

SILURIAN AND DEVONIAN TABULATE CORALS COMMUNITIES IN THE SUBPOLAR URALS.

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On the western slope of North Urals 90 species (representing 25 genera) of Tabulate corals have been identified in the strata of the Silurian and Lower Devonian age. Comparative analyses of taxonomical composition and distribution of faunas, and distribution of facies, resulted in recognition of several ecological association of Tabulate corals in the region.

Přidoli. 15 species (5 genera) recognized belong to *Favosites pseudoforbesei* Assemblage characteristic of which is the dominance of *Favosites*. At some levels colonies of *Favosites* (diameter up to 20-30 cm) together with several syringoporids and squameofavositoids form biomorphic beds up to 1.5 m thick.

Characteristic of the Lochkovian strata in the Subpolar Urals is the *Thamnopora faceta* Assemblage dominated by the nominal taxon. At some levels, *T. faceta* together with *Striatopora tshichatschevi* form „coral meadows”. In general, Lochkovian assemblages are dominated by cylindrical and branchy colonies characteristic of shallow-water environment.

Pragian. Extensive regression in this time resulted in almost complete disappearance of Tabulate corals in the region.

Emsian. Following the Emsian transgression, Tabulate corals reappear in the studied region. In the Late Emsian, the *Favosites goldfussi* Assemblage (includes 22 species of *Favosites*, *Pachyfavosites*, *Alveolites*, *Caliapora*, *Gracilopora* and *Syringopora*) was established in the Subpolar and Polar Ural region (sections on Bet'yu, Shchugor and Lek-Elets rivers).

Eifelian. In this time, considerable changes in the composition of Tabulate coral faunas occurred: *Favosites* and *Squameofavosites* disappeared; *Alveolites*, *Crassialveolites*, *Syringopora* and chaetetidae started to dominate. In the Syv'yu River region, the Eifelian strata are characterized by the *Alveolites maillieuxi* Assemblage which, together with cosmopolitan taxa, includes several endemic syringoporoids.

Givetian. In this time, the composition of the Tabulate coral faunas in the modern North Ural region changed almost completely. *Pachyfavositids* disappeared, thick-walled alveolitids started to dominate.

Summarising the data above it is evident that different stratigraphical intervals in the Silurian-Devonian sequence in the North Ural region are characterized by different assemblages of Tabulate corals. Particularly distinct changes in the Tabulate corals succession occurred at the Silurian-Devonian boundary. Although *Favosites* and *Parastriatopora*, both characteristic of the upper Silurian, occur also in Devonian the Silurian and Devonian faunas of these genera differ completely. Most characteristic of the Devonian taxa is that the corners of their corallites possess thicker walls than in Silurian.

In general, during the Early Devonian the assemblages of the Tabulate coral genera almost did not changed. At the end of the Early Devonian time *Favosites* and *Parastriatopora* disappeared, and *Squameofavosites* and *Pachyfavosites* became rare. At this time, the most common genera were *Thamnopora* and *Syringopora*. At the Early and Middle Devonian boundary the composition of the Tabulate corals changed almost completely. In the Middle Devonian time, thick-walled alveolitids became to dominate.