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Crinoidea from the Reefton Group (Lower Devonian),
New Zealand

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Abstract

CRINOID remains from Yorkey Creek, Reefton, New Zealand, are determined and described: *Megistocrinus reeftonensis* n.sp. is proposed. The stratigraphical significance of the Reefton crinoids is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

IN 1961 Professor H. W. Wellman of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, collected a number of crinoid fossils from a boulder of calcareous argillite (S38/641, grid reference 372223) in Yorkey Creek, near Reefton, in the south-west part of Nelson province, South Island, New Zealand. The collection of fossils comprised a single external mould including some calical plates and arms with pinnules, as well as other moulds of fragments of stems. Specimens other than isolated columnals and calical plates are unusual for New Zealand, and Professors H. B. Fell* and P. Vella (Departments of Zoology and Geology, Victoria University of Wellington) sent latex casts of the material to me for taxonomic determination.

The specimens illustrated are in the type collections of the Geology Department, Victoria University of Wellington; numbers given below refer to the above collections.

SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTIONS

Subclass CAMERATA Wachsmuth and Springer, 1885

Order MONOBATHRIDA Moore and Laudon, 1943

Superfamily PEREICHOCHRINIDAE Austin and Austin, 1843

GENUS MEGISTOCRINUS Owen and Shumard, 1852

Megistocrinus reeftonensis n.sp. (Pl. 1, Pl. 2, Figs. 1-3)

DESCRIPTION: The calyx is large, greater in width than in height, composed of thick, large plates which become gradually smaller in a ventral direction. The plates are gently arched, ornamented at the surface by rather densely distributed, rounded, radial ribs, which are apparent especially in the plates of higher circles. The round stalk facet is slightly exposed

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