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Cornulitids

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It is difficult to make a satisfactory assessment of the cornulitid fauna of Vattenfallet because it is completely undescribed. Cornulitids are poorly known, and not only the material from Gotland but also the group as a whole is badly in need of monographic study. There are many cases of misinterpretation. For example, it is doubtful if *Cornulites serpularius*, the type species of the genus, has ever been identified correctly since Schlotheim (1820) described the species. It has become mostly associated with a very stout, unattached conical conch with a characteristic cellular wall structure, similar to the species figured as *C. serpularius* by Sowerby (in Murchison 1839, Pl. 26:6–9), but there is very little agreement between this conch and the specimen figured by Schlotheim (1820, Pl. 29:7). This taxonomic disorder is difficult to resolve because Schlotheim's type specimen cannot be located (Hermann Jaeger, personal communication).

The material from Vattenfallet comprises about 40 specimens. For ranges in the section see Fig. 65.

Annotated faunal list

Cornulites? cf. scalariformis Vine, C.? sp. a, Conchiolites sp. a, Cornulitidae gen. a, sp. a, Cornulitidae gen. b, sp. a, Cornulitidae gen. c, sp. a, Cornulitidae gen. d, sp. a (3.0 m). Unidentifiable cornulitids have been recorded also at 0.75, 1.0, 1.75, and 4.9 m.

A conch which is very similar to *Cornulites? scalariformis* occurs in Högklint d, and a specimen has also been found in the road-cut at Palisadvägen (Högklint c, c. 26.5–27.5 m, not entered in the log). Before a definite identification of the specimens can be made, examination of Vine's (1882) type specimen is necessary. *Cornulites?* sp. a resembles C.? scalariformis but differs in having a clearly curved conch.

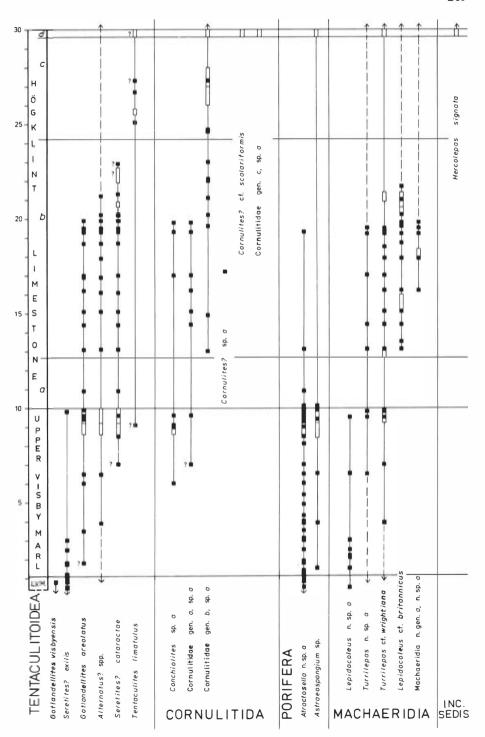


Fig. 65.

Cornulitidae gen. a, sp. a may include more than one species but because of poor preservation safe conclusions are difficult. The specimens are characterized by having a small attachment surface and fairly distinct rings which occasionally carry short spines.

Cornulitidae gen. b, sp a is conspecific with Cornulites serpularius sensu Sowerby (in Murchison 1839, Pl. 26:6-9). The largest specimen is 4-5 cm long and clearly exhibits a cellular wall structure. In previous literature on Gotland the species has been referred to as Cornulites serpularius.

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