

DROTOPS armatus Stuve 1990 (TH574)

Drotops → Phacopida → Phacopina → Phacopoidea → Phacopidae → Geesopinae

Provenance : Morocco; “middle of” Djebel Mrakib

Formation : Taboumakhlouft Fm

Age : Eifelian

Details : I got this specimen during my (trilobite-hunting) trip to Morocco in 2023, from a dealer (with a local shop) I had come to trust (due to having been guided there by someone already in my trust, in the year before). A long-time coveted species for the collection, for sure...

Bought on : 09.03.2023

Bought at : Alnif area

Event : MarocTour 2023





Okay... so after the initial (and habitual) dorsal image(s) (see page 1) here's images (above) of the left side of the animal...clearly showing that the (Moroccan) prepper made a cheap job, with ...what I'd call "loads" of residual (thus not prepped-off) matrix still on the exoskeleton!!!!



Regretfully...the right side of the animal, as far as the eye is concerned, had an even worse prep, with the individual lenses hardly discernable (can you? See also next page).

Still...there's a FREAKING nice job (NO. a GREAT job) on the dorsal spines...
...and I'm actually wondering whether I wouldn't by any chance have the sub-species
D. armatus hoplites here...you know...those shorter spines? By the way, did you
happen to notice those freakish spines on the ocular ridges? Wow, nah!!??



Last images are frontal...and you know what? To me, personally, the fact that some dorsal spines are missing...well, they are a clear sign to me that the guy who sold this specimen to me is trustworthy (sorry dudes...but at the onset of creating this website I had engaged myself to not divulge my trilobite sources...and so, I am NOT), and not one of those “fakers” whom would add restorations in the form of resin “spines” (in fact...I’m more than happy to have a relation of trust sufficiently high, and sincere, between myself and the (Moroccan) dude whom sold me this much coveted piece, that he would’ve told me if he HAD replaced, say “restaurated”, ANY of the spines). In fact...(to my regret) the spines you DO see missing...were “damaged” in my own (areal) transport of the specimen. (YES!!!!...I risked to fly it home on my way back home... (for certain, the ‘missing’ spines in the images are not really missing as they’re still in the box I transported the specimen in)...but, you know what?

THAT is the occasional “price” you pay for getting your acquisitions from the source (with a higher “economical benefit AT THE SOURCE)...and not through a “commercial dude whom gets the stuff ‘wholesale’ (because he’s gonna push the guy at the basis – in this case, the Moroccan prepper – to lower his price. I simply HATE that displicable so-called “economical princible”!!! – let’s have at least SOME respect for the “man at the bottom”).

In retrospect...I got the specimen at a DECENT price (because I didn’t have to pay any (additional) hand-offs to “intermediary persons”, and got a FAR more honest evaluation about the product (because you can be CERTAIN that the “intermediary” persons...well...they usually don’t care, eh?...they just wanna SELL, at the HIGHEST possible rate-to-investment...eh?) would NOT (AT ALL) have told me about the possible reconstructions on the piece....



ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT DROTOPS ARMATUS

Struve (1990) discerned 4 subspecies of ***Drotops armatus*** (with Alnif as type location – regrettably, this means that the specimens used in the identifications were of uncertain provenance; Alnif most probably the town where they were picked up, without site details from the diggers, whom prefer to keep that information a secret) : ***D. a. armatus***, ***D. a. accurata***, ***D. a. hoplites***, and ***D. a. perspinosa***.

I must say I never got around to finding the original manuscript, in which Struve also described ***Drotops megalomaniacus*** (in 1995, he would release a new manuscript, making distinction between 2 subspecies : ***D. m. megalomaniacus***, and ***D. m. subornatus***) and I therefore have no confirmation about a friend's claim, that the subspecies are discerned by the placement of the dorsal spines. What I AM nevertheless certain of, is that in ***D. a. armatus*** the spines are longer (up to 10-12 mm in length), and that the shorter spines (as in the specimen above) are rather indicative of the ***hoplites*** subspecies.