

Ceratopea billingsi (Gastropoda) from the Early Ordovician of Kronprins Christian Land, eastern North Greenland

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The name *Ceratopea* is generally associated with a horn or claw-shaped operculum locally common in late Early Ordovician carbonates, the parent gastropod shell being much less well known (Yochelson & Bridge, 1958; Yochelson, 1979). *Ceratopea* is recorded from both North and East Greenland. Yochelson & Peel (1975) described *C. ankylosa* and *C. unguis* from the Wandel Valley Formation of Peary Land, eastern North Greenland, and the latter species also occurs in the Nunatami Formation of Washington Land, some 600 km to the west (Peel & Yochelson, 1979). In 1964, Yochelson described two species of *Ceratopea* from the Narwhale Sound Formation of East Greenland, one in open nomenclature and the second, a new species to which he gave the name *C. billingsi*.

In 1980, specimens of *C. billingsi* were collected from strata assigned to the Wandel Valley Formation in Kronprins Christian Land, some 200 km east-south-east of outcrops of the same formation in Peary Land, which yield *Ceratopea*. A good correlation is thus established between the lower part of the Wandel Valley Formation of Kronprins Christian Land and lower beds of the Narwhale Sound Formation in East Greenland. In addition, *C. billingsi* is also recorded from the Durness limestone of north-west Scotland and from the Cape Norman area of Newfoundland (see references and discussion in Yochelson, 1964).

An as yet unanswered question concerns the apparent absence of *C. billingsi* in Peary Land, and *C. unguis* and *C. ankylosa* in Kronprins Christian Land, respectively. Precise age relationships of these three late Early Ordovician species are uncertain and some difference may be present. However, it is equally possible that slight differences in environment may be responsible for the mutually exclusive relationship. Lower beds of the Wandel Valley Formation in Kronprins Christian Land are more limy and appear slightly more marine than the more dolomitic type sequence of the formation in Peary Land.

References

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