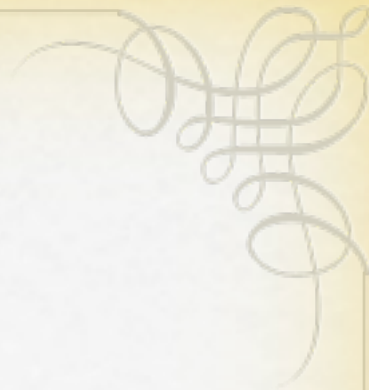
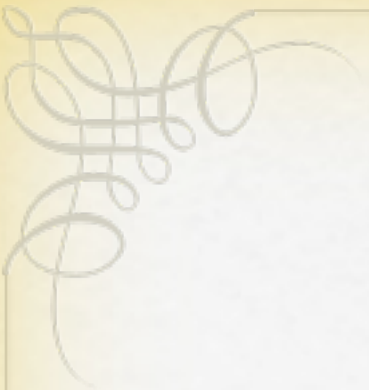
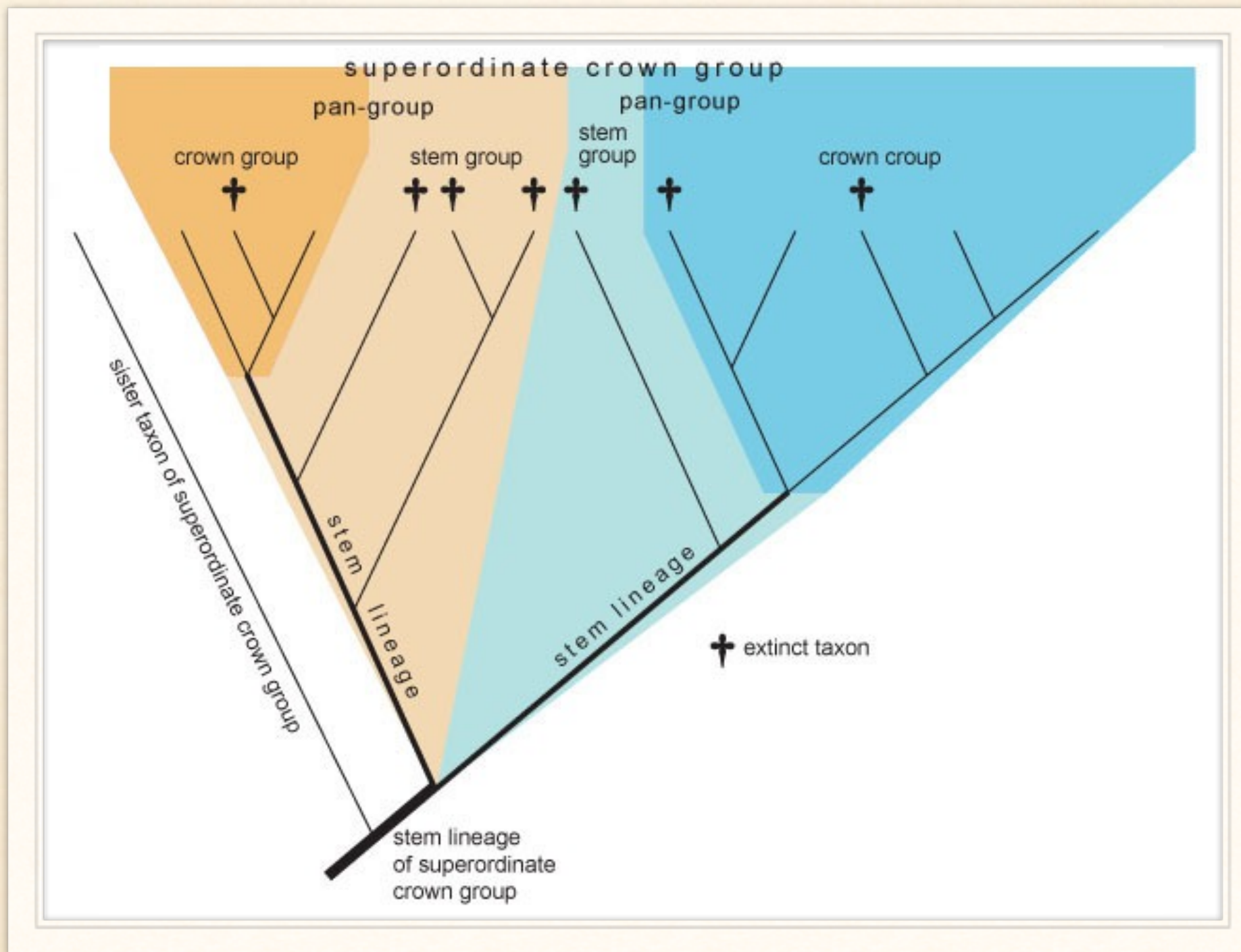




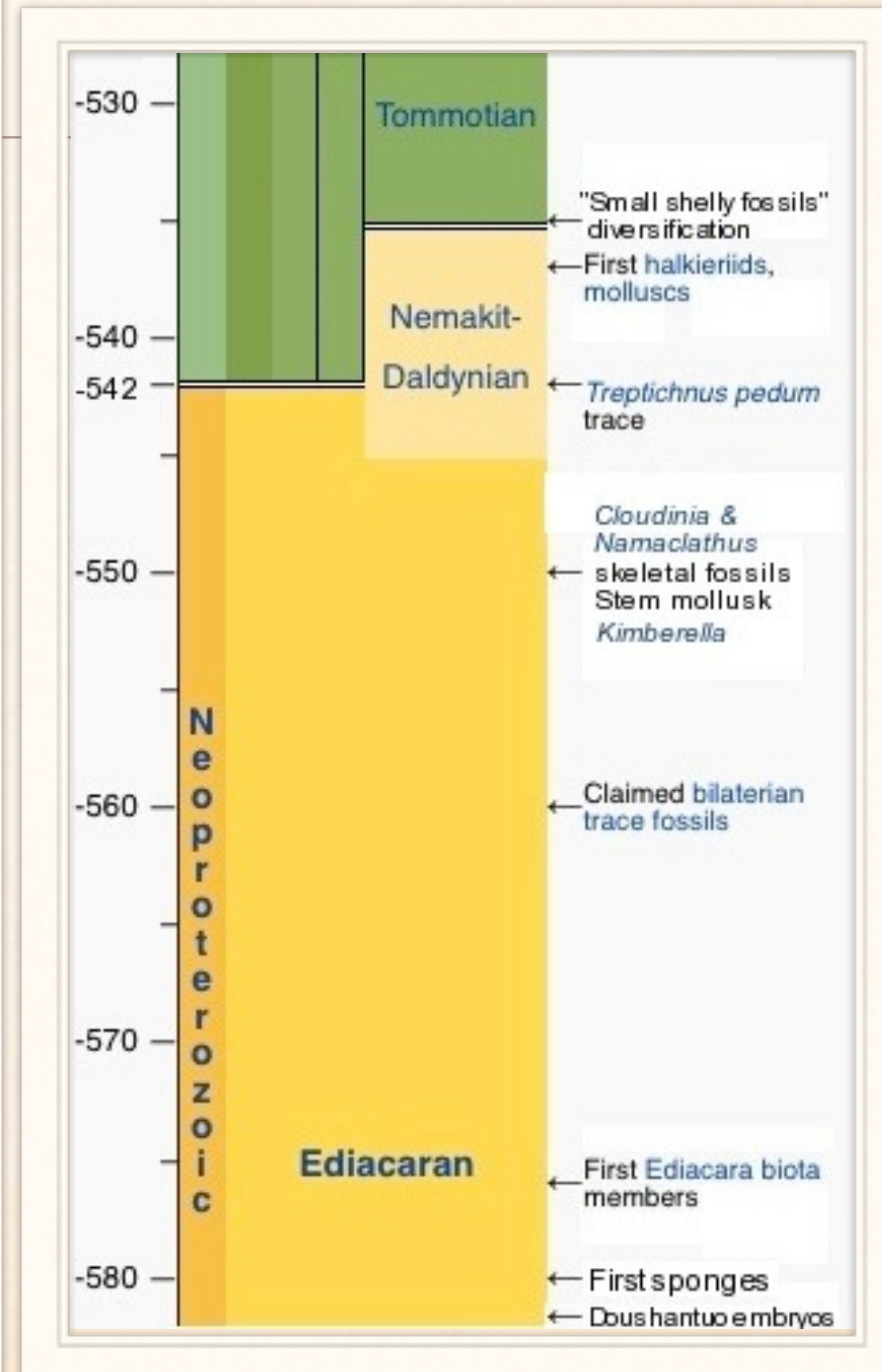
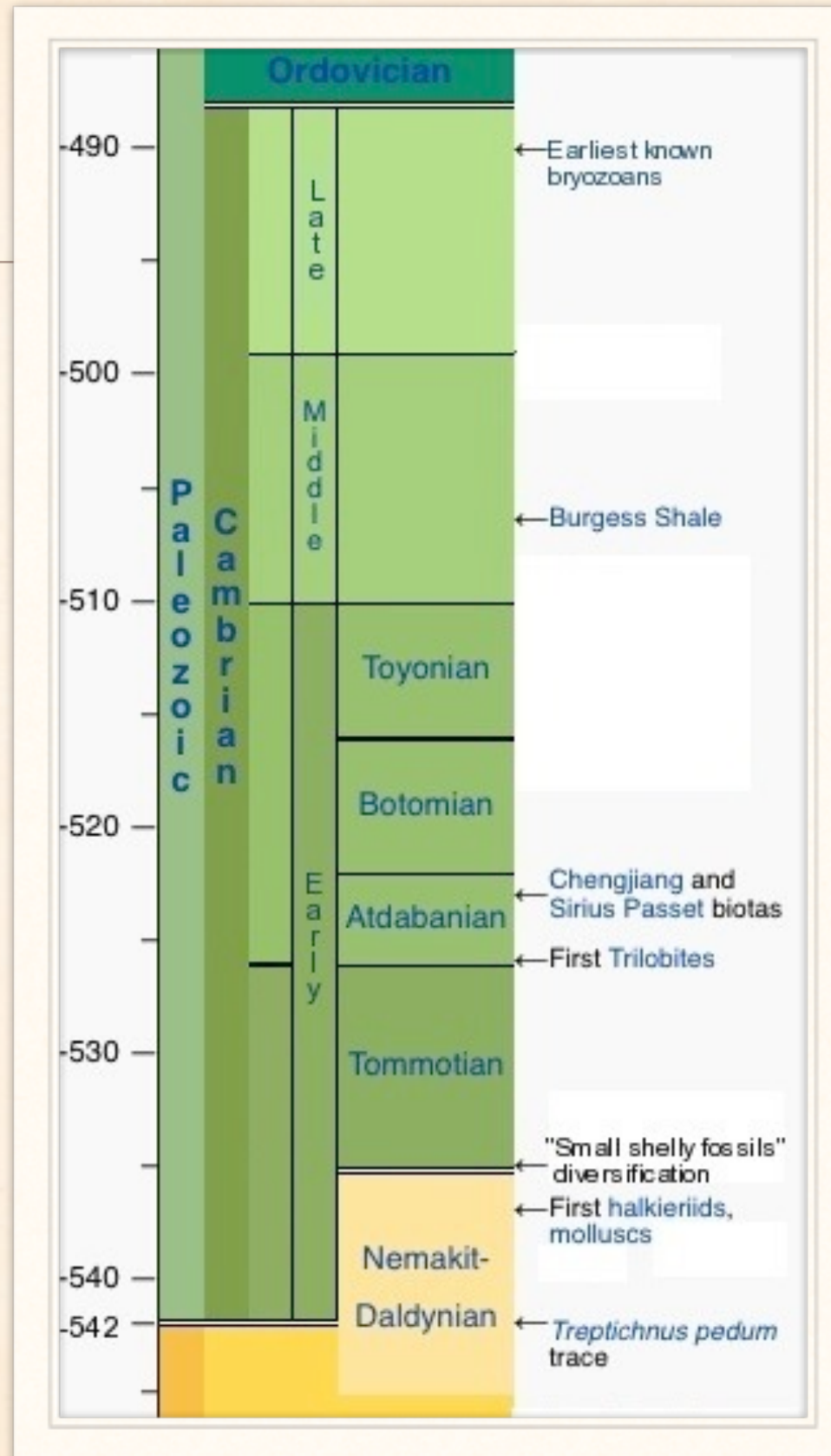
# THE FOSSIL RECORD AND THE CAMBRIAN “EXPLOSION”: AN UPDATE

Keith B. Miller  
Department of Geology  
Kansas State University

# CROWN GROUPS, STEM GROUPS, AND SISTER GROUPS



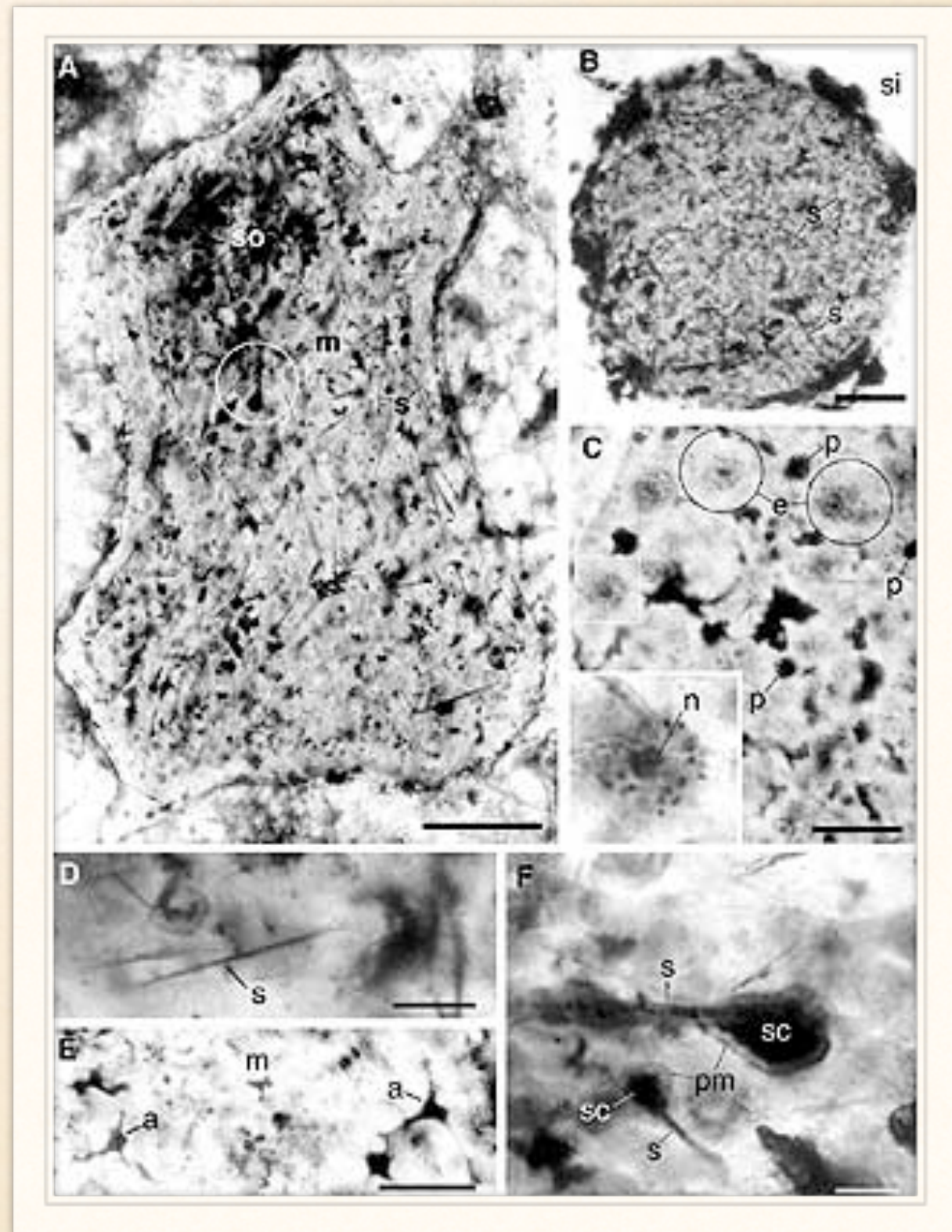
# Cambrian "Explosion" Timeline



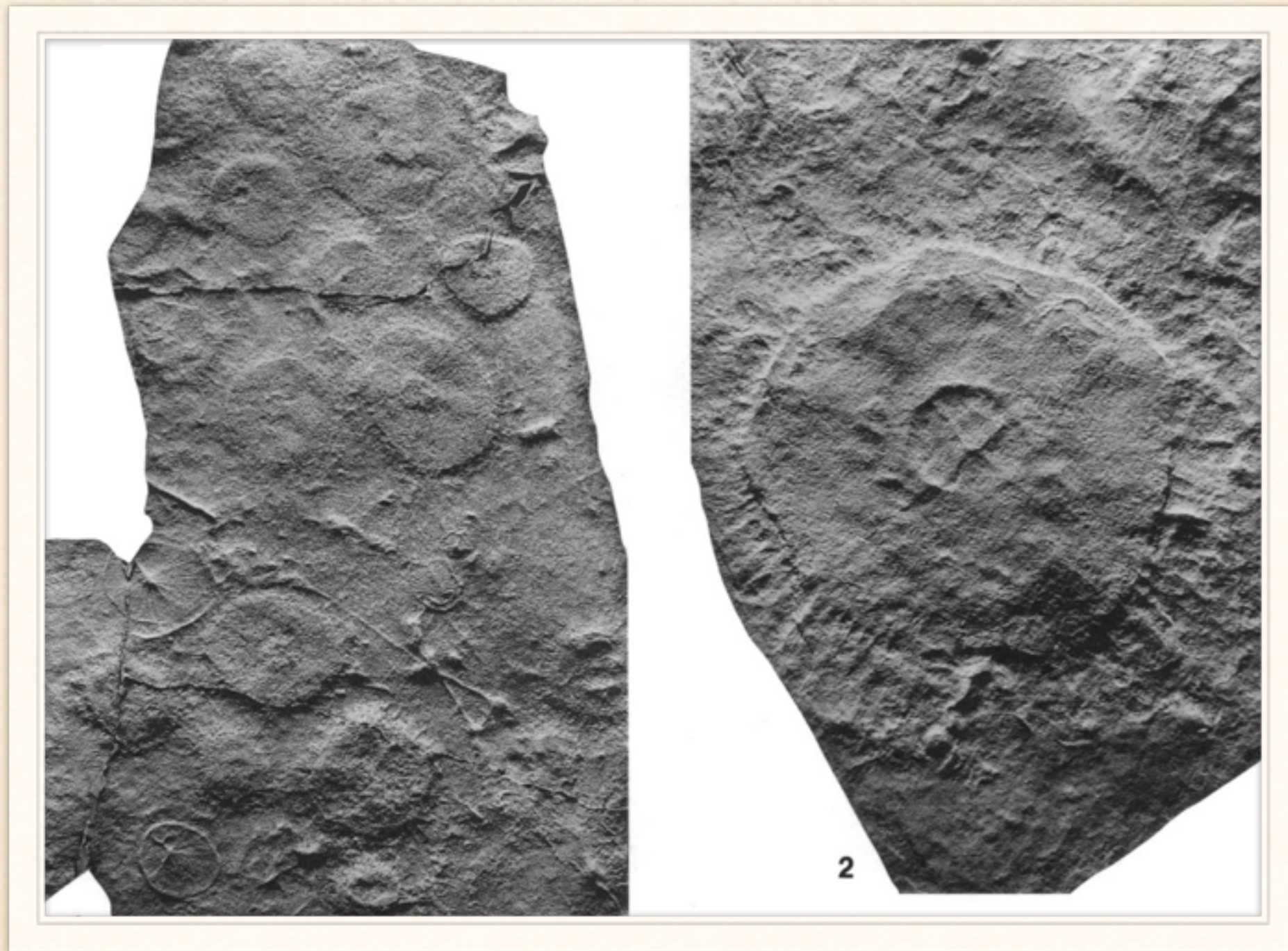
EDIACARAN  
DOUSHANTUO - 580 MY  
DEMOSPONGES

---

Presence of sponges  
extended to 700 my  
by biomarkers



# EDIACARAN HEXACTINELLID SPONGES



# EDIACARAN CNIDARIA (?)

## “JELLYFISH-LIKE” ORGANISMS

---

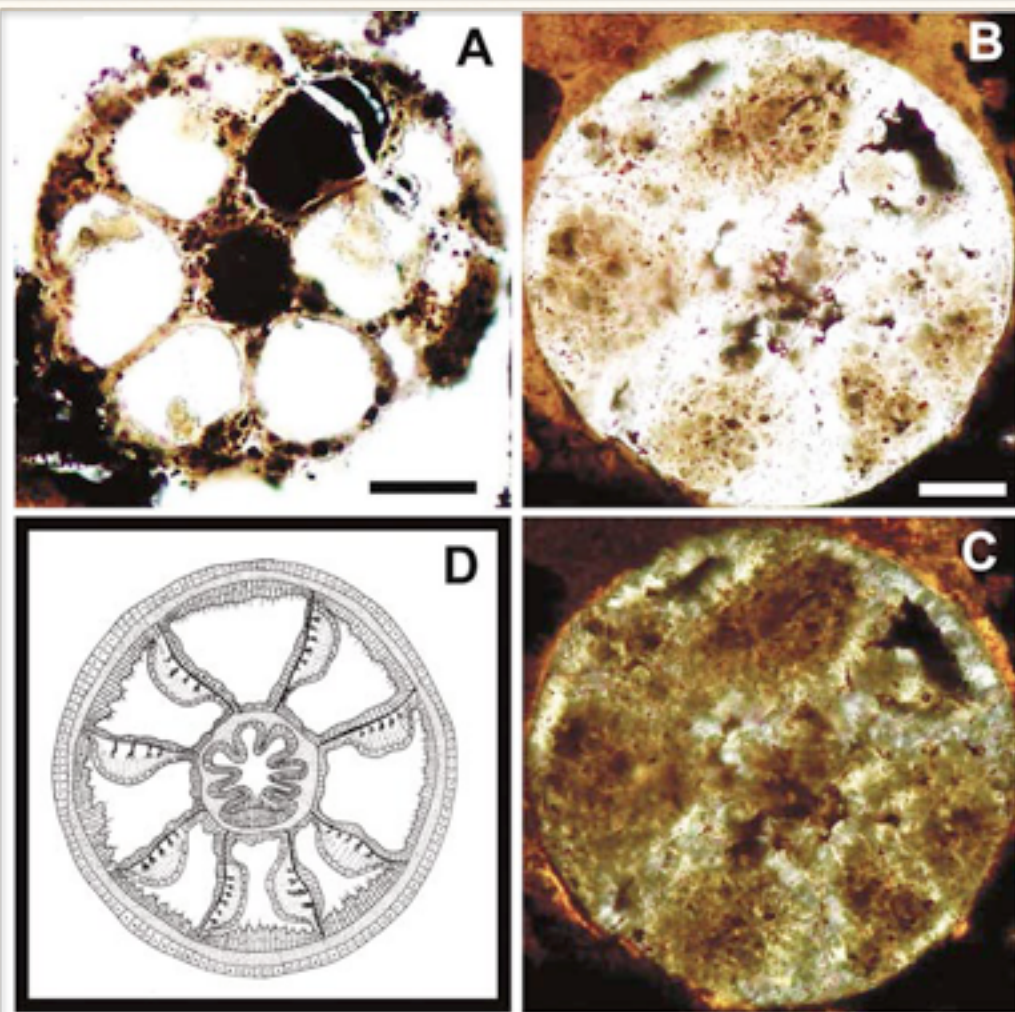
*Marssonites*



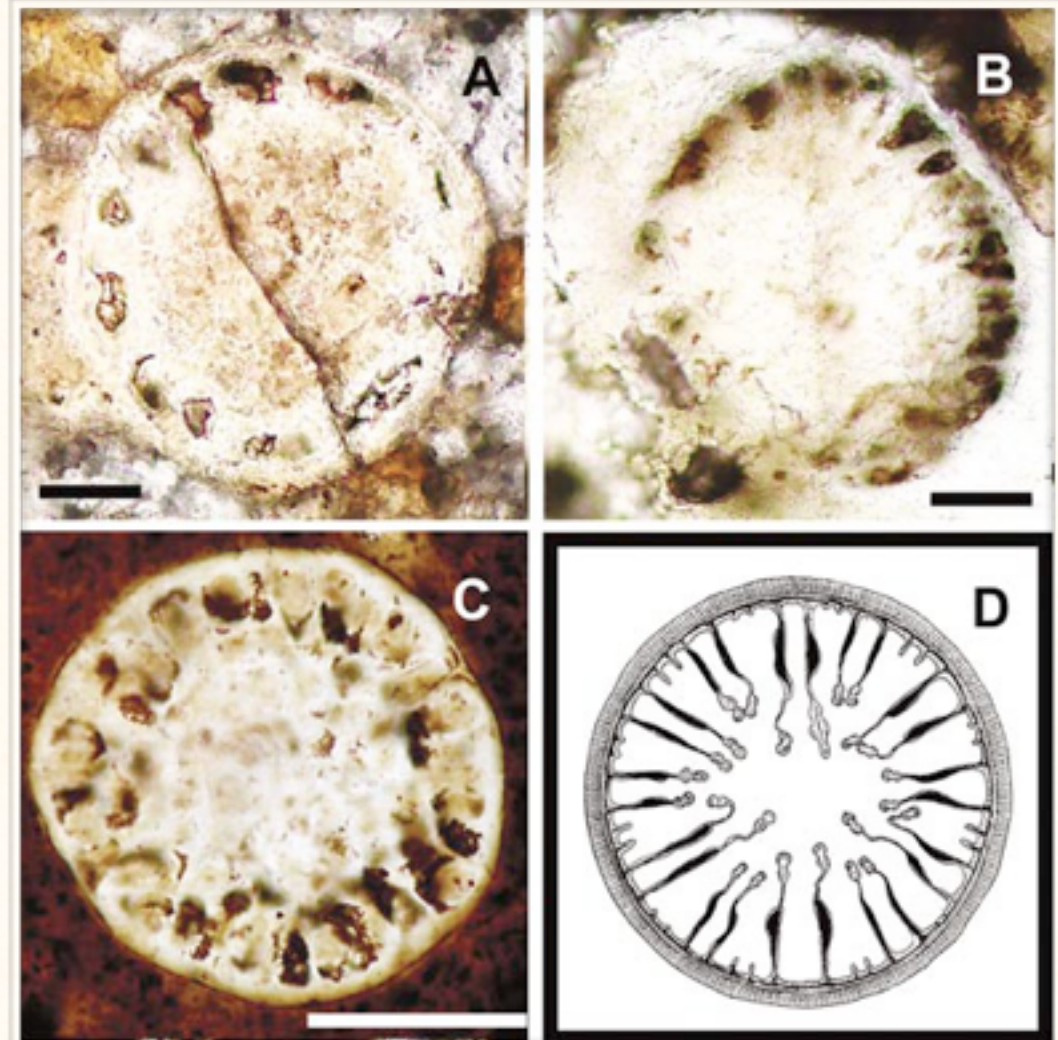
*Nemaia* 600 my

# NEOPROTEROZOIC CNIDARIAN (ANTHOZOAN)

## POLYPS AND STALKS



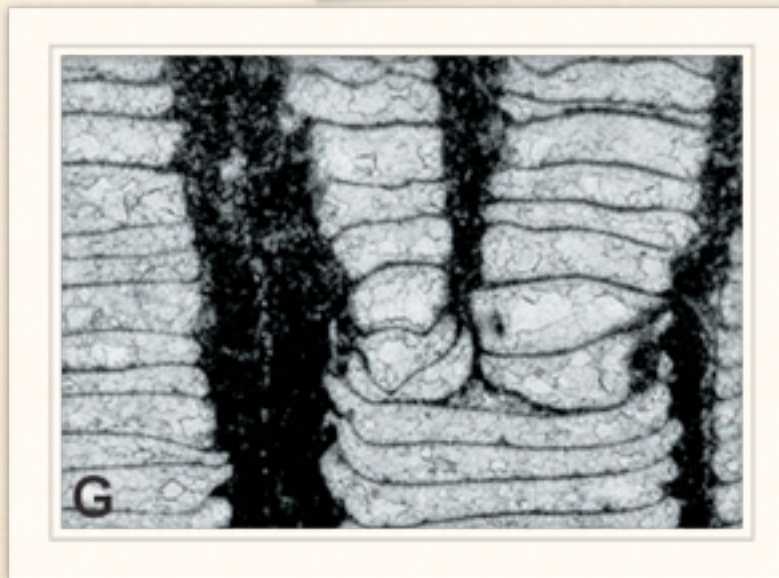
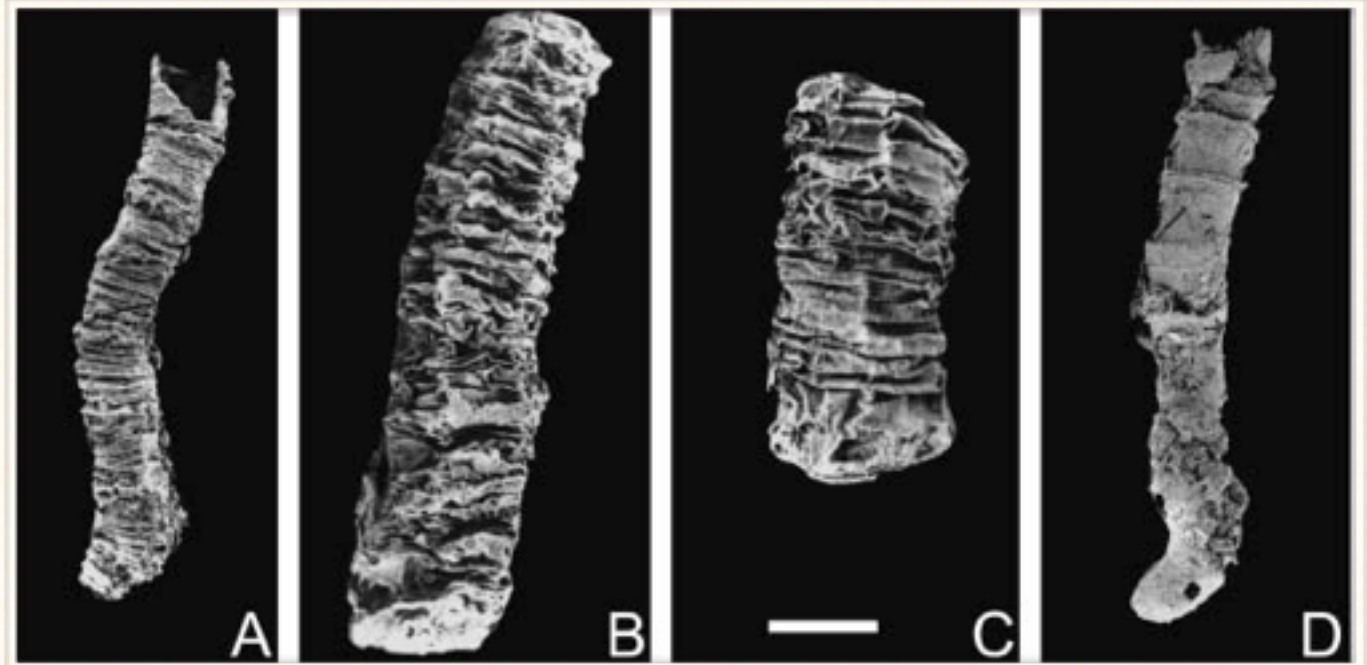
Octocoral?



Zoantharian?

# Ediacaran Calcified Metazoans

## *Sinotubulites* and *Cloudinia*

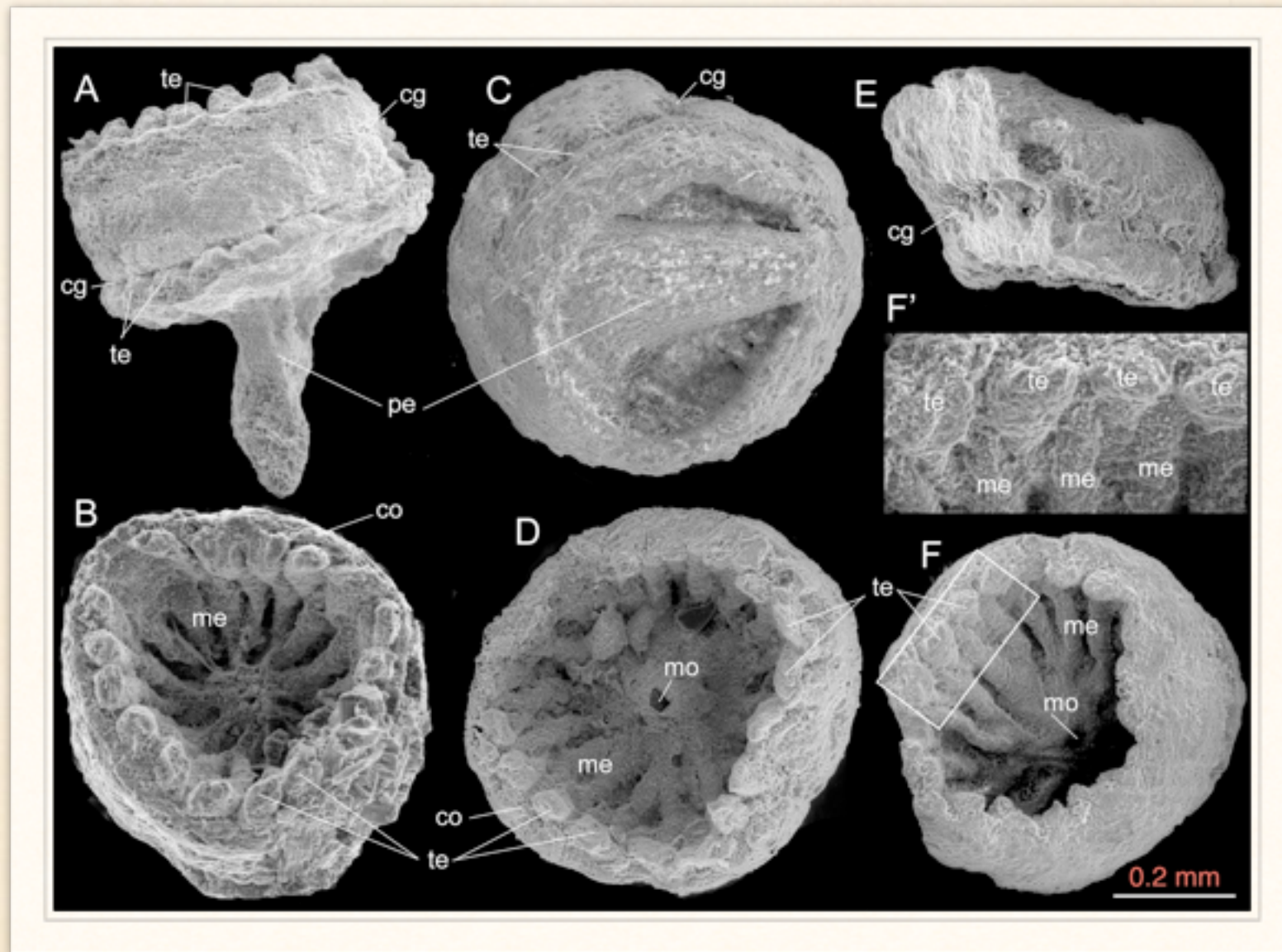


## *Sinocyclocyclicus*

## *Namacalathus*



# EARLY CAMBRIAN ANEMONE-LIKE ANTHOZOANS



*Eolymphia*

# EDIACARAN ALGAL MATS

Wrinkled Microbial Mat



Mat Ground with  
Vendian Fossils



---

EDIACARAN BILATERIAN

*Spriggina*

*Marywadea*



# *Yorgia and Dickinsonia*



Ediacaran  
Stem Mollusk  
*Kimberella*  
with grazing tracks

---

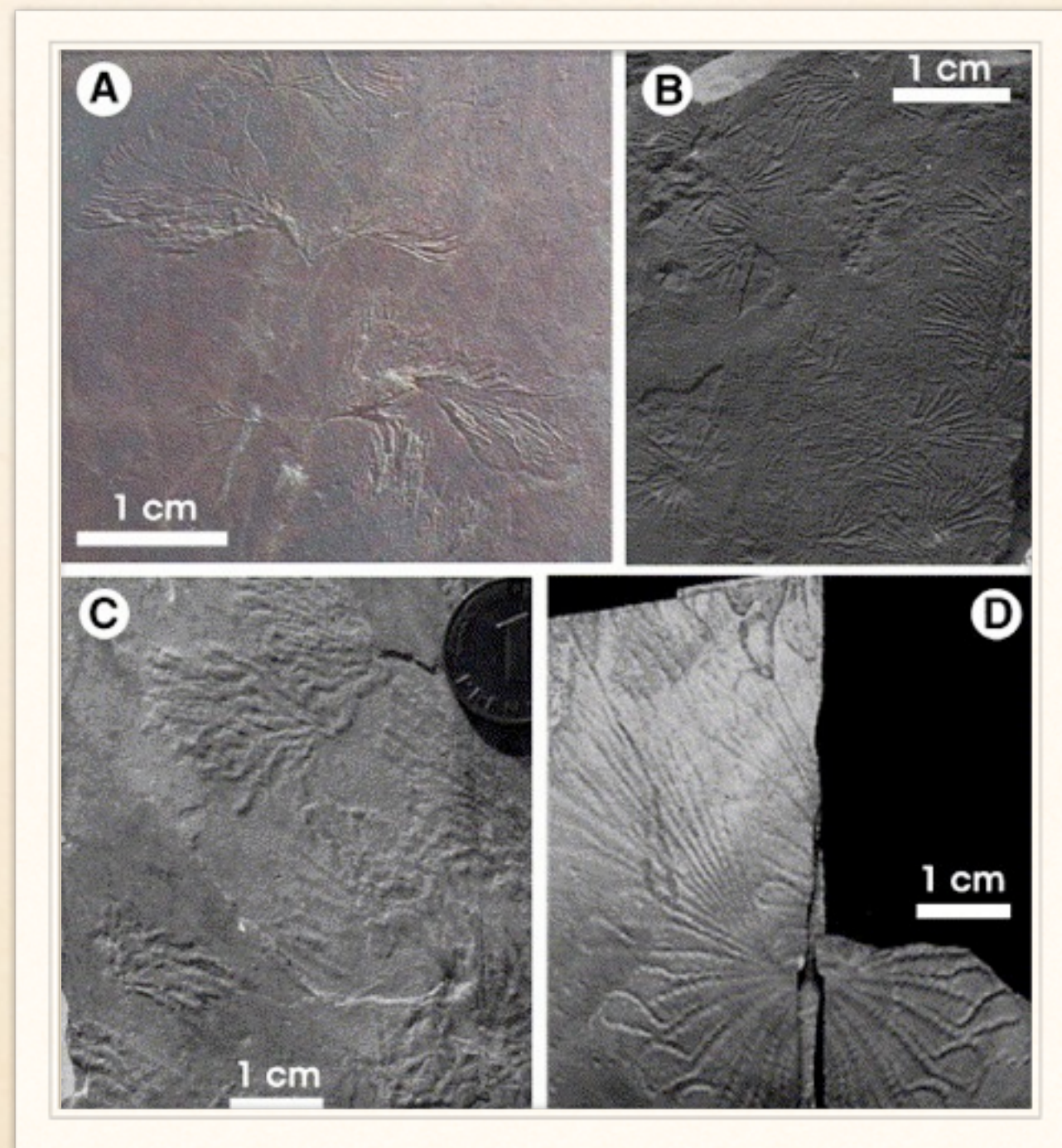


# Ediacaran horizontal burrows

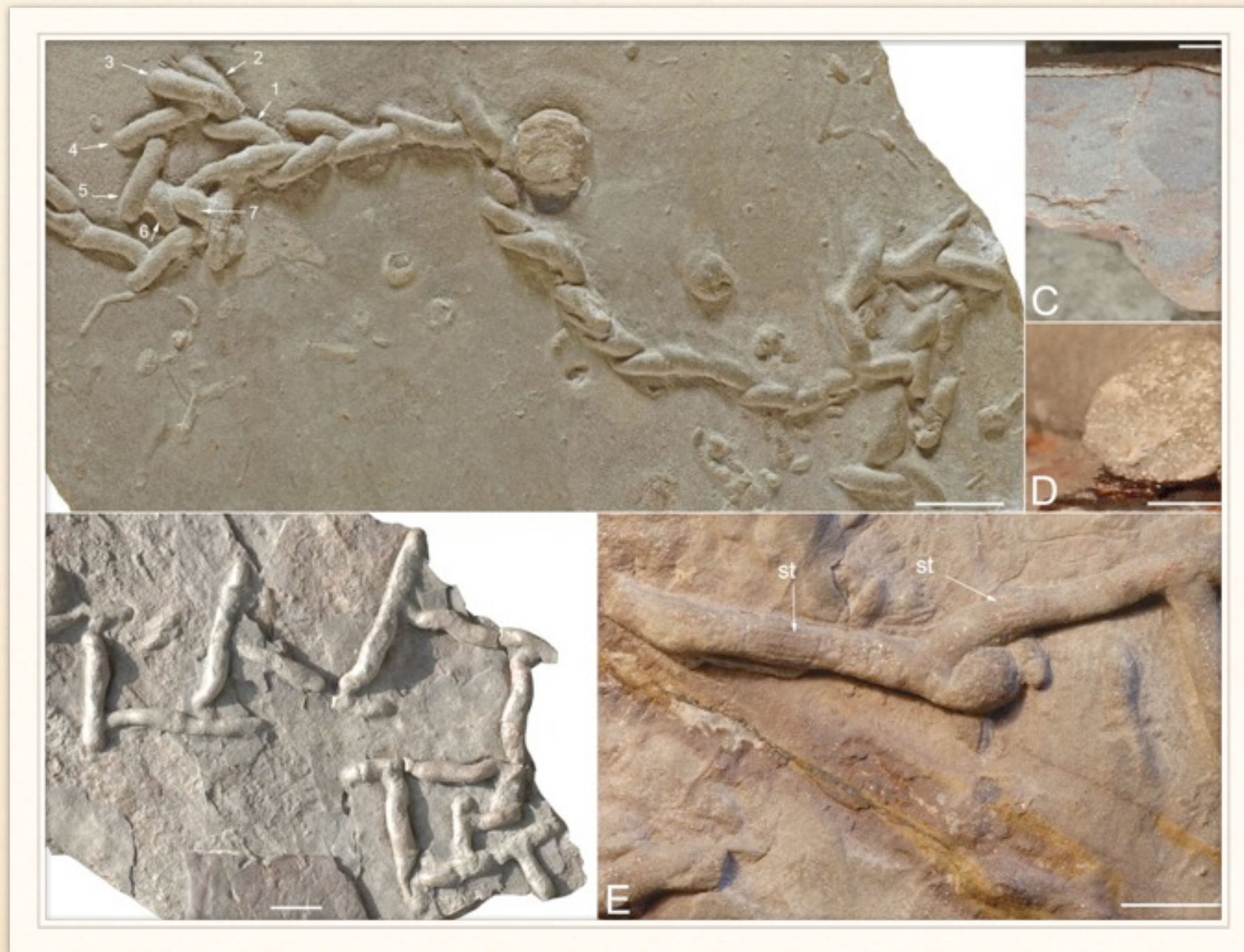
*Helminthopsis*, *Helminthoidichnites* and *Gordia*



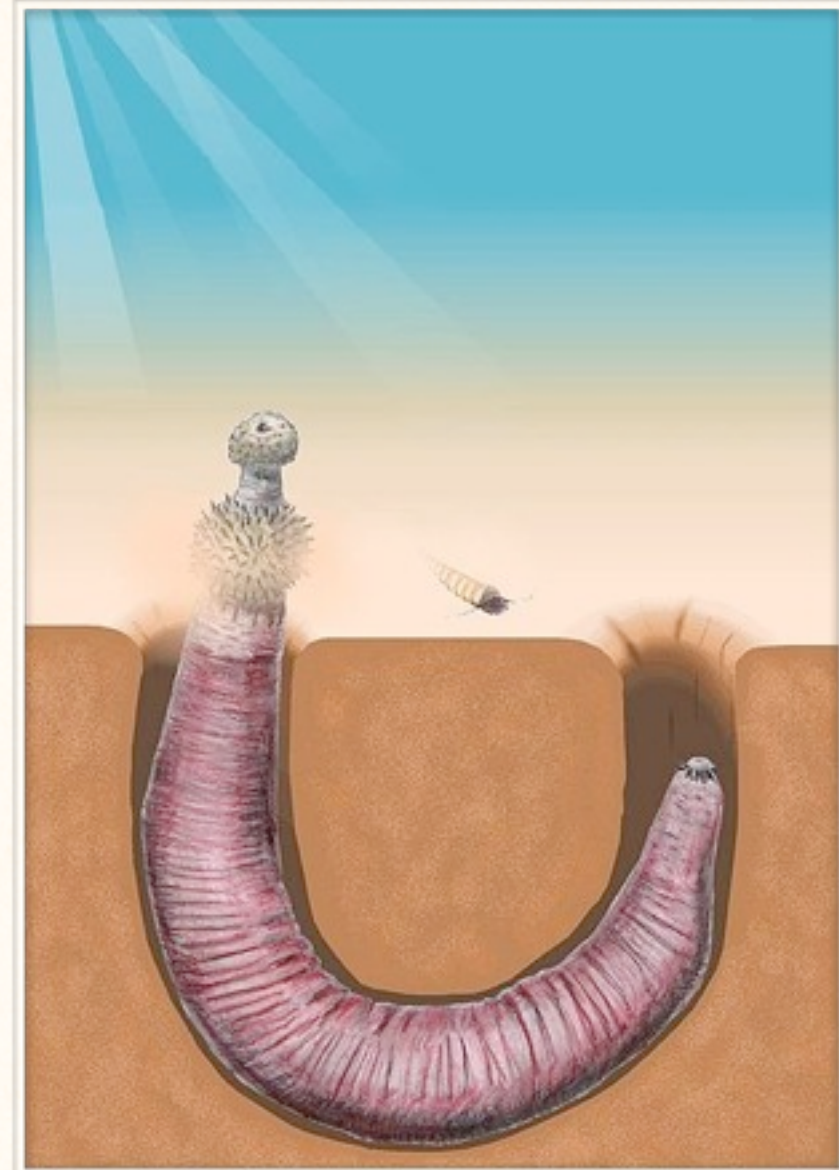
## BELOW-MAT MINERS: *Oldhamia*



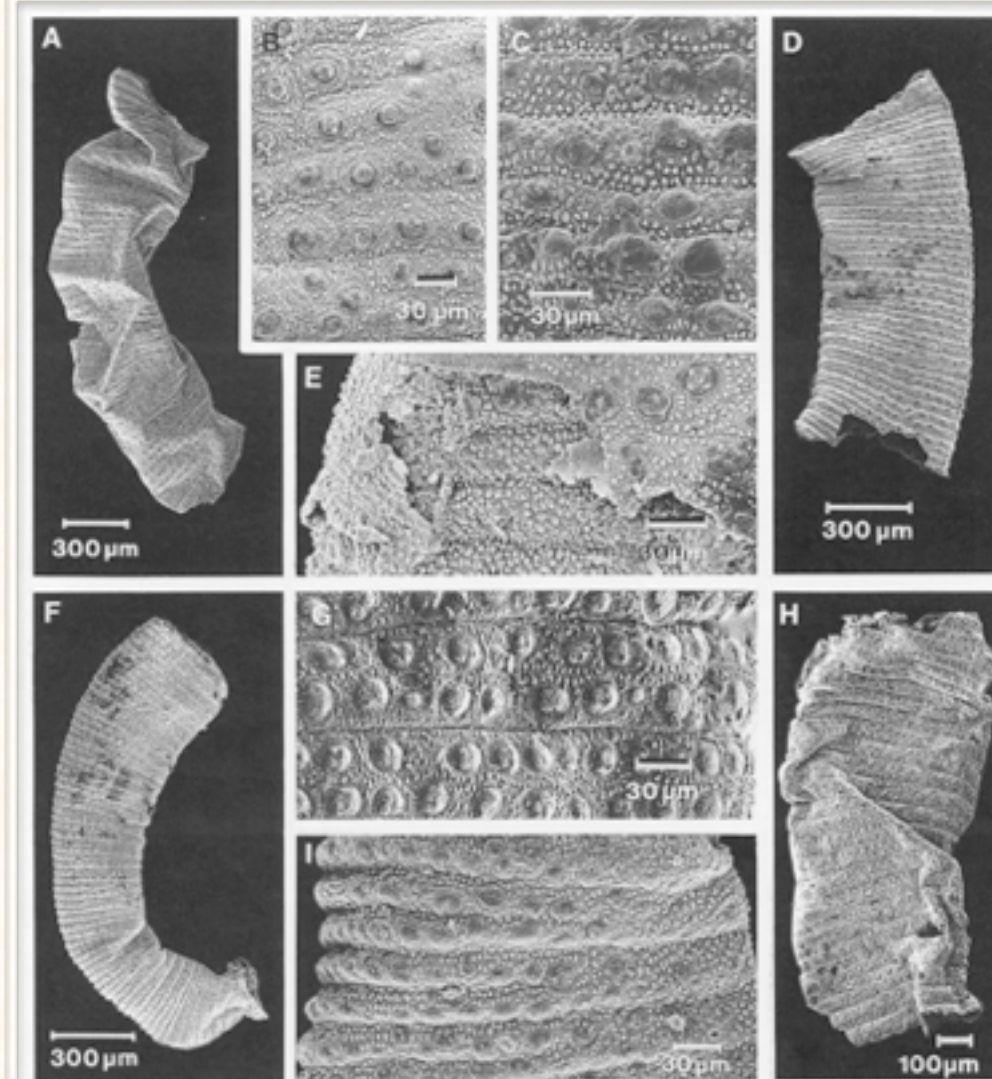
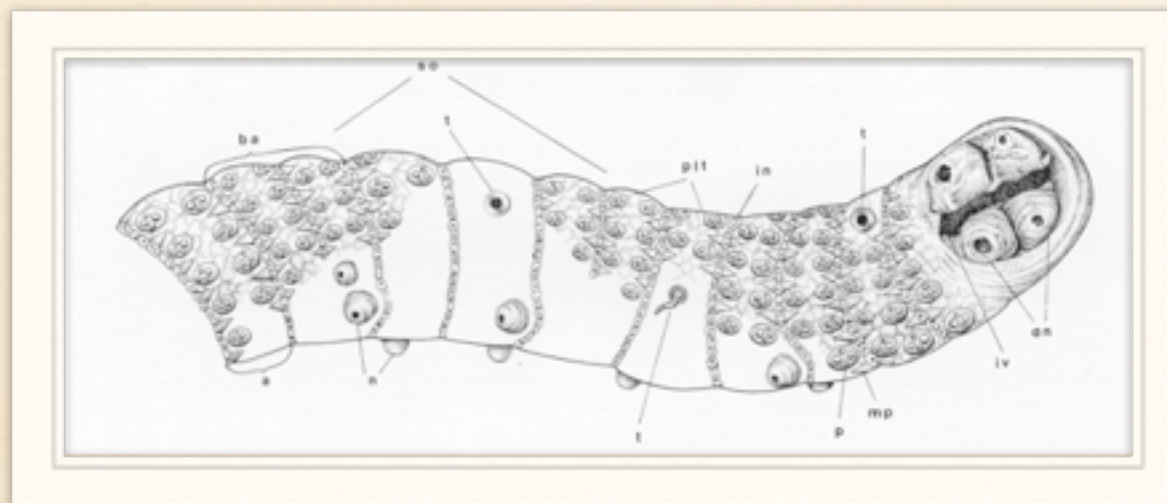
*Trepichnus pedum*  
basal Cambrian burrows



# Cambrian Priapulid worms

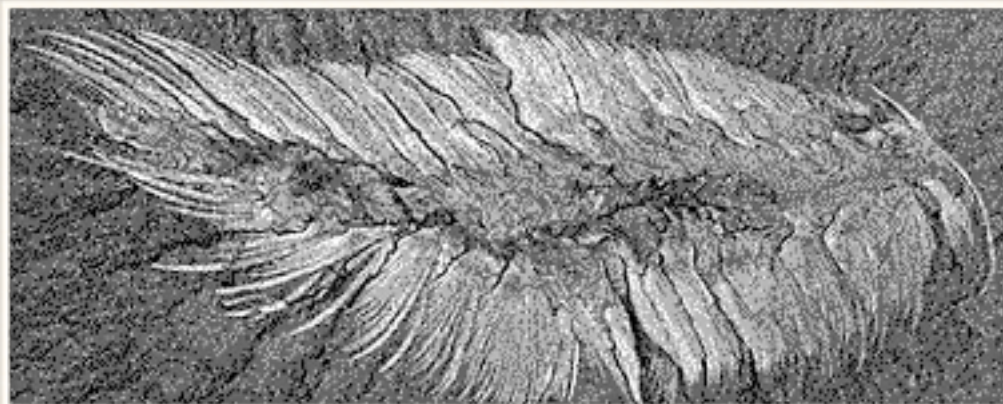
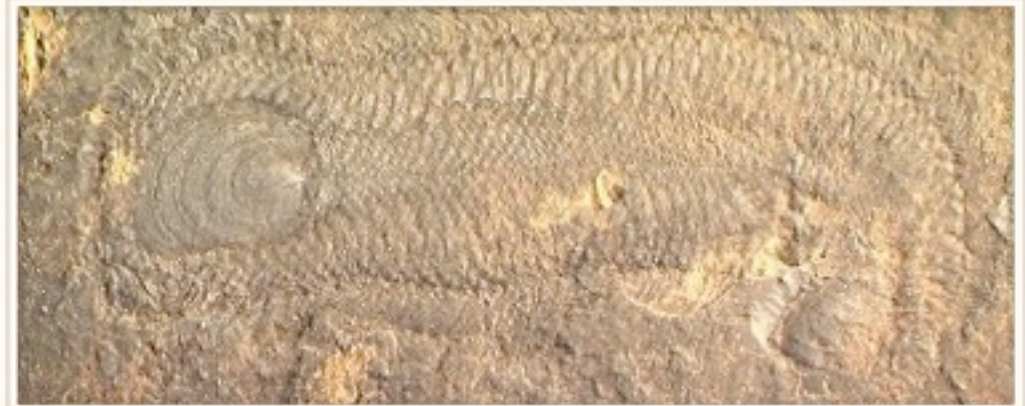


# PALAEOSCOLECID WORMS



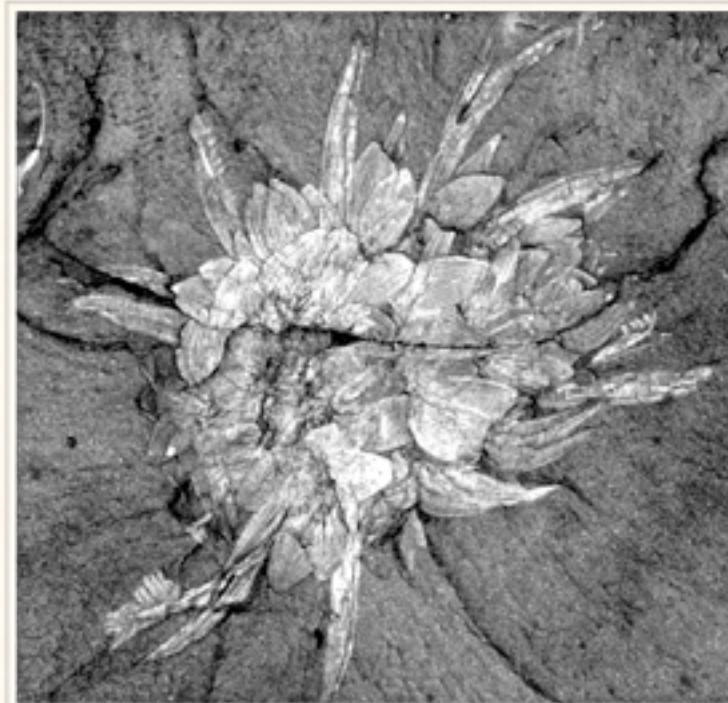
# Stem Mollusks, Annelids and Sister Taxa

*Halkieria*

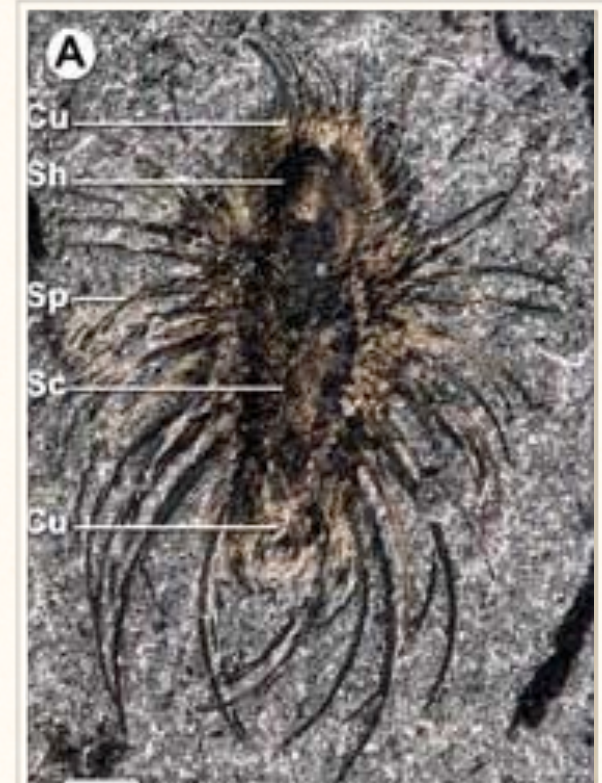


*Canadia*

*Wiwaxia*



*Odontogriphus*

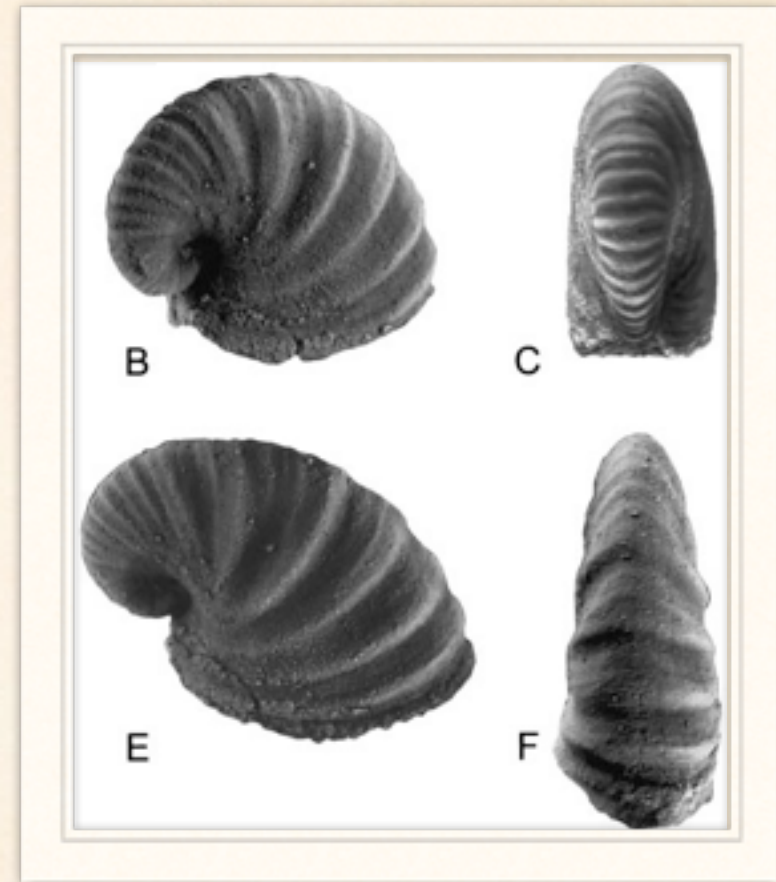
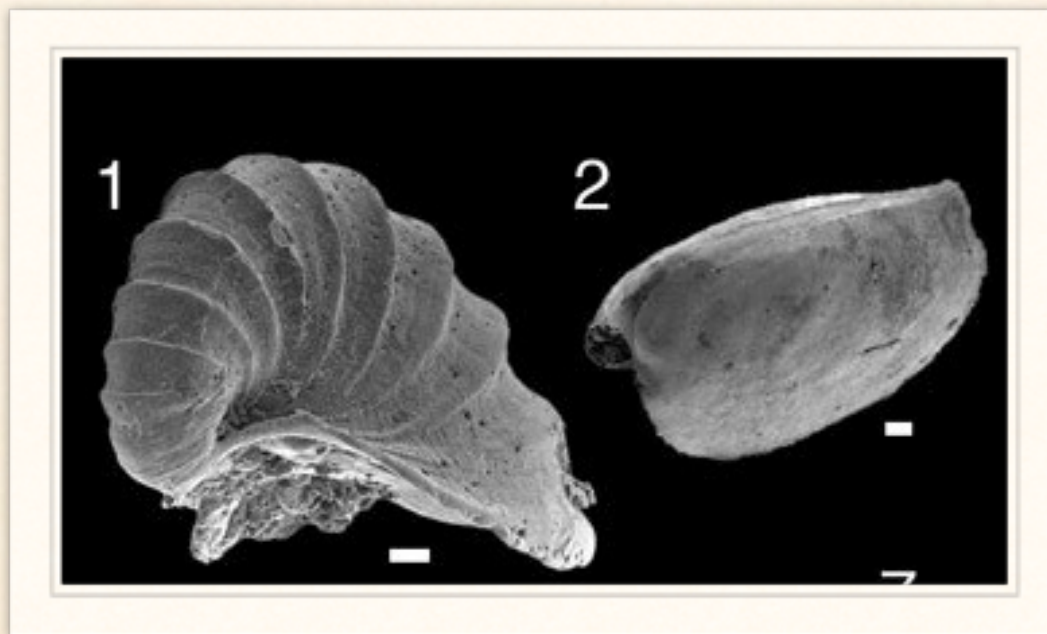


*Orthozanclus*

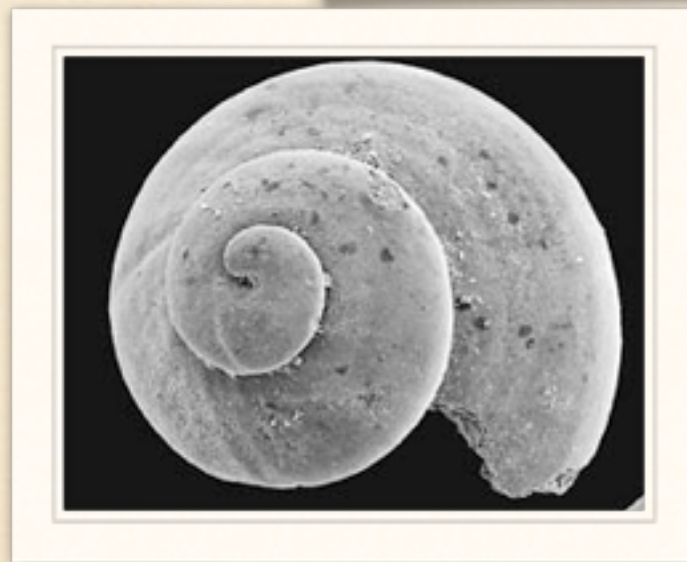
# Mollusk Classes

## Helcionelloids as stem mollusks

*Archaeospira* and *Watsonella*



*Oelandiella*

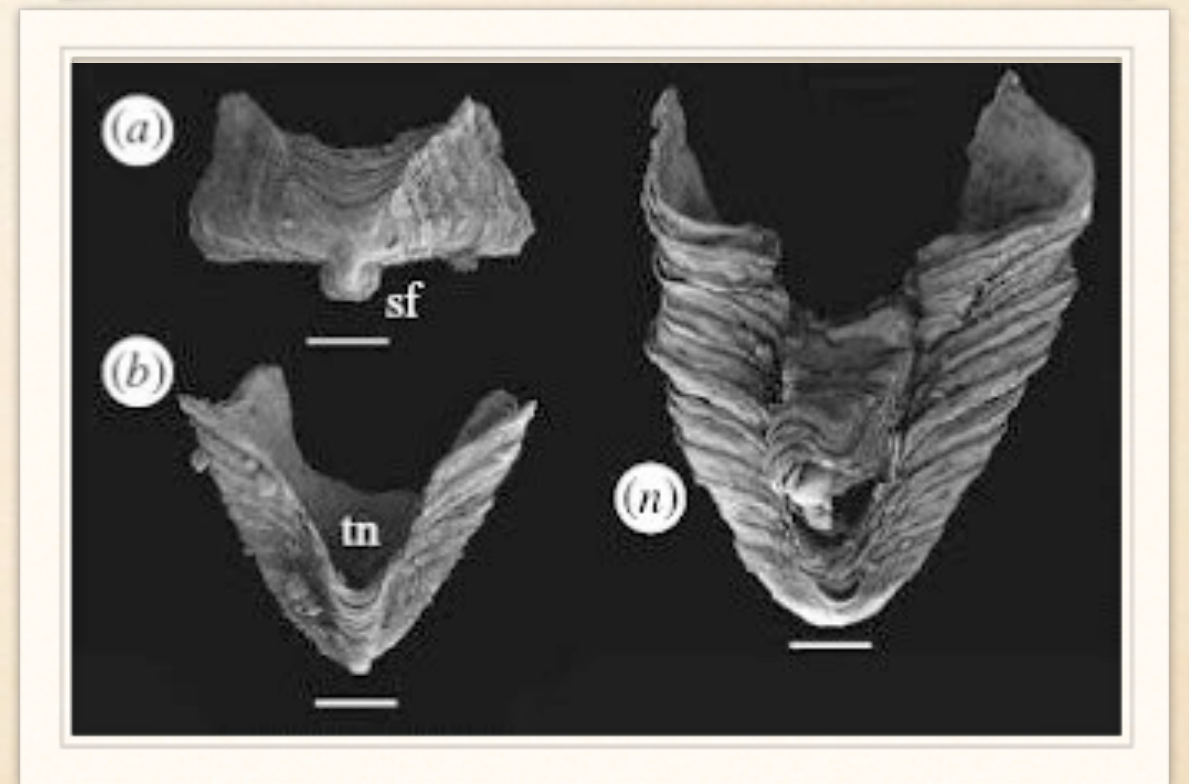
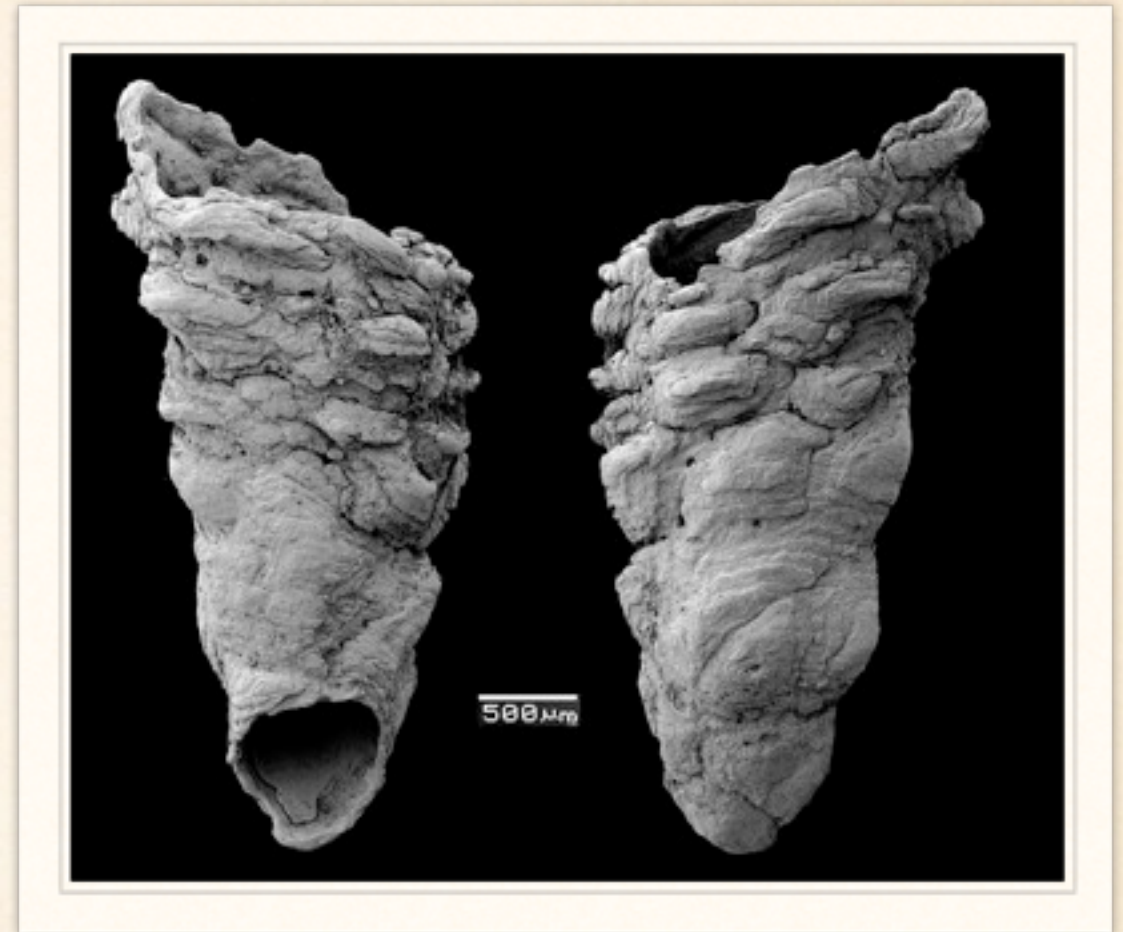
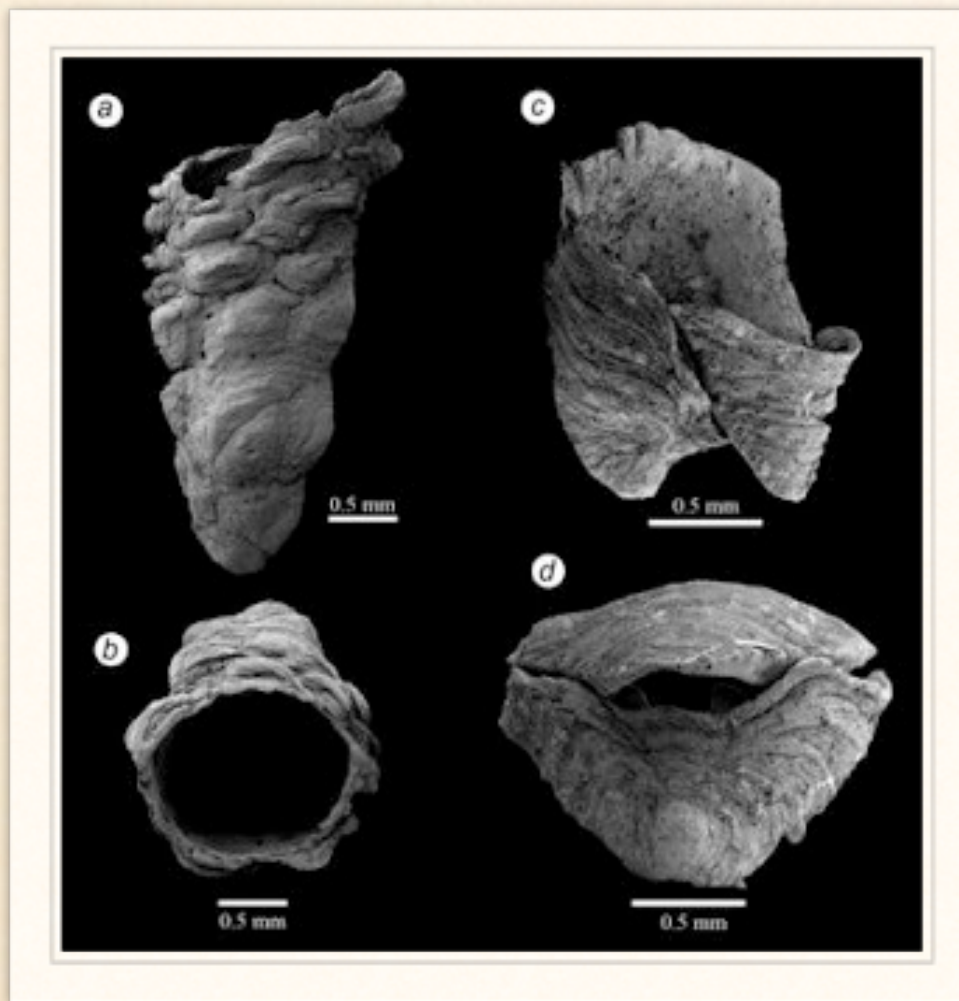


*Aldanella*

*Fordilla*



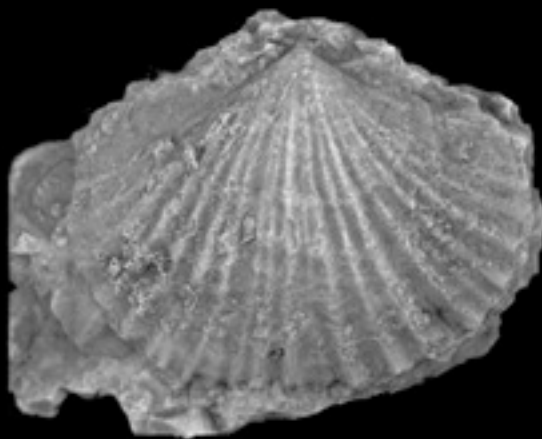
# Early Cambrian Tommotids as Stem Brachiopods



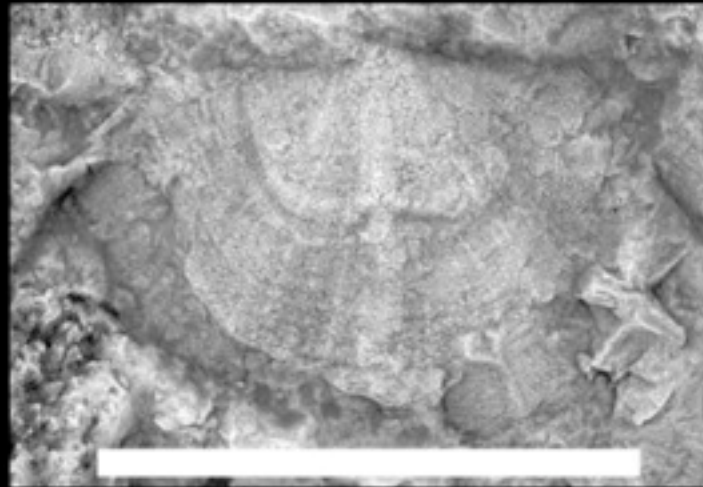
# CAMBRIAN BRACHIOPODS



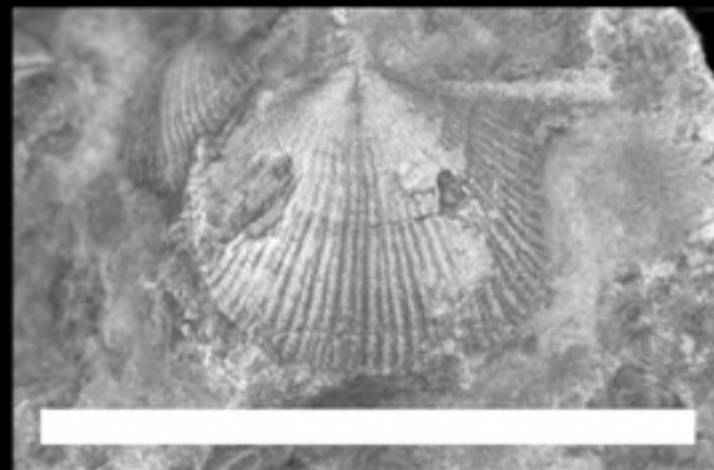
*Eoorthis*



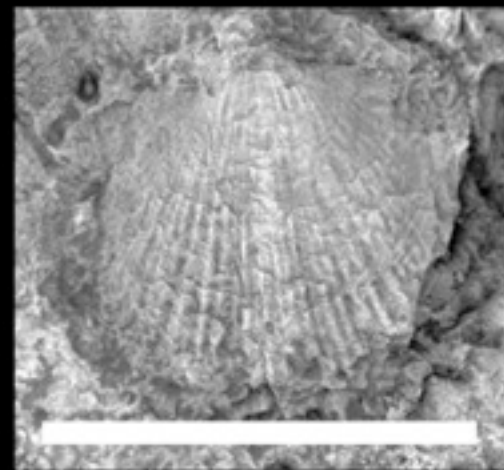
*Billingsella*



*Finkelinburgia*

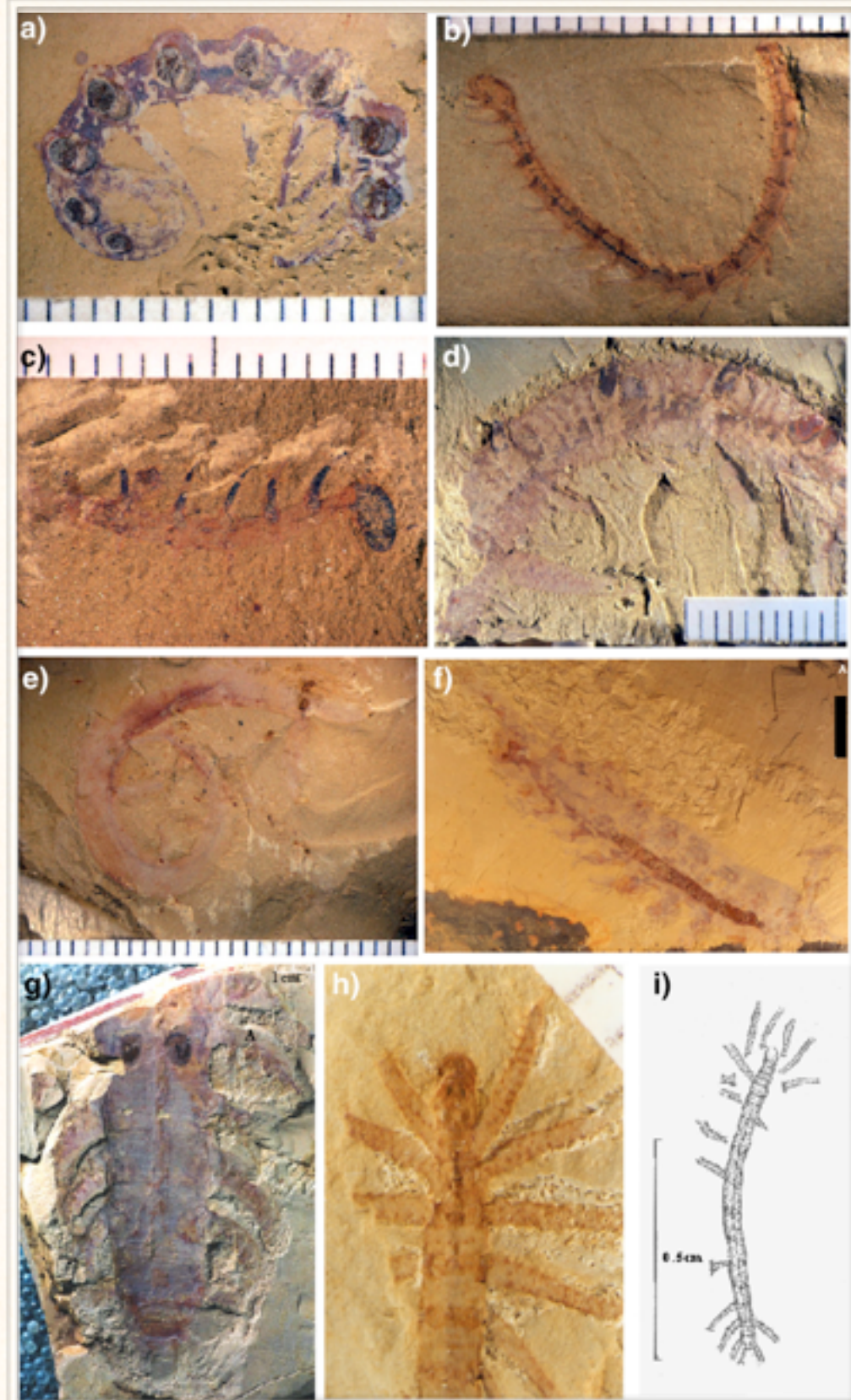


*Ocnerorthis*

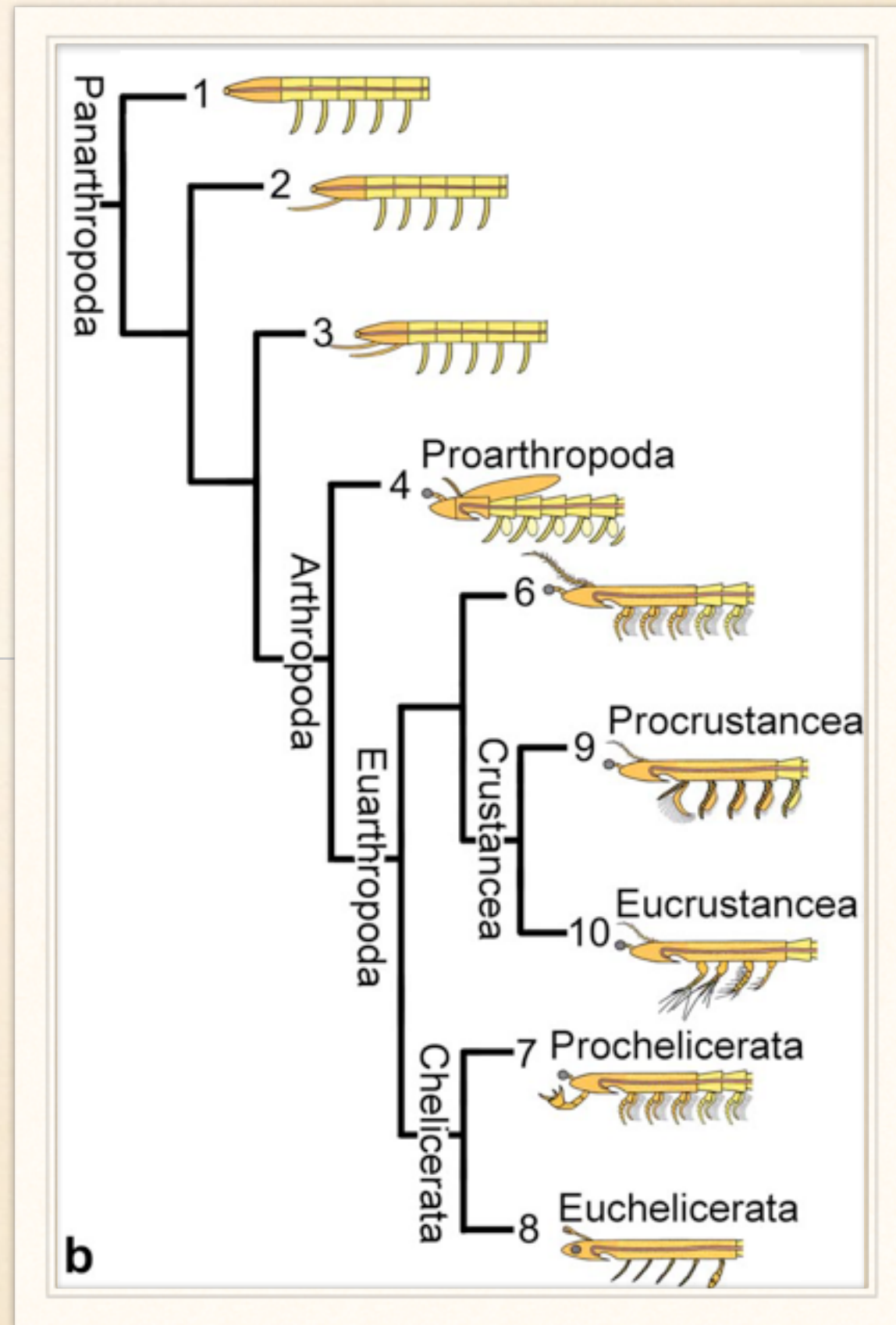


# CAMBRIAN LOBOPODS

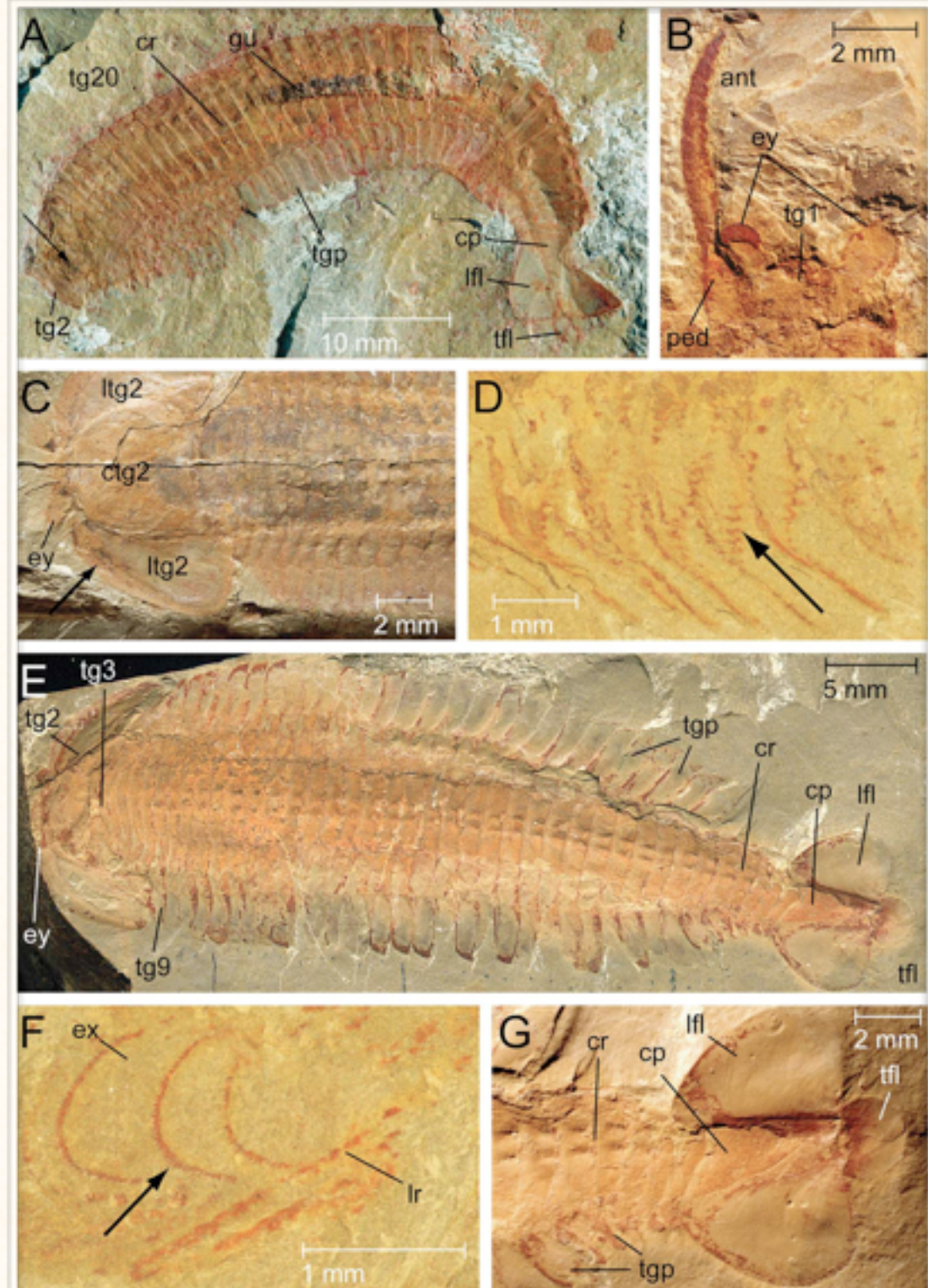
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# EVOLUTION OF ARTHROPOD BODY PLAN



# EARLY CAMBRIAN STEM ARTHROPOD *Shankouia*

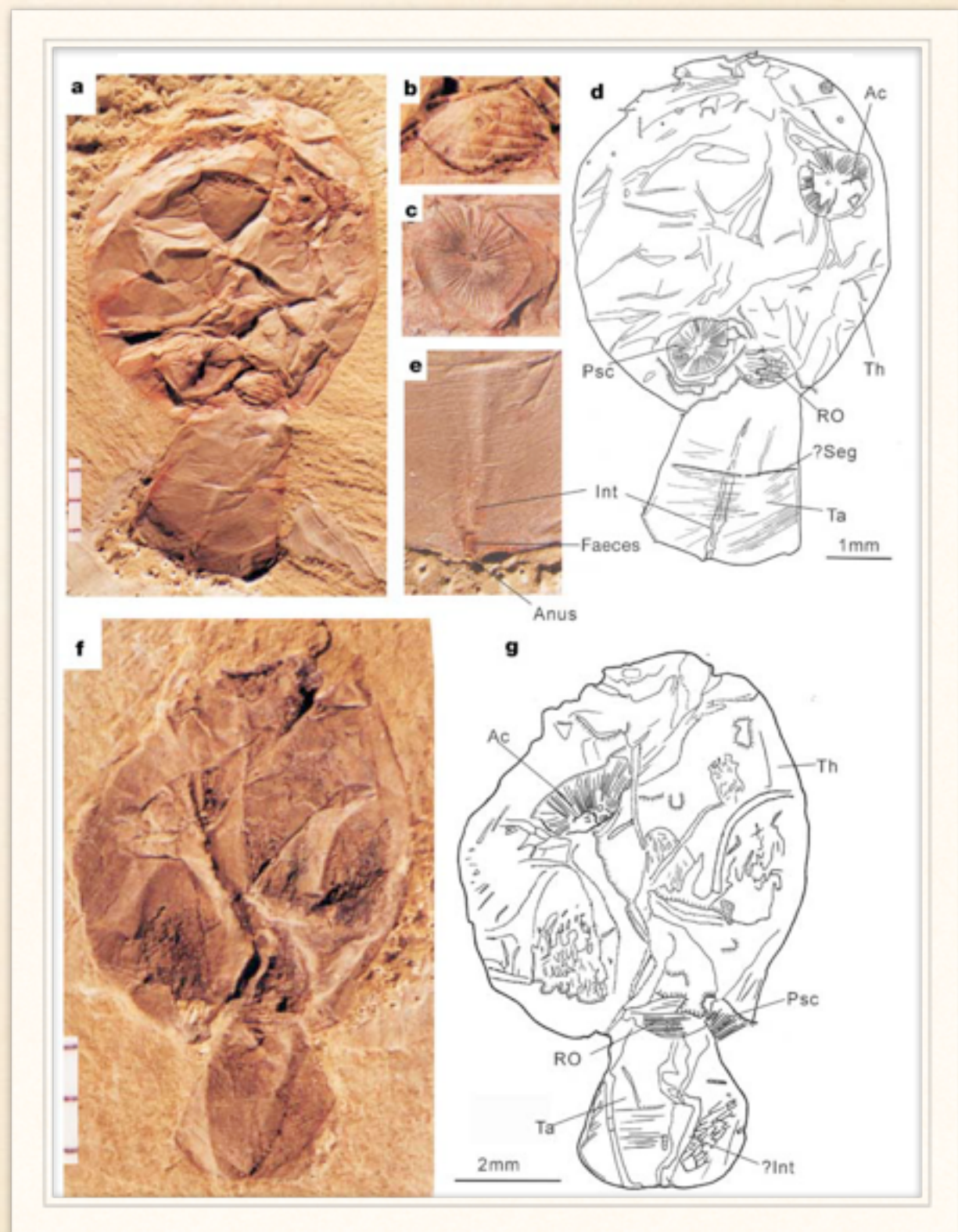


ANOMALOCARID  
STEM ARTHROPOD

---



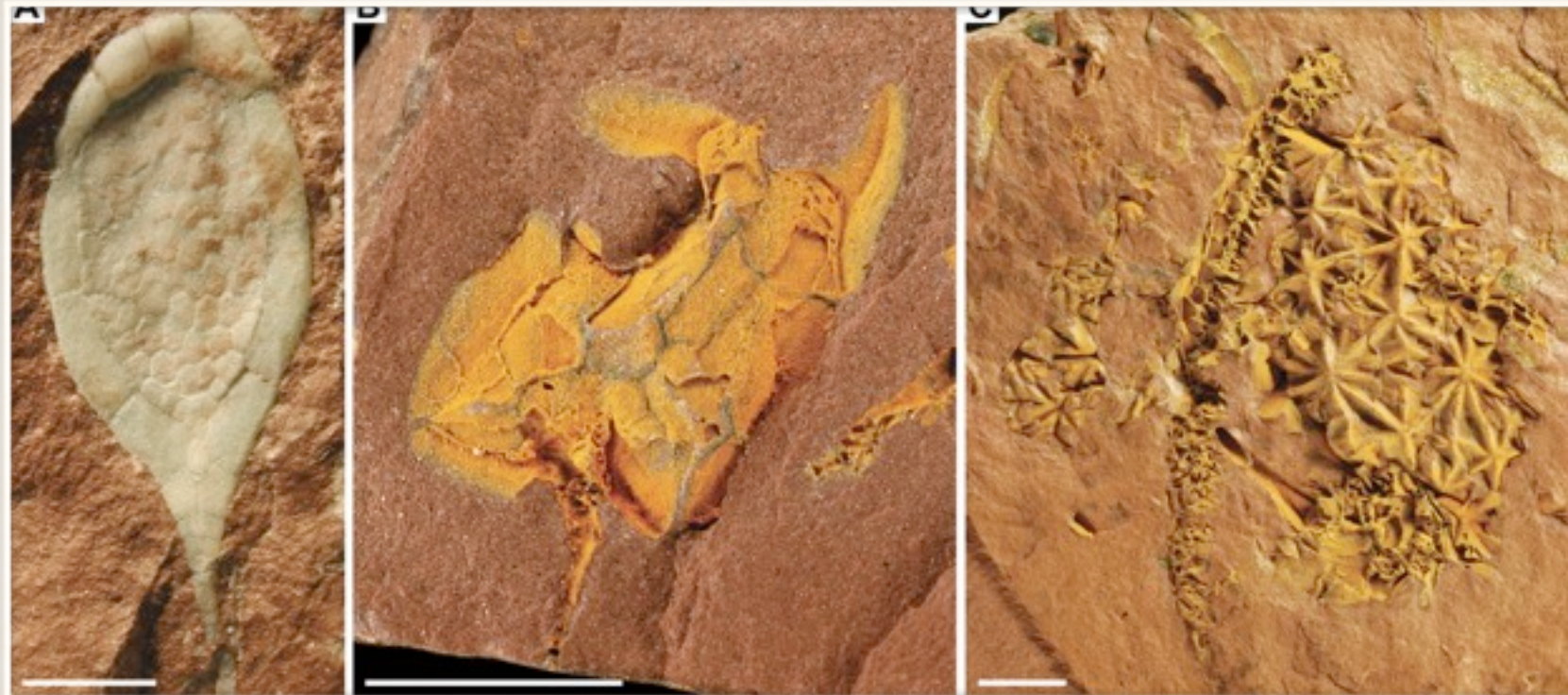
# EARLY CAMBRIAN VENTULOCYSTIDS STEM ECHINODERMS



# Cambrian Echinoderms

*Ctenoimbricata*

Cinctan, Stylophoran, Eocystitid



# Basal Echinoderms

## Helicoplacoids



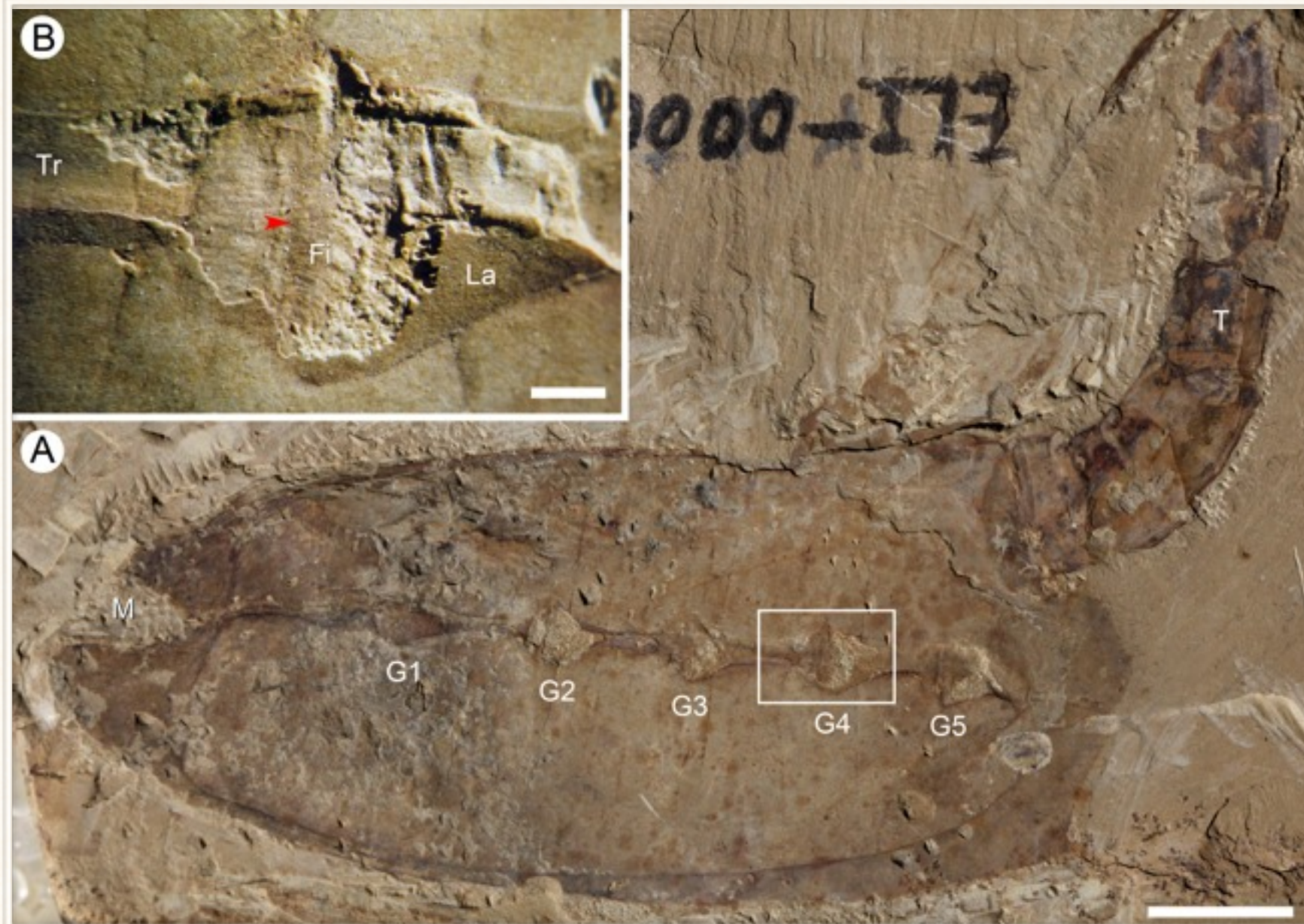
## Edrioasteroids

## Eocrinoid *Gorgia*



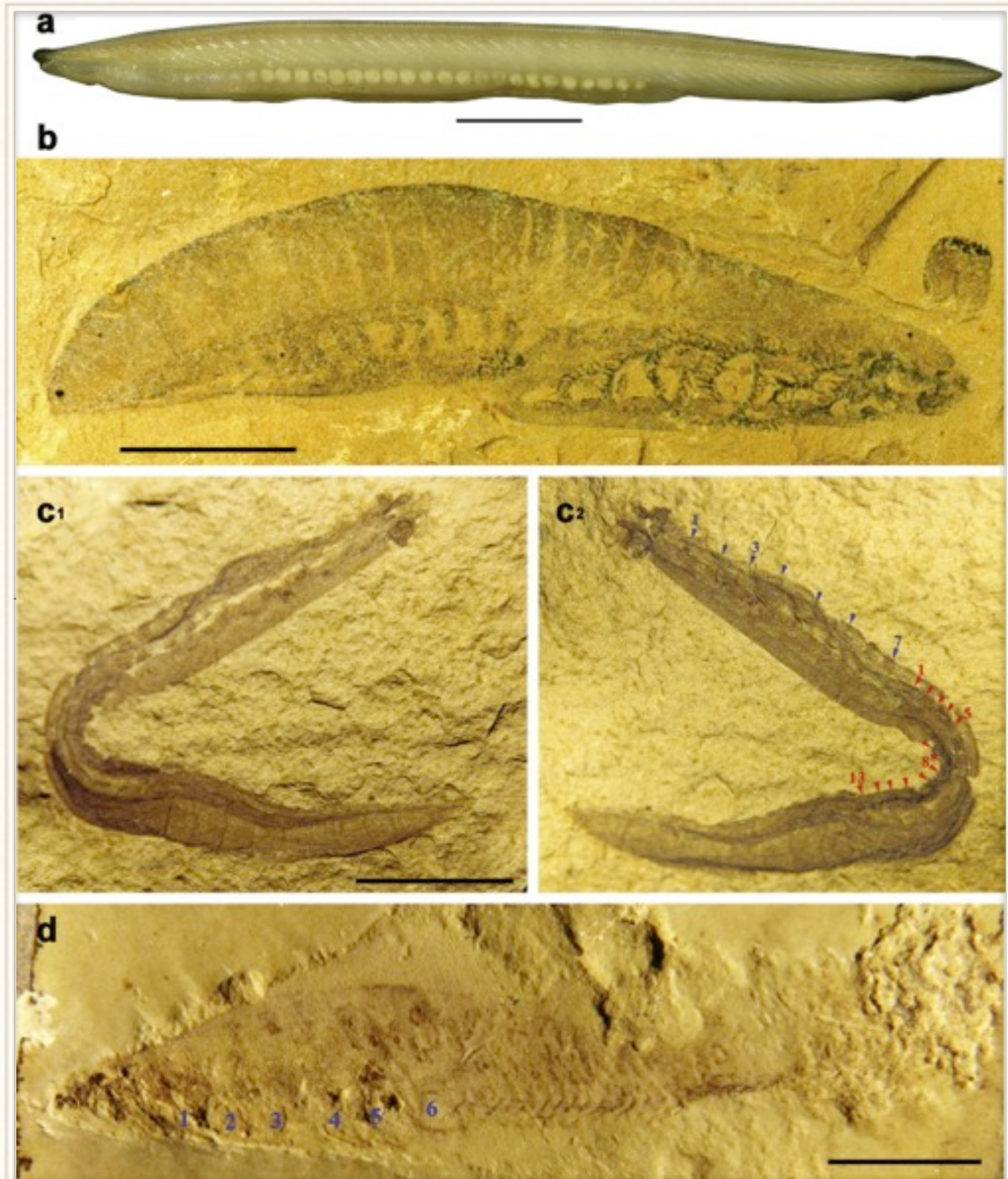
# EARLY CAMBRIAN STEM DEUTEROSTOMES

## VETULICOLIANS



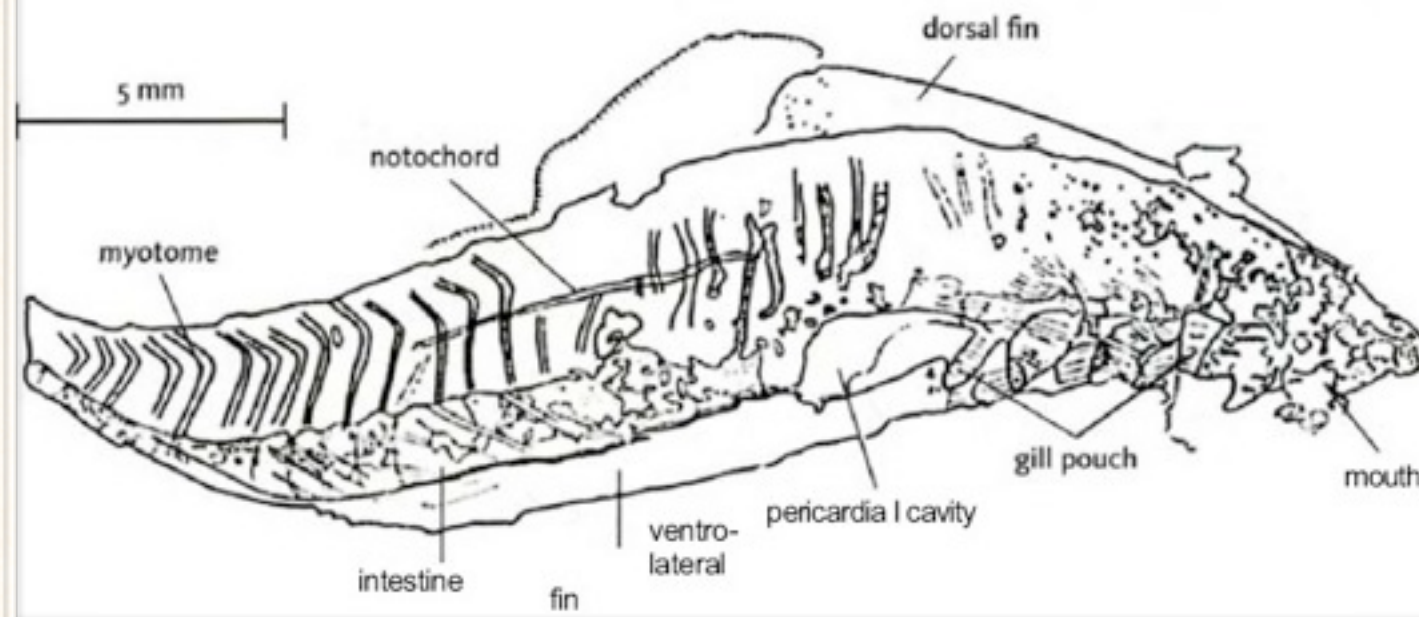
Cambrian  
Cephalochordates  
Craniate

*Haikouella*  
*Yunnanzoon*  
*Haikouichthys*

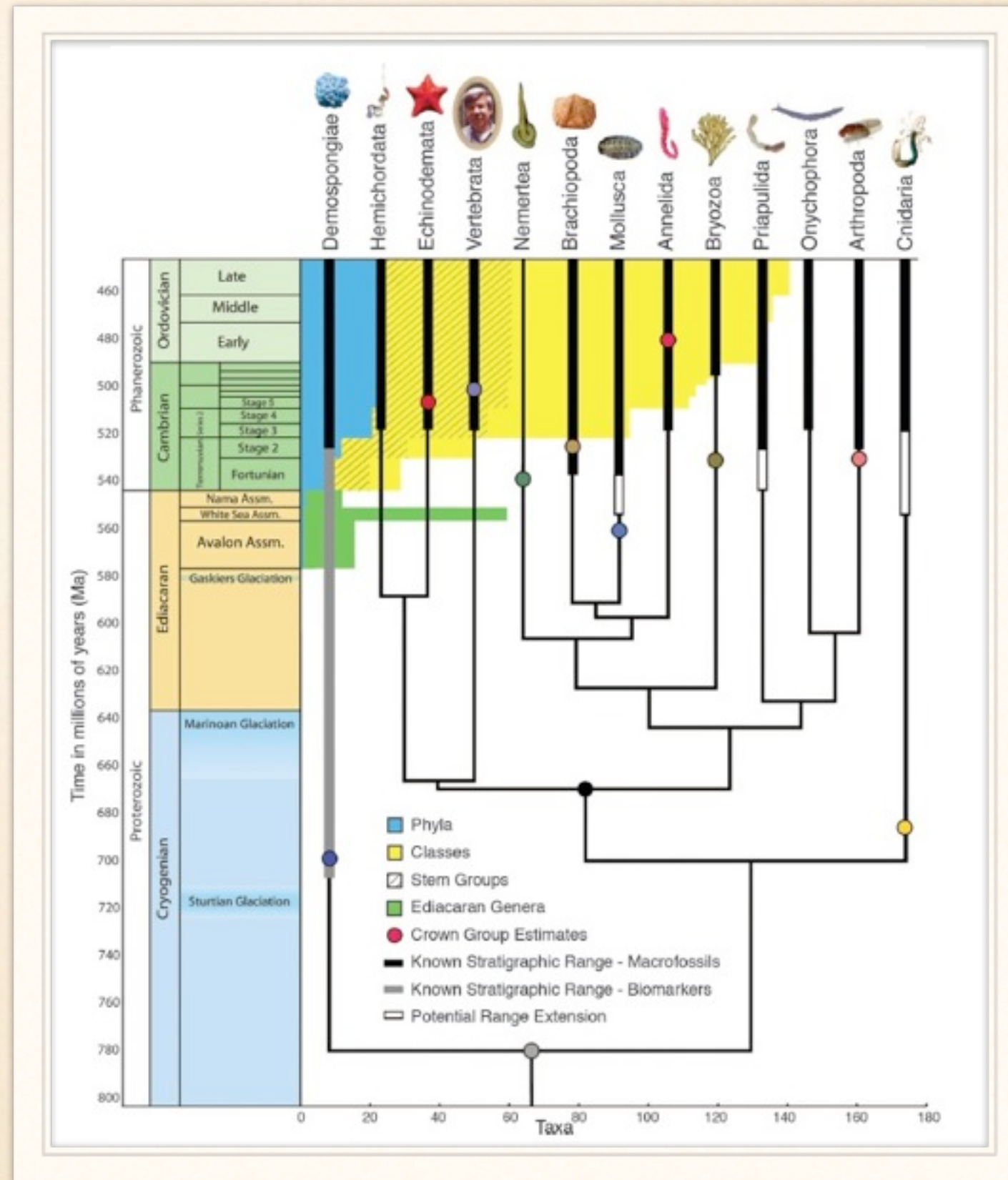


# CAMBRIAN CRANIATE CHORDATE (STEM VERTEBRATE?)

## *Myllokunmingia*



# Molecular vs Fossil Record



# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Side 2 & 3

- ❖ Miller, K. B., 2011, “The Cambrian “explosion,” transitional forms, and the tree of life,” BioLogos White Paper.

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 4

- ❖ Li, C-W., et al., 1998, "Precambrian sponges with cellular structures," Science 279: 879-882.

## ❖ Slide 5

- ❖ Gehling, J. G., and Rigby, J. K., 1996, Long expected sponges from the Neoproterozoic Ediacara fauna of South Australia," Journal of Paleontology 70 (2): 185-195.

## ❖ Slide 6

- ❖ *Mawsonites* image from Natural History Museum of London posted on Wikimedia Commons, 2007. Source: Nordelch.
- ❖ *Nemaia* image from the Virtual Fossil Museum at <http://www.fossilmuseum.net/fossils/Cnidaria/Nemaia-simplex/Nemaia.htm>

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 7

- ❖ Chen, J-Y., et al., 2002, "Precambrian animal life: Probable developmental and adult cnidarian forms from southwest China," Developmental Biology. Published online doi:10.1006/dbio.2002.0714

## ❖ Slide 8

- ❖ Chen, Z., et al., 2008, "Tube structure and original composition of *Sinotubulites*: shelly fossils from the late Neoproterozoic in southern Shaanxi, China," Lethaia 41: 37-45.
- ❖ Xiao, S., et al., 2000, "Eumetazoan fossils in terminal Proterozoic phosphorites?," PNAS 97 (25): 13684-13689.
- ❖ Grotzinger, J. P., et al., 2000, "Calcified metazoans in thrombolite-stromatolite reefs of the terminal Proterozoic Nama Group, Namibia," Paleobiology 26(3): 334-359.

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 9

- ❖ Han J., et al., 2010, "Tiny sea anemone from the Lower Cambrian of China," PLoS ONE 5(10): e13276.

## ❖ Slide 10

- ❖ Mistaken Point Ediacaran image by G. M. Narbonne from online exhibits of Miller Museum of Geology, Queens Univ., Kingston, ON, CA. <http://geol.queensu.ca/museum/>
- ❖ Wrinkled microbial mat image from <http://www.gondwanaresearch.com/hp/wrinkle.jpg>

## ❖ Slide 11

- ❖ *Spriggina* image from Wikimedia Commons, 2007. Attribution: Verisimilus at en.wikipedia.
- ❖ *Marywadea* image from Peterson, K. J., et al., 2008, "The Ediacaran emergence of bilaterians: congruence between the genetic and the geological fossil records," Philosophical Transactions Royal Society B 363: 1435-1443.

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 12

- ❖ *Dickinsonia Costata* image from Wikimedia Commons, 2007. Attribution: Verisimilus at en.wikipedia.
- ❖ *Yorgia* image and resting traces from Wikimedia Commons, 2009. Source: Arkhangelsk Regional Museum. Author: Aleksey Nagovitsyn.

## ❖ Slide 13

- ❖ Fedonkin, M. A., 2003, "The origin of the Metazoa in the light of the Proterozoic fossil record," Paleontological Research 7: 9-41.

## ❖ Slide 14

- ❖ *Helminthopsis* image from online exhibits of Miller Museum of Geology, Queen University, Kingston, Ontario, CA. <http://geol.queensu.ca/museum/>
- ❖ *Helminthoidichnites* and *Gordia* images from <http://www3.amherst.edu/~jwhagadorn/research/UpperCambrian/TraceFossils/>

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 15

- ❖ Seilacher, A., et al., 2005, "Trace fossils in the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition: Behavioral diversification, ecological turnover and environmental shift," Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology 227: 323-356.

## ❖ Slide 16

- ❖ Vannier J., et al., 2012, "Priapulid worms: Pioneer horizontal burrowers at the Precambrian-Cambrian boundary," Geology 38: 711-714.

## ❖ Slide 17

- ❖ Priapulid burrow reconstruction from Wikimedia Commons, 2008. Author: Smokeybjb.
- ❖ Burgess shale priapulid *Ottia* from Royal Ontario Museum. <http://burgess-shale.rom.on.ca/en/fossil-gallery/list-species.php>

## ❖ Slide 18

- ❖ Müller, K., and Hinz-Schallreuter, 1993, "Palaeoscolecid worms from the Middle Cambrian of Australia," Palaeontology 36 (3): 549-592.

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 19

- ❖ *Odontogriphus* image from Caron, J. B., et al., 2006, "A soft-bodied mollusc with radula from the Middle Cambrian Burgess Shale," Nature 442: 159-163.
- ❖ *Halkeria* image from Wikimedia Commons, photo by Jakob Vinther. Source: [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)
- ❖ *Orthozanclus* image from Conway Morris, S., and Caron, J. B., 2007, Halwaxiids and the early evolution of the Lophotrochozoans," Science 315: 1255-1258.
- ❖ *Wiwaxia* image from Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History at <http://paleobiology.si.edu/burgess/wiwaxia.html>
- ❖ *Canadia* image from Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History at <http://paleobiology.si.edu/burgess/canadia.html>

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 20

- ❖ *Oelandiella* image from Gubanov, A. P., and Peel, J. S., 1999, “*Oelandiella*, the earliest Cambrian helcionelloid mollusc from Siberia,” Palaeontology 42(pt 2): 211-222.
- ❖ *Archaeospira* and *Watsonella* images from the Burgess Shale website at <http://burgess-shale.rom.on.ca/en/science/origin/04-cambrian-explosion.php>
- ❖ *Fordilla* image from Charles Doolittle Walcott (1886) Second contribution to the studies on the Cambrian faunas of North America, Geological Survey bulletin issue 30 , Govt. Print. Off., pp.369
- ❖ *Aldanella* image from Parkhaev, P. Yu., 2007, “Shell chirality in Cambrian gastropods and sinistral members of the genus *Aldanella* Vostokova, 1962,” Paleontological Journal 41(3): 233-240.

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 21

- ❖ Holmer, L. E., et al., 2008, "The Early Cambrian tommotiid *Micrina*, a sessile bivalved stem group brachiopod," Biology Letters 4: 724-728.
- ❖ Skovsted, C. B., et al., 2008, "The scleritome of *Eccentrotheca* from the Lower Cambrian of South Australia: Lophophorate affinities and implications for tommotid phylogeny," Geology 36: 171-174.
- ❖ Skovsted, C. B., et al., 2009, "The scleritome of *Paterimitra*: an Early Cambrian stem group brachiopod from South Australia," Proceedings of the Royal Society B 276: 1651-1656.

## ❖ Slide 22

- ❖ Cambrian brachiopods from Oklahoma illustrated in Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, Norman, OK. <http://commonfossilsofoklahoma.snomnh.ou.edu/cambrian-fossil-gallery>

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 23

- ❖ Liu J., et al., 2008, "Origin, diversification, and relationships of Cambrian lobopods," Gondwana Research 14: 277-283.

## ❖ Slide 24

- ❖ Chen, J-Y., 2011, "The origins and key innovations of vertebrates and arthropods," Paleoworld 20: 257-278.

## ❖ Slide 25

- ❖ Waloszek, D., et al., 2005, "Early Cambrian arthropods - new insights into arthropod head and structural evolution," Arthropod Structure & Development 34: 189-205.

## ❖ Slide 26

- ❖ Burgess shale *Anomalocaris canadensis* from Royal Ontario Museum. <http://burgess-shale.rom.on.ca/en/fossil-gallery/list-species.php>

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 27

- ❖ Shu, D-G., et al., 2002, "Ancestral echinoderms from the Chengjiang deposits of China," Nature 430: 422-428.

## ❖ Slide 28

- ❖ Cinctan, stylophoran, and eocystitid images from Zamora, S., 2010, "Middle Cambrian echinoderms from north Spain show echinoderms diversified earlier in Gondwana," Geology 38(6): 507-510.
- ❖ *Ctenoimbricata* image from Zamora, S., et al., 2012, "Plated Cambrian biolaterians reveal the earliest stages of echinoderm evolution," PLoS One 7(6): e38296.

## ❖ Slide 29

- ❖ Helicoplacoid image from palaeobiology page of Uppsala University at <http://www.palaeontology.geo.uu.se/Mainpages/fom2009.html>
- ❖ Edrioasteroid image from <http://www.geol.umd.edu/~tholtz/G331/lectures/331echin1.html>
- ❖ Eocrinoid *Gorgia* image from Wikimedia Commons, 2009. Author: Kevmin.

# SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ❖ Slide 30

- ❖ Ou, Q., et al., 2012, Evidence of gill slits and a pharynx in Cambrian vetulicolians: Implications for the early evolution of deuterostomes,” BMC Biology 10: 81

## ❖ Slide 31

- ❖ Chen, J-Y., 2011, “The origins and key innovations of vertebrates and arthropods,” Paleoworld 20: 257-278.

## ❖ Slide 32

- ❖ Chen, J-Y., et al., 1999, An early Cambrian craniate-like chordate,” Nature 402:518-522.

## ❖ Slide 33

- ❖ Erwin, D.H., et al., 2011, “The Cambrian conundrum: Early divergence and later ecological success in the early history of animals,” Science 334: 1091-1097.