

Section 1. New Discovery: A New Species.

Fun Facts

- *Bambiraptor*'s name comes from the Italian *bambino*, meaning "baby," not because of Disney's baby deer.
- *Bambiraptor* is related to *Velociraptor* of Jurassic Park. The *Velociraptor* could kick forward and flip a big claw forward and downward, like a switch-blade knife, cutting long wound in its prey.
- "Bambi" may be like a bird in many ways but had strong, curved, serrated bladelike teeth. Modern birds don't have teeth. Bats, the only flying mammal, have teeth.
- Some mammals were big enough to eat small dinosaurs.
- If we have a footprint, we can estimate the length of the leg—in an adult, will be about 4x the length of the foot.

Q&A

Q: How many kinds of dinosaurs do we believe existed?

A: One estimate is that there were between 900-1200 living dinosaur genera and thousands of species.

Q: Why haven't we found any dinosaurs in California?

A: This part of the world was underwater during the Age of Dinosaurs. The western edge of the continent ended in Nevada and land that was to become California had not yet formed.

Q: Were all land areas one continent at the time of the dinosaurs?

A: Yes and no. Dinosaurs existed for 165 million years (from 230 mya to 65 mya) and the "supercontinent" Pangea broke up about mid-way through this time interval. So the dinosaurs originated when there was only one continent but by the time they went extinct, the continents had already begun to break apart and started moving to their current configurations. Until about 165 mya, dinos had access to all of Pangea.

Q: What does the word "dinosaur" mean?

A: Terrible lizard.

Q: Who discovered *Bambiraptor* and where?

A: A 14-year-old boy on his family's ranch in Montana.

Q: Why do we think "Bambi" was a hunter?

A: Large claw on second toe was probably used for killing prey, suggesting fierce hunter; serrated teeth of carnivore; large brain nearly as large as brain of some modern birds, suggesting ability to learn typical of predators; light build, long limbs, and raptorial claws show it was an agile predator.

Q: What did "Bambi" eat?

A: Small mammals and reptiles.

Q: What did “Bambi” weigh when alive?

A: This is a juvenile but the adult weighed only about 6.5 pounds and was 4 feet long.

Q: This feathered dinosaur looks like a bird but could “Bambi” fly?

A: No. Like other dromaeosaurs, Bambi had feathers and other features like hollow bones that are used in flight but its arms were probably too short to function as wings.

Q: What are some similarities between “Bambi” and a roadrunner?

A: Folding arms; S-shaped neck; wishbone; three primary toes on feet.