

Precambrian lies thousands of metres below

In the case of the Virginia Triassic basins which my paper referred to, a little study of the topography shows this objection to be baseless. Figure 1 shows the location of the Triassic basins relative to Precambrian outcrops of the Virginia Blue Ridge Complex, which are only a few tens of kilometres to the west of the Culpepper and Cascade quarries where dinosaur footprints have been found. Presently, the Blue Ridge Mountain Complex of rocks rises a few thousand feet above sea level. Robinson points out that Precambrian (or pre-Flood) rocks lie a few thousand feet below the Triassic rocks of these quarries. In his view a herd of dinosaurs would have no high ground to which to retreat. One might counter by noting that only a short distance to the north-west these differences in elevation are reversed. This should be enough to counter Robinson's objection. However, there is more. One might point to tectonic activity and the rise of blocks of Precambrian rocks to show that the topography is extremely variable. Tyler⁴ has postulated tectonic mechanisms which are relevant to the variation of topography over time. In addition, one might point to the Renan fault block referred to by Myertons:

'A large block of quartz monzonite called the Renan fault block also was uplifted in the middle of the basin about this time. Detrital material from the fault block was not found in the Dry Fork formation, yet it was found as large fanogglomerate deposits in the younger Cedar Forest beds. The absence of any other boulder beds in the Dry Fork beds and the sharp contact of the Dry Fork beds and the quartz monzonite also suggested to this writer that this was a fault block and not an erosional remnant. After, or at least during, the later stages of this activity, diabase and gabbro

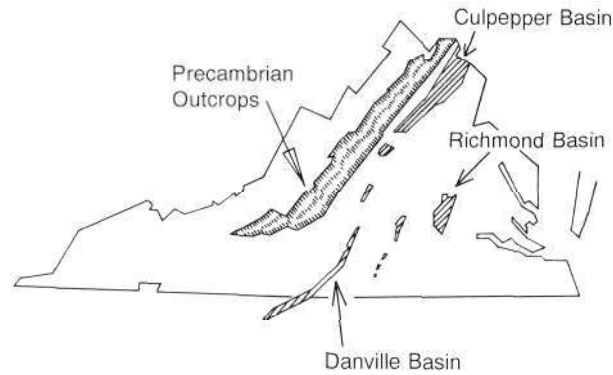


Figure 1. A map of Virginia showing the locations of the Triassic Basins relative to the Precambrian outcrops of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

*magmas forced their way through the Triassic rocks along planes of weakness such as joints and fault traces.*⁵

Thus, the existence of this fault block, together with other now buried blocks, suggests that during the deposition there were ample variations in topography for dinosaur herds to utilise.

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FLOOD/POST-FLOOD BOUNDARY — A COMMENTARY

Dear Editor,

Recently I read Steven J. Robinson's article¹ with interest. On

pages 46-47, he mentioned some field studies in which I have participated. Unfortunately, he presented some interpretations of this work that were not intended by the authors.

Concerning our field work in the Upper Devonian strata in Pennsylvania,² we did not discuss or attempt to identify the Flood/post-Flood boundary. Also concerning the Haymond flysch beds in Texas,³ both Howe and I prefer the deep water turbidity current interpretation, and I prefer the same interpretation for the flysch beds in the Lock Haven Formation.⁴

However, there are two field studies in which I suggested a possible Flood/post-Flood boundary. At Big Bend National Park, Texas,⁵ Howe and I speculated that the boundary was in the Aguja Formation (Upper Cretaceous). At Providence Canyon, Georgia,⁶ I suggested that the boundary was between the Clayton Formation (Palaeocene) and the Providence Formation (Upper Cretaceous).

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