

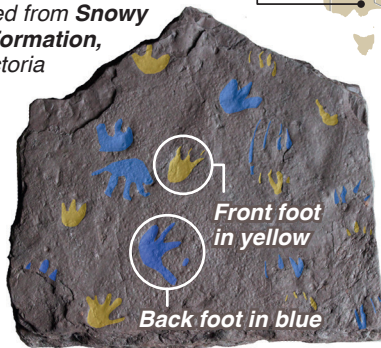
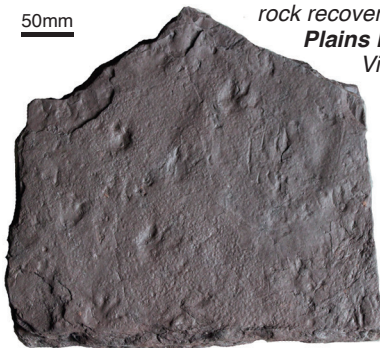
# Earliest reptile footprints discovered

Newly discovered fossilised footprints provide the earliest evidence yet of the evolution of reptiles. The tracks are around 356 million years old, making reptiles up to 40 million years older than previously thought



Fossil tracks found on slab of rock recovered from **Snowy Plains Formation, Victoria**

50mm



**FROM LIFE IN WATER TO LAND** – Millions of years ago (Ma)

419.2 358.9 298.9

**DEVONIAN EPOCH**

**CARBONIFEROUS EPOCH**

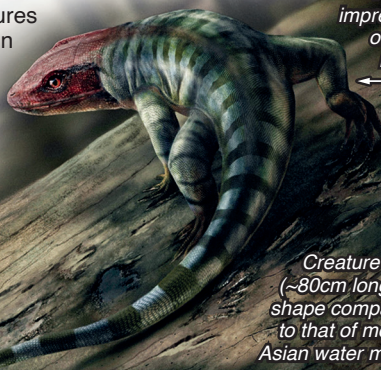
~400 Ma:  
Tetrapod  
origins

~356 Ma: **Snowy  
Plains Formation  
tracks**

~320-330 Ma:  
Amniote origins

■ Emergence of four-limbed creatures **tetrapods** onto land was key step in evolutionary journey of terrestrial organisms, including humans

■ **Amniotes** became only group of tetrapods fully adapted to life on land by producing eggs that did not need to be laid in water – membranes surrounding eggs protected them from drying out



Creature's size (~80cm long) and shape comparable to that of modern Asian water monitor