

“Nankinolithus” sp. (TH232)

Nankinolithus → Trinucleida → Trinucleina → Trinucleoidea → Trinucleidae

Provenance : Morocco; El Kaid Errami

Formation : ?Ktaoua Fm

Age : ?Upper Ordovician

Details : Complete specimen. I have some doubts about this one’s identification. In some aspects, it resembles *Declivolithus titan* (formerly *D. cf. alfredi*), which is known from the same site. *D. titan* has a more bulbous glabella (but in this case the glabella is slightly damaged) and has little librigenal tips (which may have been prepped away by an all too eager prepper). I remain with doubts about the possibility of a *Nankinolithus* in Morocco (as the genus is known rather from China), but do notice that in this specimen the cephalic body plan is more “square” than in the *D. titan* specimens I have seen (which have a more rounded cephalon – see also TH198 for comparison). Also, there seem to be quite more “pits” on the outside of the cephalic brim. The combination of which lead me to believe that this is NOT *D. titan* after all!

Note about “current” Moroccan ways of prepping : in later years we’ve seen plenty of preps where the matrix around the specimen was dug away in order to “elevate” the specimen onto the matrix. While (to the Moroccan preppers) this is seen as an embellishment (and appreciated by lots of trilobite buying “tourists” – darn...even I myself have been known to buy pieces prepped like that; even had a few made to order), one should occasionally question the scientific validity. Let’s take this specific case as an hypothetical example : one of the librigenal tips may have been missing (bitten off by a predator, for instance), and for the sake of “beauty”, the prepper may have prepped away the second tip, just to make the whole more symmetric (because that’s how a trilobite is supposed to be). Mind you, I’m not at all stating this was the case...just mentioning it as an hypothetical possibility, remember?

Bought on : 06/11/2016

Bought at : Palais des Congres, Liege

Event : Intermineral 2016

