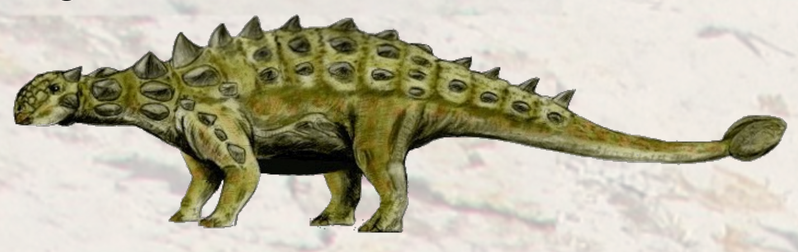
DINOSAURS OF TEXAS: LATE CRETACEOUS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **Paleontological Society of Austin** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Texacephale

Texacephale fossils come from the Aguja Formation of Big Bend. The generic name means Texas + "head" (kephale in Greek). A paper in 2011 disputes this assignment, so this may represent a known *Stegoceras* species (pictured).

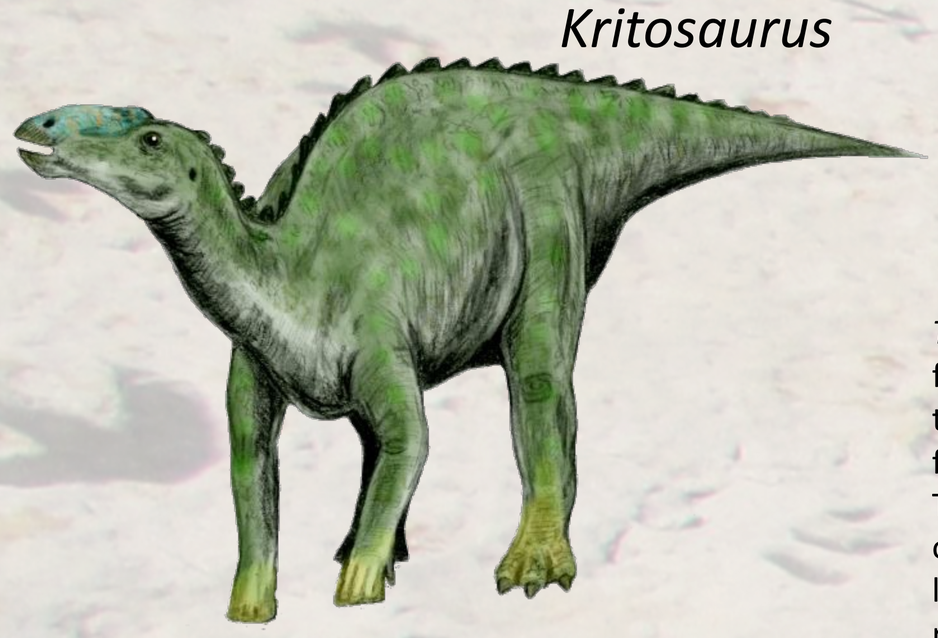
Euoplocephalus was low-slung and very flat and wide, standing on four sturdy legs. Its head had a short drooping snout with a horny beak to bite off plants that were digested in the large gut. Like other ankylosaurids, *Euoplocephalus* was largely covered by bony armor plates, among them rows of large high-ridged oval scutes. The neck was protected by two bone rings. It could also actively defend itself against predators using a heavy club at the end of its tail.

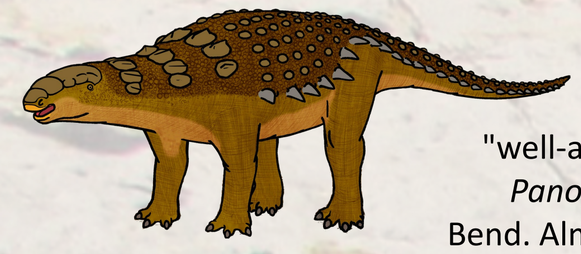


Euoplocephalus

Kritosaurus is an incompletely known genus of hadrosaurid (duck-billed) dinosaur. Its geographic range from northern New Mexico into the Big Bend region.

Kritosaurus





Panoplosaurus

Panoplosaurus is a genus of armored dinosaur named in 1919 for its extensive armor, meaning "well-armored lizard". The Texas specimens attributed to *Panoplosaurus* have been found in the Aguja fm. of Big Bend. Almost the entire surface of the body was covered in plates, osteoderms (bony plates) and scutes of varying sizes.

Torosaurus ("perforated lizard") fossils have been discovered across the Western Interior of North America, from Saskatchewan to southern Texas. *Torosaurus* possessed one of the largest skulls of any known land animal, with the frilled skull reaching 9 in length.

Torosaurus

Agujaceratops

Agujaceratops (meaning "horned face from Aguja") is a long-frilled ceratopsian from west Texas. In 1938, three dinosaur bone beds were excavated, and ceratopsian material was collected from Big Bend National Park. Originally described as *Chasmosaurus mariscalensis* by Lehman in 1989, subsequent analysis resulted in the taxon being put in its own genus. *Agujaceratops* was named by Spencer G. Lucas, Robert M. Sullivan and Adrian Hunt in 2006. Later, Lehman and colleagues revisited the *Agujaceratops* material and found substantial variation, splitting the material into two species.

Ornithomimus ("bird mimic") was a swift bipedal theropod, covered in feathers and equipped with a small toothless beak that may indicate an omnivorous diet. The trackways uncovered in Zilker Park in 1992 are believed to be *Ornithomimus* prints.

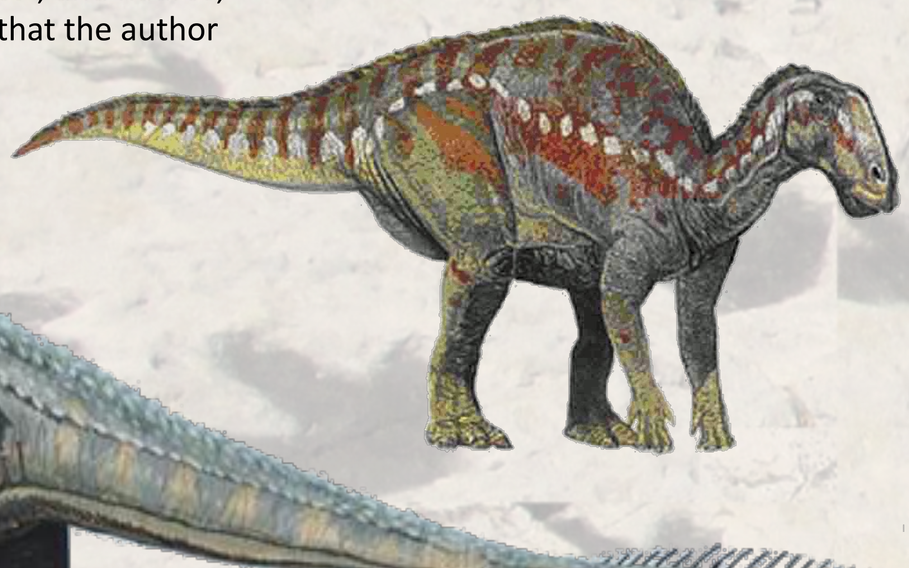
Ornithomimus

Leptorhynchos

Leptorhynchos (meaning "slender beak") is found in the Aguja Formation of west Texas. It is distinguished from related genera by its smaller size, and by a more strongly upturned mandible, similar to that of oviraptorids. The specializations of the beak in *Leptorhynchos* suggests that it was a herbivore.

Gary Byrd, a part-time paleontologist, discovered remains in early 1994 at Flower Mound, Denton County, Texas. The type species *Protohadros byrdi* was described and named by Jason Head in 1998. The genus name is derived from Greek protos, "first", and hadros, "thick", a reference to the fact that the author considered the species to be the oldest known hadrosaur.

Protohadros



Alamosaurus is a giant sauropod. It reached sizes comparable to *Argentinosaurus*, which would make it the largest dinosaur known from North America. Juvenile specimens have been recovered from the Javelina formation in Big Bend, just below the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, making it among the last surviving non-avian dinosaur species. It is not named after the Alamo. The name comes from Ojo Alamo, the geologic formation in which it was first found in New Mexico.

Alamosaurus