

On two Ordovician calcareous algae

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Organic thalli of Ordovician calcareous algae *Vermiporella fragilis* Stolley and *Palaeoporella variabilis* Stolley found for the first time are studied. The structure of *V. fragilis* is shown to be fundamentally different from that previously described by various authors. Its thallus consists of a central stem and lateral branches of three orders, arranged in regular whorls. Spores are preserved in stem segments, which are separated by septa. Morphologically they resemble the oospores of a Recent alga *Sphaeroplea* Fritsch. The structure of previously unknown filamentous central parts of thallus of *P. variabilis* is studied and their relation to subcortical and cortical threads penetrating the calcareous sheath are described. Revised diagnoses of *Vermiporella* Stolley and *Palaeoporella* Stolley and of their type species are given.

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