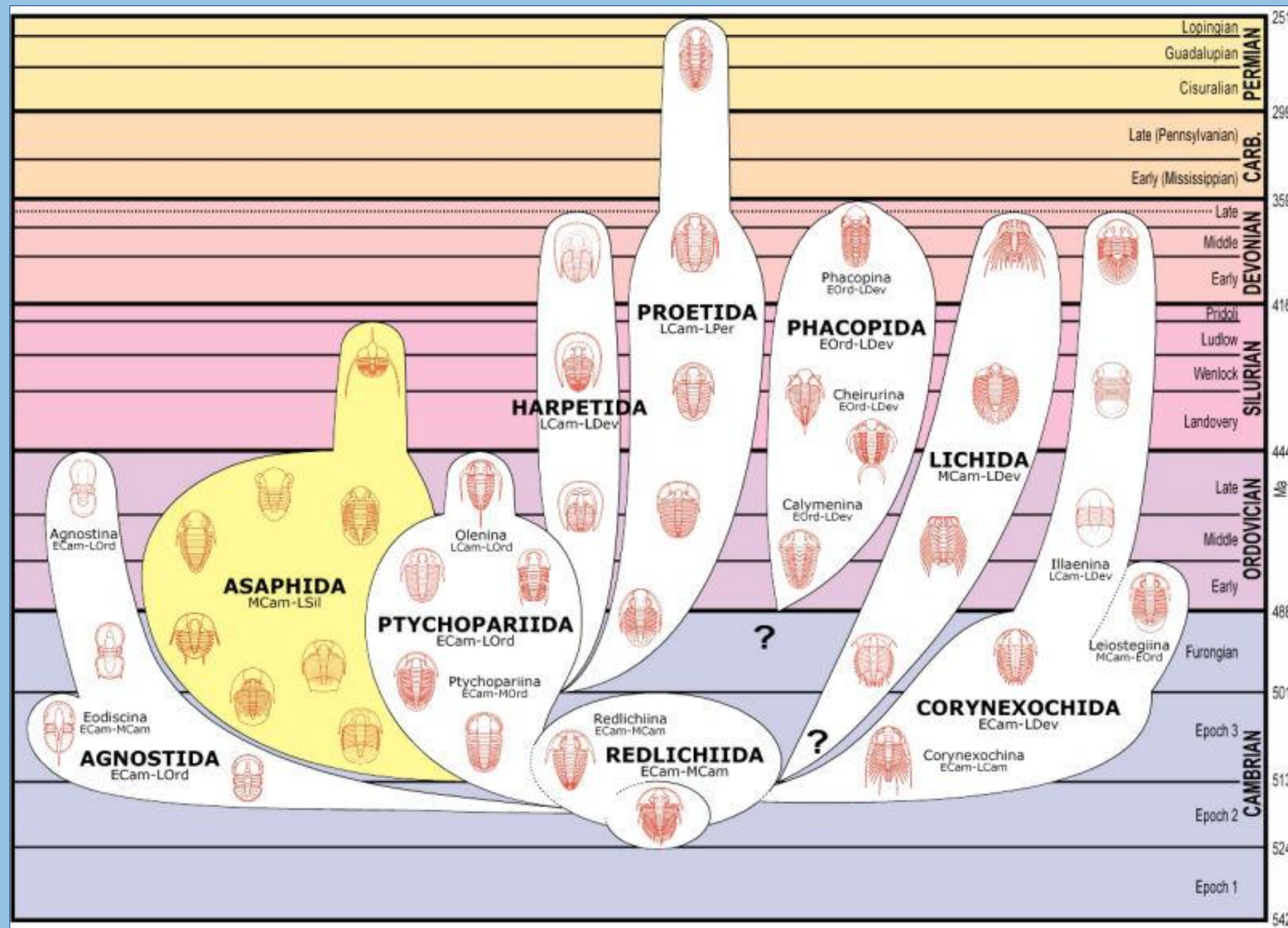


# Asaphida: The Poster Child of the Cambrian



## PHYLOGENY

Asaphida contains 6 superfamilies: Anomocaroidea, Asaphoidea, Dikelocephaloidea, Remopleuridoidea, Cyclopygoidea, Trinucleioidea. It also comprises around 20% of trilobite diversity.



## WHAT DID THEY LOOK LIKE?

They had 3 lobes and many within the clade had antenna. They also had calcareous exoskeletons (of which they molted).

Asaphida in particular had smooth and similar sized cephalons and pygidiums (2 of the lobes) in order to allow them to burrow easily for stealth.



## SO WHAT IS ASAPHIDA?

Asaphida was one of the most diverse clades of Trilobites. Trilobites are one of the best studied and most famous groups of fossil invertebrates. This is because they make great index fossils.

The clade Asaphida ranged from the Upper Cambrian to the Upper Ordovician.

Trilobites within Asaphida were most often found within marine strata.

They typically had a cephalon and pygidium that were close in size.

Most of them likely died out as a result of the ordovician/silurian mass extinction

## Taxonomy

- Kingdom:** Animalia
- Phylum:** Arthropoda
- Class:** Trilobita
- Subclass:** Librostoma
- Order:** Asaphida

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