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Symposium

Recent paleontologic contributions to the study of evolution

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Paleontology has long provided a unique perspective on evolution, documenting the history of evolutionary change over periods of thousands to billions of years. Major events in the history of life such as mass extinctions, and the existence of major groups of extinct organisms are only known from paleontologic research. Paleontology also provides insight into the factors regulating global biodiversity, and data on rates of evolutionary change at various scales from species to entire phyla. This symposium will provide a review of paleontologic evolution research over the last years, covering themes such as microevolution, macroevolution, mass extinctions and biodiversity. More technical issues such as determining the quality of the fossil record and effectively working with fossil data will also be discussed. In addition to invited review talks, results of current research projects in selected subjects will be given. A companion poster session will provide an outlet for other individual research projects and an informal forum where paleontologists, particularly students, can interact with the evolutionary research community.