

## The Burgess Shale animal *Oesia* is not a chaetognath: A reply to Szaniawski (2005)

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The Middle Cambrian *Oesia disjuncta*, a monospecific genus, is known only from the celebrated Burgess Shale of British Columbia. It has been re-interpreted by Szaniawski (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 50:1–8; 2005) as a chaetognath, a distinctive phylum whose exact position in the protostomes is still controversial. Unequivocal chaetognaths, that have no similarity to *Oesia*, are already known to occur in the Chengjiang Lagerstätte (Lower Cambrian, S.W. China), and here I describe the first example of a chaetognath from the Burgess Shale itself. Comparisons between *Oesia* and chaetognaths fail to find any significant homologies. Whilst the phyletic position of *Oesia* is very uncertain, a place in the hemichordates may be worth exploring.

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