



PRESIDENT'S LECTURE

The earliest tetrapods: What were they, and what are they?

Professor Jenny Clack
University of Cambridge

**The Linnean Society,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London**

**Wednesday 30th November 2011, 6pm
(following AGM at 5pm)**

**The meeting is open to visitors
Wine will be served after the lecture to members and guests**

Abstract

When E.S. Goodrich coined the term tetrapod, meaning a vertebrate with four legs (or whose ancestors had them), there was a clear distinction between them and anything that might have been called a 'fish'. Only extant animals were considered at that time, because the fossil record of intermediate forms was more or less non-existent. Recent work on the earliest limbed vertebrates, from the Late Devonian period about 375-360 million years ago, has blurred the distinction between 'fish' and 'tetrapods' as applied to fossil forms. We now know much more about the transition between these body forms from a wealth of discoveries over the last 15 or 20 years. But this has brought problems of definition. What is a tetrapod, or rather how is the group Tetrapoda defined? This, and emergent associated questions are highly controversial. This talk will introduce some of the creatures that have been discovered, and the different, incompatible views that have been put forward as answers.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

The Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London
Wednesday 30th November 2011, 5pm

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
2. Matters arising from the Minutes
3. President's Business
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Programme Subcommittee Report
6. The Editor-in-Chief's Report
7. Grants & Awards Subcommittee Report
8. Membership Secretary's Report
9. Newsletter Editor's Report
10. Webmaster's Report
11. Election of Officers
12. Election of Council Members*. The following have retired or are due for retirement by rotation and are not eligible for re-election for at least one year

David
Bass

Susan
Evans

Mark
van der Giezen

13. Any other business

* Nominations for Council Members must be signed by two members and accompanied by an indication from the nominee of their willingness to stand. Nominations must reach Prof. Juliet Brodie (The Natural History Museum, Department of Botany, Cromwell Road, London. SW7 5BD; j.brodie@nhm.ac.uk) by 5pm November 30th 2009 at the latest.

Followed by
The Systematics Association President's Lecture, 6pm

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