

Jurassic Fact File

Scutellosaurus

Not all dinosaurs were giants - especially at the beginning of the Jurassic. This tiny lizard-like dinosaur probably crept around those ancient forests, eating plants and trying not to be eaten in turn. It had two ways of avoiding becoming food - it could run away fast on its hind legs, or it could rely on its light armour to protect it. The back and sides of *Scutellosaurus* were covered in bony plates embedded in the skin (scutes - hence the name), and its tail was longer than other related dinosaurs, probably to balance the weight of the armour. It could walk on all four legs or stand up to use its hands to grasp branches, pulling them down to eat.