New Spinosaurus

Imagine a 17 meters crocodile that can chase you down underwater as well as on land, you’ve just imagined the Spinosaurus. Spinosaurus (or Spinosaurus Aegyptiacus) is believed to be the largest carnivore that ever lived and it is also the first-known swimming dinosaur (other underwater “dinosaurs” are actually marine reptile, not dinosaur). Spinosaurus is often imaging as a giant sailed-crocodile that walked on 2 legs and hunted other medium-large animals on land like how Jurassic Park 3 depicted the animal. However, that depiction of the Spinosaurus is illogical and inaccurate. Spinosaurus is too front heavy to walk on 2 legs, Jurassic Park 3 was made before the discoveries of the “new” Spinosaurus, and Jurassic Park’s Spinosaurus behavior was way more aggressive than it actually was.

Spinosaurus is known for its iconic sail on its back. This feature had not been seen in the reptile kingdom since the days of Dimetrodon. The actual purpose of the sail is remained unknown as Paleontologists speculate that the sail could be used:

-By the male Spinosaurus to attract the females (Like a male peacock).

-As a way to control its body temperature.

-To navigate through the water (Like the fins of a shark).

Nevertheless, having a big sail on its back disable Spinosaurus to be chasing down faster prey on land due to it being too front heavy and its tail wasn’t big enough to balance out the animal (It is possible for Spinosaurus to raise itself up for a short period of time to look more intimidating); thus, the Spinosaur we saw in Jurassic Park 3 couldn’t possibly running around in the forest.

Spinosaurus featured in many TV shows and movies are showed to be large carnivores that hunted and competed with other large dinosaurs. However, that isn’t the case. As mentioned above, Spinosaurus walked on 4 legs and based on our current fossil records of the animal, Spinosaurus had a semi-aquatic life (like that of a crocodile), possessed webbed feet (for swimming purposes) and hunted prehistoric fishes (Onchopristis, Coelacanth) or possibly small unexpected land creatures. Based its elongated jaws, raised nostrils and various holes on the tip of the skull (like a croc, these holes were used to scene underwater movements), Spinosaurus would submersed its jaws down a river waiting for fishes to pass by or hunt underwater not aggressively picking a fight with other carnivores. Due to its semi-aquatic life style, height disadvantage and vulnerable sail, Spinosaurus couldn’t really fight other large therapods like the T-rex on land as showed in the movie.

Jurassic Park 3 is one of the many movies and shows that popularized the Spinosaurus but that doesn’t change the fact that it’s outdated. Many people still believed that that’s how the Spinosaur should looked like and doesn’t accept the change. Jurassic Park 3 was made in 2001 before Nizar Ibrahim, a paleontologist, found the hips and hindlimbs of the animal. Although we did saw the Spinosaurus spent time in the water and its hindlimbs wasn’t that long compare to its arms, the Spinosaur we saw in the movies is inaccurate and outdated.

There are many mysteries surrounding this animal that are limited to our fossil records, the Spinosaur had a significant amount of changes over decades. What we know for sure about the Spinosaurus are it walked on all 4 of its legs, it hunted large fishes and small dinosaurs in bodies of water like rivers, swamps or lakes, the Spinosaurus that we see every day in movies and shows are inaccurate and outdated according to science research.

Positive comment: Good job finding information about the dinosaur

Your thesis wasn’t really clear in the 1st paragraph