

May 24, 2003

Prospecting in Utah's Ordovician for Trilobites

This was one of those historic trips. I went along with a close friend of mine on a research project to locate the only known occurrence of Harpids in Utah. What made it historic was that the king of the Utah Ordovician himself, Lehi Hintze, accompanied us on this journey. He had found the first Harpid 50+ years ago, but since it was only a couple fragments it never made its way into his work. Hopefully, this trilobite will finally be described. I have purposely left out any pictures that might give away the location of our trip. This is a sensitive area. Many people have trusted us with this information and we have tried to preserve their trust by not making it public.

Lehi and Arvid. Arvid is doing all of the primary research on the description of the new trilobite. I am just helping.



We spent most of the morning wandering up various washes trying to find the spot where the original pieces were found. It took a couple hours before we knew we had it.



One thing that was quite amazing was that Lehi's son, who did a lot of the field work along with his Dad over 50 years ago, remembered almost every detail about the locality.



Here are a couple pictures with fragments of the Harpid that we were looking for. We went expecting to find that they are very rare. As the day went on we found quite a few of them. None were in great shape, but for a first trip out we felt pretty good about what we found.



After we satisfied our interests in locating the zone where the Harpids were found we wandered around in some other areas in search of other trilobites. We stumbled across a few, like this *Presbynileus ibexensis*.



I spent a lot of time photographing the local flora.



And some time with the fauna as well.

Right - Great Basin Rattlesnake
Bottom Right - Colorful Male Collared Lizard. Based on the color of his legs, this guy is more interested in finding a mate than worrying about us.

Bottom Left - The evasive Leopard Lizard

