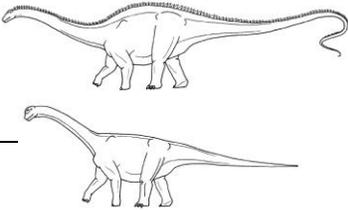
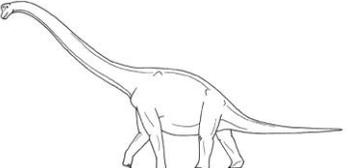
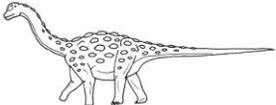


**The Fossil Record of North American Sauropodomorphs**  
(prosauropods and sauropods)

Group	Triassic	Jurassic	Early Cretaceous	Late Cret.
Basal sauropodomorphs ("prosauropods")	<i>Anchisaurus</i> <i>Ammosaurus</i> new taxa from SW USA			
Uncertain Affinities		<i>Dystrophaeus</i> "Apto." <i>minimus</i> <i>Haplocanthosaurus</i> <i>Eobrontosaurus</i>		
Diplodocoids		<i>Amphicoelias</i> <i>Suuwassea</i> new taxon shown at SVP 2002		
Diplodocids		<i>Apatosaurus</i> <i>Diplodocus</i> <i>Barosaurus</i> <i>Supersaurus</i>		
Camarasaurids		<i>Camarasaurus</i>	Dalton Wells cam.	
<i>Brachiosaurus</i> -like brachiosaurids		<i>Brachiosaurus</i>	<i>Sonorasaurus</i> <i>Cedarosaurus</i> Cloverly brach. <i>Sauroposeidon</i> <i>Paluxysaurus</i> DNM brachiosaur CEU brachiosaur Long Walk brach.	
<i>Sauroposeidon</i> -like brachiosaurids				
Titanosauriforms (some may be brachs or titans)			<i>Astrodon</i> <i>Venenosaurus</i> Hotel Mesa taxon	
Titanosaurians			Cloverly titanosaur Dalton Wells titan.	<i>Alamosaurus</i>
	<u>Triassic:</u> 2 described, more under study	<u>Jurassic:</u> 12 described, 1 under study	<u>Early K:</u> 6 described, 8 under study	<u>Late K:</u> 1 described

MATHEW J. WEDEL  
University of California, Merced  
E-mail: [mwedel@ucmerced.edu](mailto:mwedel@ucmerced.edu)  
PDFs: <http://www.sauroposeidon.net/>

MICHAEL P. TAYLOR  
University of Portsmouth, U.K.  
E-mail: [mike@miketaylor.org.uk](mailto:mike@miketaylor.org.uk)  
PDFs: <http://www.miketaylor.org.uk/dino/pubs/>

## DID SAUROPODS REALLY DECLINE IN THE EARLY CRETACEOUS OF NORTH AMERICA?

The latest Jurassic has traditionally been considered the golden age of sauropods, when well-known Morrison Formation genera such as *Diplodocus*, *Apatosaurus*, *Camarasaurus*, *Brachiosaurus* and *Barosaurus*, together with many less well-known genera, dominated the fauna of North America. By contrast, the record of sauropods in the Early Cretaceous of North America was until recently very sparse, with all elements referred to the poorly known macronarian *Astrodon* (= *Pleurocoelus*).

This has changed dramatically in the last decade, with the new sauropods *Sonorasaurus*, *Cedarosaurus*, *Sauroposeidon*, *Venenosaurus* and *Paluxysaurus* all having been described from the Early Cretaceous of North America, and with at least three more awaiting description in the near future.

So, did sauropods really decline in the Early Cretaceous of North America?

First, although Early Cretaceous sauropods rivaled their Morrison forebears in generic diversity, the former were spread across half a dozen formations and 20 million years, whereas the latter were much more concentrated in space and time.

Second, the phylogenetic content of the North American sauropod fauna shifted dramatically from Jurassic to Cretaceous: the Morrison is dominated by diplodocoids, and macronarians are poorly represented (although the basal macronarian *Camarasaurus* is abundant); the Early Cretaceous sauropod fauna consists entirely of macronarians, most of them basal titanosauriforms. To date, no definitive Cretaceous diplodocid is known from anywhere in the world.

Third, while sauropods are the most abundant dinosaurs in the Morrison, they are among the rarest in their respective faunas in the Early Cretaceous, with most genera known from single specimens.

