

## **A History of Brazilian Paleontology and the Next Century**

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This paper means a survey of the Brazilian and Foreign contributions on Brazilian Paleontology since the beginning of the XIX Century and also to foresee the development of this Paleontology into the next century.

A subjective evaluation of the contributions since the dawn of the Brazilian Paleontology is based on four criteria: a) - Start of new branches of Paleontology; b) - Proposals of new methodologies; c) - Openings of new avenues of researches; d) - Development of new research centers. According to the importance of the elected contribution, one or two points were considered for it. A cumulative curve was then drafted. This curve exhibits a jump at the year 1980. As seen by this jump, a boom of Paleontological contributions showed up in the last two decades. Other approaches developed as a consequence of a summation of several happenings. For instance, Alvarez team's paper (1980) on the fall of a meteorite as a consequence of mass extinctions pushed the paleontologists for the need of painstaking surveys of every millimeter of a layer, The consideration on time average as well as the increased importance of taphonomic studies also drove the paleontologists to careful scrutinies of fossiliferous layers. The role of fossils for genetical depositional sequences generally neglected and other researches avenues are now up to the Paleontologists. The above mentioned jump in the volume of researches at the year 1980, allow us to look confidently to the Paleontological Science in the XXI Century.