

Echinoderm Fossil

(*Jimbacrinus bostocki*)

Echinoderms known as crinoids, or “sea lilies,” were marine animals related to starfish and sea urchins—not fossilised plants as their name might suggest. The species *Jimbacrinus bostocki* is found mainly in Western Australia, particularly near Gascoyne Junction and within the Cundlego Formation.

These animals thrived on the deep-sea floor about 280 million years ago during the late Palaeozoic era, and while *Jimbacrinus* is long extinct, some crinoid relatives still inhabit our oceans today.

Fossils of *Jimbacrinus bostocki* offer a rare glimpse into the ancient marine world of the Permian period. They reveal details of a once-thriving ocean ecosystem, helping scientists' piece together the biodiversity, environmental conditions, and evolutionary history of Western Australia's seas hundreds of millions of years in the past.

