TRILOBITE DIVERSITY IN BALTOSCANDIAN ERRATIC BOULDERS

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The term „erratic” is derived from the Latin verb „errare”, which means „to wander”. According to Quaternary geology, erratic boulders are those rocks that are transported from original provenance areas by glaciers or ice sheets. Erratics are often embedded in glacial sediments and are found far away from their regions of origin. They differ in size, shape and type from native rocks. Erratics range in size from small pebbles to huge, metre-sized boulders. Erratics found in Poland originate from Scandinavia and other Baltic countries (for example Estonia), but also from the Baltic Basin itself. For palaeontological research, the most important constituents are sedimentary rock types. It is possible to find many types of these, a number of which will be presented in this presentation. It is focused on Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian erratics, which contain numerous trilobite species. The most common are asaphids, phacopids, and encrinurids. Mostly, there are only some parts of their body, for example pygidium, but recognition of genera (sometimes even species) is possible. Some of them are very characteristic for specific rock types, for instance Agnostus pisiformis in Agnostus-limestone or Toxochasmops macrourus in Macroura-limestone. The aim of this work is to show trilobite diversity in erratic boulders and ways of their recognition.