



17

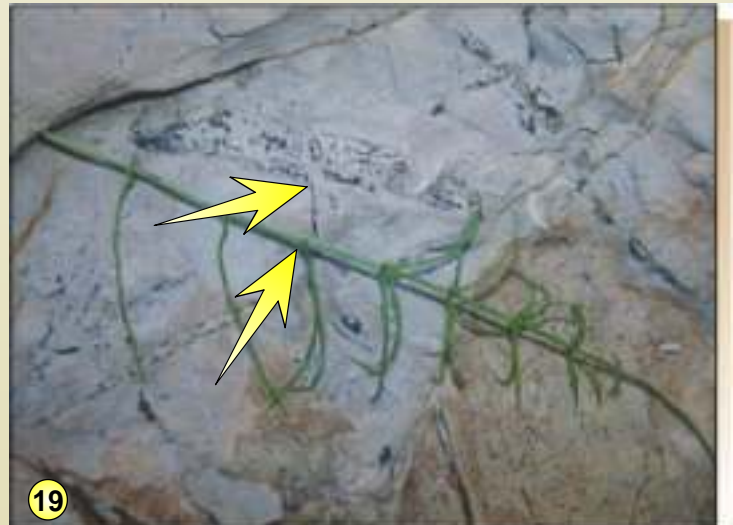
17. The snow fell at the beginning of our research. Trees already displayed golden warnings of coming cold. Leaves would soon fall to the ground and be covered by the long winter's snow, but none will become fossils.



18

18. Strata around the fossil trees produced some excellent leaf fossils - mostly from plants not growing in Alaska today. The small fern-like leaves above are sequoia, from an environment which was warmer in the past.

Some plants fossilised in the rocks still grow in the area, and provide interesting insight into the history of life.



19

19. The thin green stem picked from beside one coal seam, was a present day horse tail rush. Placed alongside one fossil above, it showed exactly the same stem and leaf structure. The fossil is undeniably a horse tail rush, but what a difference in size. Not only did the fossil trees make present Alaskan trees appear dwarfs, so did the stem fossils of other plants. Evidence of change - but not evidence for evolution.