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A SMALL TABULATE CORAL ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE WENLOCK OF SAAREMAA, (ESTONIA)

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Sixty-six specimens of six tabulate coral species from the shore locality „Liiva pank" on Saaremaa Island were studied in their environmental context. The corals occur in a bioherm and also in muddy layers within skeletal limestone of Jaani age, Wenlock. The dominating species is *Heliolites interstinctus,* which shows considerable intraspecific variation. The variation of *Propora tubulata* and *Halysites senior* in this locality is illustrated. *Paleofavosites* sp. A, represented by six specimens only, shows a high variation of characters, which may be caused by their different life positions in the bottom of sediment.

Rapid short-time influxes of mud interrupted the growth of coralla. Damages by boring organisms are quite often in heliolitids. Most coralla in bioherm are grown on stromatoporoids. Domal and tabular forms of coralla are dominating over bulbous ones. The environment was favourable for heliolitids which grew more rapidly than favositids and for halysitids known as mud-tolerant tabulate corals (Young and Elias 1997; Stel 1978).

References

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