

François Therrien, Ph.D. Curator of Dinosaur Palaeoecology, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

Dr. François Therrien is the Curator of Dinosaur Palaeoecology at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta, Canada. He holds a B.Sc. in Geology from the Université de Montréal, a Master's degree in Geosciences from the University of Rhode Island, and a Ph.D. in Functional Anatomy & Evolution from the Johns Hopkins University – School of Medicine. For his Master's degree, François studied the sedimentology and paleosols of the Late Triassic Chinle Formation of Arizona and New Mexico in order to reconstruct the paleoenvironments in which the earliest dinosaurs from North America lived. For his Ph.D., he traveled to Romania to study the sedimentology and paleosols of dinosaur-bearing rock formations in order to reconstruct the paleoenvironments that prevailed at the end of the Age of the Dinosaurs in Transylvania. François' primary research interests focus on the study of faunal and environmental changes that occurred just before the extinction of the dinosaurs as well as the study of dinosaur behavior, particularly the feeding behavior and bite force of extinct predators. Over the years, he has conducted field research in Canada, the USA, Romania, and Mongolia. François was involved in the discovery and study of the first feathered dinosaurs from North America and, more recently, the description of a young tyrannosaur preserving the remains of two small caenagnathids in its stomach, evidence of its last meal.