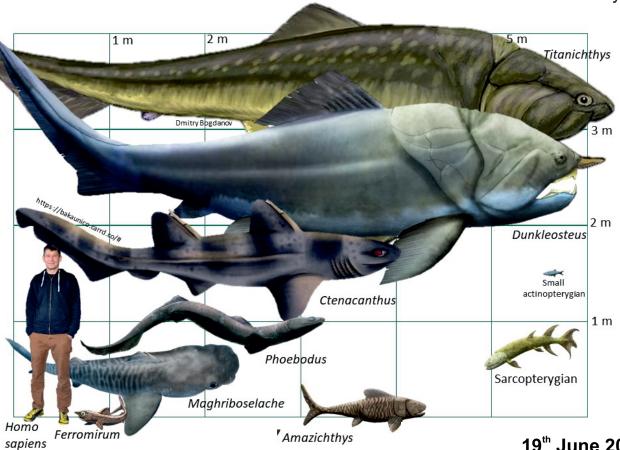
New early vertebrate-treasures from the Late Devonian of the Moroccan Anti-Atlas

prof. Christian Klug

Palaeontological Institute and Museum University of Zürich



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Online webinar on zoom

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Short abstract: Although vertebrates originated already in the Cambrian, many of the major groups that populate the water bodies today evolved later. From an evolutionary point of view, the Devonian was a key-period, because then, many new vertebrate clades originated and some of these groups quickly dispersed over the world's oceans. Accordingly, fish fossils can be quite abundant in Devonian strata, which are exceptionally well exposed in northern Africa. Particularly in Morocco, these strata are easily accessible and quickly became famous for Late Devonian fish, especially for the large placoderms. In the meantime, most of the important fish groups of the Devonian have been documented from Morocco. These faunas show close relationships to forms known from, e.g., the Cleveland Shale of Ohio and the Famennian of the Polish Holy Cross Mountains. In this talk, I will present some of the spectacularly well preserved jawed fish with a focus on placoderms and cartilaginous fish. Since many of them are preserved as complete bodies, sometimes with soft tissues and undeformed skulls, a wealth of new anatomical data could be extracted from these fossils.