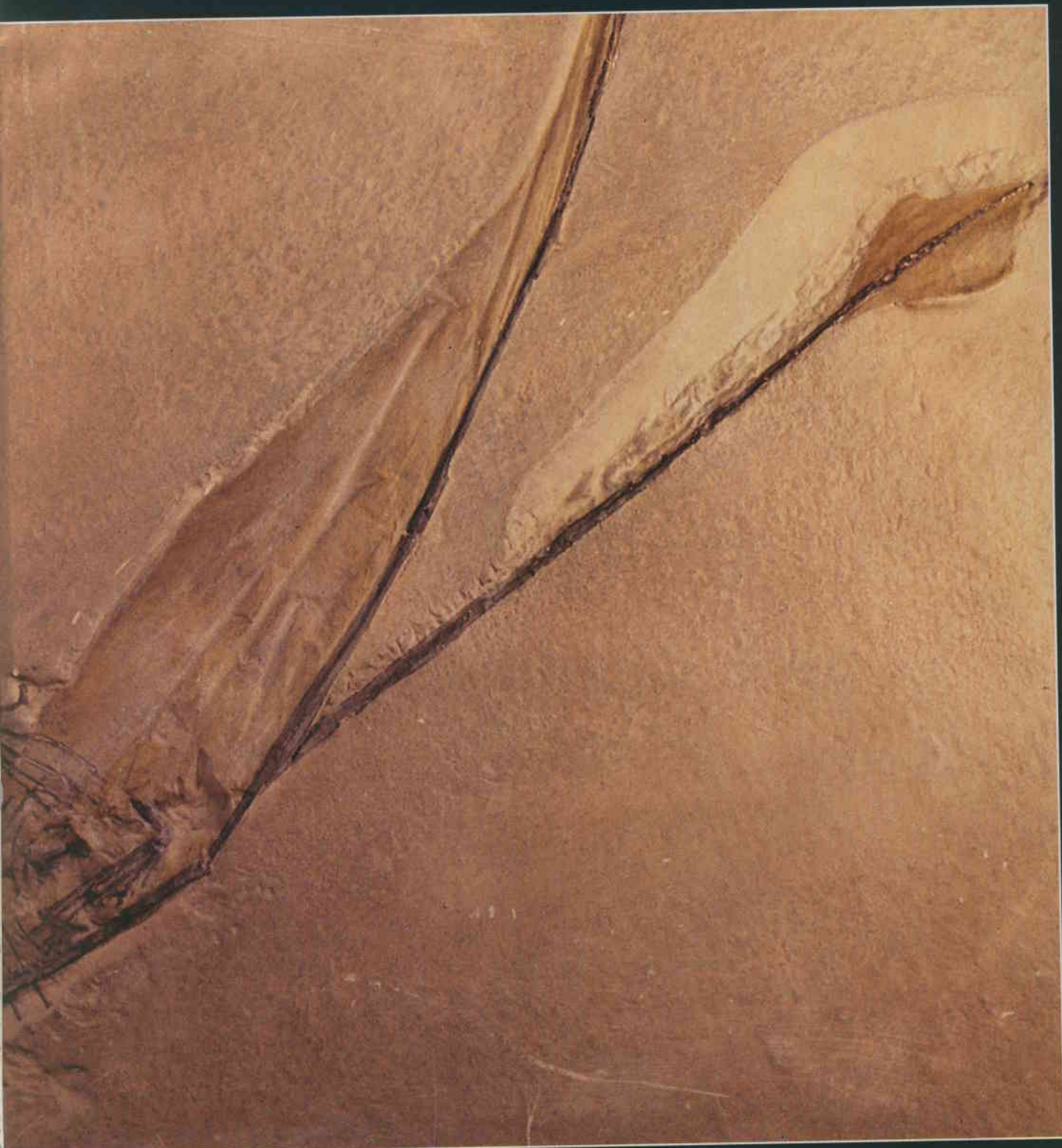




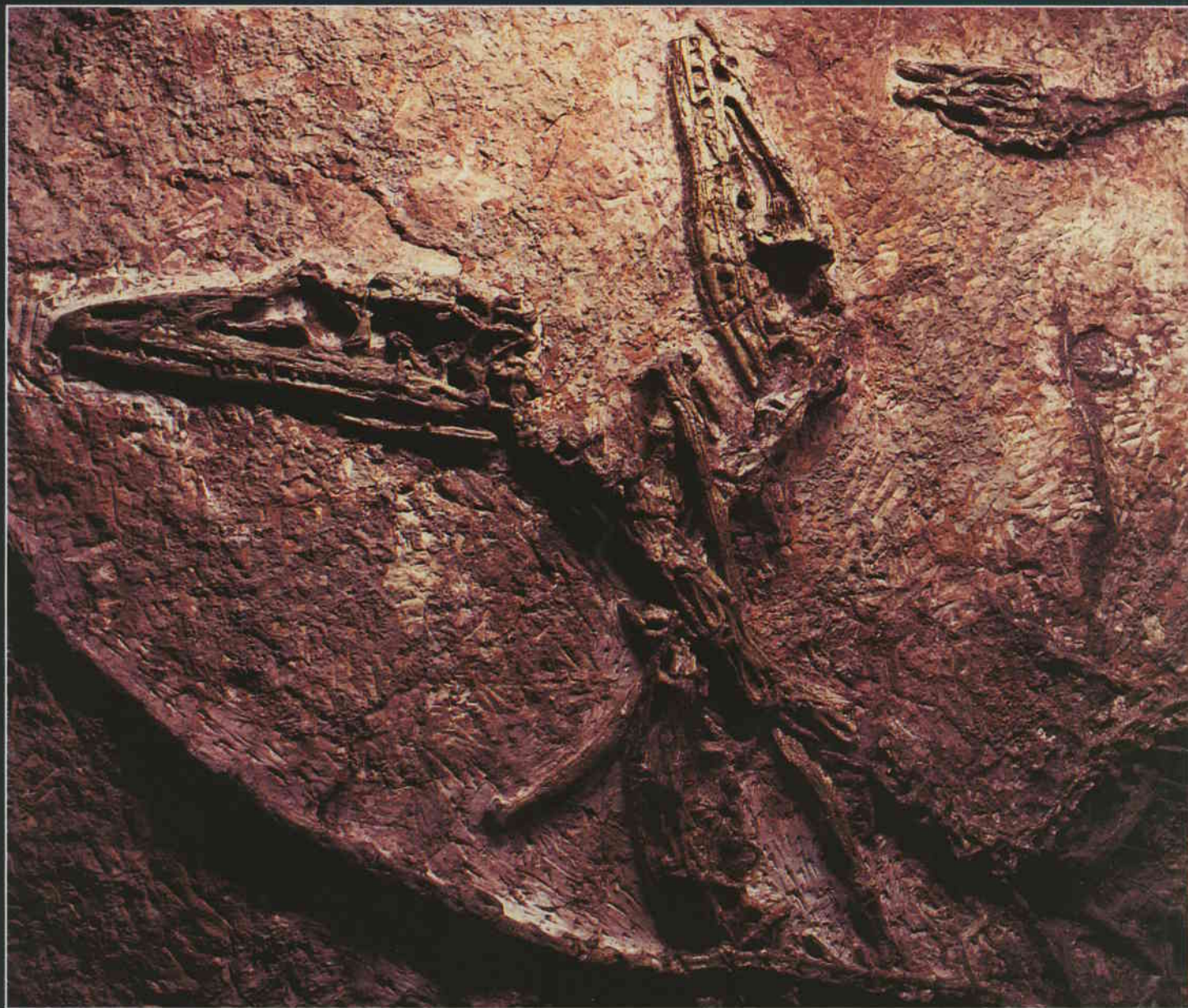
**Dedicated to the memory of
Dr. L. Beverly Halstead,
geologist, paleontologist,
scholar, and explorer
June 13, 1933-April 30, 1991**

By Sandy Fritz

CAST



IN STONE



Preceding page:
A pterosaur
from Germany.
Above: Baby
Coelophysis, an
early carnivorous
dinosaur.
Left: A 50-million-year-old
sycamore leaf.
Above right:
*Syntheotoceras
tricornatus*, a
12-million-year-old
relative of,

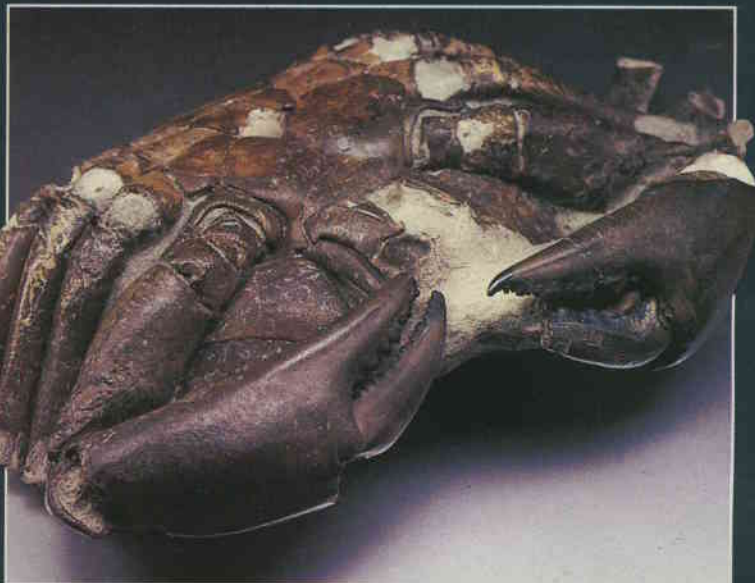
the camel.
Center right: Horn
coral from New
York State.
Below right:
*Pterodactylus
elegans*, a fly-
ing reptile from
150 million
years ago.

In the fossil record we watch life forms emerge, flourish, and become extinct. We read that continents, climates, and even the location of the North and South poles shift like a fluid. Oceans appear and disappear. Landscapes may appear timeless and unchanging, but they reflect catastrophic changes in the nature of this planet.

Science has coaxed the rocks to divulge their memories of worlds past. We now understand fossils in a way our ancestors could not. The message is grim: Ninety-nine percent of the species that have inhabited this planet are now extinct. No matter how superbly adapted an animal becomes, its species, and its world, finally fails.

There is no doubt that human activities are altering the ecology of this planet. Some say we are on the verge of destroying the very world that supports our species. But Earth itself has destroyed its own ecology scores of times in the past, made a place that was once hot cold, added or erased rivers, shifted its winds. It will continue to do so even without human interference. **DO**

This page, top: A 1-million-year-old crab. Center: *Mesohippus bairdii*, a forerunner of modern horses. Bottom: A dragonfly, unchanged for at least 150 million years. Below: A 2-million-year-old *Australopithecus* skull called the Taung child. Opposite page: A water scorpion, ancestor of modern crabs and spiders, from 415 million years ago.



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