

PREFATORY NOTE

The following article on the *Stromatoporoidea* of the Guelph dolomites is the first of a series of publications which it is proposed to issue on the Stromatoporoids of America. Palaeontologists have long felt the need of a revision of these forms, for most of the descriptions are contained in journals of early date which are more or less inaccessible. In many cases also the descriptions were written before the group was as well understood as it is at present, and, if illustrated at all, the figures were imperfect and on different scales of magnification. The most important means for the identification of species is a series of sections, vertical and tangential, on a uniform scale of magnification so that comparisons may be readily instituted. An attempt will be made to produce such a set of plates.

Since the appearance of Nicholson's monograph on the British Stromatoporoids we have an adequate and admirable basis on which to proceed with the classification of forms. The reader is referred to that volume for all generic descriptions, for a historical review of the subject and for a complete discussion of the anatomy of Stromatopora in general.

Owing to the incomplete preservation of many examples, the impossibility of obtaining the type specimens, and the insufficiency of collections, numerous errors will occur and, in time, be detected, but I have proceeded on the principle that no better material may ever be found and that a provisional description is better than none.

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