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A GLYPTAGNOSTUS STOLIDOTUS FAUNA FROM NORTHERN VICTORIA LAND, ANTARCTICA

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Numerous Middle and Late Cambrian faunas have been recorded and/or described from Northern Victoria Land, Antarctica (Cooper et al., 1976, 1982, 1983, 1990, 1996; Cooper and Shergold, 1991; Shergold and Cooper, 1985; Shergold et al., 1976; Wolfart, 1994). Almost all of these fossils come from within the NW-SE striking fault-bounded strip of Cambrian sediments and volcanics known as the Bowers Terrane. The Bowers Terrane is bounded to the southwest by a metamorphic igneous complex (Wilson Group, Lanterman Terrane) and to the northeast by a metasedimentary flysch unit (Robertson Bay Group, Robertson Bay Terrane).

In the northern part of the Bowers Terrane, the basal part of the Cambrian succession comprises the sandstones and mudstones of the Molar Formation interfingering with the basic volcanics of the Glasgow Formation. The main fossiliferous unit, with late Middle and early Late Cambrian faunas, is the Spurs Formation that comprises siltstones with intercalated limestones and silty limestones. This is overlain unconformably by the sandstones of the Leap Year Group. In the Helix Pass – Carrey Glacier area, there are several richly fossiliferous horizons (Fig. 1). In calcareous siltstones and dark limestones of the Spurs Formation immediately below the unconformity is a rich trilobite fauna that includes the key zone fossil *Glyptagnostus stolidotus* Opik 1961.


This fauna clearly has strong affinities with the Mindyallan faunas of Queensland as described by Opik (1967), with almost all the polymeroids being found in both areas. Affinities with eastern Asia are shown by the presence of Palaeadotes and Liostracina. Palaeadotes is also found in Tasmania, China, Kazakhstan, Iran, Sweden, Siberia, Turkey, and France (Shergold et al., 2000).
Hydiobates stolidus fauna from Carryer Glacier area as discussed in this paper. G. stolidus is also known from the top of Fault Slice 2 at Reilly Ridge and from the Houliston Glacier area (see Cooper et al., 1996).

Fig. 1. Diagrammatic representation of stratigraphic relationships and fossil horizons, Bowers Terrane, northern Victoria Land (after Cooper et al., 1996).

REFERENCES


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