

Descarga Google Chrome

El rápido navegador de Google



Home » From the Past

Oldest fossils discovered in western Mediterranean

Updated on Thursday, December 16, 2010, 08:30

Tags: Fossils, Spanish, , western Mediterranean

A⁺ A⁻ | | | Share

TRANSLATE INTO: [Seleccionar idioma](#) Con la tecnología de Traductor de Google

Me gu



Washington: A team of Spanish researchers has discovered fossils of Ordovician conodonts dating to between 446 and 444 million years ago for the first time in the western Mediterranean.

The discovery of these very primitive marine vertebrates has helped scientists to reconstruct the palaeogeography of the Cordillera Bética mountain range.

Their study shows that the mountain system in the south of the Iberian Peninsula was located alongside the Alps at that time.

In 2006, a group of Andalusian geologists found the oldest fossils in the Cordillera Bética, dating from the late Ordovician period between 446 and 444 million years ago, in the Málaga Complex in Ardales (Malaga). This was also the first solid evidence of Ordovician rocks in the Bética range.

The researchers analysed the characteristics of the conodont remains they found, the presence of certain species, and the absence of others, and compared these with others of a similar age found in the macizo ibérico (essentially the western half of the Iberian Peninsula) and other ranges in the area.

The results of the study show that, during the late Ordovician period, the Málaga Complex was not to be found with the rest of the Iberian Peninsula along the edge of the palaeo-continent of Gondwana, "but was rather at a much lower latitude much closer to the Alps, with its Ordovician conodont fauna showing much closer similarities to the fauna of this area," said Rosario Rodríguez-Cañero, lead author of the study at the Department of Stratigraphy and Palaeontology of the University of Granada.

The conodonts were small, eel-shaped animals without any vertebral column, which measured a few tenths of a millimetre in length, and inhabited the seas during the Palaeozoic era and became extinct at the end of the Triassic (around 205 million years ago).

The findings have been published in the latest issue of the journal Terra Nova.

ANI

[Read Comments](#)

[Post Comments](#)

TERMS OF USE:

The views represented here are not necessarily endorsed by www.zeenews.com and its allied websites. All messages will be moderated and no message that has inflammatory, abusive, derogatory language or any language deemed unfit for publication by the editor will be displayed. Though it will be endeavoured that as many messages as possible be displayed, **there will be time lag between the submission and publication of the messages.** The website reserves the right to publish or reject any message.

Name :

Place :

Email :

Advertisement

FOREXYARD

Open A Practice Account Today!

Trade Now!

www.ForexYard.com

Ads by Google



Other Stories

[Prehistoric humans ate each other: Study](#)

[Over 30 ancient shipwrecks found near China coast](#)

[2,000-year-old temple ruins found in Syria](#)

[8,000-year-old human bones found in Argentina](#)

[Giant stork once roamed Indonesian island](#)

Latest News | Most Read | Most Viewed

[US intelligence pessimistic on Afghan war: Reports](#)

[LTTE threat to PM's life when he visits Chennai](#)

[US sues BP, eight others over Gulf oil spill](#)

[All 22 passengers, crew dead in Nepal plane crash](#)

[US sought Bollywood help against terror: WikiLeaks](#)

[Himachal Pradesh HC declares 'bandhs' illegal](#)

[India's new test range for weapons is operational](#)

[Govt mulls regulating corporate lobbying](#)

Blogs

[View all blogs](#)



The Infrastructure Sham

Building collapses in India's metropolitan cities raise concerns about residential infrastructure growth.

[Fading superstars of B-town](#)

Special



[India in South Africa](#)
News | Exclusive | Blog |



[The WikiLeaks Expose](#)
26/11 politics | Assange