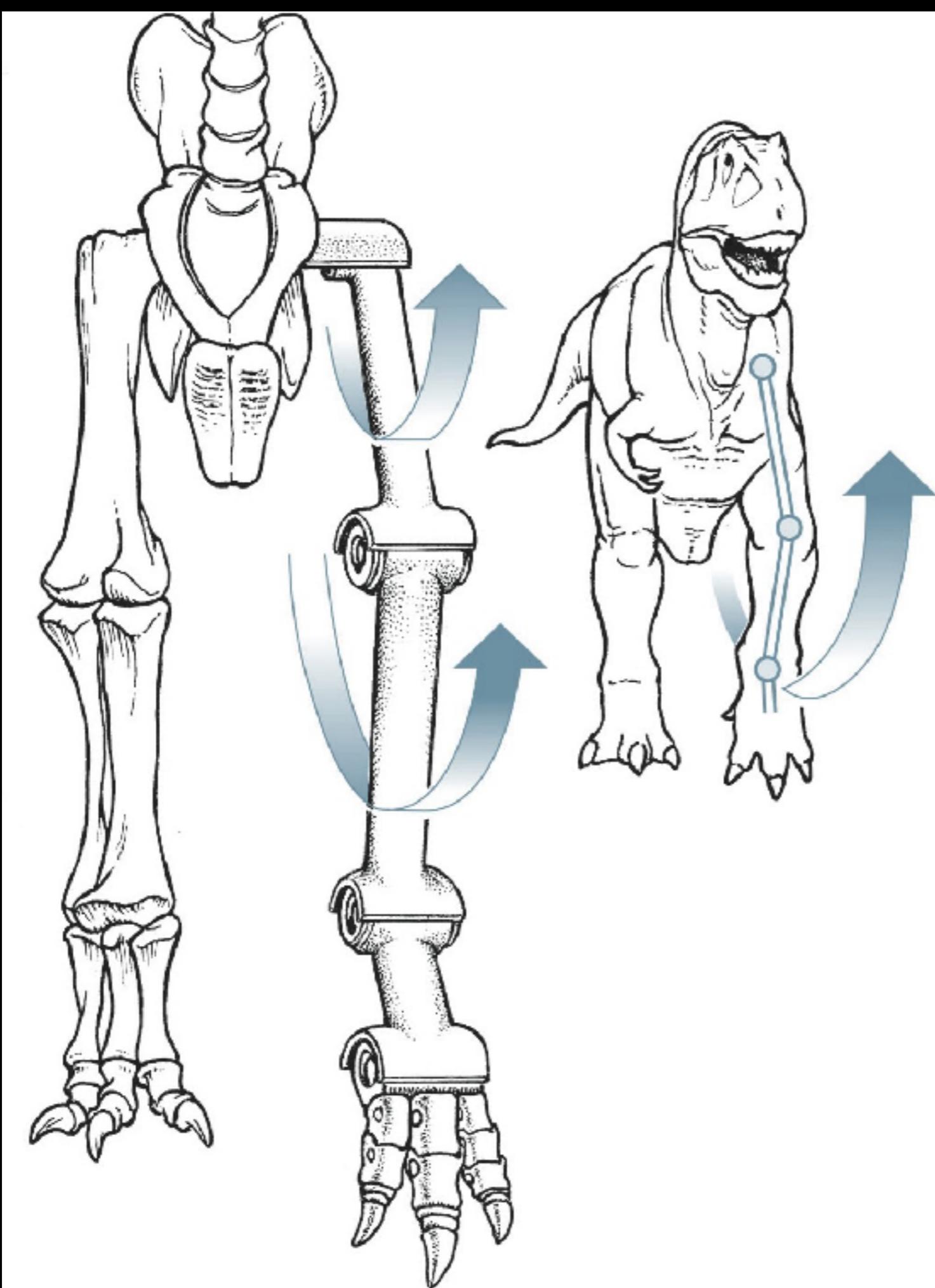
# Locomotion (Pelvis)



Rauisuchians  
-Pillar-Erect Posture



**Fig. 6.4** The rauisuchid *Saurosuchus*: (a) skeleton in walking pose; (b) skull and hind limbs in lateral and anterior views to show the 'pillar erect' posture; (c) skull in lateral view; (d) the saltoposuchid *Terrestrisuchus*, skeleton in anterior view; (e) the sphenosuchid *Sphenosuchus*, skull in lateral and dorsal views. [Figures (a-d) after Bonaparte, 1981; (e) modified from Murry and Long, 1995; (f-h), after Crush, 1984; (i, j) modified from Walker, 1990.]



Barrel-like articulation  
Constrained 'twisting'  
motion to the plane  
parallel with its body

Digitigrade  
vs.  
Plantigrade

Crocodylomorpha

Late Triassic

*Terrestrisuchus*

*Saltoposuchus*

BIPEDAL!/TERRESTRIAL!



*Terrestrisuchus*



*Saltoposuchus*

A return to aquatic environments was more recent for crocodylomorphs



Pterosauria

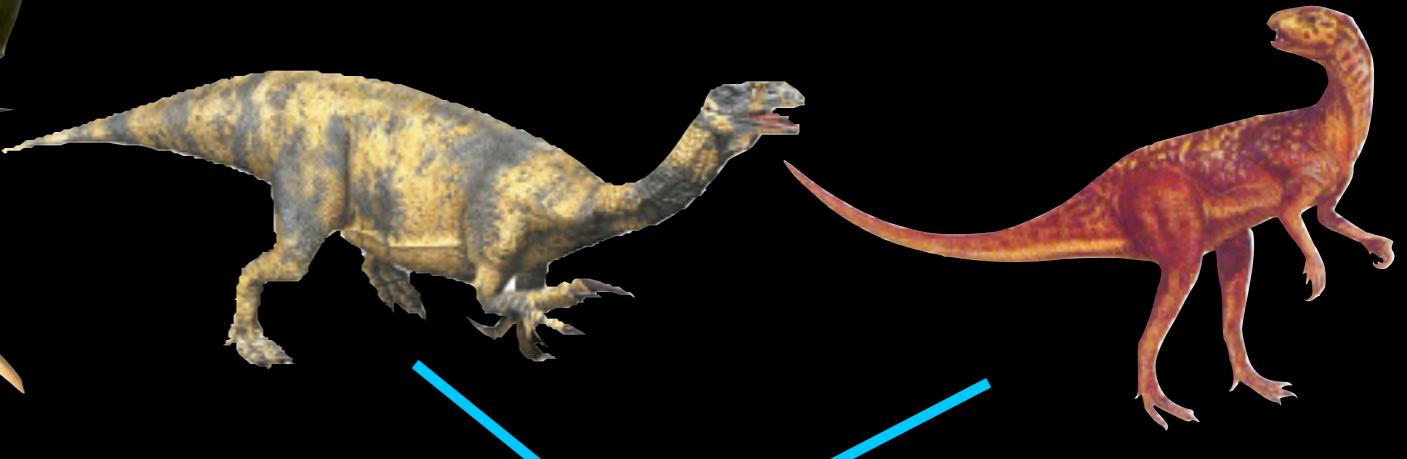
(later)

Saurischia

Ornithischia

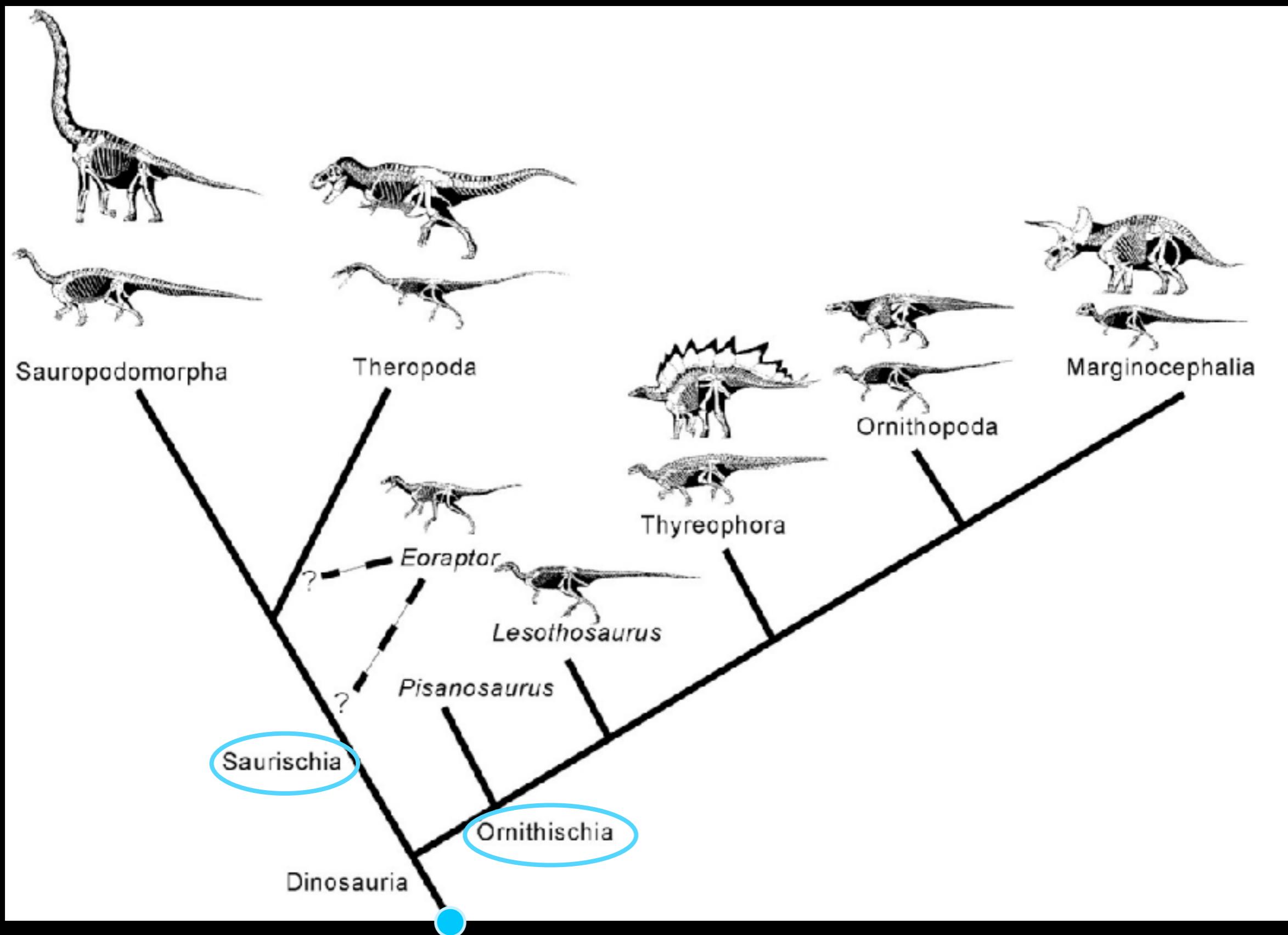
Ornithodira

Dinosauria

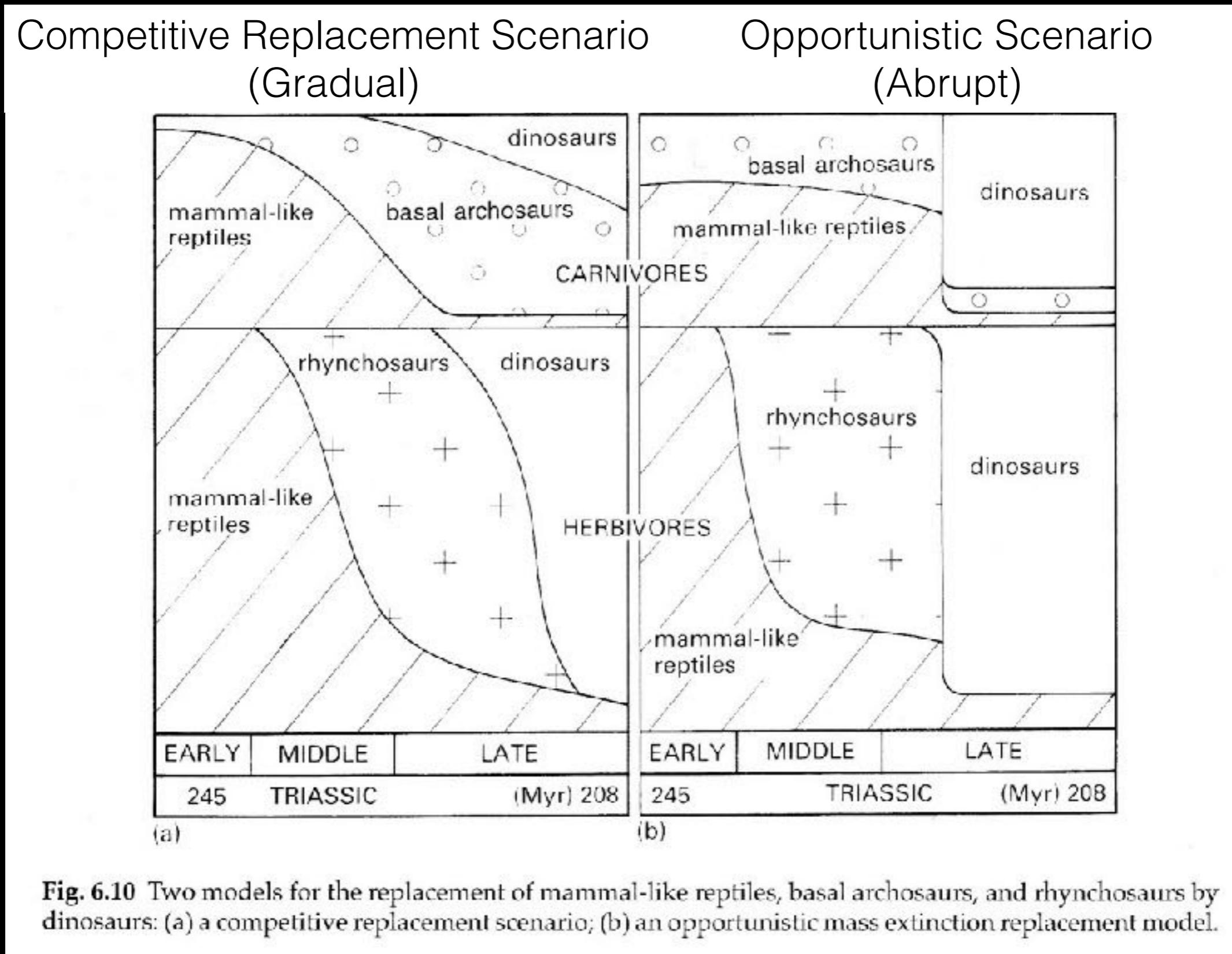




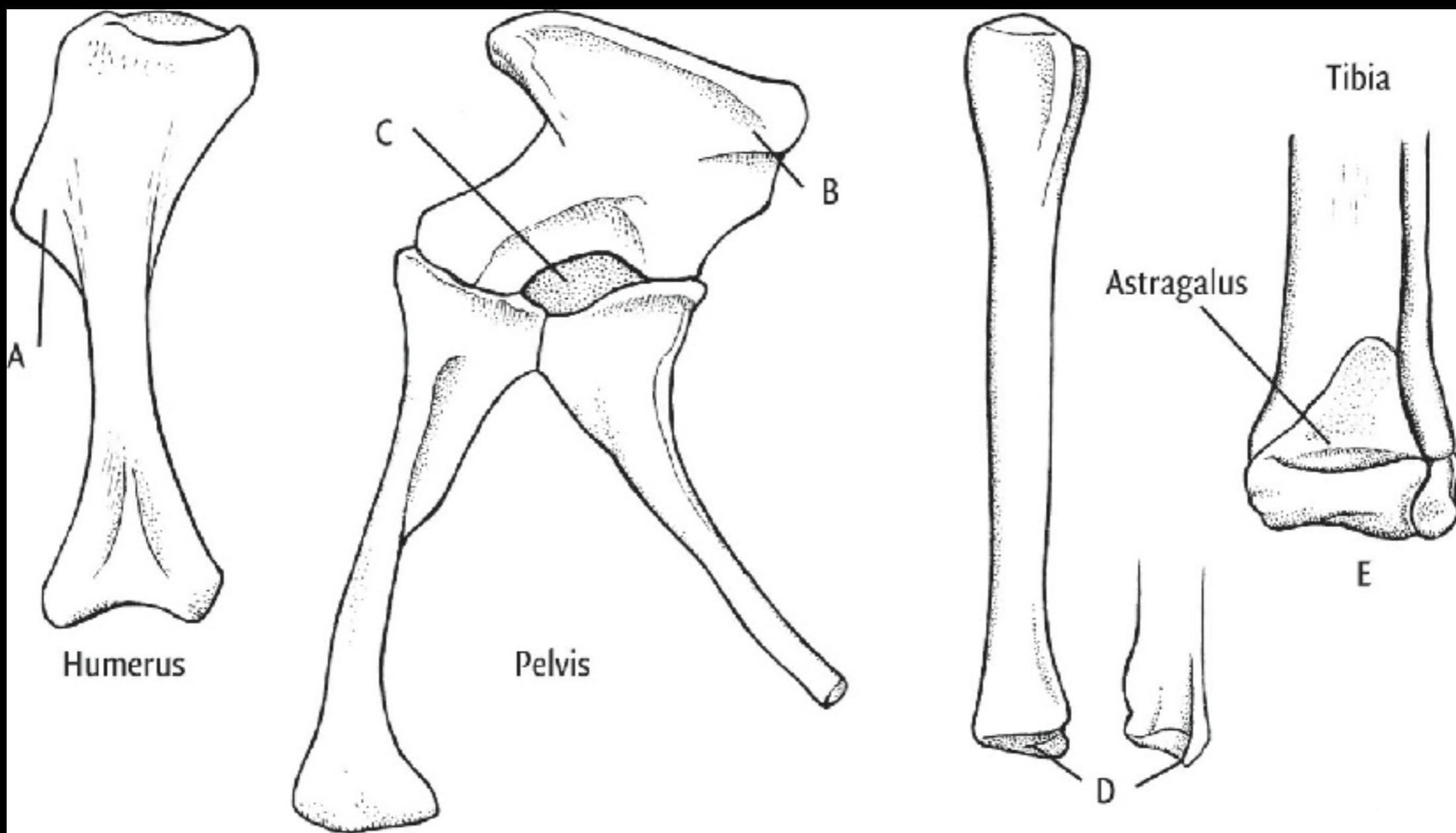
# DINOSAURS



# Dinosaur expansion: multiple models



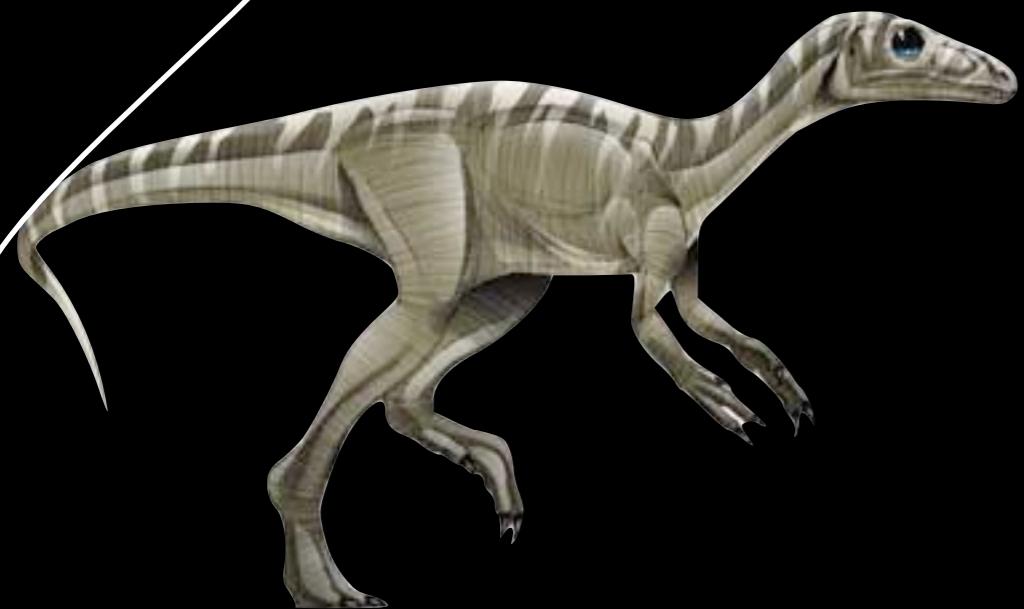
**Fig. 6.10** Two models for the replacement of mammal-like reptiles, basal archosaurs, and rhynchosaurians by dinosaurs: (a) a competitive replacement scenario; (b) an opportunistic mass extinction replacement model.



## Dinosaur synapomorphies

- A) Crest on humerus
- B) Shelf on top surface of ilium
- C) Perforated acetabulum
- D) Tibia w/ expanded end
- E) Ascending astragalar process on front surface of tibia

## Basal Dinosaurs



*Eoraptor*



*Pisanosaurus*



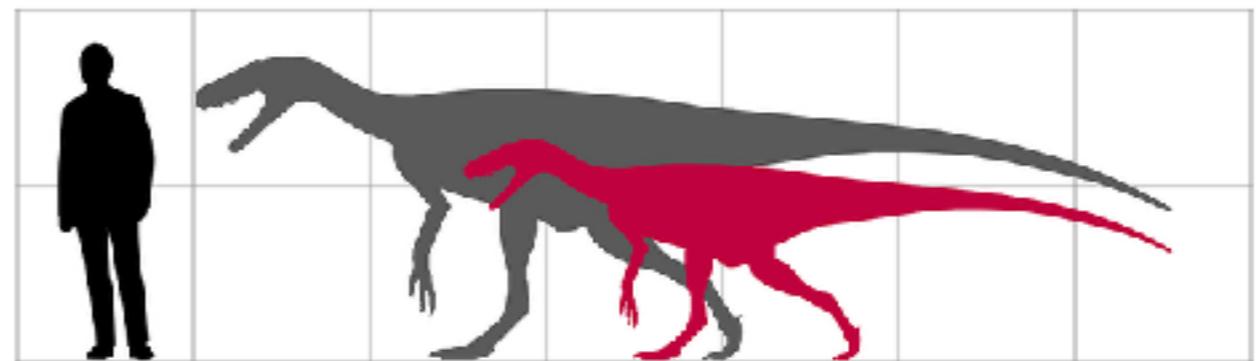
*Herrerasaurus*



*Coelophysis*

Saurischia

# Herrerasaurus

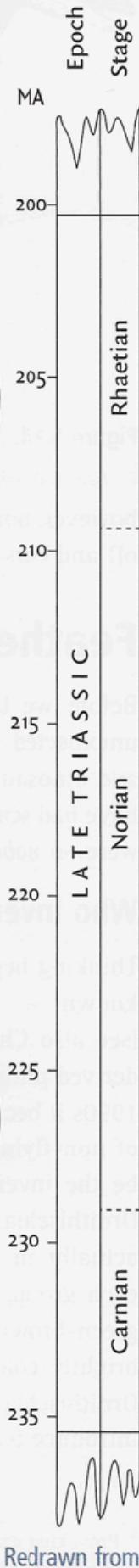
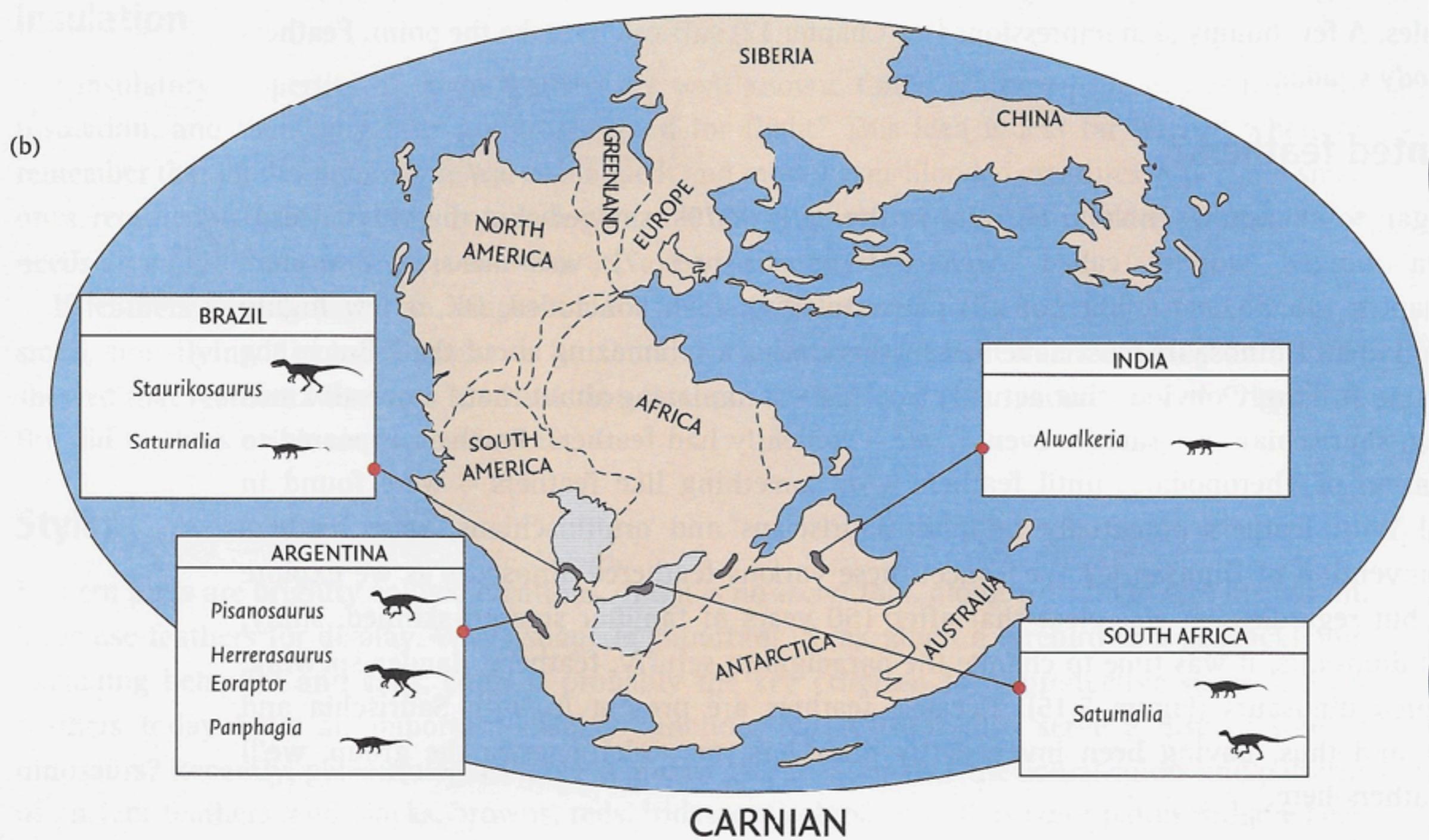


Hunted small-mid sized dinosaurs and synapsids such as *Pisanosaurus*

-gut could dissolve bone

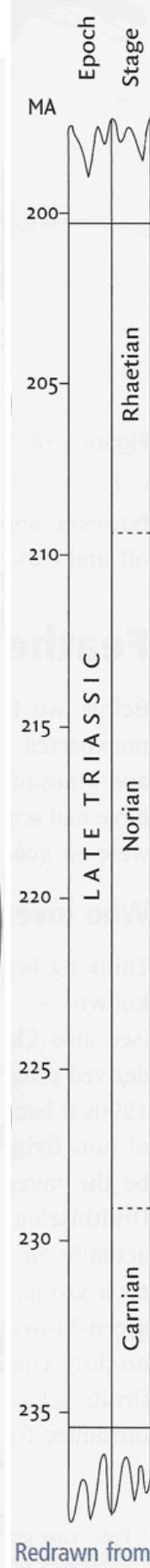
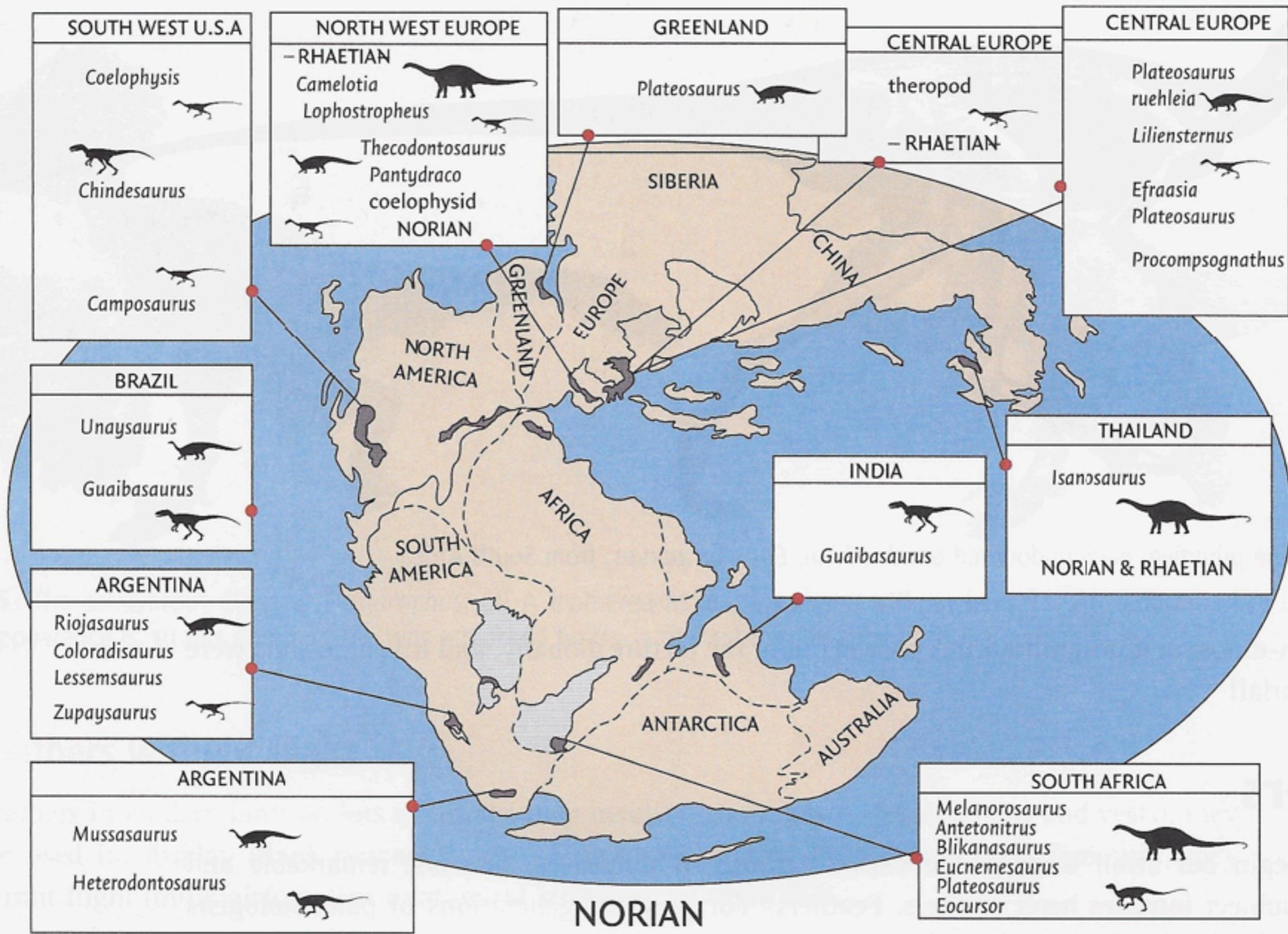


# Between 235-230 MA



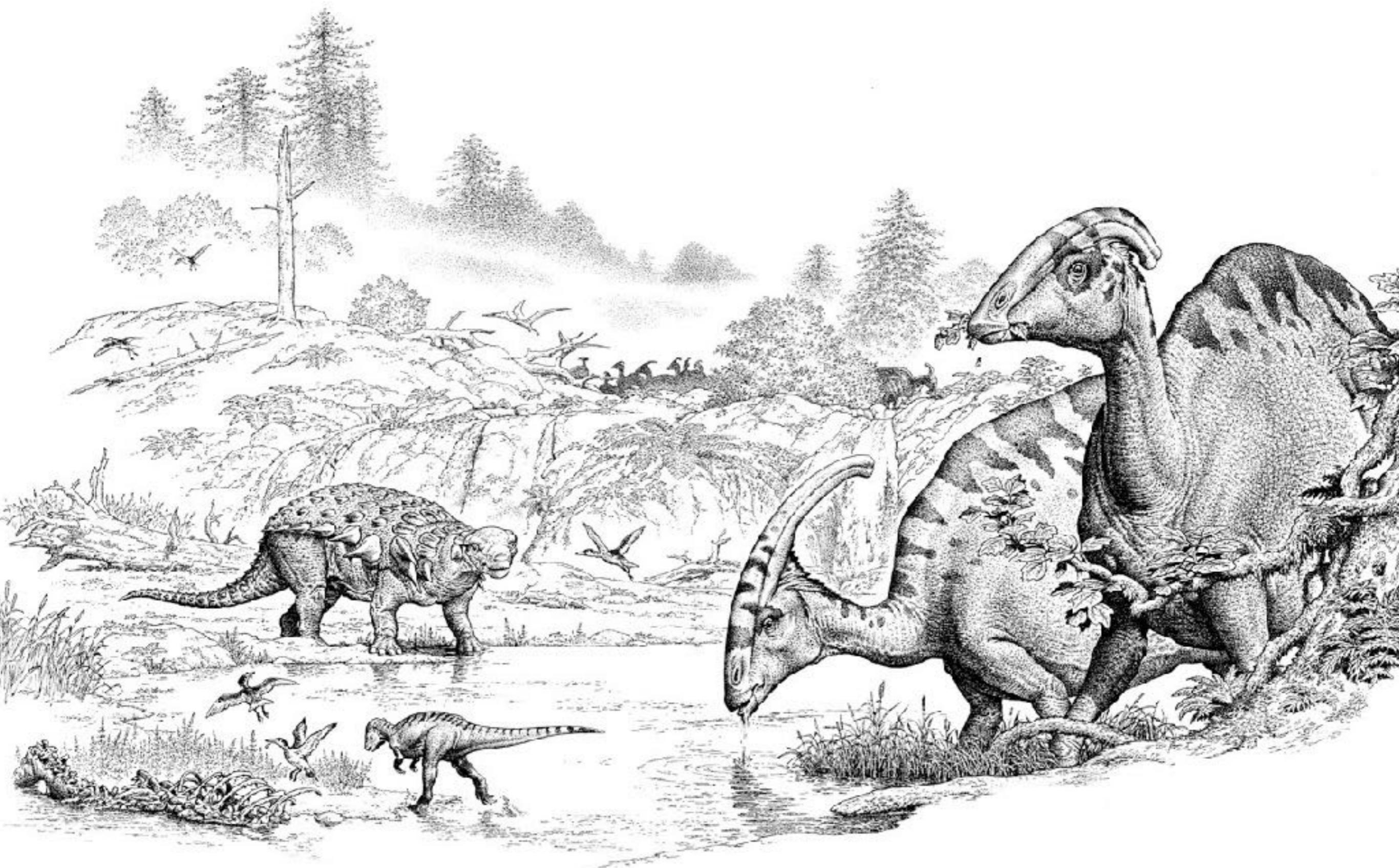
# Between 230-200 MA

(a)



Redrawn from

# Ornithischians!



*Lesothosaurus*

Saurischia

Dinosauria

1

2

4

Thyreophora  
[Chapter 5]

Heterodontosauridae

Marginocephalia  
[Chapter 6]

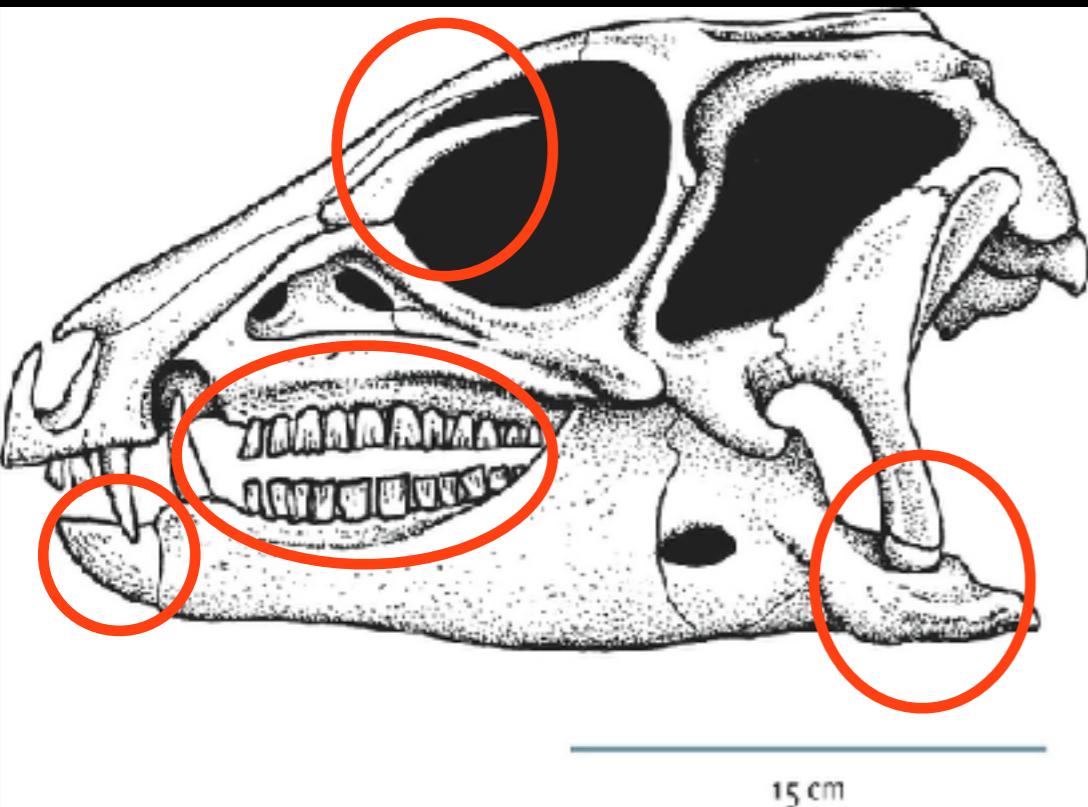
'Cheeky' saurs

Ornithischia

2

Genasauria

Cerapoda  
3Ornithopoda  
[Chapter 7]



*Heterodontosaurus*

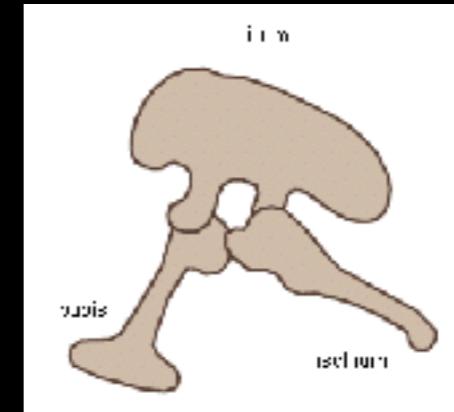
Shared, derived traits of skull

Predatory

Low jaw joint

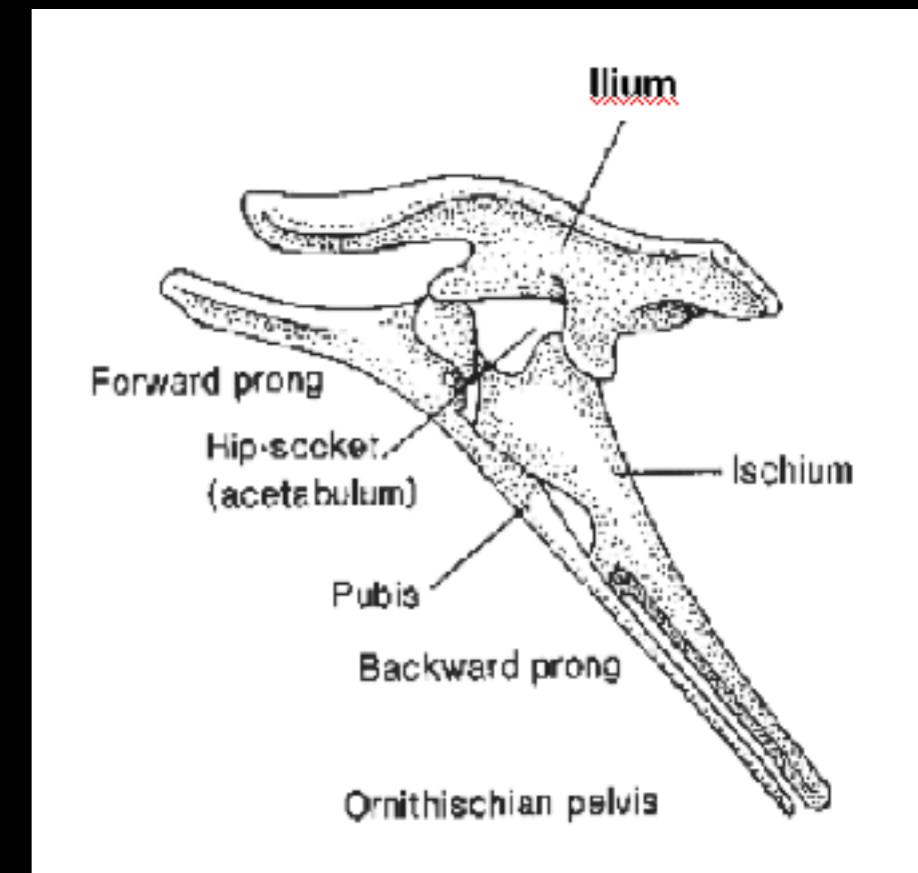
Palpebral bone: EAGLE EYE!

Deep set cheek teeth



Basal  
Ornithodiran  
condition

Head ← Tail →



Hip shared, derived, trait

‘Opisthopubic pelvis’

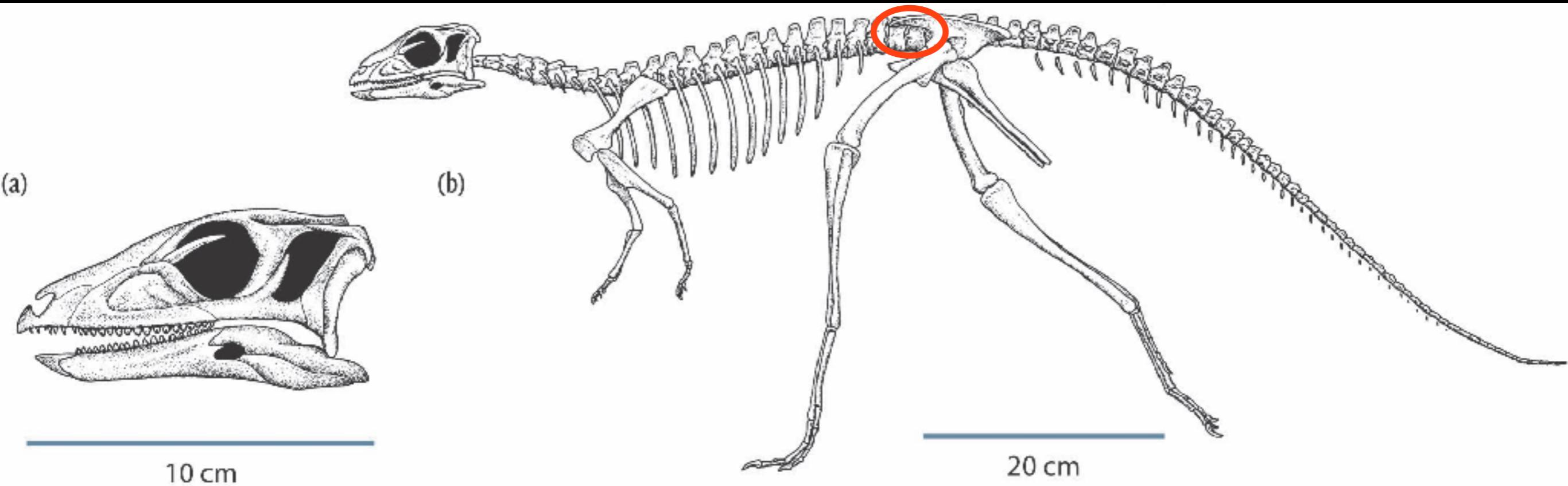
## Other shared, derived traits

At least 5 sacral vertebrae

Ossified tendons above sacral region

Frontal process on illium

*Lesothosaurus*





## How do mammals chew?

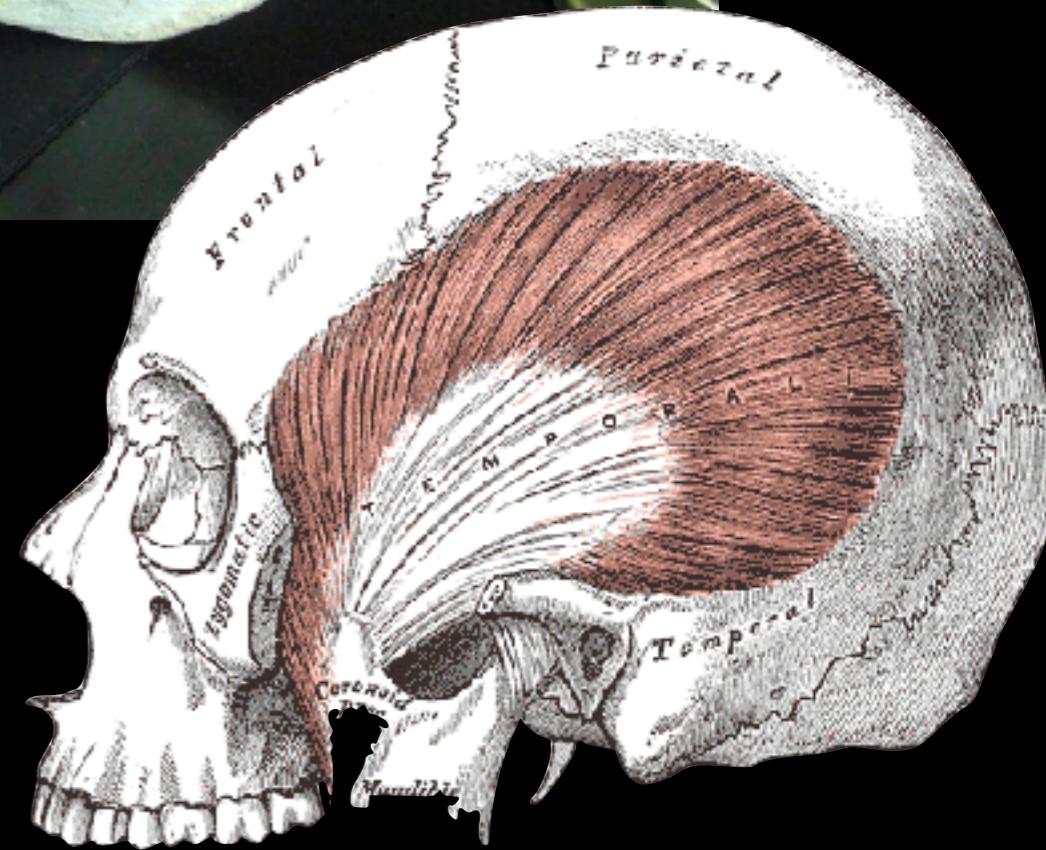
Front: Cropping

**Diastem:** Manipulation by tongue

Cheek teeth: Grinding (occluding)

Coronoid Process ~ Muscle attachments

Inset molars for cheeks ~ keep food in mouth





*Edmontosaurus*  
*Ornithopod*

## How did Ornithischians chew? In very similar ways

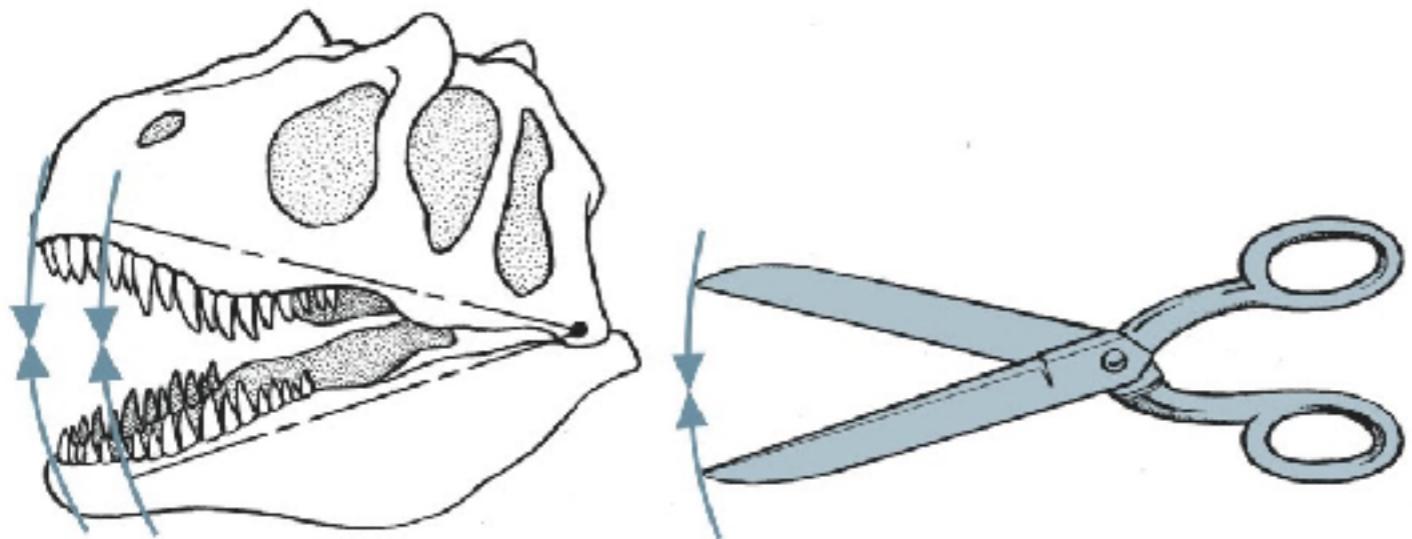
Front: Cropping: carried out by keratin RAMPHOTHECA

Diastem: Manipulation by tongue

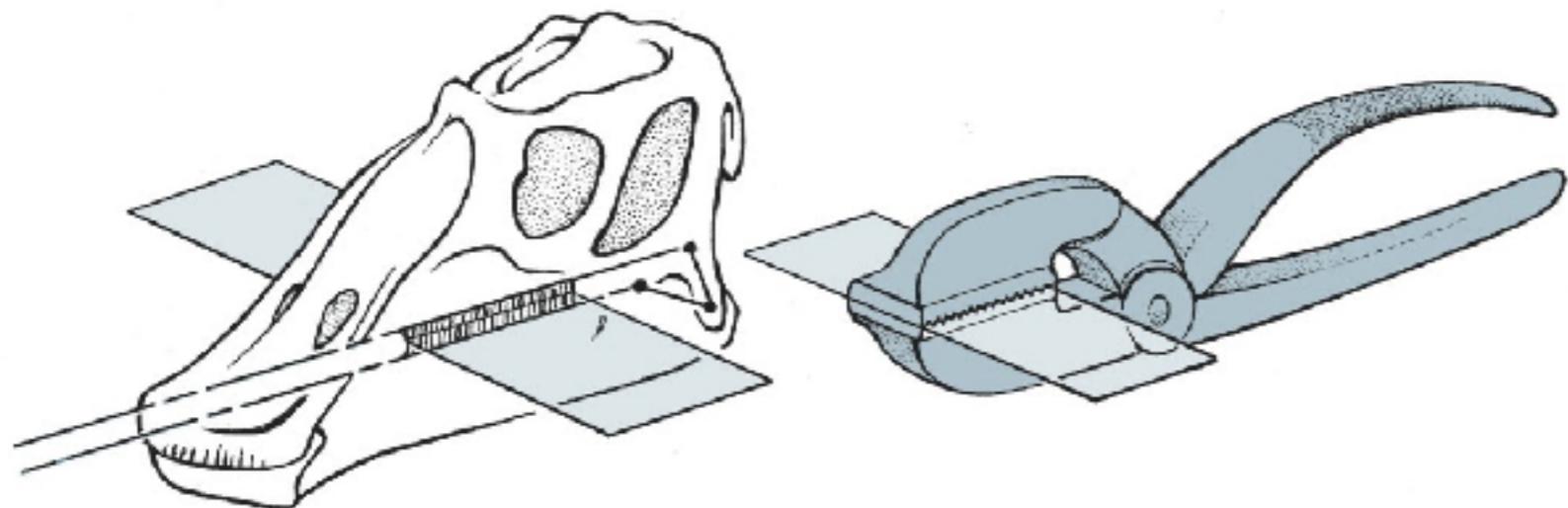
Cheek teeth: Grinding! Dental Batteries

Coronoid Process ~ Different shape, different muscle attachments

Inset molars for cheeks ~ keep food in mouth



**Traveling force**  
Small area, large force



**Broadly distributed  
force**  
Large area, less force

## How did Ornithischians chew?

The Angle of the jaw. Scissors vs. Pliers

# Basal Ornithischians



*Pisanosaurus*



*Lesothosaurus*

Everything else in Ornithischia  
is in Genasauria → Chewing

