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ABOUT THE REAL DINOSAUR AND THE MOUNTED SKELETON IN “*HADROSAURUS FOULKII*: THE DINOSAUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD”

PHILADELPHIA—*Hadrosaurus foulkii* is not the scariest dinosaur ever found: after all, it was a plant-eater, so it did not have the dagger-shaped teeth of a dinosaur of nightmares like *T. rex*. But its original description and public display by The Academy of Natural Sciences changed the face of dinosaur science forever. Here are some things we know about *H. foulkii*:

ABOUT THE REAL DINOSAUR

H. foulkii was a duck-billed dinosaur, about 25 feet from nose to tail, and nine feet tall.

H. foulkii lived about 80 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. It roamed the coastal forests and swamps of eastern North America and ate leaves and twigs.

H. foulkii was the first member of the hadrosaur family to be discovered. Since then many more hadrosaur species have been discovered, all with similar body plans but widely different heads.

Except for a jaw fragment and some loose teeth, the skull of *H. foulkii* was never found.

H. foulkii's bones have a high iron content which makes them fragile. Left exposed to fluctuations in temperature and humidity, they begin to crumble, a result of pyrite disease. In the exhibit, the fossils are sealed in cases to keep them safe and stable.

The hind legs of *H. foulkii* are longer and stronger than the front legs, leading scientists to believe it walked on all four legs but could run on two, using its stiff tail to balance.

Hadrosaurus foulkii means “Foulke’s bulky lizard.” Academy paleontologist Dr. Joseph Leidy named it after William Parker Foulke, the amateur naturalist who dug up its fossils in 1858.

ABOUT THE MOUNTED SKELETON IN THE EXHIBIT

The mounted skeleton on display is a cast. It does not contain any real fossil bones.

The skeleton is made up of casts made from the real bones of *H. foulkii*; from other duck-billed dinosaurs, and from sculpted elements.

The real bones of *H. foulkii*, part of the Academy’s permanent collection, can be seen in cases in the exhibit.

Since the real skull was never found, the cast skull is patterned after a closely related species called *Maiasaura*.

The posture of the current skeleton is more scientifically accurate than the original 1868 mount which showed *H. foulkii* standing upright, like a kangaroo, with its tail dragging. This *H. foulkii* holds its tail aloft and more clearly relies on all four legs.

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3–12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for Members and children under 3. There is an additional \$2 entry fee for “Butterflies!”