

Call for Papers – Special Issue in Andean Geology Advances in Paleontology in Chile: Opportunities and Challenges for a Synthesis

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Submission status: Open between March 1st, 2026, and November 30th, 2026.

Summary:

For many years, paleontology in Chile was an underrepresented discipline, often overshadowed by its utility as a tool for geological research rather than recognized as a standalone field of scientific inquiry. Despite its slow start, the last few decades have witnessed a remarkable transformation in Chilean paleontology, driven by a new generation of researchers, international collaborations, and the integration of cutting-edge technologies. This **special issue of Andean Geology** aims to celebrate and synthesize the significant advances in paleontological research in Chile, while also addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in fostering a more integrated and globally impactful discipline.

The Chilean Association of Paleontology ([Asociación Chilena de Paleontología](#)) has played a pivotal role in this renaissance, fostering a vibrant community of researchers and promoting interdisciplinary approaches to studying Chile's rich fossil record. From the Atacama Desert to the Patagonian fjords, Chile's diverse geological settings preserve an extraordinary archive of life, spanning across the Phanerozoic. This **special issue** seeks to highlight groundbreaking research that leverages Chile's unique paleontological resources to address fundamental questions about evolutionary processes, paleoenvironments, and biotic responses to global change.

This volume is also inspired by the legacy of pioneering paleontologists in Chile, whose work laid the foundation for modern studies. Their efforts, often conducted under limited resources, have paved the way for current researchers to explore new frontiers in paleontology, from isotopic geochemistry to artificial intelligence-driven fossil analyses. By bringing together review papers and original research, this **special issue** aims to showcase the state-of-the-art in Chilean paleontology, encourage collaboration, and identify future directions for the discipline in Chile and beyond.

The guest editors welcome contributions that reflect the diversity of paleontological research in Chile, including studies that integrate traditional approaches with innovative methodologies. We also encourage submissions that explore the societal and educational impacts of paleontology, such as its role in promoting geoconservation, public engagement, and the development of geosites for education and tourism.

Topics of interest include:

- Reviews of the current state of paleontological knowledge associated with particular subdisciplines (e.g., ichnology, paleohistory, micropaleontology), taxonomic groups (e.g., protists, plants, invertebrates, or vertebrates), temporal intervals (e.g., Neogene, Mesozoic, Paleozoic), or broad geographic areas (e.g., northern Chile, Patagonia, or multiple localities in southern Chile).
- The application of new technologies or state-of-the-art methods to study the fossil record, including elemental and isotopic analyses, morphological or biomechanical modeling, Bayesian phylogenetic methods, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.
- The study of biotic responses in space and time to past environmental and climatic conditions, using statistical approaches, paleoecological reconstructions, or paleobiogeographic analyses.
- Paleontological contributions to understanding major evolutionary events, mass extinctions, or biotic recoveries in the South American context.
- The role of paleontology in geoconservation, geological heritage, and public education, including the development of geosites and museum initiatives in Chile.
- Interdisciplinary studies linking paleontology with other fields, such as sedimentology, stratigraphy, or geochemistry, to unravel Chile's geological and paleontological history.

All submissions must be based on rigorous, original scientific research of broad interest to paleontology, classified into three categories: 1) research articles, 2) review articles, and 3) paleontological notes. Editorials, commentaries, or purely descriptive/informational manuscripts are unrecommended.

Proposed editorial standards:

- Abstract of 300 words maximum.
- Text with a maximum of 10,000 words (including references).
- Maximum 12 Figures (high-resolution, suitable for print and online formats).
- Maximum 5 Tables.
- Supplementary materials (e.g., datasets, extended methodologies, or multimedia) to be hosted in permanent repositories (e.g., Zenodo, Figshare).

Manuscripts should be submitted between March 1st, 2026, and November 30th, 2026. The Special Issue will be published in September 2027. Prior abstract submissions are not required, but authors are encouraged to contact the guest editors with a brief outline of their intended scope to ensure alignment with the issue's objectives. The editors welcome inquiries to discuss manuscript ideas or collaborative opportunities.

Manuscripts must adhere to Andean Geology's editorial and submission guidelines, available at <http://www.andeangeology.cl/>

Members and non-members of the AChP are welcome to participate.

For other inquiries, please contact andeangeology@sernageomin.cl