A specimen-level phylogenetic analysis and taxonomic revision of Diplodocidae (Dinosauria, Sauropoda) Tschopp et al. (2015)

PeerJ 3:e857     DOI 10.7717/peerj.857
CC BY 4.0

The history of Brontosaurus – one of the greatest stories in paleontology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brontosaurus</th>
<th>Apatosaurus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lived 150 million years ago</td>
<td>Lived 150 million years ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western United States</td>
<td>Western United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning: Thunder lizard</td>
<td>Meaning: Deceptive lizard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet: Herbivorous</td>
<td>Diet: Herbivorous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight: 30.5 tonnes</td>
<td>Weight: 41.3 tonnes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brontosaurus
- Lived 150 million years ago
- Western United States
- Meaning: Thunder lizard
- Diet: Herbivorous
- Weight: 30.5 tonnes

Apatosaurus
- Lived 150 million years ago
- Western United States
- Meaning: Deceptive lizard
- Diet: Herbivorous
- Weight: 41.3 tonnes

Big dinosaurs extinct (birds survive)
Apatosaurus and Brontosaurus lived

1877 1879 1883 1903 1915 1936 1978 2015

Apatosaurus ajax named
Brontosaurus excelsus named
Camarasaurus head proposed
Brontosaurus excelsus = Apatosaurus excelsus
Brontosaurus is back!
First proposition of correct head
Dipolodocus-like head confirmed
Dipolodocus-like head confirmed
Apatosaurus excelsus becomes
Apatosaurus excelsus

Latest research shows differences between specimens of Brontosaurus and Apatosaurus are numerous enough to justify two different genera.