

Harmless or dangerous ?



What looks dangerous here is only an incidental assemblage of fossil objects. Dangerous in this sample of Devonian chert (about 400 Mill. y.) is the fang of a predatory creature, probably the trigonotarbid *Palaeocharinus rhyniensis*.



Image width 1.4mm

Sample Rh9/58.1, 0.21kg

found in 2004

This tooth is possibly the best-preserved specimen of its kind, since its acute tip seems less worn than those pictured at www.abdn.ac.uk and elsewhere. It was discovered in 2015 in a Rhynie Chert sample (Rh9/58.1, 0.21kg) found in 2004. One sample found in 2003 (Rh7/10.2, 0.23kg) contains the whole creature but the fang is not seen there (see Rhynie Chert News 9: http://chertnews.de/trigonotarbids_G.html).

The presence of this arachnid shows that, in addition to several aquatic creatures living at those times, small animals had already crawled over dry land.

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