

It was certainly gut-wrenching when a concluded that a microscopic creature with no anus that resembled an angry Minion was the earliest human ancestor. However, new research has found that the spiky, wrinkly sack named *Saccorhytus* -which would be right at home in 'Despicable Me' - is not in fact related to humans. *Saccorhytus* had pores around its mouth that were first interpreted as gills - a primitive feature of the Deuterostomia animal group from which we emerged. However, analysis of 500 million-year-old fossils from has shown these pores are in fact the bases of spines that broke away during their preservation process. The research team, led by scientists from the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, have instead placed *Saccorhytus* in a different evolutionary group, relating it to arthropods like spiders, crabs and insects. [external frame](#) (Image: [it_was_ce_tainly_gut-w_enching_when_a](#)) *Saccorhytus* had pores around its mouth that were first interpreted as gills - a primitive feature of the Deuterostomia animal group from which humans emerged.

Pictured is an artist's reconstruction of *Saccorhytus coronarius*

(Image: [Image]) (Image: [Image]) The research team, tranh sơn mài đồng quê led by scientists from the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, have instead placed them in a different evolutionary group, relating them to arthropods like spiders, crabs and insects.

Pictured is an artist's reconstruction of a side-on (left) and dorsal (right) view of *Saccorhytus coronarius*

(Image: [Image]) *Saccorhytus* has been said to look like an angry Minion from 'Despicable Me' (stock image)

All animals that are [bilaterally symmetrical](#) - have a left and a right side - descended from one of two distinct groups; protostomes and deuterostomes. For protosomes, the mouth forms before the anus during embryonic development, but for deuterostomes it occurs the other way round. Bugs, crabs, and clams are all a part of the protosome evolutionary lineage, while vertebrate animals like humans came from deuterostomes. Unt

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However, more recently, paleobiologists dug for additional specimens of *Saccorhytus* and recovered hundreds of specimens that had been better preserved. 'Some of the fossils are so perfectly preserved that they look almost alive,' says Yunhuan Liu, [liễn thờ cửu huyền thất tổ](#) professor in Palaeobiology at Chang'an University, Xi'an, China. '*Saccorhytus* was a curious beast, with a mouth but no anus, and rings of complex spines around its mouth.' Hundreds of X-ray images were taken of a new fossil using a particle accelerator at the Swiss Light Source in Switzerland to construct a detailed 3D digital model. This showed that the creature had spines around its mouth that had been created by a decay-resistant cuticle layer extending through pores. 'We believe these would have helped *Saccorhytus* capture and process its prey,' suggests Huaqiao Zhang from the Nanjing Institute of Geology and [Liễn thờ cửu huyền thất tổ giá tốt](#) Palaeontology. Crucially, they were not gills, scrapping the only piece of evidence to suggest they were deuterostomes like humans.

(Image: [Image]) The *Saccorhytus* microfossils studied in the analysis were found in Shaanxi Province, [\[https://tranhsonmaicuuhuyen.com/\]](https://tranhsonmaicuuhuyen.com/)[Liễn thờ cửu huyền thất tổ giá tốt](#) in central China (shown on map)

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