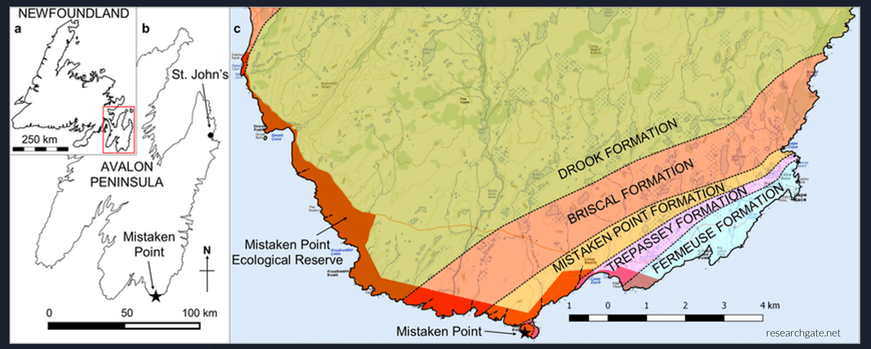
Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve

Coastline and exposed fossils in Mistaken Point

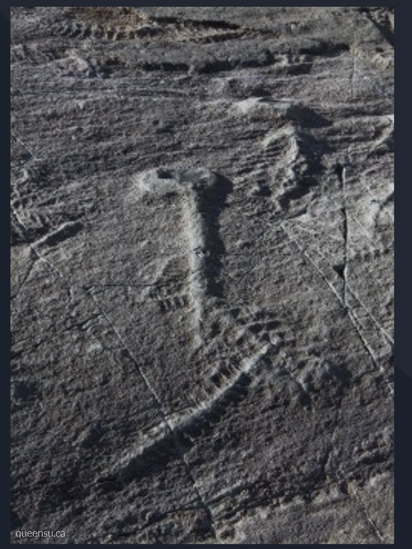
Detail from cliff face, left

Spindle structured organism, commonly found at Mistaken Point



Geological map of Mistaken Point on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

A Detail from Franz Anthony's "Garden of Ediacara." The quality and diversity of fossils from Mistaken Point have helped paleontologists develop an understanding of the Ediacaran ecology.



Edicardian fossils named *Fractofusus misrai,* formed approximately 570 Ma

A research team reconstructs fossil preservation processes at Mistaken Point. It is believed a series of volcanic eruptions buried organisms in ash, preserving their fine detail.

Mistaken Point was 'discovered' in 1967 by Geologist S. B. Misra, noting the prevalence of interesting and uncommon fossils preserved in the exposed rock faces

It is located south-eastern tip of the island of Newfoundland, Canada.

Mistaken Point is a Lagerstätte containing some of the most varied and spectacularly preserved fossils from the Precambrian Period.

Fossilized remains of Ediacaran organisms discovered at Mistaken Point represent the oldest-known multicellular life on Earth

Containing the oldest, most diverse, and well preserved fossils from the Ediacaran period, Mistaken Point has had a key role in providing insight into the ecology and development of life during this time. Although a few organisms with calcareous shells were present at this time, most were soft-bodied, generally leaving no trace after their death with the exception of a few sites with the appropriate conditions. Mistaken Point has been one of the most important such sites, preserving in spectacular quality the remains of organisms which once populated the sea floor, many of which are found nowhere else in the entire world.

GEOL 204 The Fossil Record
Spring 2020 Section 0103
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