

The Fossil Record

A SYMPOSIUM WITH DOCUMENTATION

jointly sponsored by
the Geological Society of London
and the Palaeontological Association

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ARRANGEMENT OF THE VOLUME

	<i>commencing on page</i>
Introduction	1
Part I: Symposium papers	15
Part II: Documentation of the fossil record	157
PLANTAE (Chapters 1–7)	161
INVERTEBRATA (Chapters 8–24)	289
VERTEBRATA (Chapters 25–30)	627
Part III: Computer analysis	789
Index	821

(For detailed list of contents see overleaf)

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Arrangements for correcting and supplementing the documentation	xi
Introduction	1
The symposium meeting	13
Part I: Symposium papers	
Introduction to Part I	16
J. W. COWIE: Life in Pre-Cambrian and early Cambrian times	17
R. GOLDRING: The significance of certain trace-fossil ranges	37
M. R. HOUSE: Fluctuations in the evolution of Palaeozoic invertebrates	41
V. G. WALMSLEY: The origins of some Silurian entelelecan brachiopods	55
F. H. T. RHODES: Permo-Triassic extinction	57
C. B. COX: Changes in terrestrial vertebrate faunas during the Mesozoic	77
J. M. HANCOCK: Some Cretaceous-Tertiary marine faunal changes	91
G. M. PHILIP: Major features of the evolution of echinoids	105
N. F. HUGHES & J. SMART: Plant-insect relationships in Palaeozoic and later time	107
L. B. H. TARLO: Biochemical evolution and the fossil record	119
J. FISHER: Fossil birds and their adaptive radiation	133
General discussion	155
Part II: Documentation of the fossil record	
Introduction to Part II	158
PLANTAE	
Introductory note	162
Chapter 1 Thallophyta—1	163
Chapter 2 Thallophyta—2	181
Chapter 3 Bryophyta and Charophyta	211
Chapter 4 Pteridophyta—1	219
Chapter 5 Pteridophyta—2	233
Chapter 6 Gymnospermophyta	247
Chapter 7 Angiospermae	269

Contents

INVERTEBRATA

Introductory note	290
Chapter 8 Protozoa	291
Chapter 9 Porifera and Archaeocyatha	333
Chapter 10 Coelenterata	347
Chapter 11 Bryozoa	379
Chapter 12 Brachiopoda	397
Chapter 13 Mollusca: Amphineura, Monoplacophora and Gastropoda	423
Chapter 14 Mollusca: Cephalopoda (Nautiloidea)	431
Chapter 15 Mollusca: Cephalopoda (Ammonoidea)	445
Chapter 16 Mollusca: Cephalopoda (Coleoidea)	461
Chapter 17 Mollusca: Scaphopoda and Bivalvia	469
Chapter 18 Arthropoda: Protarthropoda and Trilobitomorpha	479
Chapter 19 Arthropoda: Chelicerata, Pycnogonida, Palaeoisopus, Myriapoda and Insecta	499
Chapter 20 Arthropoda: Crustacea	535
Chapter 21 Echinodermata: Pelmatozoa	565
Chapter 22 Echinodermata: Eleutherozoa	583
Chapter 23 Chordata: Hemichordata (including Graptolithina), Pogonophora, Urochordata and Cephalochordata	601
Chapter 24 Miscellanea	613

VERTEBRATA

Introductory note	628
Chapter 25 Agnatha	629
Chapter 26 Pisces	637
Chapter 27 Amphibia	685
Chapter 28 Reptilia	695
Chapter 29 Aves	733
Chapter 30 Mammalia	763

Part III: Computer analysis

J. L. CUTBILL & B. M. FUNNELL: Computer analysis of <i>The Fossil Record</i>	791
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Index	823
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Preface

THIS VOLUME is in three parts. Part I contains the text of papers given at the symposium meeting; in this sense it is what is generally understood by a symposium in that each paper is the responsibility of the author, who although invited to contribute in a particular field has nevertheless decided for himself how to do this. It thus consists of a series of loosely related papers. Part II, on the other hand, is an integrated compilation, and the introduction explains how this effort in documentation was organized. It does not comment, however, on the labour which made this publication possible; the debt to the many contributors is not in all cases manifest in the length of their initialled work below. Complete coverage was required by the plan for the volume, but this was only possible at great inconvenience to some contributors. Thus, while some contributors may well have been in a position to document the taxa requested with relatively little trouble, others undertook tasks which were far from easy in order to fill the various gaps. In this connexion I should like to pay tribute to the late Dr L. R. Cox, Chairman of the Joint Committee, and to Mr N. J. Morris who completed Dr Cox's contribution after his untimely death; also to Dr G. Thomas for completing the work of the late Professor R. G. S. Hudson in similarly distressing conditions.

Less obvious perhaps is the work done by the Editorial Sub-Committee. The responsibility for the chapters in Part II was divided more or less equally between five sectional editors, as indicated in the table on p. 827. Having decided the policy, which was set out in a series of bulletins to all concerned, each of these five editors approached potential contributors to their sections, and undertook a continuing responsibility to persuade, explain and edit the work for those chapters. This involved a great deal of correspondence and many circulars. In the formulation of policy and initial circulation of bulletins Dr Rudwick also acted as Secretary of the Sub-Committee. For a time when he was ill, and again when he was on sabbatical leave, Mr Hughes fulfilled this function. During my own absence Mr Hughes also undertook some of the duties of Chairman of the Sub-Committee and imparted the necessary degree of impetus and co-ordination. It was soon realized that in order to secure uniformity of presentation in the volume, and particularly of the figures, professional draughting would be necessary, and this was undertaken for the Geological Society by Miss Ailsa B. Reynolds in the Department of Geology at Cambridge. However, it became increasingly evident that agreement between text and figures could only be achieved by a meticulous checking of the submitted charts and text, and whilst the five editors did much of this, a substantial check was also carried out by Miss Reynolds, who in addition

Preface

kept the files and managed the extensive correspondence. Because of the magnitude of this work, and the short time between receipt of many contributions and going to press, Mr Hughes made it possible for Mr E. C. Willey to assist in rationalizing the references within each of the chapters of Part II and putting their abbreviations, where practicable, into the form of the *World List of Scientific Periodicals* (4th edn, London, 1963–5). The references comprise a substantial part of the bulk and value of this work.

Mr B. Wilcock advised on the format and took initial steps to secure printers, but the main burden fell on Mr G. E. Satterthwaite, his successor as Editor and Executive Secretary of the Geological Society, to negotiate and plan the details of printing, and then to receive the total copy and see it through all stages of production into book form.

Professor O. M. B. Bulman, then Head of the Department of Geology at Cambridge, permitted much of the editorial and office work to be undertaken there, and for the latter Miss J. E. Suttle took much responsibility. The Heads of many other geological institutions have allowed their staff facilities to contribute to this volume, and the Directors of the British Museum (Natural History) and of the Geological Survey (now the Institute of Geological Sciences), have given permission for their staff to publish. This assistance, in respect of all such contributions, is gratefully acknowledged here; the addresses of the contributors listed at the end of each chapter indicate the institutions who have helped in this way.

Dr Funnell and Dr Cutbill, in volunteering to provide a numerical analysis of the data, are fully aware of the limitations which the data themselves impose and are under no illusions about the substantial element of variable palaeontological activity that their analysis reflects. It was not practicable to begin the final computations until the last contribution had come in, which left very little time for the whole operation. Nevertheless, it was felt that such a numerical presentation would be appreciated.

The magnitude of the volume was difficult to estimate accurately until most of the copy had been received, and thus at quite a late stage, when the estimated cost of the volume exceeded first estimates by a substantial margin, Mr Hughes arranged to guarantee the Geological Society a sum to avoid a suggested economy of 50 pages by abbreviating references in Part II (a guarantee later assumed by the Palaeontological Association). Publication of the volume, originally hoped for by the end of 1966 was delayed partly by the late and unpredictable arrival of several contributions and then by the very large number of corrections that were made to the galley proofs. In a work of this kind corrections and improvements can be made almost indefinitely. However useful this work may prove to be, it must contain many inaccuracies. It will be appreciated if those who take the trouble to discover these will communicate them for subsequent publication (see note opposite) to the Geological Society.

W. B. HARLAND,
Department of Geology,
Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge
22 August 1967

Arrangements for correcting and supplementing the documentation

The Editors will welcome corrections and additions to the documentation from any reader. These should be submitted in typescript, set out in the style of Part II of this volume—attention is drawn to the Introduction (pp. 1–11) and to the Introduction to Part II (pp. 158–159). Such contributions will be considered for publication, with due acknowledgement, in a form to be decided. They should be addressed to:

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