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An Upper Tertiary Nautiloid from the Little Totara River,  
Buller County

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*Abstract*

A collection of nautiloids very similar to *Aturia angustata* (Conrad), a species previously unrecorded in New Zealand, is described from Waiuan (Miocene) sediments near Charleston, south-west Nelson. The accompanying rich invertebrate fauna indicates shallow-water conditions.

INTRODUCTION

A fossiliferous band in the Upper Tertiary marine siltstone and sandstone of the West Coast (locally called "Blue Bottom" or "papa") is exposed in the Little Totara River and has been known to fossil collectors for several years. B. Curry senior (Westport) and S. Nathan spent a day in January, 1965, collecting from this horizon and obtained about a dozen specimens of a nautiloid very similar to *Aturia angustata* (Conrad), a species previously unrecorded in New Zealand. The specimens are described below, and, because the locality is now almost collected out, a complete fossil list is also presented. With the exception of collection S30/f557, which is held by Mr Curry, all specimens mentioned are held by the New Zealand Geological Survey, Lower Hutt. Specimens prefixed by the letters CE are held in the Geological Survey collection of cephalopoda.

The fossiliferous band is located approximately one mile upstream from the bridge over the Little Totara River (grid reference S30/986572). A microfossil sample (S30/f555) collected from the siltstone immediately overlying the fossiliferous horizon was examined by Mr G. H. Scott (New Zealand Geological Survey). He has reported (11.2.65) that it contains a small foraminiferal assemblage including:

*Loxostomum truncatum* Finlay

*Orbulina universa* d'Orbigny

*Globoquadrina dehiscens* (Chapman, Parr, and Collins)

which probably indicates a Waiuan age.

The macrofossil collection (S30/f557) was submitted to Mr P. A. Maxwell (New Zealand Geological Survey) for identification. Fossils in an earlier collection (GS3639), made in 1946 by Dr H. W. Wellman, are also included in the following list.

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