

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910967996003321
Autore	Weigelt Johannes <1890-1948.>
Titolo	Recent vertebrate carcasses and their paleobiological implications / / Johannes Weigelt ; translated by Judith Schaefer ; foreword by Anna K. Behrensmeyer and Catherine Badgley
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago : , : University of Chicago Press, , 1989
ISBN	9780226881683 0226881687 9781299104716 1299104711
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (290 pages) : illustrations, plates
Altri autori (Persone)	SchaeferJudith
Disciplina	566
Soggetti	Vertebrates, Fossil Paleoecology Vertebrates, Fossil - Texas - Smithers Lake Paleoecology - Texas - Smithers Lake
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Translation of: Rezente Wirbeltierleichen und ihre palaobiologische Bedeutung.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [169]-178) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Foreword -- Translator's Note -- Publisher's Note -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Death and its aftermath -- 2. Modes of death -- 3. Laws governing positions of recent and fossil vertebrate carcasses -- 4. The carcass assemblage at Smithers Lake and its origin -- 5. Carcass Assemblages and Concentrations in the Geologic Past -- Conclusion -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The first English translation of Johannes Weigelt's 1927 classic makes available the seminal work in taphonomy, the study of how organisms die, decay, become entombed in sediments, and fossilize over time. Weigelt emphasized the importance of empirical work and made extensive observations of modern carcasses on the Texas Gulf Coast. He applied the results to evidence from the fossil record and demonstrated that an understanding of the postmortem fate of modern animals is crucial to making sound inferences about fossil vertebrate

assemblages and their ecological communities. Weigelt spent sixteen months on the Gulf Coast in the mid-1920s, gathering evidence from the carcasses of cattle and other animals in the early stages of preservation. This book reports his observations. He discusses death and decomposition; classifies various modes of death (drowning, cold, dehydration, fire, mud, quicksand, oil slicks, etc.); documents and analyzes the positions of carcasses; presents detailed data on carcass assemblages at the Smither's Lake site in Texas; and, in a final chapter, makes comparisons to carcass assemblages from the geologic past. He raises questions about whether much of the fossil record is a product of unusual events and, if so, what the implications are for paleoecological studies. The English edition of *Recent Vertebrate Carcasses* includes a foreword and a translator's note that comment on Weigelt's life and the significance of his work. The original bibliography has been brought up to date, and, where necessary, updated scientific and place names have been added to the text in brackets. An index of names, places, and subjects is included, and Weigelt's own photographs of carcasses and drawings of skeletons illustrate the text.
