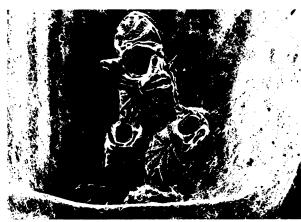
Although the species Cribrilaria innominata had been previously described as encrusting pieces of shell, it is one of the few species also capable of colonizing sand-size grains.





A skeletal colony of T. psammophila on the edge of a grain shows developing ovicells, the brood chambers where embryos change into swimming larvae.

Double spines, one on each side of the oral cavity, are evident in the species Bellulopora bellula, previously described on other surfaces. However, only when this species encrusts larger surfaces in larger colonies are the spines part of its defense.



Photos: Courtesy of Judith Winston, Am. Mus. of Natural History

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Dinosaurs in the Attic: An Excursion into the American Museum of Natural History. Douglas J. Preston. The first part of this book focuses on the explorers, scientists and collectors who accumulated much of the museum's vast collections. The second part is a ramble through the museum. talking with curators, exploring vaults and storage rooms and selecting some unusual objects and learning their histories. St. Martin, 1986, 244 p., illus., \$18.95.

A Hundred Billion Stars — Mario Rigutti, translated by Mirella Giacconi. For the general reader interested in astronomical research, its methods and its findings, this book tells what is known about our galaxy. Originally published in Italy in 1978; English translation published in hardback in 1984. MIT Pr, 1986, 285 p., color/b&w illus., paper,

Meltdown - Daniel Ford. The main story in this book, according to the preface, is the years of effort by government scientists to analyze the danger of meltdown accidents and the Atomic Energy Commission's suppression of their findings. This is a revised and updated edition of The Cult of the Atom. Ford is the former director of the Union of Concerned Scientists. S&S, 1986, 307 p., illus., paper, \$6.95.

Origins: A Skeptic's Guide to the Creation of Life on Earth - Robert Shapiro. This readable book begins by pointing up the great diversity of ideas that have been proposed for the origin of life. Goes on to distinguish mythological and scientific approaches to the problem, focusing on the important criteria that a satisfactory scientific answer must meet. Describes the principal features of life at the cellular and molecular levels and considers the earlier history of life on this planet as deduced from the fossil record and radioactive dating. Current theories of life's origin are explored. Originally published in hardback by S&S in 1986. Bantam, 1987, 332 p., paper, \$9.95.

State of the World 1987 - Lester R. Brown et al. The fourth in Worldwatch's annual series analyzes such issues as the ecology and economics of urbanization, thresholds of change for many natural systems, the future of nuclear power, new approaches to recycling solid wastes, electrifying the Third World and raising agricultural productivity. Norton, 1987, 268 p., charts & graphs, \$18.95, paper, \$9.95. See p.153

The Unexpected Hanging: And Other Mathematical Diversions - Martin Gardner. A collection of puzzles and brain teasers from the author's SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN column, "Mathematical Games." In this book, originally published in 1969, each column has been expanded and selected references are included that will provide the reader with more information on such topics as geometric dissections and the church of the fourth dimension. S&S, 1986, 255 p., illus., paper,