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PREFACE

Publication of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin began 20 years ago, in 1992. The 56 bulletins now published include seven volumes devoted wholly to trace fossils, specifically vertebrate footprints. These and other bulletins encompass substantial contributions to vertebrate footprint ichnology, especially of the Mississippian, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Cenozoic. The present volume devoted to vertebrate coprolites (and other bromalites) continues the tradition of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin of contributing substantially to our understanding of vertebrate ichnology. Vertebrate coprolites were first recognized by William Buckland in 1822, and they have been the subject of a growing literature, notably during the past 20 years. However, this volume is the first devoted solely to coprolites, apart from a couple of published bibliographies. We hope that the 39 articles herein capture the broadening scope of interest in coprolites and will provide an impetus for further study.

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—Adrian Hunt, Jesper Milàn, Spencer G. Lucas and Justin A. Spielmann