

1983/16. First recorded occurrence of *Geisonoceras* sp. in Tasmania.

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Abstract

This reports the first known occurrence of the orthoconic nautiloid, *Geisonoceras* sp. in Tasmania.

INTRODUCTION

During the 1980-1981 summer field season, a previously unrecorded succession of limestone, argillaceous limestone and calcareous mudstone was recognised within the Amber Formation of the Eldon Group correlate within the Huskisson Syncline on the Corinna 1:50 000 sheet.

The succession crops out along the Huskisson River at CP700833 and CP702785 and is exposed in cuttings along the H.E.C. Pieman Road at CP713782. Specimens of macrofossils from CP700833 and samples for microfossil (conodont) identification from CP713782 were submitted to the University of Tasmania.

The outcrop on the Huskisson River at CP700833 consists of well-bedded limestone with interbedded, laminated black mudstone. The limestone is highly fossiliferous and contains numerous specimens of single corals and orthoconic nautiloids.

Dr B.A. Stait supplied the following description of one of the orthoconic nautiloids.

The specimen belongs to the family Geisonoceratidae (Zhuraleva, 1959), and is similar to *Geisonoceras* (Hyatt, 1884). The age range of the family and of the genus is from Middle Ordovician to Middle Devonian.

Both of the following Australian species is based on an external mould whereas the specimen submitted was based on a sagittal section.

Geisonocerina australis Teichert and Glenister (1952) from the Silurian of Victoria. This is based on an external mould and not useful for comparison.

Geisonoceras sp. comparison with other species is difficult as the external form is poorly known and it has not been sagittally sectioned.

Geisonocerina is probably a synonym of *Geisonoceras*.

SUMMARY

An orthoconic nautiloid of the genus *Geisonoceras* has not previously been found in the Silurian of Tasmania. Extensive collections of Ordovician nautiloids from the Gordon Limestone do not contain *Geisonoceras*.

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- TEICHERT, C.; GLENISTER, B.F. 1952. Fossil nautiloid faunas from Australia. *J. Paleont.* 26:730-752.
- ZHURALEVA, F.W. 1959. O semeistve Michelinoceratidae. *Materialy k 'Osnovam paleontologii'* 3:47-48.

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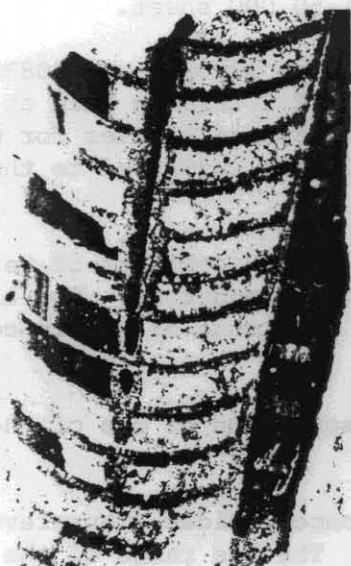


Figure 1. Sagittal section.

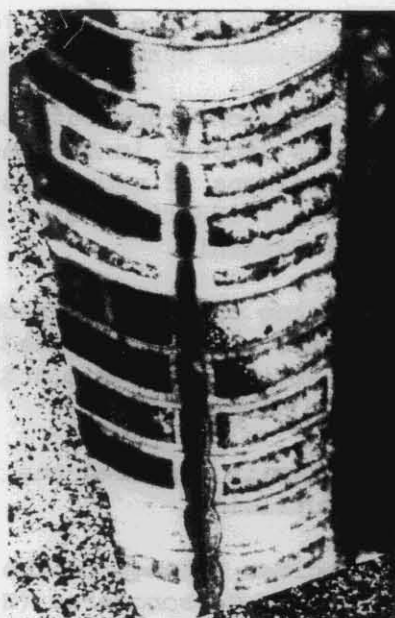


Figure 2. Opaque sagittal section.

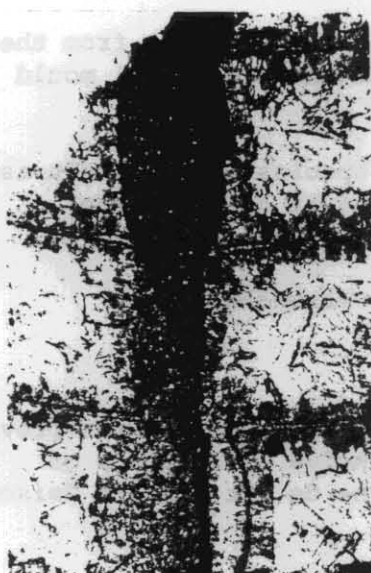


Figure 3. Detail of siphuncle showing necks, connecting rings and siphonal deposits.

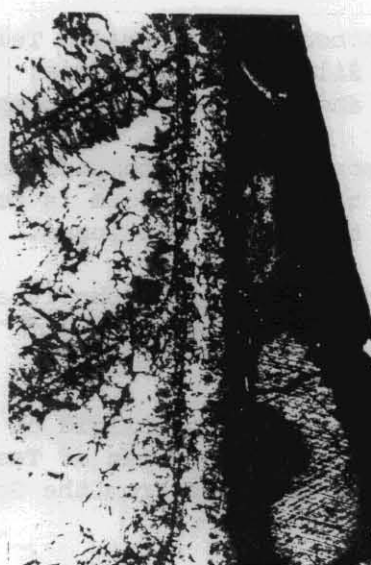


Figure 4. Detail of phragmocone wall showing external transverse ridges.

5 cm