



Dickinsonia Fossil

Why in News?

Fossils of an extinct species, Dickinsonia, that scientists reported in a [discovery from India's Bhimbetka Rock Shelters in 2021](#) have been found to be a false alarm.

- Researchers after a closer look at the site revealed the **Dickinsonia fossil** to really be wax smeared on a rock by a beehive.

What is Dickinsonia?

- Dickinsonia is an **extinct primitive animal** that inhabited seabeds around Australia, China, Russia, Ukraine, **in the Ediacaran period, 600-500 million years ago**. It was classified as an animal after discovery of cholesterol molecules in the fossils.
- It is believed to be **one of the earliest animals to have existed on earth**.



What are the Key Facts of Bhimbetka Rock Shelter?

- **History and Period Span:**
 - The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an **archaeological site in central India that spans the prehistoric Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods**, as well as the historic period.
 - It exhibits the **earliest traces of human life in India and evidence of Stone Age** starting at the site in Acheulian times.
 - It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** that consists of seven hills and over 750 rock shelters distributed over 10 km.

- **Discovery:** The Bhimbetka rock shelters were founded by V S Wakankar in 1957.
- **Location:** It is located in Raisen District between Hoshangabad and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.
 - It is about 40 kilometres south-east of Bhopal in the foothills of the Vindhya Mountains.
- **Paintings:** Some of the Bhimbetka rock shelters feature prehistoric cave paintings and the earliest are about 10,000 years old (c. 8,000 BCE), corresponding to the Indian Mesolithic.
 - Most of these are done in red and white on the cave walls.
 - A multitude of themes were covered in this form of rock art and it depicted scenes like singing, dancing, hunting and other common activities of the people staying there.
 - The oldest of the cave paintings in Bhimbetka is believed to be **about 12,000 years ago.**

[Source: TH](#)

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