

## A spinose appendage fragment of a problematic arthropod from the Early Ordovician of Morocco

Peter Van Roy and O. Erik Tetlie

*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 51 (2), 2006: 239-246

A highly spinose fragment of a possibly raptorial appendage from the Arenig (Early Ordovician) of the Upper Fezouata Formation north of Zagora, southeastern Morocco is described as the arthropod *Pseudoangustidontus duplospineus* gen. et sp. nov. The single fragmentary specimen displays a unique morphology, carrying at least 39 pairs of spines (i.e., 78 spines) of very regularly alternating lengths. *Pseudoangustidontus* gen. nov. shows some similarities to a number of spinose arthropod appendages and appendage parts, most notably to the spine-bearing podomeres of the third prosomal appendage of megalograptid eurypterids and the problematic and incompletely known genus *Angustidontus*. However, megalograptids and *Angustidontus* both have a lower spine count, while the latter also carries only a single row of spines. Because no known arthropod displays a morphology closely comparable to that of *Pseudoangustidontus* gen. nov., the affinities of the new fossil within Arthropoda remain uncertain.

**Key words:** Arthropoda, raptorial appendage, Arenig, Ordovician, Morocco.

Peter Van Roy [ [peter.vanroy@ugent.be](mailto:peter.vanroy@ugent.be) ], Department of Geology & Soil Science, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281 / S8, B-9000, Ghent, Belgium; O. Erik Tetlie [ [erik.tetlie@yale.edu](mailto:erik.tetlie@yale.edu) ], Department of Geology and Geophysics, Yale University, PO Box 208109, New Haven, CT 06520-8109, USA.

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