INTRODUCING PALAEONTOLOGY

A GUIDE TO ANCIENT LIFE

SECOND EDITION

With illustrations by John Murray

Life on Earth can be traced back over three billion years into the past. Many examples of the Earth's former inhabitants are to be found in rocks, preserved as beautiful and fascinating fossils. The earliest life forms were bacteria and algae: these produced the oxygen that enabled more complex life forms to develop. About 600 million years ago multi-cellular organisms appeared on Earth, some of which could protect themselves with hard parts such as shells. Many of these life forms were readily fossilized and are used to subdivide geological time. Numerous species have evolved and most are now extinct. Lineages can be traced and extinctions explained as a consequence of terrestrial and extra-terrestrial events.

Now in a revised, updated and expanded Second Edition *Introducing Palaeontology* will continue to provide readers with a concise and accessible introduction to the science of palaeontology.

'*Introducing Palaeontology* is an excellent book, full of attractive diagrams and photographs, coupled with short, waffle-free sections. The combination of short, snappy chapters and interesting scientific concepts create a book that is perfect for anyone new to the science of palaeontology, whether they be an enthusiastic amateur, a prospective student or an undergraduate just starting out in the field.' *Geological Magazine* review of the first edition.

Patrick N. Wyse Jackson is an Associate Professor in Geology and Curator of the Geological Museum at Trinity College, Dublin. He has been fascinated by fossil bryozoans for many years, and also investigates aspects of the history of geology.

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