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Abstract

Archaeocyaths are an enigmatic group of calcifying sponges prevalent in early Cambrian (Terreneuvian to Series 2) successions around the world and preserved predominantly in reefal buildups, but also in adjacent reworked deposits. Here we report exceptionally preserved phosphatized archaeocyaths and small shelly fossils from phosphatized reef flank deposits at the top of the Salaagol Formation of southwestern Mongolia. Recent chemostratigraphic age models suggest that these archaeocyaths are among the earliest reported in the Terreneuvian Stage 2 (Tommotian). These fossils provide a window into the mechanisms of archaeocyath phosphatization, a generally rare mode of archaeocyath preservation. To assess the composition and nature of phosphatization, fossil assemblages were examined in insoluble residue and thin section. These archaeocyaths are preserved as phosphatic internal molds in residue, and both phosphatized and unphosphatized archaeocyaths are present in thin section. The occurrence of internal molds and complementary mineralogical data suggest that the decay of organic material within the archaeocyaths created the necessary redox conditions for apatite nucleation. We propose that, shortly after death, this assemblage was transported to a deeper water environment, and that the presence of organic matter in a low oxygen setting led to abundant phosphatization of archaeocyaths.

Keywords	phosphatization; taphonomy; Tommotian; Salaagol; Terreneuvian
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23 **ABSTRACT**

24 Archaeocyaths are an enigmatic group of calcifying sponges prevalent in
25 early Cambrian (Terreneuvian to Series 2) successions around the world and
26 preserved predominantly in reefal buildups, but also in adjacent reworked deposits.
27 Here we report exceptionally preserved phosphatized archaeocyaths and small
28 shelly fossils from phosphatized reef flank deposits at the top of the Salaagol
29 Formation of southwestern Mongolia. Recent chemostratigraphic age models
30 suggest that these archaeocyaths are among the earliest reported in the
31 Terreneuvian Stage 2 (Tommotian). These fossils provide a window into the
32 mechanisms of archaeocyath phosphatization, a generally rare mode of
33 archaeocyath preservation. ~~, and chemostratigraphic age models suggest that these~~
34 ~~archaeocyaths are among the earliest reported in the Terreneuvian Stage 2~~
35 ~~(Tommotian).~~ To assess the composition and nature of phosphatization, fossil
36 assemblages were examined in insoluble residue and thin section. These
37 archaeocyaths are preserved as phosphatic internal molds in residue, and both
38 phosphatized and unphosphatized archaeocyaths are present in thin section. The
39 occurrence of internal molds and complementary mineralogical data suggest that
40 the decay of organic material within the archaeocyaths created the necessary redox
41 conditions for apatite nucleation. We propose that, shortly after death, this
42 assemblage was transported to a deeper water environment, and that the presence
43 of organic matter in a low oxygen setting led to abundant phosphatization of
44 archaeocyaths.

45 *Keywords: phosphatization, taphonomy, Tommotian, Salaagol, Terreneuvian*

47 1. Introduction

48

49 Before the Phanerozoic Eon, microbial and abiotic fabrics formed the main
50 components of carbonate reefs (e.g., Grotzinger and James, 2000). During the Cambrian
51 Period, archaeocyaths appeared as the first animals to secrete thick carbonate skeletons
52 and occasionally operated as the framework of reefs (e.g., Debrenne and Vacelet, 1984;
53 Rowland and Gangloff, 1988; Zhuravlev, 1989; Kruse, 1990; Wood, 1990; Wood et al.,
54 1992). Archaeocyaths are typically difficult to extract from a limestone matrix because
55 they have skeletons composed of calcite, which has generally limited the study of their
56 internal structures to thin section analysis (Rigby and Gangloff, 1987). A few occurrences
57 of phosphatized archaeocyaths have been found in Siberia (Dzik, 1994), Greenland
58 (Skovsted, 2006), Antarctica (Myrow et al., 2002; Wrona, 2004;), China (Wang et al.,
59 2010; Wang et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2016), and Mongolia ([Esakova and Zhegallo, 1996](#);
60 [Smith et al., 2016](#)), but the taphonomy and preservation of these fossils have not been
61 described in detail. In general, the early diagenetic phosphatization of skeletal and soft-
62 bodied organisms has led to exceptional preservation of morphologies and micrometer-
63 scale skeletal textures, particularly during the later Ediacaran and Cambrian periods
64 (Cook, 1992; Bengtson and Yue, 1997; Xiao and Knoll, 2000; Butterfield, 2003; Porter,
65 2004; Creveling et al., 2014b). Here, we examine the nature of preservation of
66 phosphatized archaeocyaths in an unusual deposit in the Salaagol Formation of Mongolia
67 to better understand the environment that led to the development of this taphonomic
68 window.

69 Until very recently, the early Cambrian Salaagol Formation in the Zavkhan
70 Terrane of southwestern Mongolia had only been studied at two localities: Salaa Gorge
71 and the Zuun-Arts Ridge (Brasier et al., 1996; Kruse et al., 1996). Calcareous
72 archaeocyaths were examined and identified at the species level in thin section, and the
73 reef morphology was described at the outcrop level (Wood et al., 1993; Kruse et al.,
74 1996). More recently, during a detailed basin-wide study of the Terreneuvian and Series
75 2 Cambrian strata on the Zavkhan Terrane, archaeocyaths were identified at several
76 additional localities, and phosphatized archaeocyaths and small shelly fossils (SSFs) were
77 discovered in the uppermost beds of the Salaagol Formation, at the contact with the
78 overlying Khairkhan Formation (Smith et al., [20152016](#)). These fossils are preserved in a
79 series of laterally discontinuous phosphatized horizons and, based on a new age model,
80 these are likely among some of the oldest archaeocyathan assemblages reported (Smith et
81 al., [2016](#)). Here, to better understand the taphonomic conditions of this exquisite
82 preservation, we examine the sedimentology, depositional environment, and mineralogy
83 of the strata that host these phosphatized fossiliferous horizons. Particularly, the rare
84 preservation of phosphatized archaeocyaths allow us to examine these fossils in residue,
85 analyze them in complementary thin sections, and, through additional mineralogical
86 analyses, we explore the redox conditions that fostered this unusual preservation.

87

88 **2. Geological Setting**

89

90 Late Ediacaran to early Cambrian foreland basin deposits formed on the Zavkhan
91 Terrane of southwestern Mongolia during collision of the Khantaishir-Dariv Arc and

92 obduction of supra-subduction zone ophiolites (Fig. 1A; Macdonald et al. 2009; Bold et
93 al., 2013; Smith et al., [20152016](#); Bold et al., 2016a, 2016b). From oldest to youngest,
94 these strata include the Zuun-Arts, Bayangol, Salaagol, and Khairkhan formations (Fig.
95 1B). These foreland deposits overlie the Shuurgat Formation, which was deposited on a
96 rifted passive margin, and record the transformation of the southwestern margin of the
97 Zavkhan Terrane from a passive to active margin (Bold et al., 2016a, 2016b).

98 The Salaagol Formation is a <400 m-thick white, gray, pink, and red limestone-
99 dominated unit that contains microbialite, ooid grainstone, archaeocyathan reefs, and
100 minor siliciclastic beds (Voronin et al., 1982; Wood et al., 1993; Kruse et al., 1996, Smith
101 et al., [20152016](#)). The thickness of the Salaagol Formation varies dramatically; in some
102 places the formation is completely absent while in others it is composed of a \lesssim 400 m-
103 thick reef complex (Smith et al., [20152016](#)). In sections just south of Khukh-Davaa Pass
104 (Fig. 1C), meter-scale patch reefs pinch out laterally, and locally, the Khairkhan
105 Formation sits directly on the Bayangol Formation (Smith et al., [20152016](#)).

106 At multiple localities, the contact between the Salaagol Formation and the
107 overlying siliciclastic-dominated Khairkhan Formation is marked by phosphatic
108 hardgrounds that preserve archaeocyaths and SSFs. The Khairkhan Formation is
109 composed of up to 1 km of siltstone, sandstone, and conglomerate interpreted to represent
110 the flysch and tectonic mélange of the foreland basin (Macdonald et al., 2009; Smith et
111 al., [20152016](#)). Clasts, ranging in size from pebble to boulder to km-sized and interpreted
112 to represent olistoliths of the underlying archaeocyathan reefs, are common in this unit.
113 Conglomerates within the Khairkhan Formation are interpreted to represent reef talus

114 breccia debrites, distinguishing them from conglomerate in the Bayangol Formation
115 (Smith et al., ~~2015~~2016).

116 Based on species of Siberian archaeocyaths that are thought to be restricted to the
117 Atdabanian and Botomian (Stage 2/Stage 3), ~~this unit~~the Salaagol Formation was
118 previously assigned ~~to this age an age of Tommotian to Botomian (Fortunian to~~
119 ~~Botomian)~~(Kruse et al., 1996); subsequent revised biostratigraphic work placed these
120 fossils in the earliest Atdabanian (Debrenne et al. 2015; Yang et al. 2016). Recently,
121 however, a new high-resolution carbon isotope chemostratigraphic study coupled with
122 the complete lack of trilobite debris in the Salaagol Formation further pushes back the
123 age of this unit to: latest Nemakit-Daldynian and Tommotian (Fortunian/Stage 2; Smith
124 et al., ~~2016~~2015). The highly ¹³C-enriched isotopic values documented in the lower to
125 middle Salaagol Formation (Fig. 2A) are diagnostic of the end-Nemakit-Daldynian, and
126 such ¹³C-enriched values are not found in ~~Atd~~adabanian or Botomian rocks globally
127 (Maloof et al., 2005; Smith et al., 2016). The archaeocyaths ~~in this study~~from E1221,
128 which represent the bulk of what we studied, are from carbonates with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of \sim
129 $\pm 2\%$, ~~just above the~~along the downturn from carbonates that record values of $\geq +47$ ~~to~~
130 $+8$ (Fig. 2A). The archaeocyath-bearing horizons at PARN2, however, sit in carbon
131 isotope space that places them above those at E1221 (-2%); we interpret ~~the~~is drop
132 shown in Figure 2 from highly ¹³C-enriched values to ¹³C-depleted values ~~as to~~
133 approximate the Nemakit-Daldynian—Tommotian boundary (Smith et al., 2015).
134 Because the uppermost beds of the Salaagol Formation preserve the phosphatic
135 assemblages described herein, these fossils represent some of the earliest archaeocyaths
136 reported, and if the chemostratigraphic age model put forth by Smith et al. (2016;

137 [2017](#)2015) is correct, it challenges the original biostratigraphic ranges for the Siberian
138 archaeocyaths (e.g., Rozanov ~~and Sokolov~~, 1980; Kirschvink and Rozaenov, 1984).

139

140 3. Methods

141

142 The phosphatized archaeocyaths described here were discovered while mapping
143 new areas and measuring new sections of the Salaagol Formation. The key localities for
144 this study are in southeast Khukh-Davaa (E1330 and PARN2) and Orolgo Gorge (E1221)
145 (Fig. 1C, Fig. 2A). At Orolgo Gorge, the contact between the Salaagol and Khairkhan
146 formations is covered by talus, and thus the stratigraphic context of the fossils is ~~less-not~~
147 ~~as precisely well~~-constrained. Nonetheless, samples were collected here due to the
148 abundance of well-preserved phosphatized fossils that were found in talus. The best-
149 preserved and most diverse samples were collected and used in this study (E1221) (Fig.
150 1C). To better constrain the depositional environment of these samples, two detailed
151 stratigraphic sections were measured and sampled that span the contact between the
152 Salaagol and Khairkhan formations and preserve phosphatized archaeocyaths *in situ*.
153 These sections (E1330 and PARN 2) are from two separate localities in southeast Khukh-
154 Davaa. In both sections, carbonates were collected at high resolution throughout the
155 entire Salaagol Formation for carbon isotope chemostratigraphy ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) (Fig. 2A; Smith et
156 al., [2015](#)).

157 Of the samples collected at Orolgo Gorge, eight were chosen for further analysis
158 due to their exceptional phosphatization. Portions of the samples from E1221 were
159 dissolved in 10% buffered acetic acid and thin sectioned. The acid was changed every

160 other day over the course of six weeks. Residues were collected after four and six weeks.
161 The residues were rinsed with deionized water and sieved into four fractions: >840µm,
162 420-840 µm, 250-420 µm, and 160-250 µm.

163 All residues were examined under the dissecting microscope, and fossils with
164 different morphologies were picked. The ten best-preserved and most representative
165 fossils from each sample were photographed under a light microscope. Fossils were
166 sputter coated with a gold/palladium alloy and imaged at 5 kV, spot size 3 on a FEI
167 Quanta 450 Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Two archaeocyath fossils showing
168 different mineralogies were carbon coated and analyzed for Energy Dispersive Spectra
169 (EDS) to determine composition.

170 Thin sections were made from each of the same eight dissolved samples, ~~in which~~
171 ~~were used to~~ ~~observed modes of preservation~~ ~~examined~~ ~~preservation~~, diversity of
172 organisms, taphonomic alteration, types of minerals, and occurrence of ~~apatite~~ ~~phosphate~~.
173 Samples were classified according to Dunham's classification scheme (Dunham, 1962;
174 Embry and Klovan, 1972). ~~For the modes of preservation,~~ We also noted ~~whether~~
175 ~~fossils were preserved as internal molds or if they were replaced or recrystallized.~~ the
176 distribution of apatite in the samples in thin section.

177 At the section E1330 in the southeast Khukh-Davaa region, 12 samples were
178 analyzed to characterize mineralogical changes as phosphatization becomes prevalent
179 near the Salaagol/Khairkhan contact. These samples were dissolved in a solution of 10%
180 acetic acid buffered with 0.65 M hydrated ammonium acetate to remove some of the
181 carbonate and concentrate the insoluble minerals. These residues were then analyzed on a
182 Panalytical Empyrean Series 2 X-ray diffractometer operating at 40 kV and 40 mA with a

183 Co K α source. Samples were mixed with acetone, and the slurries were spread onto
184 polished 32mm Si single crystal substrates and, after air-drying, were analyzed while
185 continuously rotated. Data were acquired from 5-85 degrees 2-theta using a step size of
186 0.026 degrees. Diffraction data were reduced using the HighScore Plus software suite and
187 mineral identifications were based on correspondence to the ICDD Powder Diffraction
188 File 4+ database. In addition, clay mineral speciation and polytype identification were
189 performed by scanning from 69-75 degrees 2-theta using a step size of 0.026 degrees and
190 count rates of 200 seconds per step. In this way, mineral-specific 060 reflections (i.e.,
191 glauconite, 2M₁ illite) were quantified by peak area modeling. Using this approach, and
192 taking advantage of the linear relationship between 060 peak area and mineral
193 concentration, clay mineral abundances expressed as a relative fraction of the total clay
194 content (Środoń et al., 2001).

195

196 **4. Results**

197

198 *4.1 Stratigraphic context*

199

200 In southeast Khukh-Davaa, two sections (E1330 and PARN 2) preserve
201 phosphatized archaeocyaths and SSFs in place (Fig. 1C, Fig. 2A, 2B). The sedimentology
202 is very similar between the two sections, so they are plotted in a composite section in Fig.
203 2B. Section E1330 is about 1 km to the southeast of the second section (PARN 2). E1330
204 is a 16 m-thick section that contains five distinct and lenticular phosphatic horizons of
205 archaeocyaths and SSFs ~~preserved within 10 m of bedded limestone~~ (Fig. 3A). The

206 phosphatic horizons are as thick as 2 cm, but pinch and swell laterally (Fig. 3B-D). At
207 one of the phosphatic horizons, phosphatized grains and fossils fill an erosive surface
208 (Fig. 3B). At other stratigraphic levels, phosphatic horizons splay and laterally rejoin
209 (Fig. 3C). In strata centimeters above ~~of~~ the phosphatic hardgrounds, phosphatized
210 fossils and grains are commonly dispersed in carbonate grainstone (Fig. 3D). The
211 phosphatic hardgrounds and fossils are overlain by 2 m of siltstone with nodular
212 carbonate and > 100 m of brown to black graded beds of sandstone, siltstone, and shale
213 interpreted as turbidites of the overlying Khairkhan Formation (Smith et al., 2015).

214 The second detailed measured section, PARN 2, is 16 m-thick (see Fig. 2B). The
215 bottom 10 m of the section consists of thinly bedded limestone with ~7 lenticular
216 phosphatic horizons. All the phosphatized horizons contain a variety of fossils visible at
217 the outcrop scale, including calcareous and phosphatized archaeocyaths and SSFs in
218 various orientations. Similar to the strata in E1330, this interval is immediately overlain
219 by 6 m of siltstone with nodular carbonates of the Khairkhan Formation. ~~The overlying;~~
220 the Khairkhan Formation consists of >100 m of graded beds of sandstone, siltstone, and
221 shale with interbedded conglomerate.

222 Although these sections are over 1 km apart, the sedimentology of the two
223 sections is very similar. While the number and thickness of the phosphatic horizons
224 varies laterally, the phosphatized fossils and grains are being preserved within ~10 m of
225 strata that record the upward progression from carbonate boundstone to graded beds of
226 siliciclastic strata that we interpret to represent the transition from a shallow marine reef
227 to a basinal slope environment. No phosphatized archaeocyaths were found in the Salaa
228 Gorge section (Fig. 2A), but the Salaagol-Khairkhan contact there is similar to the

229 sections from southeast Khukh-Davaa. There, the Salaagol Formation grades into mixed
230 phosphatic carbonate, which is overlain by graded beds of siliciclastic strata. Overlying
231 this are conglomerates interpreted to represent mass-flow deposits of the Khairkhan
232 Formation.

233 In Orolgo Gorge, the most distal of the sections studied (Smith et al., 2015), the
234 phosphatized archaeocyaths were found in conglomerate above a massive microbial reef
235 buildup, and the conglomerate is interpreted to represent a syndepositional talus slope
236 deposit from the fore reef (Fig. 2A). ~~Some of the large talus blocks in this gorge have~~
237 Lenticular phosphatic lenses ~~that~~ preserve secondarily phosphatized archaeocyaths,
238 SSFs, and grains, very similar to the sections studied in southeast Khukh-Davaa. Large
239 clasts within the talus breccia contain archaeocyaths that are not phosphatized. We
240 interpret these clasts as massive slump blocks (olistoliths), which fell off the flanks of the
241 reef complexes that are preserved in more proximal sections at Salaa Gorge and southeast
242 Khukh-Daava. ~~Overlying the covered interval with the talus blocks are large clasts, some~~
243 ~~of which contain archaeocyaths. We interpret these clasts to represent massive slump~~
244 ~~blocks and olistoliths in a talus breccia, which fell off of the flanks of massive reef~~
245 ~~complexes in the more proximal sections at Salaa Gorge and in southeast Khukh Davaa.~~

246

247 *4.2 Insoluble Residue Fossil Analysis*

248

249 Observations of the size, diversity, and abundance of skeletal material were made
250 by examining the insoluble residues (Table 1). Although much of the residue material
251 consists of non-biological components such as rock fragments, skeletal fragments are

252 present in all residues. Phosphatized archaeocyathan fragments are commonly observed
253 in > 840 μm fraction with a minority of phosphatized cancelloriids, ~~and possible~~
254 ~~hyoliths including orthothecids, and other unidentified small shelly~~ fossils. SSFs are
255 abundant in the 420-840 μm fraction. The two other size fractions did not contain much
256 ~~articulated-identifiable~~ phosphatic material, and thus were not analyzed. The vast
257 majority of archaeocyathan fossils are preserved as phosphatic internal molds, ~~and in~~
258 ~~some cases preserve small amounts of silica,~~ but some archaeocyathan fossils in residue
259 are calcitic. A single green internal mold of an archaeocyath was further examined using
260 EDS to determine elemental composition (see EDS results below).

261 In the internal molds, the central cavity, ~~intersepta,~~ ~~and pores,~~ ~~and intersepta~~
262 have been filled with ~~phosphate-apatite~~ (Figs. 4A—K). The intervallum, inner walls,
263 outer walls, and septae ~~of~~ archaeocyaths are rarely preserved in residues, though one
264 fossil contained an outer wall (Fig. 4L). Some archaeocythans had a combination of
265 phosphatized hollow spaces with a calcareousified outer skeleton (< 5%). The ~~majority of~~
266 SSFs in residue ~~are cancelloriids and hyolithids, and they~~ are preserved as internal
267 molds (Figs. 5A—D) and replaced by ~~phosphate-apatite~~ (Figs. 5E, F).

268

269 4.3 Petrographic Analysis

270

271 Common components of all eight thin sections include micrite, skeletal fragments,
272 peloids, intraclasts, ooids, and siliciclastic material (Table 2). Most of the matrix of the
273 rock is micritic, and common skeletal fragments included archaeocyaths, cancelloriids,
274 ~~hyoliths~~ids, ~~and~~ brachiopods, ~~and unidentified small shelly fossils~~. All samples are

275 characterized as fossiliferous packstone. Minor siliciclastic minerals (quartz and
276 plagioclase feldspar) are mud- to very fine-grained sand-sized, angular to subangular, and
277 poorly sorted.

278 In thin section, as in residue, archaeocyathan fossils ~~are commonly both~~preserve
279 both the calcitic exterior and phosphatic internal mold. In the examples of archaeocyaths
280 ~~in~~filled with ~~phosphate cement~~apatite, there ~~are other grains~~is other cement, including
281 ~~plagioclase feldspar and some silica~~quartz, which ~~is~~are preserved inside the intervallum,
282 central cavities, and pores of the specimens (Fig. 6A). Some ~~entirely~~ calcitic
283 archaeocyathan skeletons without phosphatic internal molds are also present (Fig. 6B).
284 Skeletal elements of cancelloriids and, hyolithids and ~~brachiopods~~ are commonly
285 replaced by ~~phosphate~~apatite, but some calcitic examples also exist (Figs. 6C—D).
286 ~~Phosphate-Apatite~~ occurs in the internal molds, as replaced fossils, and as grains and
287 cement (Fig. 6A, B and E). Glauconite occurs as grains (Fig. 6F), and is a common
288 yellow-green mineral in Cambrian successions (e.g., Brasier, 1980).

289

290 *4.4 Insoluble Residue X-ray Diffractometer (XRD) Analysis and Element Dispersive* 291 *Spectra (EDS)*

292

293 The mineralogical content of the insoluble residues of the twelve samples from
294 E1330 reveal the minor minerals present during the transition from the Salaagol
295 Formation to the Khairkhan Formation (Table 3). Quartz~~z~~, calcite and glauconite are
296 present in all samples. In addition, clay has been identified on the basis of the position of
297 its 060 reflection as being an Fe-rich dioctahedral variety, similar in composition to

298 glauconite, or Fe-rich smectites such as nontronite and saponite (Fig. 7; Moore and
299 Reynolds, 1997). In all samples where glauconite and the Fe-rich dioctahedral clay make
300 up 49% or more of the insoluble residue material analyzed, apatite is also present (Table
301 3, Fig. 8). Apatite appears in more than half of the samples, but is less abundant than
302 glauconite and/or Fe-bearing clay.

303 Two fossils, one brown and one green in color, were selected under the dissecting
304 microscope for further analysis with EDS on the SEM. The more representative brown
305 archaeocyathan fossil had a chemical composition that included C, O, Si, P, and Ca (Fig.
306 9A). These elements, particularly the abundances of calcium and phosphate, are
307 consistent with an apatite structure. The Si and O indicates some replacement by silica.
308 The green archaeocyathan internal mold had EDS spectra that included O, Mg, Al, Si, K,
309 Ca, and Fe (Fig. 9B). This elemental composition is consistent with glauconite.

310

311

312 **5. Discussion**

313

314 *5.1 PalaeoEnvironmental Interpretations*

315

316 The Salaagol Formation is dominated by archaeocyathan reefs (Kruse et al., 1996;
317 Smith et al., 2015), but ooid grainstone, oncolite, thrombolitic and other microbialites,
318 and minor siliciclastic units are common throughout the formation (Fig. 2). The unit
319 exhibits major facies changes across the Zavkhan Terrane, varying in lithology and
320 thickness (Smith et al., 2015). In addition to sequence stratigraphy, chemostratigraphic

321 profiles of the Salaagol Formation in the three regions discussed in this study provide
322 constraints on the correlations between sections (Fig. 2A; Smith et al., 2015). These data
323 suggest that the development of the Salaagol reefs was diachronous across the basin, and
324 that the reefs persisted for a longer period of time in Salaa Gorge and southeast Khukh
325 Davaa than they did in Orolgo Gorge. In Salaa Gorge and southeast Khukh-Davaa, the
326 reefs developed high relief to keep up with the transgressive systems tract, but were
327 drowned or destroyed in deeper water sections at Orolgo Gorge by slumps coming off the
328 flanks (Fig. 2A). These correlations imply that the horizons of phosphatized
329 archaeocyaths from Orolgo Gorge (E1221) are slightly older than the ones from southeast
330 Khukh-Davaa (E1330 and PARN 2). This also implies that the gradational contact
331 between the Salaagol and Khairkhan formations is diachronous across the basin, with the
332 phosphatic shales, silty carbonates, and reef talus of the Khairkhan Formation first
333 appearing in the deepest water section at Orolgo Gorge.

334 The archaeocyaths and SSFs at the top of the formation in the southeast Khukh-
335 Davaa (E1330 and PARN2) and Orolgo Gorge (E1221) localities, are found as
336 disarticulated clasts in discontinuous phosphatized lenses (Fig. 3; Smith et al., 2015),
337 suggesting transport after death. Furthermore, in hand sample, archaeocyaths and SSFs
338 are found oriented in many different directions (Fig. 3), and in thin section, archaeocyaths
339 are preserved with siliciclastic sediment (quartz and plagioclase feldspar) filling their
340 cavities (Table 2; Fig. 6A). The contact between the Salaagol and Khairkhan formations
341 is gradational with a 4 m-thick siltstone unit overlain by a 10 m-thick, thinly-bedded
342 limestone unit with discontinuous phosphatized lenses and succeeded by an additional 2
343 m-thick siltstone unit with carbonate nodules (see Fig. 2). These observations, coupled

344 with the preservation of fossils in phosphatized transgressive lags at the base of the
345 Khairkhan Formation, suggest that these fossils were transported from a nearby peri-
346 reefal setting during a transgressive systems tract. This transgression is interpreted to
347 reflect the foundering of the Salaagol reef into the axis of the foredeep basin, where
348 deepening was accompanied by the appearance of arc-derived detritus from the orogenic
349 wedge to the south (Smith et al., 2015).

350

351 *5.2 Paleoenvironmental Taphonomic Interpretations*

352

353 Previous work on the Salaagol Formation has shown that *Ajaicyathus*
354 *archaeocyaths*—like—*Archaeolynthus*, *Dokidocyathus*, *Nochorocyathus*, and
355 *Rotundocyathus*, among others, were common components of archaeocyathan reefs of the
356 Salaagol Formation (Kruse et al., 1996; Debrenne and Zhuravlev, 1996). Though most of
357 our archaeocyathan fossils are small and incomplete, some share features with the fossils
358 previously identified from these sections. One specimen has an outer wall preserved
359 which is rare in our samples, and it shows simple rounded pores like those of
360 *Archaeolynthus* (Fig. 4L), but the top of the cup is poorly preserved. Others are solitary
361 archaeocyaths with an intervallum with straight septa, resembling those of the
362 Nochorocyathidae (Figs. 4D and I) (Kruse et al., 1996) (now regarded as a synonym of
363 Ajacyathidae, ~~Nochorocyathidae (Figs. 4D and I) (Debrenne et al., 2015; Kruse et al.,~~
364 1996). The pore and septal arrangements of these phosphatized forms reveal a
365 morphological diversity in these samples, even with incomplete specimens.

366 The small size and transported nature of these assemblages suggest that these
367 archaeocyaths lived in a forereef environment. Chancelloriids and hyolithids other benthic
368 small shelly fossils would also have been well suited to living at the periphery of the reef,
369 since these groups have been found in both reef and level bottom assemblages (e.g.,
370 James and Klappa, 1983; Landing, 1993; Pratt et al., 2001). The archaeocyaths and SSFs
371 are found as broken skeletal fragments in hand sample, residue, and thin section, and the
372 overall size of most fossil fragments is quite small, with most fossils being less than 1 cm
373 long. Whole fossils are rare in both residue and thin section, confirming that these fossils
374 were transported and not preserved *in situ*.

375

376 *5.3 Implications for local redox conditions*

377

378 The nature of phosphatization and associated redox conditions remain debated
379 (e.g., Föllmi et al. 2005; Dornbos et al. 2006; Creveling et al., 2014a; 2014b). It has been
380 suggested that ferruginous and anoxic conditions contribute to secondary apatite growth
381 (Creveling et al., 2014a; 2014b), a condition that might have been common in Cambrian
382 basins; however, the role of organic matter decay in providing phosphorous and
383 controlling local redox conditions has also been proposed (e.g., Föllmi et al. 2005;
384 Dornbos et al. 2006; März et al. 2008; Creveling et a., 2014a; 2014b). Based on the
385 presence of phosphatic internal molds and apatite cement in the phosphatic hardgrounds
386 described here, apatite ~~is~~ likely nucleated ed *in situ* during transgression.

387 Mineralogical analyses of the insoluble residues that span the upper Salaagol
388 Formation reveal some important patterns. Quartz is common in this analysis, which is

389 also seen in thin section as a detrital component. Calcite is also prevalent, but likely
390 reveals incomplete dissolution of the host rock. Glauconite and Fe-rich dioctahedral clay,
391 both of which are conspicuously yellow-green and easily identified in thin section, are
392 abundant in all analyzed samples, and their abundance has important implications for
393 local redox conditions. The relationship between glauconite and apatite formation is well
394 known (Odin and Létolle, 1980; Krajewski, 1984; O'Brien et al., 1990). In modern
395 environments where glauconite and apatite are forming as nodules, such as the East
396 Australian continental margin (O'Brien et al., 1990), low oxygen conditions are
397 maintained by a high organic carbon flux to the sediments. The interaction between Fe-P
398 cycling plays an important role in these settings as well, and much of these dynamics are
399 controlled by local sea level (O'Brien et al., 1990). As an analogy to Cambrian settings,
400 the part of the Salaagol where phosphatization of fossils is present co-occurs with
401 abundant glauconite. Interestingly, apatite is not abundant in all of the residues analyzed
402 from the section at E1330, which points to the patchy, lenticular nature of
403 phosphatization, something that is viewed in the field. However, glauconite and/or Fe-
404 rich dioctahedral clay are present in all analyzed samples. We suggest that these Fe-rich
405 clays, including glauconite, as well as apatite grew under low oxygen conditions, and that
406 these conditions were best maintained by a relatively high supply of organic carbon.
407 Organic carbon within the interior of the fossils likely acted as a template for apatite, and
408 in rarer instances, glauconite growth. The organic material itself may not have been a
409 sufficient source of phosphorous to account for the formation of apatite (Creveling et al.,
410 2014a), which supports the notion that these fossils were transported to an anoxic

411 environment where additional phosphorous was mobilized from organic rich sediments
412 (Van Cappelle~~an~~ and Ingall, 1994).

413 We suggest that, ~~during transgression,~~ the archaeocyaths, which lived in
414 oxygenated conditions, were transported to a deeper-water anoxic environment ~~with~~
415 ~~sediment filling their cavities during transport,~~ and then ~~phosphate~~ apatite grew in the
416 pore space with other associated authigenic minerals ~~around mineral grains~~ (Fig. 10). In
417 an anoxic, potentially organic-rich, deeper water setting, any remaining organic material
418 may have thus created a site for apatite nucleation both through locally increased
419 phosphorous availability and locally reducing conditions. Interestingly, archaeocyaths are
420 thought to have an intervalum filled with soft-tissue (Zhuravlev, 1990; Debrenne and
421 Zhuravlev, 1992; Wood et al., 1992), and the areas where this tissue would have decayed
422 coincides with areas where apatite~~phosphate~~ is prevalent in these archaeocyaths, ~~both in~~
423 ~~residue and thin sections~~ (though note the presence of apatite in the central cavity as well,
424 in some cases). It is possible that the transgression preserved at the base of the Khairkhan
425 Formation introduced low oxygen conditions to decaying organic matter within the
426 transported ~~Ajaicyathus~~ archaeocyaths, creating an ideal situation for apatite~~phosphate~~
427 to nucleate in the pore spaces. These unusual conditions represent an important early
428 Cambrian taphonomic window and may account for the general scarcity of phosphatized
429 archaeocyathan fossils relative to their carbonate reef-dwelling equivalents.

430

431 **6. Conclusions**

432

433 In the upper Salaagol Formation of southwestern Mongolia, archaeocyaths and
434 SSFs were found in discontinuous phosphatized lenses. Analyses of insoluble residues
435 and thin sections coupled with mineralogical data demonstrate that phosphatized internal
436 molds and replaced fossils of archaeocyaths, cancelloriids, ~~and~~hyolithids and
437 unidentified fossils make up the bulk of the biological components of these assemblages.
438 The archaeocyaths and SSFs lived in a reef periphery, and were transported to a deeper
439 marine setting during a basin-wide transgression. Sediment starvation and low oxygen
440 conditions coupled with the decaying soft tissue in the archaeocyath's intervallum created
441 an environment that facilitated the preservation of these fossils as phosphatic internal
442 molds.
443

444 **LIST OF FIGURE AND TABLE CAPTIONS**

445

446 **FIGURE 1**—Locality map, geological map, and generalized stratigraphy of the Zavkhan
447 Terrane modified from Smith et al. (2015). A) Location of Zavkhan Terrane in
448 southwestern Mongolia. B) Carbon isotope chemostratigraphic profile plotted against
449 generalized Neoproterozoic through early Cambrian stratigraphy in the Zavkhan Terrane.
450 The purple arrow marks where, stratigraphically, the phosphatized archaeocyath
451 specimens were found. C) Geologic map of the Zavkhan Terrane. The purple stars mark
452 the sample localities. (GPS Coordinates) E1330 = N 46° 58' 34.02" E 95° 34' 5.58";
453 E1221 = N 46° 48' 17.07" E 95° 36' 5.54"

454 **FIGURE 2**—Measured stratigraphic sections of the Salaagol and Khairkhan formations.
455 A) Measured stratigraphic sections and chemostratigraphy from three of the most western
456 localities in the Zavkhan Terrane (adapted from Smith et al., 2015). Dashed lines at the
457 Khairkhan Formation between Orolgo and Saala gorges indicate interfingering facies B)
458 Detailed section of composite PARN2 and E1330 stratigraphic column from southeast
459 Khukh-Davaa showing the distribution of phosphatic lenses and phosphatized fossils at
460 the contact between the Salaagol and Khairkhan formations.

461 **FIGURE 3**—Field photographs from the section near E1330 (A and B) and E1221 (C
462 and D). A) Bedded limestone from the contact between the Salaagol and Khairkhan
463 formations. Meter stick for scale. B) Phosphatized grains and fossils filling in a karsted
464 cavity in the upper Salaagol Formation. C) Phosphatized lens showing both phosphatized
465 and calcitic archaeocyaths. D) Phosphatized archaeocyaths and SSFs.

466 **FIGURE 4**—SEM images of phosphatized archaeocyaths. A) Branching archaeocyath.
467 B-J) Internal molds of archaeocyaths. ~~Phosphate fills in central cavity, pores and~~
468 ~~intersepta.~~ K) Archaeocyathan pore system. L) Archaeocyath replaced by apatite. ~~Note~~
469 ~~that pores and central cavity are not filled with phosphate.~~

470 **FIGURE 5**—SEM images of phosphatized small shelly fossils. A-D) ~~Phosphatized~~
471 ~~Cehancelloriid sclerites; E-F) Phosphatized Hhyoliths; F) Possible hyolith; identification~~
472 ~~uncertain ids.~~

473 **FIGURE 6**—Petrographic images of thin sections. All thin sections were made from the
474 same hand samples as those used for dissolutions. A) ~~ApatitePhosphate~~ filling a
475 ~~calcifiedcalcareous~~ archaeocyath. B) ~~CalcifiedCalcareous~~ archaeocyath (left) and
476 ~~calcifiedcalcareous~~ archaeocyath filled with ~~apatitephosphate~~ (right). C) Phosphatized
477 hyolithid (black arrow). D) ~~CalcifiedCalcareous chancelloriidsmall shelly fossil.~~ E)
478 ~~Possible phosphatic brachiopod shell in the center of the picture, and pPhosphatic cement~~
479 (white arrow). F) Glauconitic cement (black arrow).

480 **FIGURE 7**—X-ray diffraction profile for a glauconitic sample, E1330-1. The high angle
481 ~~portion of the profile (top; between 70-74 degrees) reveals the presence of an iron-rich~~
482 ~~dioctahedral clay, which is also abundant in these residues and contains slightly more~~
483 ~~iron than glauconite. The bottom panel shows the parent profile.~~

484 **FIGURE 8**—X-ray diffraction profile from two samples showing high and low
485 abundances of apatite at the top and bottom, respectively (E1330-12.5 and E1330-2). All
486 dashed lines correspond to apatite peaks. Quartz and calcite peaks are also indicated.

487 **FIGURE 8**—X-ray diffraction profile for a glauconitic sample, E1330-1. The high angle
488 ~~portion of the profile (top; between 70-74 degrees) reveals the presence of an iron-rich~~

489 ~~dioctehedral clay, which is also abundant in these residues and contains slightly more~~
490 ~~iron than glauconite.~~

491 **FIGURE 9**—Modes of preservation of archaeocyaths. A) Brown, phosphatized
492 archaeocyath 3A2.20.11 under the light microscope. This specimen is similar to many of
493 the other fossils in residue. The EDS spectra of C, O, Si, P and Ca is consistent with the
494 fossil being composed of apatite and silica. B) Green, glauconitized archaeocyath
495 5A2.20.3 under the light microscope. The EDS spectra of C, O, Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, and Fe
496 is consistent with glauconite.

497 **FIGURE 10**—Schematic model for the phosphatization process of archaeocyaths A) *In*
498 *situ* archaeocyath. B) Archaeocyath transported from forereef environment to a deeper
499 marine setting. C) Anoxic conditions and soft tissue decay create a nucleation site for
500 apatite to grow. Phosphatic internal mold forms.

501 **TABLE 1**—Qualitative Residue Descriptions of >840 μ m and 420 μ m to 840 μ m. In
502 >840 μ m sieve sizes, phosphatized archaeocyaths are found in all residue samples except
503 for E1221.6A1.20, which did not yield any fossils. In all >840 μ m residue samples,
504 apatitephosphate and calcite are observed. Residue sample E1221.5A2.20 has a single
505 glauconitic archaeocyath. In the smaller sieve sizes of 420 μ m to 840 μ m, phosphatized
506 and calcitic archaeocyaths are observed in all 16 residues. Three residues, E1221.4A2.40,
507 E1221.6A2.40, and E1221.8A2.40 have a majority of phosphatized cancelloriids and
508 phosphatized archaeocyaths. Phosphatized hyolithids, phosphatized cancelloriids, and
509 phosphatized archaeocyaths yield the majority of fossils in residue sample
510 E1221.6A2.40.

511 **TABLE 2**— Qualitative Petrographic Descriptions. All 8 thin sections are observed
512 under the petrographic microscope, and all rock samples are classified as fossiliferous
513 packstone.

514 **TABLE 3**—Mineralogical compositions of the insoluble residues from x-ray diffraction
515 analysis of twelve samples from section E1330 in the southeast Khukh-Davaa area ~~from~~
516 ~~x-ray diffraction analysis~~.

517

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527

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Highlights

Archaeocyaths from the lower Cambrian of southwestern Mongolia were investigated.

Archaeocyaths and associated small shelly fossils (SSFs) are phosphatized.

The minerals in the assemblages suggest transportation to a low oxygen setting.

Analysis of these fossils links taphonomy to paleoenvironment of preservation.

632 **LIST OF FIGURE AND TABLE CAPTIONS**

633

634 **FIGURE 1**—Locality map, geological map, and generalized stratigraphy of the Zavkhan
635 Terrane modified from Smith et al. (2016). A) Location of Zavkhan Terrane in
636 southwestern Mongolia. B) Carbon isotope chemostratigraphic profile plotted against
637 generalized Neoproterozoic through early Cambrian stratigraphy in the Zavkhan Terrane.
638 The purple arrow marks where, stratigraphically, the phosphatized archaeocyath
639 specimens were found. C) Geologic map of the Zavkhan Terrane. The purple stars mark
640 the sample localities. (GPS Coordinates) E1330 = 46° 58' 34.02" N 95° 34' 5.58" E;
641 E1221 = 46° 48' 17.07" N 95° 36' 5.54" E

642 **FIGURE 2**—Measured stratigraphic sections of the Salaagol and Khairkhan formations.
643 A) Measured stratigraphic sections and chemostratigraphy from three of the most western
644 localities in the Zavkhan Terrane (adapted from Smith et al., 2016). Dashed lines at the
645 Khairkhan Formation between Orolgo and Saala gorges indicate interfingering facies B)
646 Detailed section of composite PARN2 and E1330 stratigraphic column from southeast
647 Khukh-Davaa showing the distribution of phosphatic lenses and phosphatized fossils at
648 the contact between the Salaagol and Khairkhan formations.

649 **FIGURE 3**—Field photographs from the section near E1330 (A and B) and E1221 (C
650 and D). A) Bedded limestone from the contact between the Salaagol and Khairkhan
651 formations. Meter stick for scale. B) Phosphatized grains and fossils filling in a karsted
652 cavity in the upper Salaagol Formation. C) Phosphatized lens showing both phosphatized
653 and calcitic archaeocyaths. D) Phosphatized archaeocyaths and SSFs.

654 **FIGURE 4**—SEM images of phosphatized archaeocyaths. A) Branching archaeocyath.
655 B-J) Internal molds of archaeocyaths. K) Archaeocyathan pore system. L) Archaeocyath
656 replaced by apatite.

657 **FIGURE 5**—SEM images of phosphatic small shelly fossils. A-D) Chancelloriid
658 sclerites; E) Hyoliths; F) Possible hyolith; identification uncertain..

659 **FIGURE 6**—Petrographic images of thin sections. All thin sections were made from the
660 same hand samples as those used for dissolutions. A) Apatite filling a calcareous
661 archaeocyath. B) Calcareous archaeocyath (left) and calcareous archaeocyath filled with
662 apatite (right). C) Phosphatized hyolithid (black arrow). D) Calcareous small shelly
663 fossil. E) Possible phosphatic brachiopod shell in the center of the picture, and phosphatic
664 cement (white arrow). F) Glauconitic cement (black arrow).

665 **FIGURE 7**—X-ray diffraction profile for a glauconitic sample, E1330-1. The high angle
666 portion of the profile (top; between 70-74 degrees) reveals the presence of an iron-rich
667 dioctahedral clay, which is also abundant in these residues and contains slightly more
668 iron than glauconite. The bottom panel shows the parent profile.

669 **FIGURE 8**—X-ray diffraction profile from two samples showing high and low
670 abundances of apatite at the top and bottom, respectively (E1330-12.5 and E1330-2). All
671 dashed lines correspond to apatite peaks. Quartz and calcite peaks are also indicated.

672 **FIGURE 9**—Modes of preservation of archaeocyaths. A) Brown, phosphatized
673 archaeocyath 3A2.20.11 under the light microscope. This specimen is similar to many of
674 the other fossils in residue. The EDS spectra of C, O, Si, P and Ca is consistent with the
675 fossil being composed of apatite and silica. B) Green, glauconitized archaeocyath

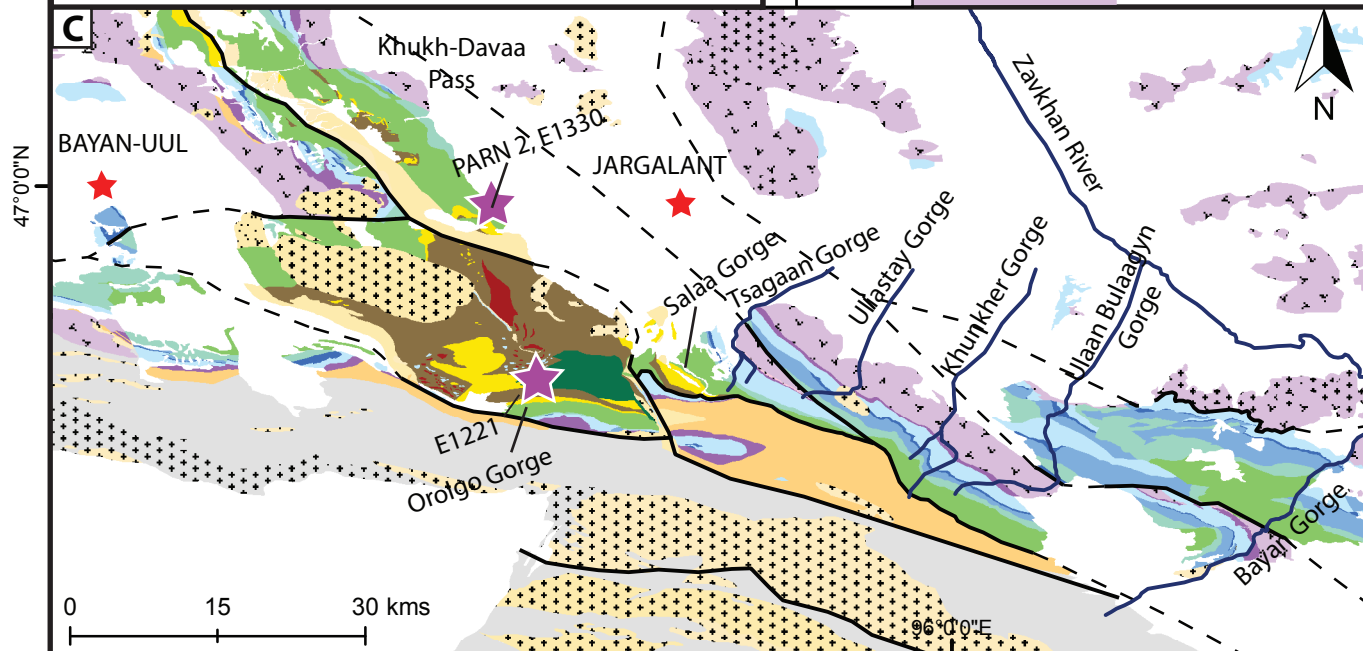
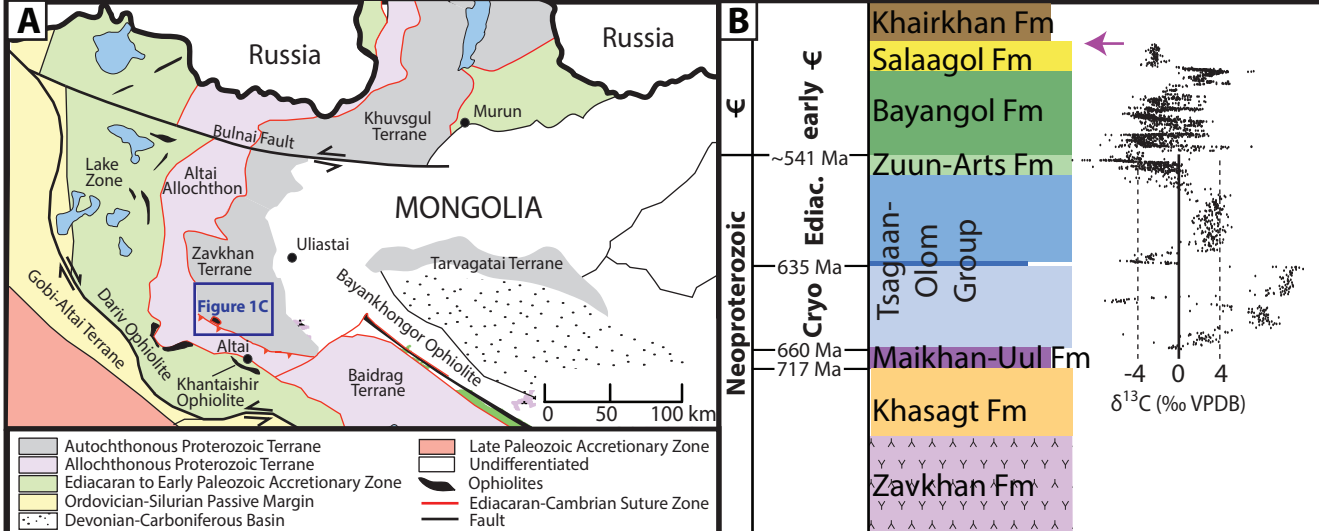
676 5A2.20.3 under the light microscope. The EDS spectra of C, O, Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, and Fe
677 is consistent with glauconite.

678 **FIGURE 10**—Schematic model for the phosphatization process of archaeocyaths A) *In*
679 *situ* archaeocyath. B) Archaeocyath transported from forereef environment to a deeper
680 marine setting. C) Anoxic conditions and soft tissue decay create a nucleation site for
681 apatite to grow. Phosphatic internal mold forms.

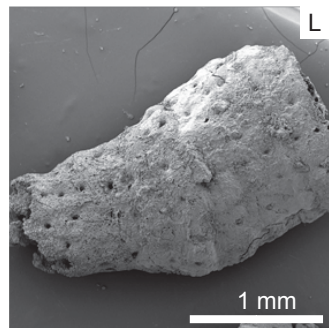
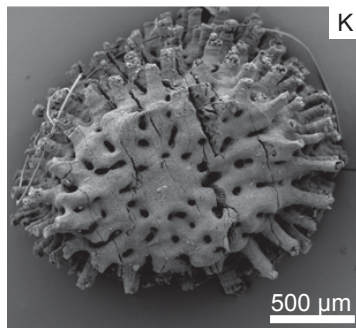
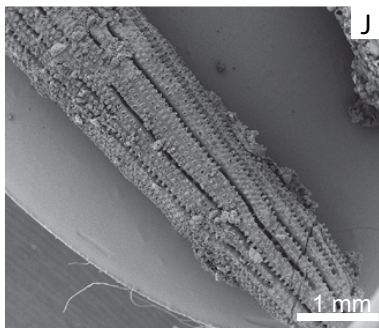
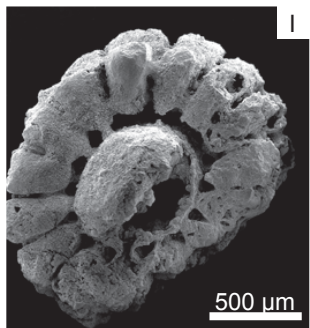
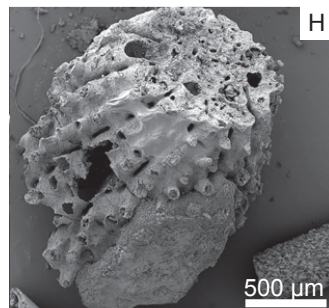
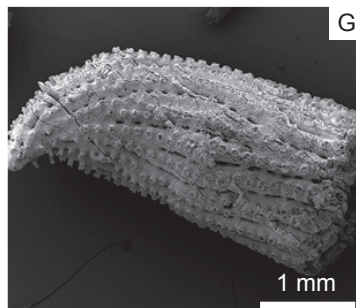
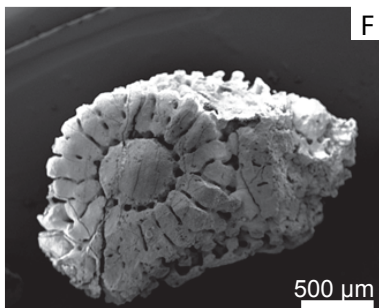
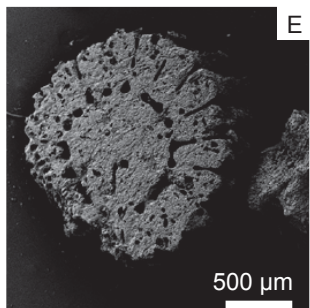
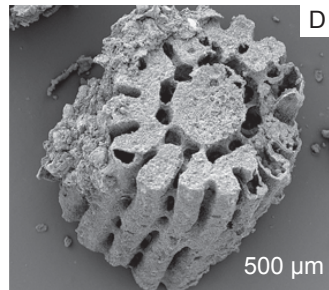
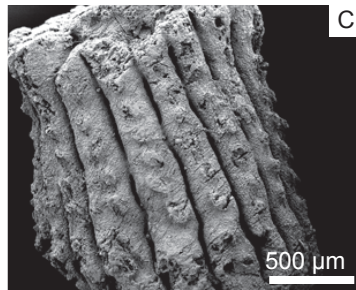
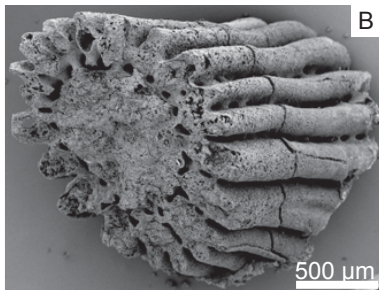
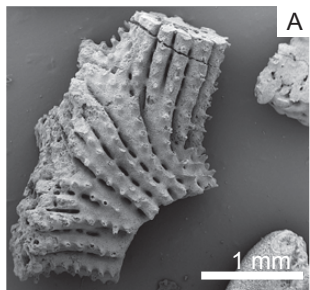
682 **TABLE 1**—Qualitative residue descriptions of >840 μm and 420 μm to 840 μm .

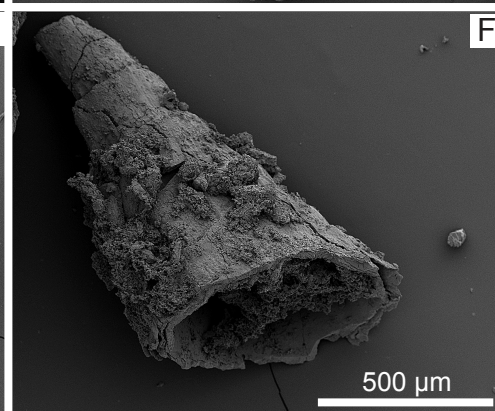
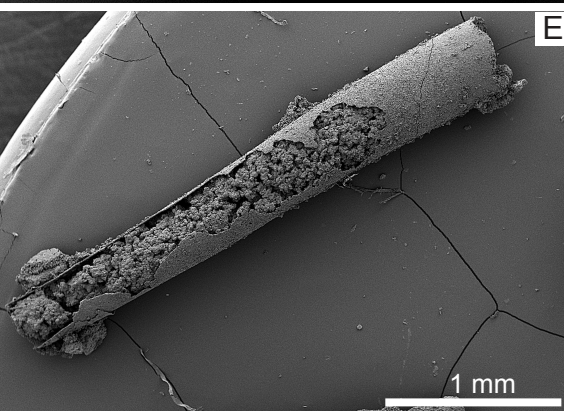
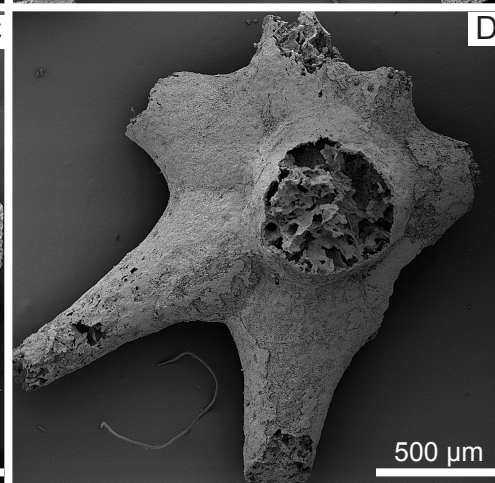
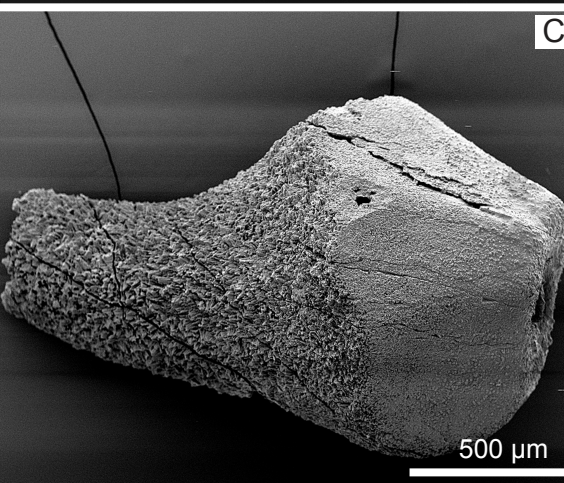
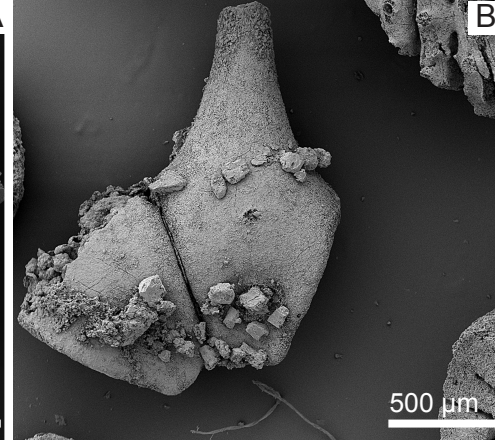
683 **TABLE 2**—Qualitative petrographic descriptions from thin sections.

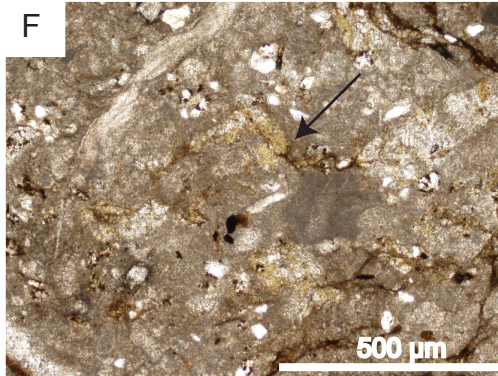
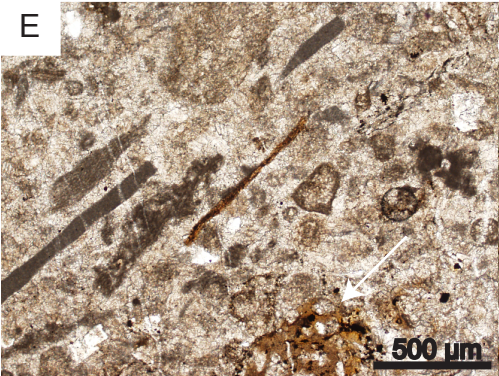
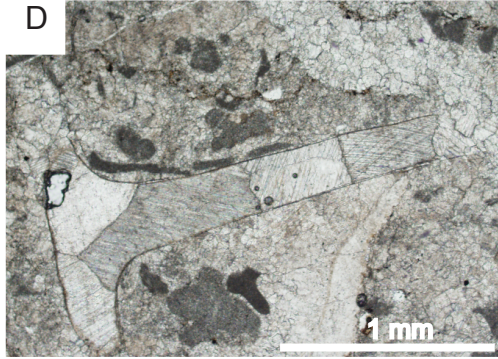
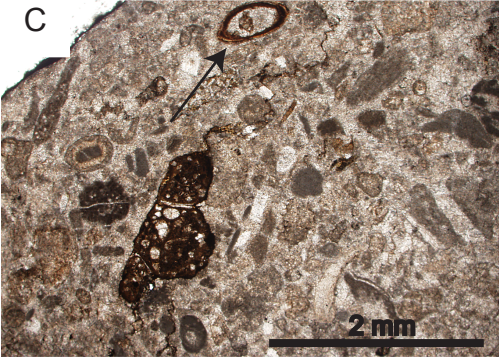
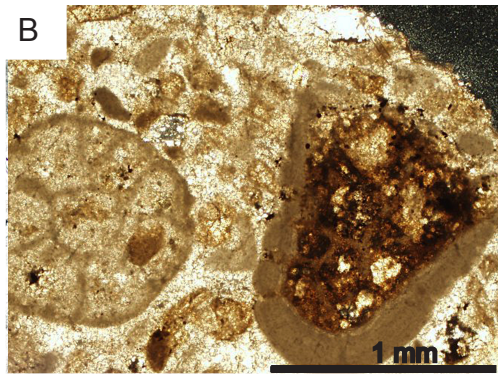
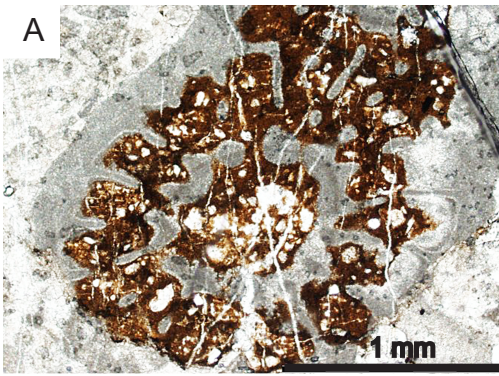
684 **TABLE 3**—Mineralogical compositions of the insoluble residues from x-ray diffraction











E1330-1

Intensity

Quartz
(1.542 Å)

Fe-rich dioctahedral
clay (1.524 Å)

Glauconite
(1.517 Å)

Illite; Al-rich
(1.504 Å)

70

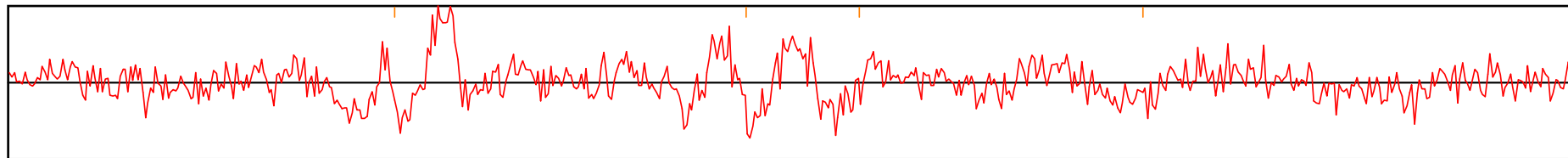
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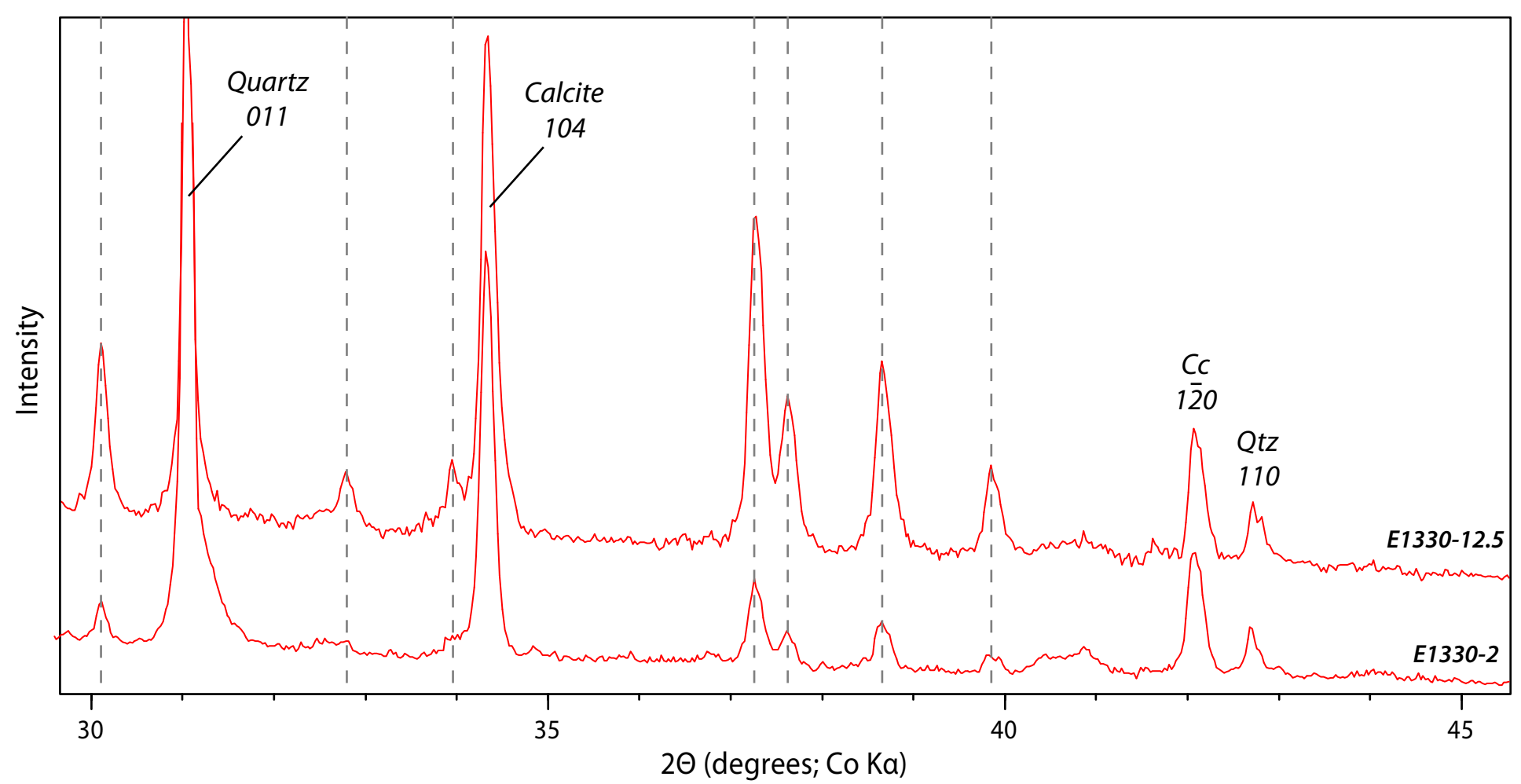
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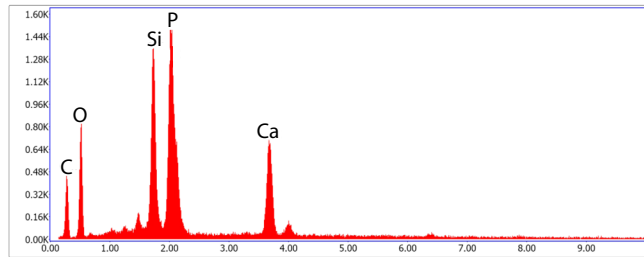
2 θ (degrees; Co K α)



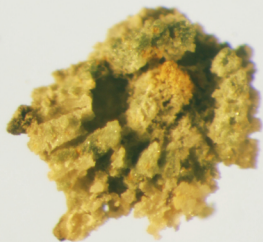


A

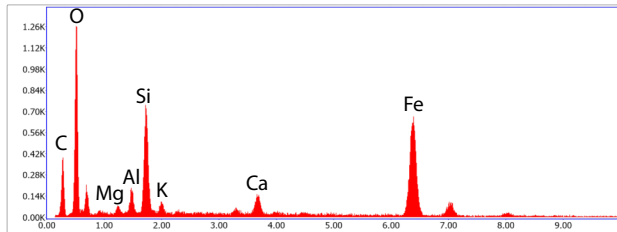
1 mm



Lsec: 10.0 0 Cnts 0.000 keV Det: Apollo XP-SDD Det

B

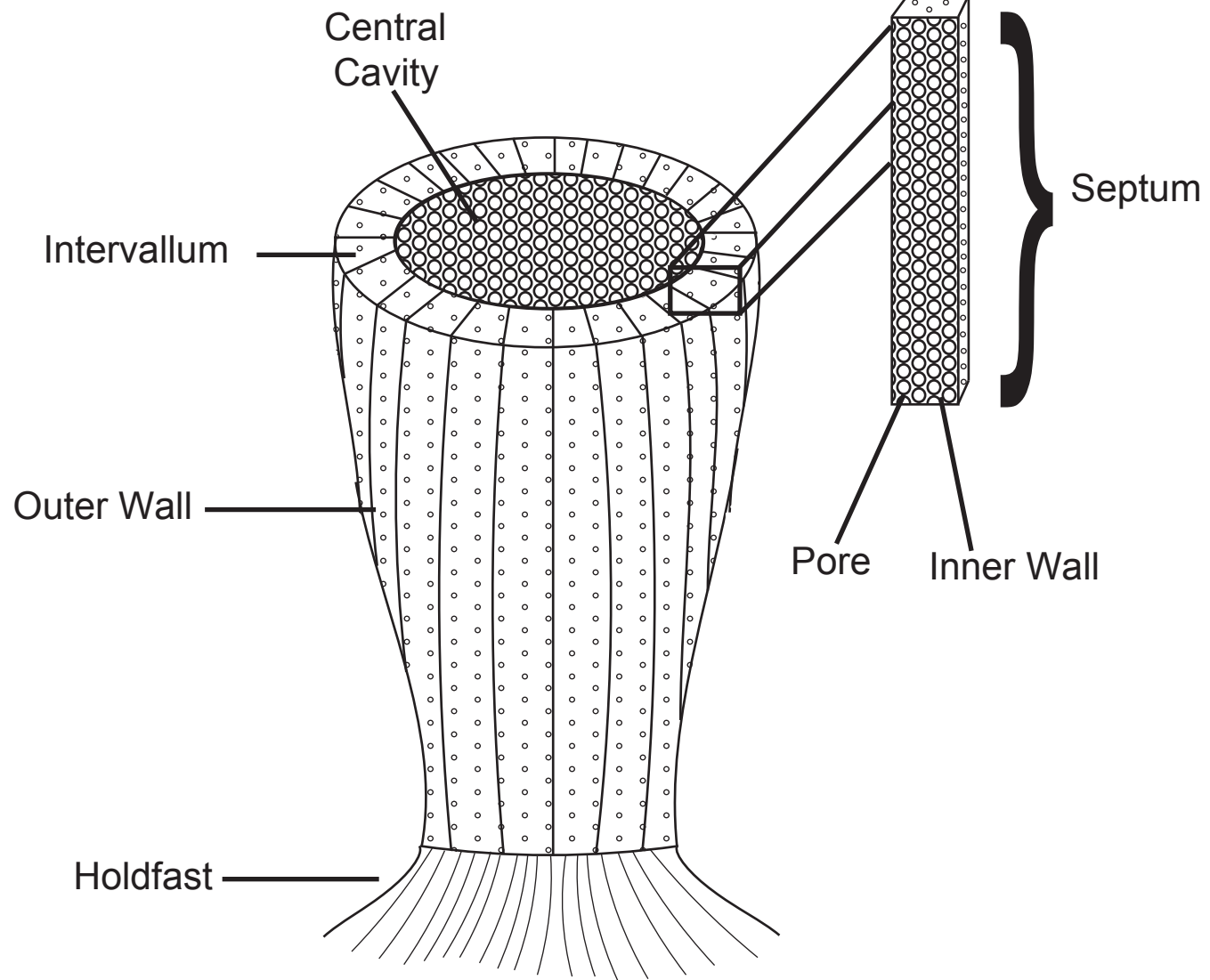
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A

Life position



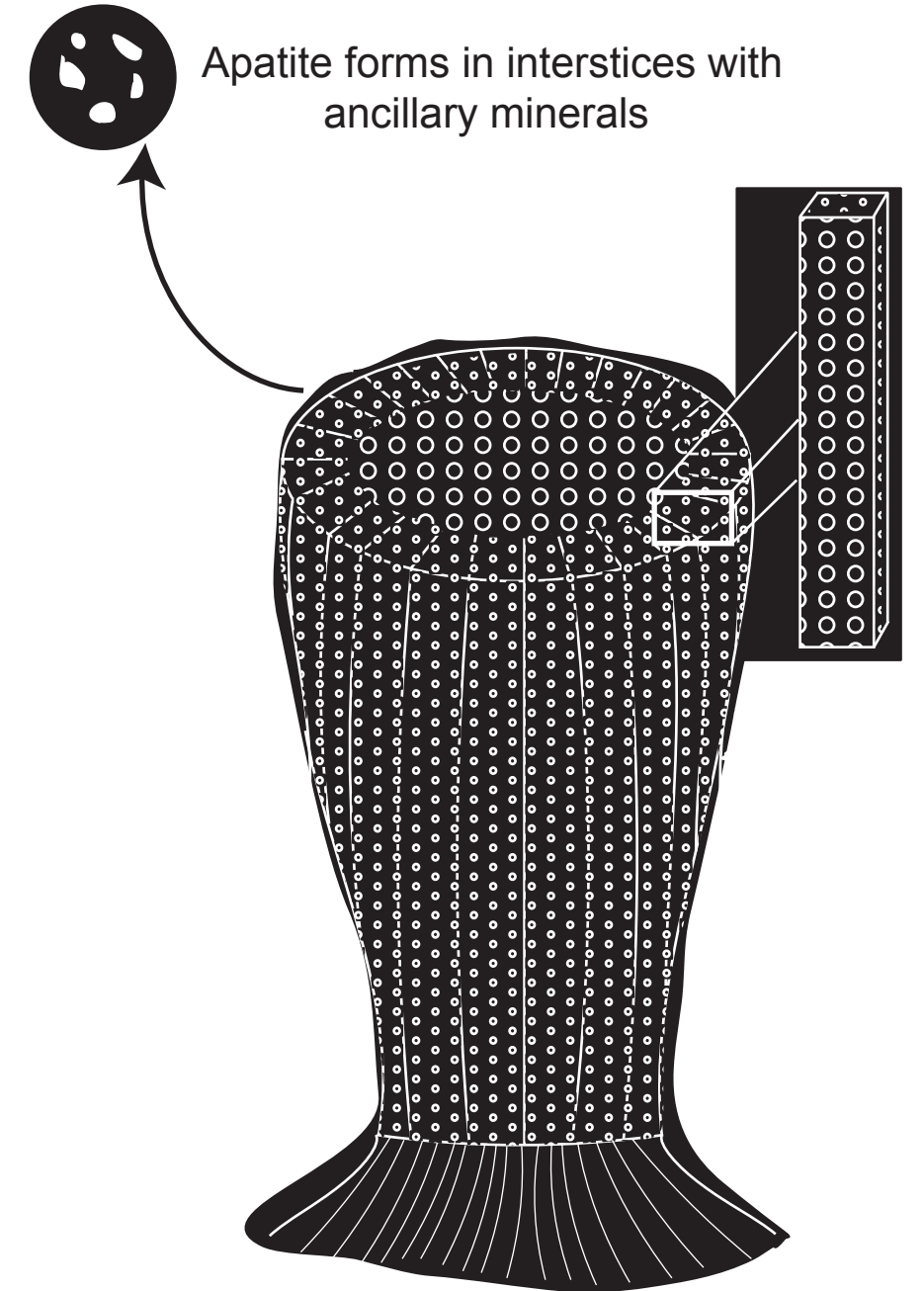
B

Transport



C

Preservation



Sample number	Sieve Size	Major Mineralogy	Minor Mineralogy	Major Skeletal Material	Minor Skeletal Material
E1221.1A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	
E1221.1A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Pyrite Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized cancelloriids
E1221.1A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized cancelloriids
E1221.1A2.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized cancelloriids
E1221.2A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized cancelloriids	
E1221.2A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Pyrite Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized cancelloriids
E1221.2A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate		Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized SSFs

E1221.2A2.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized and calcareous archaeocyaths Calcareous archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths
E1221.3A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Pyrite Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized chancelloriids
E1221.3A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized hyoliths	Phosphatized chancelloriids
E1221.3A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Pyrite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized and calcareous archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths
E1221.3A2.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Pyrite Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths	

E1221.4A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate		Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized SSFs	
E1221.4A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Pyrite Quartz	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids	
E1221.4A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids	Phosphatized and calcareous archaeocyaths Calcareous archaeocyaths Calcareous chancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths
E1221.4A2.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids	Calcareous archaeocyaths Phosphatized hyoliths Calcareous hyoliths
E1221.5A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Calcareous archaeocyaths
E1221.5A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized hyoliths

E1221.5A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized and calcareous archaeocyaths Calcareous cancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths
E1221.5A2.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Muscovite Glauconite	Phosphatized cancelloriids	Phosphatized and calcareous archaeocyaths Phosphatized archaeocyaths Calcareous archaeocyaths Phosphatized hyoliths
E1221.6A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz		
E1221.6A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized hyoliths	
E1221.6A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate		Phosphatized archaeocyaths	
E1221.6A2.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Muscovite Pyrite	Phosphatized cancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths	Phosphatized archaeocyaths

E1221.7A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz Muscovite Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized chancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths
E1221.7A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz Muscovite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized chancelloriids
E1221.7A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate		Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Calcareous archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths
E1221.7A2.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate		Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized chancelloriids Phosphatized hyoliths
<hr/>					
E1221.8A1.20	>840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz	Phosphatized archaeocyaths	
E1221.8A1.40	420-840 μm	Phosphate	Quartz Muscovite Glauconite	Phosphatized archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids	Calcareous archaeocyaths Phosphatized chancelloriids Other Phosphatized SSFs
E1221.8A2.20	>840 μm	Phosphate		Phosphatized archaeocyaths	Phosphatized and calcareous archaeocyaths

E1221.8A2.40

420-840 μm

Phosphate

Phosphatized
chancelloriids

Phosphatized
archaeocyaths

Sample Number	Majority Allochems	Minority Allochems	Majority Non carbonate grains	Minority Non carbonate grains	Size, Shape, Sorting of non-carbonate grains	Matrix
E1221.1A	Archaeocyaths Peloids	Filamentous oncooids Chancelloriids Brachiopods Hyaloliths Intraclasts	Quartz Phosphate	Feldspar Mica	Very fine; Angular to subangular Poorly sorted	Micrite Recrystallized calcite Phosphatic cement
E1221.2A	Archaeocyaths Peloids	Chancelloriids Brachiopods Hyaloliths Intraclasts	Phosphate		Very fine; Unable to distinguish shape and sorting	Micrite Recrystallized calcite Vein of recrystallized calcite Two stylolites
E1221.3A	Archaeocyaths Peloids Intraclasts	Chancelloriids Brachiopods Hyaloliths Ooids	Phosphate	Quartz Pyrite	Very fine; Angular to subangular Poorly sorted	Micrite Phosphatic cement Rounded phosphate grains Stylolite
E1221.4A	Archaeocyaths Peloids	Chancelloriids Brachiopods Hyaloliths Filamentous oncooids Ooids	Phosphate Quartz	Glauconite	Very fine; Unable to distinguish shape and sorting	Micrite Phosphatic cement Some stylolites

E1221.5A	Archaeocyaths Peloids	Chancelloriids Brachiopods Hyaloliths Filamentous oncoids Intraclasts	Phosphate Quartz Glauconite	Pyrite Plagioclase feldspar	Very fine; Angular to subangular Poorly sorted	Micrite Recrystallized calcite
E1221.6A	Archaeocyaths Peloids	Chancelloriids Brachiopods Hyaloliths Intraclasts	Phosphate Mica		Very fine; Unable to distinguish shape and sorting	Micrite Recrystallized calcite Phosphatic cement
E1221.7A	Peloids	Archaeocyaths Chancelloriids Brachiopods Filamentous oncoids Ooids	Phosphate Quartz	Plagioclase feldspar	Very fine; Angular to subangular Poorly sorted	Micrite Recrystallized calcite Phosphatic cement
E1221.8A	Archaeocyaths Peloids	Chancelloriids Brachiopods Hyaloliths Filamentous oncoids Intraclasts	Phosphate Quartz		Very fine; Angular to subangular Poorly sorted	Micrite Recrystallized calcite Quartz vein Styolites

Sample	Qtz	Fe- chl	Illite	Glau	Fe- clay	Apat	Sepio	Pyr	Plag	Total
E1330_0	68	4	11	5	12	Tr	0	0	0	100
E1330_1	25	2	30	13	28	2	0	0	0	100
E1330_2	26	5	29	8	26	5	0	0	0	100
E1330_3	53	0	24	3	21	0	0	0	0	100
E1330_5	77	0	10	3	8	0	3	0	0	100
E1330_7	24	0	27	5	36	8	0	0	0	100
E1330_9	72	0	18	6	5	0	0	Tr	0	100
E1330_10	18	4	35	0	9	0	0	0	33	100
E1330_11	21	3	27	0	18	0	0	0	31	100
E1330_11.5	25	3	25	5	13	Tr	0	0	29	100
E1330_12	28	9	12	2	9	3	0	0	36	100
E1330_12.5	17	0	26	7	22	28	0	0	0	100