ACTA PALAEONTOLOGICA POLONICA

Additional evidence for the drilling behavior of Paleozoic gastropods

Forest J. Gahn, Alex Fabian, and Tomasz K. Baumiller
Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 48 (1), 2003: 156-156

Although the record of Paleozoic drillholes is long and extensive, evidence pertaining to the identity of the drillers is sparse. The most conclusive evidence, a driller "caught in the act", has been documented only once (Baumiller 1990). In that example, a drillhole in the calyx of a crinoid was found directly beneath an attached platyceratid gastropod. Additional evidence for drilling by platyceratids has been circumstantial, i.e., based on the association of platyceratids with certain blastoids and crinoids, and the presence of drillholes in other crinoid and blastoid taxa. To a skeptic, the lack of congruence between drilled and platyceratid-infested crinoids and blastoids is not sufficient evidence that platyceratids were the drillers. More conclusive evidence requires examples of drillholes in taxa that are known to have been platyceratid-infested, preferably from localities where both infested specimens and drilled specimens co-occur.

Forest J. Gahn [gahnf@byui.edu], Department of Geology, Brigham Young University, Idaho, Rexburg, ID 83460–0510, USA; Alex Fabian [blastoid@glasscity.net], 7016 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182, USA; Tomasz K. Baumiller [tomaszb@umich.edu], Instytut Paleobiologii PAN, ul. Twarda 51/55, PL–00–818Warszawa, Poland and Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes Av., Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (for details please see creativecommons.org), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Full text (71.8 kB)