

Introduction to a New Journal for Taphonomic Research

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Welcome to our readers and contributors.

In the past 60 years, taphonomy has come into its own, growing from a little known subdiscipline of paleontology to a fully-fledged discipline, with full-time practitioners. The multitude of current researchers in taphonomy specialize in its application in studies concerned with widely divergent geological time periods and in a variety of fields -from paleontology, geology, archaeology, paleobotany, paleoecology, paleoentomology and even forensics. Some taphonomists focus strictly on the study of biostratigraphic processes, while others concentrate on processes that occur in the diagenetic phase. Much work centers around the actualistic study of modern processes by observation and simulation, and its application to problems encountered in the fossil record.

Results of this varied research are

sometimes published together, as separate chapters, in books with taphonomic themes -but, more often, they appear spread across journals with disparate audiences. We believe that many taphonomists would benefit from more regular exposure to articles that might be outside their specific field of study, but that are still taphonomic in nature. Thus, the **Journal of Taphonomy** is proposed as a venue for publishing the highest quality, data-rich articles on taphonomic research, in all its diversity -from the analysis of burial processes affecting micro-organisms to the study of processes conditioning the modification and preservation of macro-organisms in natural and/or human-created settings. The stated goal of the **Journal of Taphonomy** is to facilitate the academic diffusion of the discipline that is basic to the interpretation of past systems of biotic interaction.

Acceptable papers will generally follow a

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hypothesis-contrasting scientific approach, with shorter, observational contributions also considered. In addition, occasional special issues focused on a particular topic of interest and perhaps with a guest editor will be considered after submission of a formal proposal to the Co-Editors. Our scientific board (Assistant Editors), made up of some of the most prominent specialists in their fields of study, guarantees the high quality of the journal.

In closing, we hope you enjoy the journal's current and forthcoming articles, and invite you to consider publishing the results of your taphonomic work in the **Journal of Taphonomy**. Readership involvement and feedback is essential to our long-term success, so please do not hesitate to send your comments and suggestions to any of the Co-Editors.

Thank you for your interest and support.