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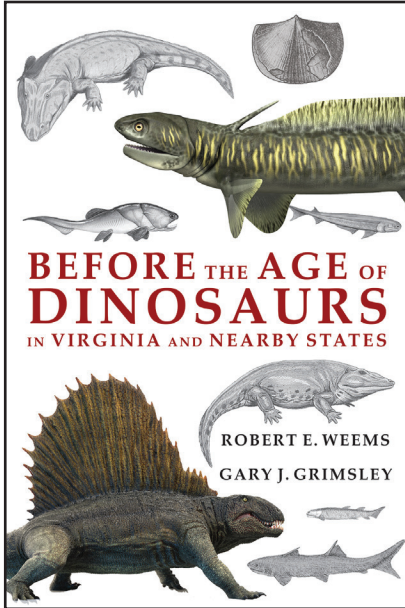
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# BEFORE THE AGE OF DINOSAURS

IN VIRGINIA AND NEARBY STATES

ROBERT E. WEEMS GARY J. GRIMSLEY



**T**he story of the ancient fossil animals and plants that lived in Virginia before the time of the dinosaurs is scarcely known to the public at large, even though numerous papers have been written about these creatures over the past two hundred years. Because most of this information is only available to academics in old scientific journals, the present book is presented to offer a detailed and comprehensive introduction to the largely unpublicized history of the animals and plants that lived in Virginia and nearby Mid-Atlantic States during the very ancient ages before even the dinosaurs had arisen on the world stage. While this book is focused primarily on the ancient fossil history of Virginia, it also extensively covers the fossils known from before the time of the dinosaurs in North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. The synthesis presented here provides a detailed summary of the diverse assemblage of fossil animals and plants that lived and died here long before the age of dinosaurs had even begun.

## About the Authors



**Robert E. Weems** grew up in Ashland, Virginia. In the second grade, he read a book called All About Dinosaurs by Roy Chapman Andrews and from then on became determined to learn all he could about the fossil animals and plants in Virginia and nearby states. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Randolph-Macon College in 1968, a master's degree in geology from Virginia Tech in 1972 and a doctoral degree from the George Washington University in 1978. Dr. Weems worked for the U. S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia, from 1978 to 2010 studying and mapping the stratigraphy of piedmont and coastal plain strata in the eastern United States. Since then, he has spent much of his retirement continuing research on the fossil animals and plants in and around the Virginia region.



**Gary J. Grimsley** grew up in Annandale, Virginia. Like his co-author, he became fascinated with fossils and paleontology at a young age upon reading several books on dinosaurs and other animals from the past, especially Fossils (A Golden Guide) by Paul R. Shaffer, Frank H. T. Rhodes and Herbert S. Zim, which he read and reread many times. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Virginia Tech in 1977. Since then, he has spent decades collecting and studying fossils in the Mid-Atlantic region and for seven years was a member of the board of directors for the Maryland Geological Society. He is currently collaborating with several professional paleontologists on research projects and publications about the Maryland and Virginia regions.

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