

LATE PERMIAN RUGOSE CORALS FROM A SEAMOUNT LIMESTONE BLOCK IN SOUTHWESTERN XIZANG (TIBET)

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An abundant reefal coral fauna was discovered from an exotic block at Gyanyima, Zanda County, Southwest Xizang (Tibet). The strata containing corals are mainly composed of gray, yellowish gray, and purplish gray bioclastic limestones that were probably a seamount deposit in the Paleotethyan Sea between the Gondwanan and Cathaysian continents. Preliminary study indicates the rugose fauna contains only compound taxa including six species of *Waagenophyllum*, two species of *Liangshanophyllum*, and two species of *Ipciphyllum*, which all belong to the subfamily Waagenophyllinae. These taxa are typical warm-water Tethyan elements. They are accompanied by a highly-diversified foraminiferal fauna that includes *Reichelina cribroseptata* Erk, *Reichelina changhsingensis* Sheng et Zhang, *Colaniella fusiformis* Song, *Colaniella parva* (Colani) and others. These foraminiferids indicate a Late Permian, Changhsingian age. A coral reef, with *Waagenophyllum* as the major skeletal reef builder, occurs in the uppermost part of the sequence. This is possibly one of the latest Permian rugose coral reefs in the world. Furthermore, one species of *Ipciphyllum* occurs in the upper part of the sequence. This is only known record of massive rugose corals in rocks of Changhsingian age and is the youngest Permian occurrence known to date.