

FOSSILS OF THE KANSAS CITY GROUP

By: Dennis Whitney

The SWOPE Formation: with three members.

Middle Creek Limestone member.

The Middle Creek Limestone has an abundant fossil fauna, with the bryozoa *Rhombopora sp.* being especially common. Brachiopods are also numerous, and well preserved in three dimensional forms. The brachiopod *Meekella stratocostata* is commonly found and serves as a index marker for this horizon.

Parizek(1) presents the following fauna list for the Middle Creek.

The Fauna of the Middle Creek Limestone after Parizek(1):

Brachiopoda (Brachiopods):

Chonetes sp.
Composita subtilita
Meekella stratocostata
Juresania nebrascensis
Derbia crassa
Lophophyllum sp.

Bryozoa :

Fistulipora sp
Rhombopora sp.
Septopora sp.

Echinodermata: (Echoderms,) :

Crinoid ossicles.

Hushpuckney Shale Member.

The Hushpuckney Shale is generally nonfossiliferous, However White (6) has discovered well preserved soft bodied arthropods, which resemble small shrimp, in Hushpuckney sites in Iowa and Nebraska. A list of Hushpuckney arthropods has been published by Schram (7).

Hushpuckney Arthropods, of the phylum CRUSTACEA, after Schram (x):

Gorgonophontes peleron
Aeschronectid
Paechocaris acanthouraea
Concavicarts cf. C. sinuate
Mycterops whitei

Bethany Falls Limestone Member.

The Fauna of the Bethany Falls Limestone after Parizek(1):

Brachiopoda (Brachiopods):

Chonetina flemingi
Juresania sp.
Antiquatonia portlockiana
Kozlowskia splendens
Neospirifer kansasensis
Neospirifer rdumbari

Bryozoa :

Fenestella sp
Fistulipora sp
Rhombopora sp
Polypora sp,

Punctospirifer kentuckiensis

Echinodermata: (Echinoderms,) :

Derbia crassa

Crinoid ossicles.

Composita subtilita

Protozoa : *Fusulinids **

Hustedia mormoni

Chonetina flemingi

Plants: *Unidentified algae.*

Chonetina sp.

Both the Middle Creek and the Bethany Falls Limestone are rich in Brachiopoda. There are definitely many more species present in these formations and in the other Kansas City Group formations than are presented above. Dunbar and Condra (8) have published a bulletin in which they describe 133 species of brachiopods. They list 26 species which can be found in the Bethany Falls, and claim 50 species occur in the Kansas City Group.

GALESBURG Formation: with one member (The Galesburg.)

The Galesburg is nonfossiliferous. However Parizek (1) does report that a few small brachiopods may be present in a few locations at the very top of the formation.

(1) Parizek, E. J., 1965, Stratigraphy of the Kansas City Group: Missouri Geological Survey and Water Resources, Report of Investigations No. 31, pp. 32 – 49

(6) White W. D., 1964, Pennsylvanian fossils of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa., Part I, Earth Science, 1964: p. 202-208, Part II, Earth Science, 1965: p. 66-74.

(7) Schram F. R., 1984, Upper Pennsylvanian Arthropods from Black Shales of Iowa and Nebraska, Journal of Paleontology, vol. 58, No. 1, p 197 – 209, with 8 figs.

(8) Dunbar C. O. and Condra G. E., 1932, Brachiopoda of the Pennsylvanian System in Nebraska, Nebraska Geological Survey, Bulletin 5, Second Series.