

Stegosaurus fossil fetches nearly \$45M, setting record for dinosaur auctions

July 18 2024



Part of a stegosaurus skeleton is displayed at Sotheby's New York in New York, Wednesday, July 10, 2024. Credit: AP Photo/Pamela Smith

The nearly complete fossilized remains of a stegosaurus fetched \$44.6 million at auction Wednesday, Sotheby's said. The buyer's name was not

disclosed.

The fossil, dubbed "Apex," is considered to be among the most complete ever found, according to the auction house.

The price blew past a pre-sale estimate of \$4 million to \$6 million and past a prior auction record for [dinosaur fossils](#)—\$31.8 million for the remains of a Tyrannosaurus rex nicknamed Stan, sold in 2020.

Apex "has now taken its place in history, some 150 million years since it roamed the planet," said Cassandra Hatton, who heads Sotheby's science-related business.

Dinosaur fossil sales stir some frustration among academic paleontologists who feel the specimens belong in museums or research centers that can't afford huge [auction](#) prices.

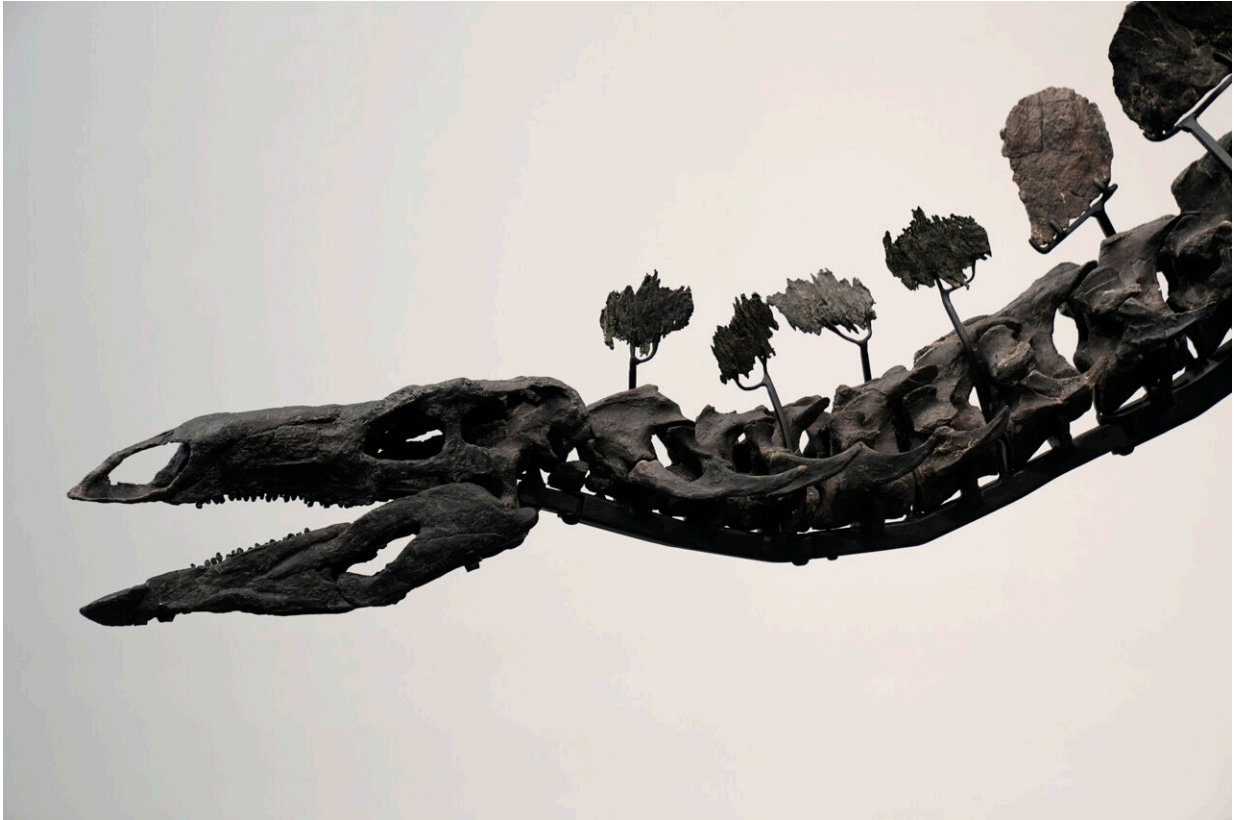
Sotheby's said the anonymous buyer is American and intends to look into loaning Apex to an institution in the U.S. The purchaser beat out six other bidders.



Part of a stegosaurus skeleton is displayed at Sotheby's New York in New York, Wednesday, July 10, 2024. Credit: AP Photo/Pamela Smith



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The stegosaurus was one of the world's most distinctive [dinosaurs](#), featuring pointy plates on its back. Hatton has called Apex "a coloring book dinosaur," for its well-preserved features.

Eleven feet (3.3 meters) tall and 27 feet (8.2 meters) nose to tail, Apex was a big [stegosaurus](#) that lived long enough to show signs of arthritis, Sotheby's said.

A commercial paleontologist named Jason Cooper discovered the fossil in 2022 on his property near, perhaps unsurprisingly, the town of Dinosaur, Colorado. The tiny community is near Dinosaur National

Monument and the Utah border.

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