

LOWER CARBONIFEROUS RUGOSE CORALS FROM MURCHISON'S RUSSIAN COLLECTION IN THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

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Murchison's Russian coral collection housed in the Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum was made by Murchison in European Russia and in the Urals during his travels in 1840 and 1841. It comprises 45 specimens, including 27 types, figured or described specimens, to 9 out of 10 rugose species described by Lonsdale (1845) from the Lower Carboniferous (Viséan and Serpukhovian) of the Moscow Basin and Urals. These species are as follows: *Lithodendron costatum* sp. nov., *L. annulatum* sp. nov., *L. fasciculatum* J. Phillips, *Diphyphyllum concinnum* gen. et sp. nov., *Stylastraea inconferta* gen. et sp. nov., *Lithostrotion emarciatum* (Fischer), *L. mammilare* (Fischer), *L. floriforme* Fleming, *Cladocora? sarmentosa* sp. nov.

The first two taxa are valid species belonging with *Siphonodendron*. *S. costatum* comes from the upper Viséan - basal Serpukhovian (upper Tula - lower Tarusa horizons) exposed on the Oka River (southern part of the Moscow Basin), and *S. annulatum* from the basal uppermost Viséan (lower Ust'ilim horizon) exposed on the Chusovaya River in its middle reaches (western flank of the central Urals). *Lithodendron fasciculatum* comes from the uppermost Viséan - lower upper Serpukhovian of the same area as the latter and is probably a junior synonym of *S. irregulare* (Phillips). *Stylastraea inconferta* belongs with *Acrocyathus* d'Orbigny and most probably comes from Upper Viséan (lower Warnantian, Ust'grekhovka horizon) limestones exposed on the Ural River (eastern flank of the southern Urals). *Lithostrotion emarciatum* and *L. floriforme* come from the top lower Serpukhovian (Steshevo horizon) exposed on the Msta River (north-western part of the Moscow Basin) and represent various aspects of variability of *Lonsdaleia (Actinocyathus) borealis* (Dobrolyubova). *Lithostrotion mammilare* comes from the topmost Viséan-lowermost Serpukhovian (Venev-Tarusa horizons) of the same area and is a junior synonym of *Lonsdaleia (Actinocyathus) crassiconus* (McCoy). *Diphyphyllum concinnum* comes from the Serpukhovian exposed on the Ural River near Ekaterinburg (eastern flank of the central Urals) and is the senior synonym of *Diphyphyllum lataseptatum* McCoy. *Cladocora? sarmentosa* is a valid species of the genus *Paralithostrotion* Gorsky; it comes from the same locality as *Diphyphyllum concinnum* and is most probably restricted to the upper Serpukhovian (upper Bogdanovich horizon).

Reference

- Lonsdale, W., 1845: Appendix A. Description of some characteristic Palaeozoic corals of Russia. - In: Murchison, R. I., de Verneuil, E. & von Keyserling, A.: The Geology of Russia and Ural Mountains. Vol. I, Geology. - 591-634, London, Paris (John Murray, P. Bertrand).