

Allosaurus Modernis

Thank you for downloading this preview file. The following presentation contains four excerpts from the book, Allosaurus Modernis. They are meant to give you a preview of the writing style and content of the book. The book itself is full of factual and theoretical information on dinosaurs, albeit presented in a fictional light. The story and narrative have proven enticing and exciting to read, and to read aloud.

If you enjoy what you see and read here, I hope you will tell y our friends about it, and visit IAMFRITZ.com to purchase your own copy.

Fritz Gunter,
Author and Illustrator
Allosaurus Modernis

EXCERPT #1

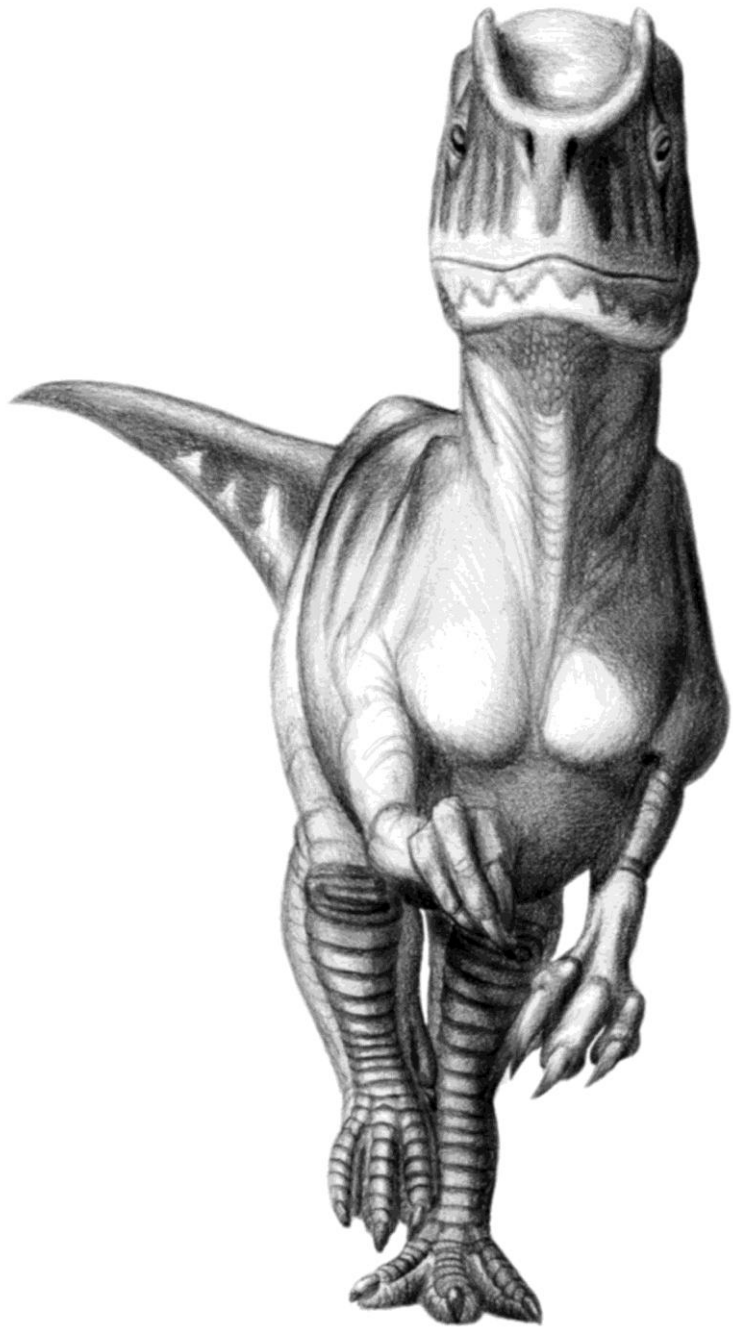
Introduction

In late 1998, a group of missionaries made a startling discovery deep in the wilds of South America when they found dozens of plastic waterproof containers full of notebooks, sketches, and various biological samples scattered along the banks of a tributary of the Amazon River for an area of several miles. After a lengthy (and expensive) dialogue with the government within whose boundaries the materials were found, the materials were finally released to the United States and returned to the University whose property they were labeled. Initially, the decision was made not to release them and the items in question were locked in a facility on University grounds. Rumors swirled about just what was in them but the campus leadership remained silent on the subject, and would not even publicly admit that the items in question even existed. But now, for the first time ever, a portion of the actual contents of those mysterious containers is being made public in this amazing collection of scientific art and observations.

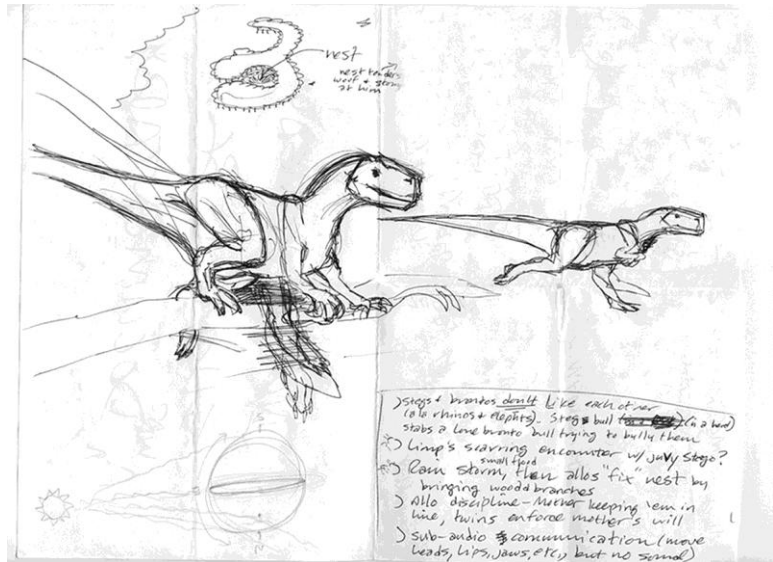
Within these materials claims from the amazing to the unbelievable are made, and it has been decided that the public should decide whether they are authentic or not.

So, here for your judgment, as much as your viewing pleasure, is a small portion of the findings in those sealed containers, from the muddy banks of the Amazon River to your hands.

You will notice two combined presentations in this book. One in regular type presents descriptive content by the editors of the material and is added simply for claritive purposes. The other, italicized and in quotation marks, is text taken the original writings retrieved as explained above.



Much of the material had been destroyed or damaged from exposure to the elements, improper packing, or both. But some of it was still retrievable for analysis. At right is an example of a raw illustration found. Most of the drawings included notes associated with the drawing. Many of the drawings were in good condition and showed a variety of studies from the expedition's observations, some of which are contained in this book. There were many more such drawings of other species that were also, allegedly, discovered. While there is extensive mention in the notes of video footage and photography, none was found with the collection that was returned to the University.



It should be pointed out that every item had to have the permission of a foreign government to allow its return to the United States and many such items may simply have not been released for return. Throughout the collection, there were hundreds of drawings of the animals that were studied in what became known as "No Man's Land" among the team. This is an example of one of the unfinished drawings. It shows two large theropods leaping over a fallen tree, includes a sketch of the theropods' den, and additional notes regarding events the author had not made extensive mention of at the time. There are also several levels of quality of drawings in the collection- some had obviously had a lot of time devoted to them, and shall be seen in this work. Many others are simply introductory sketches, brief in-field anatomical studies, and so on. Of the whole collection, only a handful is included in the work you now hold in your hands.

It should also be pointed out that only one of the team members, a university paleontologist from the United States of America, was actually a trained field researcher. Those who teamed with him came from different backgrounds, all of which brought some question into the minds of most professional paleontologists. Some were hired hands with military experience while the rest were local guides indigenous to the area recruited "on-the-spot". The names of the individuals involved in this expedition are being withheld pending further investigation.

None of the observations in this book have been confirmed, and so should be considered, at best, hypothetical in nature.

We learn a great deal about what happened to this paleontologist and his crew from the detailed notes taken by the group's leader a University student. The individual appeared to be very well funded as he was able to secure provisions and tools other groups had foregone, including trucks and locally hired helicopters. He had also performed a great deal of research prior to choosing the sites he wanted to explore, including military satellite imagery. Unfortunately, some of the hired hands he used to journey into the jungle were not the best of company, as University research found out after the fact. There is at least one example that one of these hired hands convinced the team to pack up and leave while the leader was away.

EXCERPT #2

"It just that we may have missed out on something so important here. Modern pack predators come in so many styles. Wolves hunt in packs and are lead by an alpha female. The alpha leads attacks and gets first dining opportunities, and that privilege trickles down the pack hierarchy. But with African lions, while the females run the hunting and rearing of young, the males are still seen as a sort of passive dominant. They don't stick close to the rest of the family until they want to, and they also shoulder much of the sentry duty. So, they kind of dominate when they want to- a dominance of convenience. Hyenas are purely female dominated with a sort of 'royalty'- the alpha female is called the queen and her oldest female cub is the princess. When the Queen dies, the Princess steps up and takes over. In gorillas and monkeys (while not a strict predator) the males tend to run things. In the ocean, dolphin pods are generally dominated by males, but orca pods are run by females. Most bird species are male dominated, which is interesting since they are, scientifically speaking, the closest related to dinosaurs (modern or prehistoric!). Now, among Homo sapiens, the dominance of gender is up in the air..."

The relationship between the allosaurs and the ceratasaur was not friendly one at all. Whenever the allosaurs caught the smaller predators out on the open, events turned very ugly, very fast. These two species were more than competitors, such as eagles and hawks regard each other, these animals hate each other. And they seemed to savor killing each other.

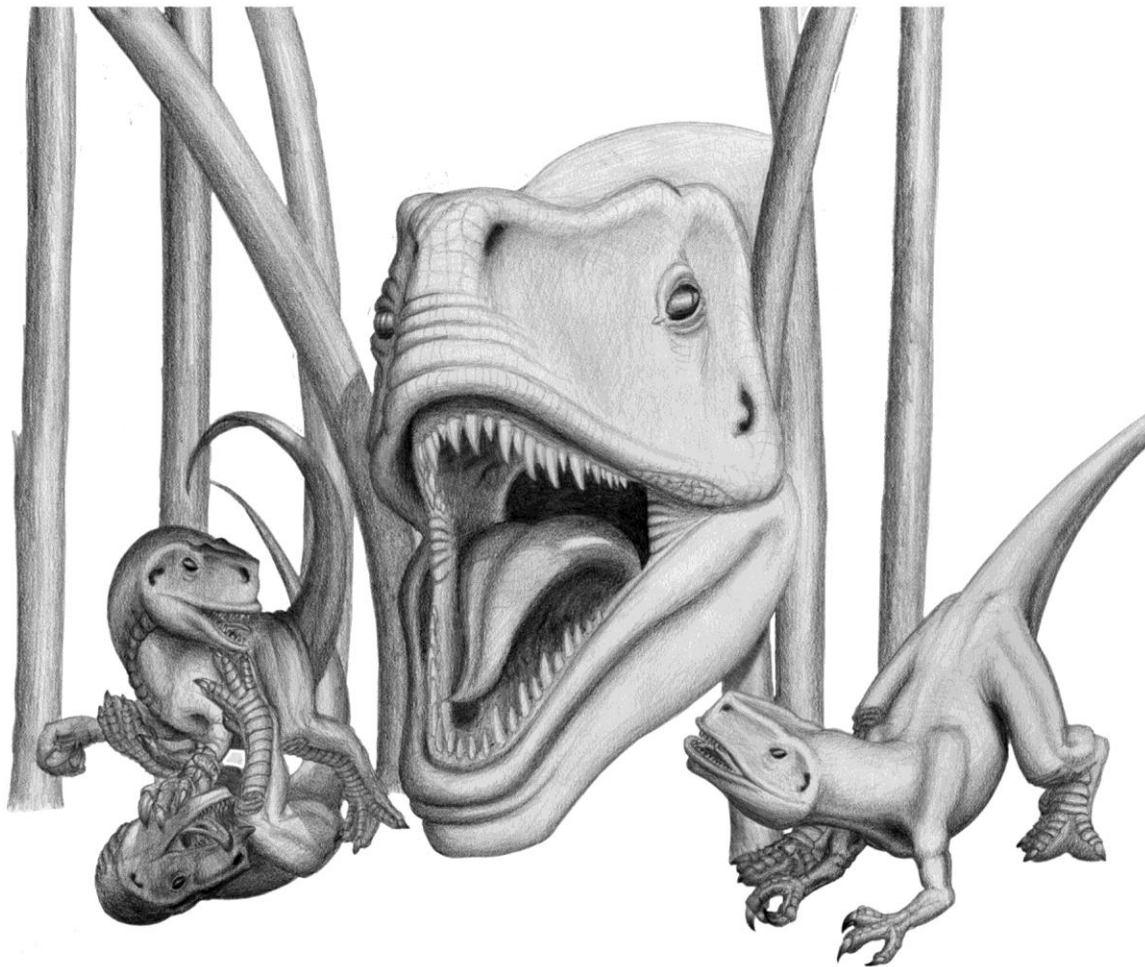
"During one of the allo clan's family hunts, a lone ceratasaur, upwind from the pack, poked his head out of the tree line on the western side of the trail. An allosaur, on the eastern side of the trail, instantly turned its snout around, bobbed its head once, and charged. Its course was not a direct one- it had a distinct curve to it, as if using the cerat's surrounding cover to shield his attack. It worked; he did not move until it was too late. When he finally was aware, the ceratasaur simply did not have enough time to high-tail it into the protection of the thicker trees, and was cut off by his pursuer. After turning to face the allo, the cerat made a one-time desperate charge, ducking low to go after the allo's legs, or possibly a belly stab with his horns. The allo simply lifted his foot and stomped the cerat's shoulders into the ground. This obviously injured the smaller theropod badly, as the allo then reached down with its head and clamped down on the struggling cerat's neck.

"After giving the neck a good shake, the allo tiercel hoisted the cerat, dead or dying, to shoulder level by its neck, then dropped to all fours and whipped the smaller predator into the air, sending it tumbling over and behind the allosaur's back. The large theropod watched with what seemed to be excitement or outright glee as the body half slapped and half thudded onto the ground behind him. He then pounced on the doomed cerat, heaved it up with another violent shake, and threw it again.

"The second throw was not as high as the first. The neck was now completely broken along its length and was barely holding onto the skull with a few muscle cords that had survived the initial bite and were still connected by threads to the shoulders. This caused the head to simply hang and weigh the rest of the flying carcass down. The allosaur then stomped and bit at the dead bulk a few more time. Satisfied that the smaller competitor was very, very dead, it turned its tail over the cerat's heap and dumped a less than normal amount of urine over it. When [one of the hired help] noted it didn't leave any feces as he usually did, I reminded them that the allos never staged an attack or ambush with full bowels to be as light and nimble as possible."

EXCERPT #3

“Then after a few days, we started to notice changes in chicks’ behaviors. Alpha Mom no longer guided them around so carefully, but remained at some key spot outside the nest in observation and guard mode. Most of them stayed together, wandering around the den together, chasing bugs together, etc. Some were a little slower, and we began to notice an occasional death among the clutch. What the cause was, we don’t know. Large injuries were not typically visible. The need up for close up examination to determine this was obvious, but I had already come to grips with how incredibly fortunate I’d been to spend so much time inside the den. Another trip was just not going to happen. All the while, some chicks adventured off on their own, sometimes in twos and threes. The older members would usually chase them back into the center of the den, or watch them carefully as they went on their learning adventures. “After a week, the chicks had grown larger, the size of big dogs and their interactive play was now becoming much more aggressive. They would wrestle and nip at each other, often trying to pin the other down and take a harmless snip at their throats. One male seemed particularly good at this. Young males and females- or, tiercels and hens, as I’ve begun calling them, after their resemblance to their predatory bird cousins, began separating by sex. Males played more with males and females more often with females, though they still mixed it up at least once a day.



“The adults would sometimes step in and mess things up a little bit, shoving them around with their larger snouts. Was the child’s play captivating to them? Did the adults see the chicks as ‘cute’ and want to play

along? Or, did they simply notice the chicks picking up non-cooperative or unsuccessful skills in their school of junior killers, and needed to intervene?

“There was some deciding going on as well. In one instance, three chicks aggressively wrestled at the nursery’s outer edge. To our horror, a huge female head thrust through the brush, mouth gaping wide, teeth bared at the chicks. Two scrambled and tried to get away. But the third one instead turned to the giant threat, and leapt forward and bit the attacker on the lip, latching on hard! Caught off guard, Alpha shook him off and withdrew quickly back into the bush. Lessons had been learned- two chicks learned to expect the unexpected, while one learned to BE the unexpected.”

EXCERPT #4

Discoveries Part V- Mate Selection

“A new excitement rose one day when a female allosaur quietly entered Alpha’s den. It was refreshing, and really exciting to think we might get to witness a part of allosaur behavior that didn’t mean watching blood flying and prey screaming. It happened immediately after the ‘Attie-punts-Pretty Incident’.

“Attie followed the high-stepping female to a clearing that was our side of the den. We watched as Attie and the female strutted like a giant chicken marching around a barn yard, head bobbing and forward and back more dramatically than we’d ever seen. Then they paused, and SLOWLY stretched their jaws open in unison so far wide it seemed unnatural. Then they snapped shut and repeated a few times. Then came the claw play as they extended their claws and spread their arms in another apparent show of offensive wares. Both Attie and the visitor seemed impressed with each other.

“Now in the nest I had noticed that Alpha, who seems to be the only reproducing female around, had lots of narrow, shallow scars on her hips, thighs and shoulders. I figured that these may be from the male grasping her during the mating ritual since she was the only member of the clan with them. There weren’t any on The Twins, which made me think they hadn’t mated yet.

“Now, many large, modern birds have elaborate mating dances and rituals. Golden Eagles test each other by dropping a rock from altitude for their potential mate to catch in mid air. Most Hawks and falcons also use elaborate flying and swooping displays in their courtship.

“It’s a behavior set recorded in every bird species (that I am aware of- here in South America there are over 3000 catalogued avian species, and probably more undiscovered...like dinosaurs) whether predatory or not-every bird wants to perform.

“As we continued to watch, I began to notice something. Their lips and eyeballs were bulging. Their eyelids were peeling back, and their eyes were bulging outward, making their eyes look larger and deeper. And their lips were bulging as well. Then the two mighty killers closed snout-to-snout and gently rubbed their noses, again, simultaneously, against each other running down the length of their jaw, past the ear, down the neck, over the shoulder, then lifting the snout over each others’ hips where the mandibles rested for a moment. Their tails rose ever so slowly...