

Significance of ultrastructural studies for graptolite research

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Among many aspects of ultrastructural studies on graptolites of crucial significance is the interpretation of their mode of secretion of periderm. This might contribute to solving the phylogenetic problems and to a better understanding of the development and the function of the colony. A membrane model of secretion of the graptolite periderm is discussed in some details and compared with alternative interpretations suggested by Ambres (1977) and Crowther and Rickards (1977). Both interpretations are evaluated in respect to the entirety of the existing data. A generalized explanation of cortical bandages or ribbons formation due to the presence of the hierithelial membrane is offered.

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