The author suggests three possible theories on how agnostids, which are known as primitive arthropods, lived before they go extinct millions of years ago, but the lecturer casts doubt on the mentioned theories by pointing out their serious weaknesses.

First, in the reading it is mentioned that agnostids might have been free-swimming predators since there are other types of primitive arthropods known to be strong swimmers and hunters of smaller animals. However, the lecturer asserts that the preying ability of those arthropods is associated with their well-developed eyes while agnostids have tiny eyes with a poor vision and are sometimes even considered blind. Moreover, she says by the fact that arthropods lack this vital feature for preying on other animals, they might have possessed an alternative sensory organ, but there is also no evidence of that among arthropods.

Furthermore, the author argues that arthropods might have been seafloor dwellers which grazed on the bacteria or ate dead organisms on the seafloor. What speaker mentions also contradicts this theory. Seafloor dwellers are not capable of far and fast translocations, and they are said to be localized in some specific regions. In contrast, arthropods are found in multiple locations and are able to move large distances from one place to another quickly and easily.

Finally, another assumption made in the reading sets forth that arthropods can be classified as parasites which feed off larger organisms, but the lecturer refutes this assumption with some details. Parasites can't have an extremely large population because it would lead to losing their food source, as the host would be killed off with such massive numbers of parasites feeding off them. On contrary, with the vast amounts of fossilized arthropods that have been found, it can be concluded that these group of animals had a huge population. Thus, they apparently shouldn't be considered as parasites.

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