Opisthotriton

**Common Name:**
Salamander

**Classification:**
- **Class:** Amphibia
- **Order:** Urodela
- **Family:** Batrachosauroididae

Vertebra of the salamander, *Opisthotriton*. 4 mm wide.

**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.

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Locations where fossils have been found

ND State Fossil Collection

Prehistoric Life of ND Map

North Dakota Geological Survey Home Page