

Enigmatic Fauna in Paleontology

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Paleontology documents numerous organisms whose morphological characteristics and evolutionary position remain subjects of ongoing debate. This paper reviews the so-called “enigmatic fauna” discovered in different geological periods, whose classification is complicated by unusual body plans, unique organs, and weak similarities to modern living groups. Particular attention is given to problematic organisms such as *Tullimonstrum*, *Typhloesus wellsi*, *Nectocaris* and related forms, as well as representatives of the Ediacaran biota (*Dickinsonia*, *Namacalathus*, *Proarticulata*). The study discusses their discovery history, major hypotheses regarding their biological nature and systematic affinities, and the strengths and limitations of these interpretations. Special focus is placed on the Francevillian biota, one of the oldest and most controversial Precambrian assemblages, whose possible biogenic origin significantly challenges current views on the timing of early multicellular evolution.