

Despite it's childish and wildly immature nature, Talking with Dinosaurs is NOT intended for children. It has blasphemy, swears, sexy talk, and bad, bad thoughts. It is for entertainment purposes only, and while care has been taken to keep information as accurate as possible, Palaeontology is an ever growing field with new data and theories constantly changing how we see these prehistoric monsters, so we make no guarantees about accuracy. Not that it matters, palaeontologists are just making it all up as they go along anyway!

Also Mum, I'm still very, very sorry.

Dinophiles, welcome back to Talking with Dinosaurs, the world's number one rated NSFW comedy dinosaur podcast hosted by a New Zealander, and I have really bad news. I regret to inform all my listeners, I am back on my bullshit. That's right, I'm here again talk talk about whatever dumb shit pops into my head about these by-gone beasties. And what's in my head this week? Mostly "March of the Gladiators" playing over video of Sauropods having sex in a lagoon. \*Whistles March of the Gladiators". Now, this may come as a surprise to a lot of you, but this isn't actually what's normally running through my head. I mean it's pretty similar, but usually it's in a sensually decorated bedroom with the original Who's Line is it Anyway? Theme playing. Why the sudden change in my delirium and daydreams? Its all thanks to a... let's be generous, and say respected scientist Brian J Ford. In 2012, Brian released an article in Laboratory News Magazine claiming that large dinosaurs were aquatic. An interesting theory, that has been posited since the discovery of Sauropods. Seems fine, until you discover that these theories were pretty effectively put to rest in the 1970's, Pretty much it boiled down to the fact that they had air sacs in their body to make them lighter, which would have made them too buoyant to submerge, and their body shape, which made them likely tip, and led one researcher, D. M. Henderson, to refer to them as "Topsy Punters", a phrase that is DEFINITELY going to get you in trouble if you try to say it while tipsy yourself. Pretty much the entire paleontological community told him "Lol, STFU", but "Lol, STFU" he did not. No, he doubled down on his bullshit, and wrote a book. A whole fucking book. Darren Naish, noted paleontologist and all round legend, debated Brian live in front of an audience. Darren provided a lovely display of professionalism and evidence, and Brian talked more shit than a verbose corprophiliac, with no real evidence to back him up. One of his arguments in particular seemed to be "Paleontologists are a bunch of liars just making shit up", which is cute when I say it, but is incredibly disrespectful to the founder of Tetrapod Zoology, and one of the most respected scientists on the planet. After the debate, Brian mostly shut the fuck up about his ideas, much to the relief of pretty much everyone. A year of peace, of innocence, of joy... and then the fire nation attacked. Errr, sorry, Brian doubled down again. Having now cubed his bullshit, Brian came out last week and announced that it wasn't an asteroid that killed the dinosaurs, nor supervolcanoes, not even being cancelled wiped out the dinosaurs... You see, according to Brian, Dinosaurs died out, because the shallow bodies of water they mated in dried up. That's right. I don't even know what to say to that. Sex lakes. Fuck puddles. Pounding Ponds. I just... Gah. It's worth noting at this point that Brian is a well respected scientist, with many honours, it's just really sad that THIS is the hill he's choosing to die on. For that reason that instead of "Great Contributions to Dinosaur Science (By Non-Paleontologists, because Fuck Them)", we are awarding Brian the inaugural "Sir Richard Owen Memorial 'What the Fuck Are You Doing?'" award.

Congratulations, Brian, shine on you wild diamond. So, now that that's out of the way, let's get on with the episode! First up today, a little breaking news! Someone found some perfectly preserved Moa footprints not far from where I live, and my local museum has dug them and is currently preserving and studying them, and preparing them for display! Cool! If you want to know more about Moa, check out episode ten! I talk all about them, and am probably the nicest I will ever be about Sir Richard Owen! ICONIC! But Moa aren't what I'm talking about this episode. What I'm talking about this episode is the caped crusader, the dark knight, Ambopteryx. Ambopteryx is a newly discovered scansoriopterygid (scan-soary-OP-teh-rigid), that has completely changed how we see the evolution of flight as dinosaurs evolved into birds. You see, Ambopteryx doesn't have bird like wings, which are normally just arms with feathers sticking out (Well, a bit more complicated than that, but if you want in depth anatomical detail, go to a ornithological lecture, not some kook with a podcast). Nor does it have the wings of a pterosaur, which have a membrane between the edge of an elongated pinky finger and the body, like the coke nail of god, with the other fingers just sorta hanging out, like feet. Bat wings, and also Ambo's wings, on the other hand, are just big ol' hands with a membrane between all the fingers and connecting to the body. This made Ambopteryx look for all the world like a feathered fantasy Wyvern, something you would fight in Monster Hunter, spewing fire, or lightning, or terrible frame rates. I mean, we can't prove it breathed fire, but it definitely does in my head. While these wings may not have necessarily allowed it powered flight, like modern birds or bats, it would have been an accomplished glider. Ambopteryx's remarkably complete specimen was discovered in 2017 in China. It was so detailed, researchers were able to see evidence of the membranes and feathers, confirming the idea that these kinds of wings existed in Dinosaurs, which had been postulated for its close relative Yi Qi. The amazing preservation of Ambo also gave us a good idea of it's probably omnivorous diet, with the remains of bone fragments suggesting it ate small creatures, and gastroliths showing that it liked to eat rocks. You know, as you do. We all do that, right? Well, we do if we are a species that doesn't have teeth like molars to grind up fibrous foods. How can you eat your leaves if you haven't had any gastroliths?! This newly acknowledged hook in earth's evolutionery tree is pretty fucking cool, but what would I rate it? I dunno. Fucking great, and exciting, and cool. Out of seven. I do what I gosh dang please, thank you very much. NOW! THE BREEEEEEK!

This episode's break is a wee bit different! Wow, I'm playing really fast and loose with the format today! You know why? Because I don't give a fuck! But seriously, rather than play an add for another show, I'm just here to let you know that Talking with Dinosaurs has a patreon now! Woo! Realing cashing in, is ol' Stefan! Pretty much, I don't really want to put ads on the show, and this way I can cover my not insignificant costs in running the show! I have a FAQ on the patreon page ( [www.patreon.com/talkingwithdinosaurs](http://www.patreon.com/talkingwithdinosaurs) ), where I explain in great detail the, uh... details. Pretty much, though, you won't ever miss out on Talking with Dinosaurs content for not donating. I don't believe in blocking access just because someone can't afford to financially support the show, or doesn't feel like they enjoy it enough to financially support. I get it! So, mostly what you get from donating is a smug satisfaction, a shout out at certain tiers, and maybe early access to special content on occasion. I will still ask that you donate to a charity, especially one that does environmental or educational work before donating to the show,

because I don't really need it. It just makes life easier. Thanks for listening, and remember that I still love you all, whether you donate or not. The fact that anyone listens to... this... is something I can never believe, and that I'm privileged enough to make it cost neutral really blows my mind. Thank you all, whether you donate or not. Now, back to the show!

All right, now we got the shilling out of the way, it's time for Liiiiistener submissions! Wait, that's not my podcast. It's time for Q&A! Our first question comes from Daniel Thompson, long time contributor, discord chatter, and now, patron! Daniel asks "Do turtles have families, or are they just rocks with legs?" Well, fuuuuuuuuuck, Daniel! This is the real shit, the deep, eternal questions that the world can't truly answer. Are turtles living, breathing creatures, or are they walking minerals? Well, according to "Zoologists", I say with exaggerated air quotes, claim that turtles are reptiles, often aquatic, that are usually covered in shells made of bone and keratin. What does keratin contain? Carbon. And other stuff, but let's focus on the carbon. What's in Bone? Calcium! What do you get when you combine calcium and carbon? Why, you can get calcium carbonate when you add oxygen! WHICH CAN FORM FROM ROCKS! BOOM! We blew this shit wide open! Need more proof? Of course you do, this is nonsense! But if its true, it doesn't mean they can't have families. Rocks have families, and they deserve love. Thank you rocks, for everything you do. Our Second Question comes from Tor, who asks I'm missing a small being about 5'9ft frizzy fur, real grumpy responds to the name "blick", can you let me know if you see him? I'll keep an eye out, Tor, but I make no promises! HAHA, INJOKES!

Right, that's all for this evening! I've got quite a few special thanks this week, starting with AI-Ectricity, who made the amazing theme song, you can find him in the show notes, Adam Donohue for the amaaaaazing logo, and the "Great contributions to Dinosaur science" segment, to my partner Sarah for making me actually finish the episodes, and extra super special thanks to my Patrons, Allison, Ash, Daniel, and William from Cheers! To Gaming; and to all of you listening. I recently guested on FRiends of the POdcast Insanely Haunted, and I was really proud of how that turned out! I unlocked the secret socialist message behind noted terrible ghost show Ghost Adventures, and it will BLOW! YOUR! MIND!, and I was on a couple episodes of Cornfields and Kobolds too, all of which will be linked in the description! If you want to contact the shows, hit us up on Twitter @talkingdinocast, join the facebook group Talking With Dinosaurs: Dinophiles Anonymous, or email me at [talkingwithdinosaurs@gmail.com](mailto:talkingwithdinosaurs@gmail.com). Make sure to do something good out there, donate to a charity, volunteer your time, or support one of your friends who is struggling. If you're still willing and able to after that, feel free to donate to the patreon on [patreon.com/talkingwithdinosaurs](https://patreon.com/talkingwithdinosaurs) if you want, but like I said, you won't miss out on anything if you don't, and I will still love and appreciate you. I just won't be able to finance my dinosaur cloning operation to take over the world. But, you know, that happens. Anyway, look after yourself, E Noho Ra, I've been Stefan Ayto, and we've been Talking with Dinosaurs.