

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910957990903321
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Titolo	The great fossil enigma : the search for the conodont animal / / Simon J. Knell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bloomington, : Indiana University Press, 2012
ISBN	9781283735452 1283735458 9780253006066 0253006066
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (438 p.)
Collana	Life of the past
Disciplina	562.2
Soggetti	Conodonts Science - Social aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Copyright Page; Dedication Page; Table of Contents; List of Illustrations; Preface & Acknowledgments; Prelude: The Impossible Animal; 1: The Road to El Dorado; 2: A Beacon in the Blackness; 3: The Animal with Three Heads; 4: Another Fine Mess; 5: Outlaws; 6: Spring; 7: Diary of a Fossil Fruit Fly; 8: Fears of Civil War; 9: The Promised Land; 10: The Witness; 11: The Beast of Bear Gulch; 12: The Invention of Life; 13: El Dorado; 14: Over the Mountains of the Moon; Afterword: The Progress of Tiny Things; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Stephen Jay Gould borrowed from Winston Churchill when he described the conodont animal as a "'riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.'" This animal confounded science for more than a century. Some thought it a slug, others a fish, a worm, a plant, even a primitive ancestor of ourselves. The list of possibilities grew and yet an answer to the riddle never seemed any nearer. Would the animal that left behind these miniscule fossils known as conodonts ever be identified? Three times the animal was "'found,'" but each was quite a different animal. Were any of them really the one? Simon J