

THE MULTIPLICITY BY FOUR AS A CHARACTERISTIC OF PALAEOZOIC CORALS

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The attention is given under study of Palaeozoic corals to radial, bilateral, six-radial and twelve-radial symmetry. But the survey of measuring treats shows that such feature as multiplicity by four is widely spreaded in Palaeozoic corals. It fixes in different variants in all orders – Heliolitida, Tabulata and Rugosa. For example, Heliolitida had 12 septa, 12 segments of corallite's walls or 12 folds of walls. The number of coenenchimal tubes around the corallites fluctuated from 12 to 24 (Ospanova, 1980). Maximum number of septa of Halysitina (order Tabulata) reached 12-16. The number of septa of Lichenariina divisible by four usually. 8 or 16 coarse septal edges counted in Billingsaria. The number of septa of Septentrionites reached 16. Quantity of septal edges of Lyopora were 20-24 (Sokolov, 1955, 1962; Preobrazhensky, 1965, etc.). 12 fossilized tentacle were discovered in fossil Favosites (Copper, 1985, Plusquelles, 1993). Representatives of family of Tetraporellidae had quadrilateral corallites and such genera of Rugosa as Goniophyllum and Areopoma too. The laying of septa took place in Rugosa at 4 point near by 4 primary septa generally (Kunth, 1869) and number of septa divisible by four often, etc.

The recognition of this peculiarity is very important because it not only supplements to general picture of relationship of Palaeozoic corals but points out the ancestor which is probably common with the rest of Coelenterata.

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