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The Middle Triassic scleractinia-like coral *Furcophyllia* from the Pamir Mountains

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Furcophyllia is an unusual coral with septa regularly splitting into branching sets called septal brooms. This pattern of septal apparatus is so alien to scleractinians, that, despite a trabecular microstructure of septa resembling that of the Scleractinia, the genus was originally ascribed to a rare group of corals informally referred to as sleractiniamorphs, previously known from the Ordovician and Permian. Genus *Furcophyllia* emerged together with corals of several groups, after the post-Permian crisis diversification of skeletonized anthozoans, some of them markedly differing in their skeletal features from typical Scleractinia. So far, the genus was represented by middle Carnian *Furcophyllia septafindens* from the Dolomites, in the Southern Alps. Here, we report *Furcophyllia shaitanica* sp. nov. from limestone boulders found in the volcano-clastic deposits of the upper Ladinian Šajtan suite of the South Eastern Pamirs. A new species of *Furcophyllia* signifies that the genus was a faunal element widely distributed in the Tethys.

Key words: Anthozoa, scleractinia-like corals, Triassic, Pamirs, Alps, Republic of Tajikistan, Italy.

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