
BELEMNITES



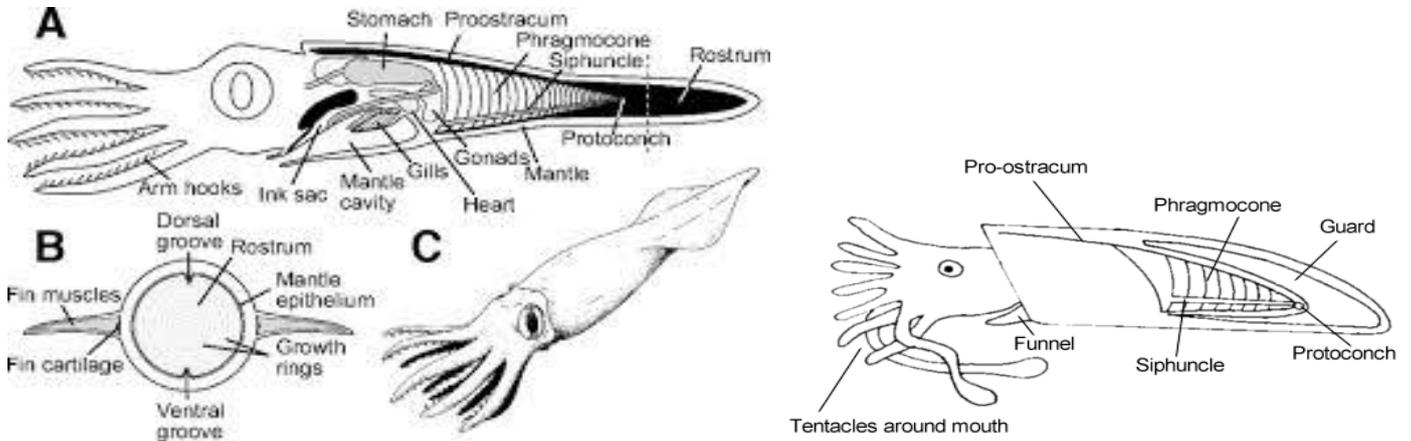
Belemnites were present on Earth for a period spanning over 140 Million Years. They first appeared on Earth some 208 million years ago, during the Carboniferous period. It is currently believed that they evolved from the same ancestors as the Ammonites. The Belemnites became extinct about the same time that the majority of the dinosaurs disappeared. This is believed to be at the end of the Cretaceous Period, some 65 Million years ago, known in paleontology as the time of the K-T mass – extinction.

Belemnites were marine animals. Today their still living relatives are the squid and cuttlefish. The similarities to today's relatives included ink sacs and the presence of ten tentacles however, the design of their tentacles also forms a difference between them; on the modern squid they have suckers in order to grab prey, whereas Belemnite tentacles had hooks.

Belemnites were believed to be efficient carnivores that caught small fish and marine animals with their tentacles, and ate them with their beak-like jaws. It is believed that Belemnites were built for speed and that they probably lived in shoals. Fossil evidence has shown that they formed a major part of the diet of Ichthyosaurs.

Belemnites have a hard internal skeleton and the fossil remains most normally found are the part of the shell that was originally located in the tail.





How to get there:

From the Flinders Discovery Centre, head north over the bridge on the Kennedy Developmental Road (the road to Porcupine Gorge). Approximately 15km from the centre you will see a property turnoff sign called Mt Beckford. You will be able to see a couple of houses to your left. Stay on the Kennedy Devel'l Rd and continue past the next property turnoff (Mountainview). Not far after this turnoff, the road turns to the left. As you approach, you should see 2/3 large trees on the right hand side. The two gullies are located on this bend. Find somewhere safe to park and walk into the gullies. Please watch out for snakes.

