



# Vertebrate Evolution

## Reptile

- **Kingdom: Animalia**
- **Phylum: Chordata**
- **Subphylum: Vertebrata**
- **Clade: Sauropsida**
- **Class: Reptilia**

The origin of the reptiles lies about 310–320 million years ago, in the steaming swamps of the late Carboniferous period, when the first reptiles evolved from advanced reptiliomorphs. A series of footprints from the fossil strata of Nova Scotia dated to 315 Ma show typical reptilian toes and imprints of scales. These tracks are attributed to *Hylonomus*, the oldest unquestionable reptile known. It was a small, lizard-like animal, about 20 to 30 centimetres (7.9 to 11.8 in) long, with numerous sharp teeth indicating an insectivorous diet.