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Paleozoic Stromatoporoidea

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PART E, REVISED, VOLUME 4, CHAPTER 16A: PALEOZOIC STROMATOPOROIDEA

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Class STROMATOPOROIDEA Nicholson & Murie, 1878

[Stromatoporoidea NICHOLSON & MURIE, 1878, p. 241] [=class Stromatoporoidea STEARN & others, 1999, p. 11; =subphylum Stromatoporata STEARN, 1972, p. 385; =subclass Stromatoporata NESTOR, 1978, p. 18; BOGOYAVLENSKAYA, 1984, p. 66]

Invertebrate organisms of poriferan affinities with nonspiculate, calcareous, basal skeletons, of laminar, domical, bulbous, branching to columnar form; internally composed of regular, continuous network of tangential and longitudinal structural elements: either interconnected laminae or cyst plates and pillars; or an amalgamated network in which tangential, longitudinal, and oblique elements are poorly differentiated; skeletons may be interrupted by a system of astrorhizae: canal-like voids that branch between structural elements and converge toward centers on growth surfaces. [Almost complete unanimity exists among contemporary stromatoporoid workers for the use of NICHOLSON and MURIE'S (1878) prior taxonomic name, the Stromatoporoidea, and the informal group name stromatoporoids. BOGOYAVLENSKAYA (1984, 2001) and BOGOYAVLENSKAYA and YELKIN (2011), however, have preferred to maintain STEARN'S (1972) term Stromatoporata and the informal term stromatoporates for the group.] *Middle Ordovician (Darri-*

wilian)–Lower Carboniferous (*Serpukhovian*), ?Triassic.

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