

## Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Biomineralization, Structure and Biogeochemistry of the Echinoderm Skeleton	1
3	Stereom Types and Relationship to Phylogeny, Growth Rate and Investing Soft Tissues	5
4	Stereom of Fossil Echinoderms: Preservation Style and Observational Methods	15
5	Stereom Microstructure: A Powerful Tool for Assessing the Paleobiology and Paleoecology of Fossil Echinoderms	18
6	Conclusions	26
	References	28