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Morphology and ontogeny of the Cambrian edrioasteroid echinoderm *Cambraster cannati* from western Gondwana

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A review of the Cambrian edrioasteroid echinoderm *Cambraster cannati* is made based on new collections from the Iberian Chains (NE Spain) and Montagne Noire (France). New morphological data include a completely articulated oral area and details of ambulacra. Specimens ranging from 4 to 26 mm in diameter provide detailed information concerning the full ontogeny. Important changes through ontogeny mainly affect the marginal ring and the plating pattern of the aboral surface. Comparison with other species of *Cambraster* indicates that the aboral surface of *Cambraster tastudorum* from Australia shows strong resemblance to juvenile specimens of *C. cannati*. *Cambraster cannati* was attached directly to the substrate and inhabited relatively high energy, offshore environments from the west margin of Gondwana. Abnormalities in the skeleton are described for the first time in a Cambrian edrioasteroid.

Key words: Echinodermata, Edrioasteroidea, palaeobiology, Spain, France.

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