

# Opisthotriton

**Common Name:**  
Salamander

**Classification:**

**Class:** Amphibia

**Order:** Urodela

**Family:** Batrachosauroididae



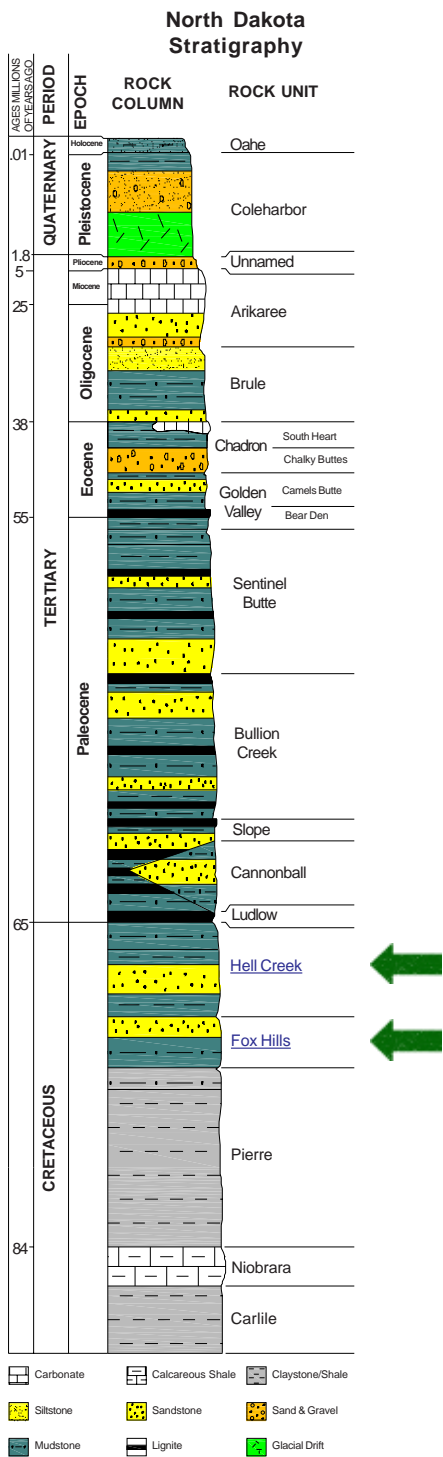
Vertebra of the salamander, *Opisthotriton*. 4 mm wide.  
Cretaceous [Fox Hills](#) Formation. Logan County. North Dakota  
State Fossil Collection.

**Description:**

*Opisthotriton* was one of the salamanders that lived in North Dakota at the same time as dinosaurs. They were small, about the same size as most living salamanders, only a few inches long. *Opisthotriton* inhabited fresh water habitats, ponds, lakes, and rivers, in forested areas. They were efficient swimmers. Salamanders similar to *Opisthotriton* live in the southeastern United States today.



*Opisthotriton*. Image courtesy of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.



Locations where fossils have been found