
internal fertilization 380-million year old snapshot of a live birth

Posted by Glend - 2009/10/05 12:37

Animation of the birth, plus photos of the fossil and discussion: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7424281.stm> Now, however, the team believes this ancient species bore live young through internal fertilisation (viviparity). Dr Long commented: This is not only the first time ever that a fossil embryo has been found with an umbilical cord, but it is also the oldest known example of any creature giving birth to live young. The existence of the embryo and umbilical cord within the specimen provides scientists with the first ever example of internal fertilisation - or sex - confirming that some placoderms had remarkably advanced reproductive biology. He added: This is a world first fossil find, and it opens up a window into the developmental biology of an entire extinct class of organisms. Another report states that this is also a new species. Glen Davidson <http://tinyurl.com/2kxyc7>

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Posted by Walter Bushell - 2009/10/05 12:37

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Posted by Baron Bodissey - 2009/10/05 12:37

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there anything at all similar to an umbilical cord? Looks like an umbilical to me... <http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/sharks-&-rays/birth-&-...> Could that be the allantois which with the yolk sac becomes the umbilical in placentals? Baron Bodissey They are ill discoverers that think there is no land when they see nothing but sea. Francis Bacon

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Posted by Zaius - 2009/10/05 12:37

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Posted by John Wilkins - 2009/10/05 12:37

Permit me to doubt that they're discussing a true umbilical cord, do you know of any fish that are placentals? Cj
All the placentals are fish. {Somebody had to say it.} Speaking of things somebody had to say, I should point out that All A are B does not entail All B are A. Or, if you like, that something is a member of a set A, which includes a subset B, doesn't mean that thing is included in subset B... It's a common mistake made on this group (although of course I am not saying Walter makes it here).

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