



A Candidate For A Darwin Award: A 370Ma Placoderm

By Oliver Kneivt | March 14th 2011 01:40 PM | [Print](#) | [E-mail](#)

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Oliver Kneivt

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Everyone's heard of the Darwin Awards, right? It's where some poor soul dies in such a monumentally stupid way that it can be considered that they have done the human gene pool a great favour by inadvertently altruistically killing themselves and removing their genes. Well, I have a candidate from the fossil record; a late famennian placoderm, that definitely deserves such an accolade.

Firstly though, a quick primer on placoderms. In short, they were big armoured predatory fishes that were widespread in the Devonian. But, by big, I mean really big. Some of these dudes were as big as a double decker bus and would have pretty

happily [chomped through a car like it was a ham sandwich.](#)



I love this reconstruction!

Which makes our guy's plight all the more hilarious. Placoderms eat all sorts of things and have even been found to (apparently successfully) swallow things up to half their own body size, but our candidate seems to have bitten off more than he could chew (the pun was very much intentional, by the way!).

For his tea, our placoderm eyed up a very tasty looking ctenacanth shark of over 6 foot in length. Now, considering that our hero was only barely 10 feet himself, he had set his sights high. But, rather than sensibly moving on and finding some more suitably sized prey, we can only assume that our placoderm was very hungry indeed, for his greed got the better of him and he attempted to have a feast of a dinner on the shark.

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Our hero closed on the shark, opened his fearsome jaws wide, and clamped them shut round the middle two thirds of the shark's body - no easy task considering the size of the prey.

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Predator-Prey Relationships. View fullsize. View fullsize. View fullsize. This lizard (above), camouflages by blending with the lichen on rocks, while the tortoise (below), has a hard shell to deter would-be predators. View fullsize. View fullsize. Keen senses are an important adaptation for many organisms, both predators and prey. A predator is an organism that eats another organism. The prey is the organism which the predator eats. The prey is part of the predator's environment, and the predator dies if it does not get food, so it evolves whatever is necessary in order to eat the prey: speed, stealth, camouflage (to hide while approaching the prey), a good sense of smell, sight, or hearing (to find the prey), immunity to the prey's poison, poison. We present both an empirical study and a behavioural game model exploring a predator-prey game between white sharks, *Carcharodon carcharias*, and Cape fur seals, *Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus*, around a small island colony in South Africa. Behavioural tactics used by adult seals appear to account for the variance in risk from sharks, while shark tactics seem more influenced by the behaviour of pup seals, probably because pup seals engage in riskier behaviours. @article{Laroche2008RunningTG, title={Running the gauntlet: a predator-prey game between sharks and two age classes of seals}, author={R. Karl Laroche and Alison A. Kock and Lawrence M. Dill and W. Herman Oosthuizen}, journal={Animal Behaviour}, year={2008}, volume={76}, pages={1901-1917}}. Predator Prey Relationships Worksheets - showing all 8 printables. Worksheets are Misp predator prey work 1 food relationships, Predator and... Some of the worksheets displayed are Misp predator prey work 1 food relationships, Predator and prey, Predators and prey work, Misp ecologyfood relationships predator prey unit, Deer predation or starvation lesson, Deer me a predatorprey simulation, Predator and prey, Predator or prey. Once you find download. Worksheet will open in a new window. You can & download or print using the browser document reader options. relationship. Whether it is a roadrunner swallowing a lizard, a blue crab eating a fish, an American Egret catching a perch, a rounding up a cow for slaughter, the predator kills to provide food for itself or its family. In Nature's plan, there is no such thing mountain lion stalking, killing, and eating a deer and a hunter stalking, shooting, and taking a deer home for his family to eat? er for food. Ilo Hiller 1983 Predator-Prey Relationship. Young Naturalist. The Louise Lindsey Merrick Texas Environment