

ORDOVICIAN BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC INVESTIGATIONS, GREAT NORTHERN PENINSULA, WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

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ABSTRACT

*It was determined that Barnes and Tuke's (1970) conodont samples were collected from a distinctive 1.6 m thick algal mound bed 3.1 m above the Boat Harbour 'pebble bed'. Barnes and Tuke's data support Boyce's (1979, 1983a, b) and Stouge's (1982) Ross-Hintze Zone G₂ age determination for the upper member of the Boat Harbour Formation. Trilobite and conodont data indicate that the Catoche Formation is as young as Ross-Hintze Zone I on the Port au Choix Peninsula and on Burnt Island. *Bolbocephalus convexus* (Billings) and *Illaenus* sp. nov. occur more commonly in mound beds of the Catoche Formation than in the more typical limestones of the formation. Additional *Phyllograptus*-bearing horizons were discovered in the Catoche Formation at Laignet Point and Eddies Cove West.*

INTRODUCTION

The Ordovician carbonate deposits of the Great Northern Peninsula are the object of regional taxonomic-biostratigraphic studies aimed at correlating their trilobite faunas with those of the standard zonations of Ross (1951) and Hintze (1953). This report discusses new trilobite and graptolite material obtained from Port au Choix Peninsula,

Eddies Cove West, Boat Harbour, Cape Norman, Schooner Island and Burnt Island (Figure 1). The sampling results augment and update the work of Fortey (1979), and Boyce (1983a, b, 1985). Lithostratigraphic divisions that were studied in 1985 belong to the Boat Harbour and Catoche formations (St. George Group). Their sedimentology and lithology are described in detail by Knight (1983, *this volume*).

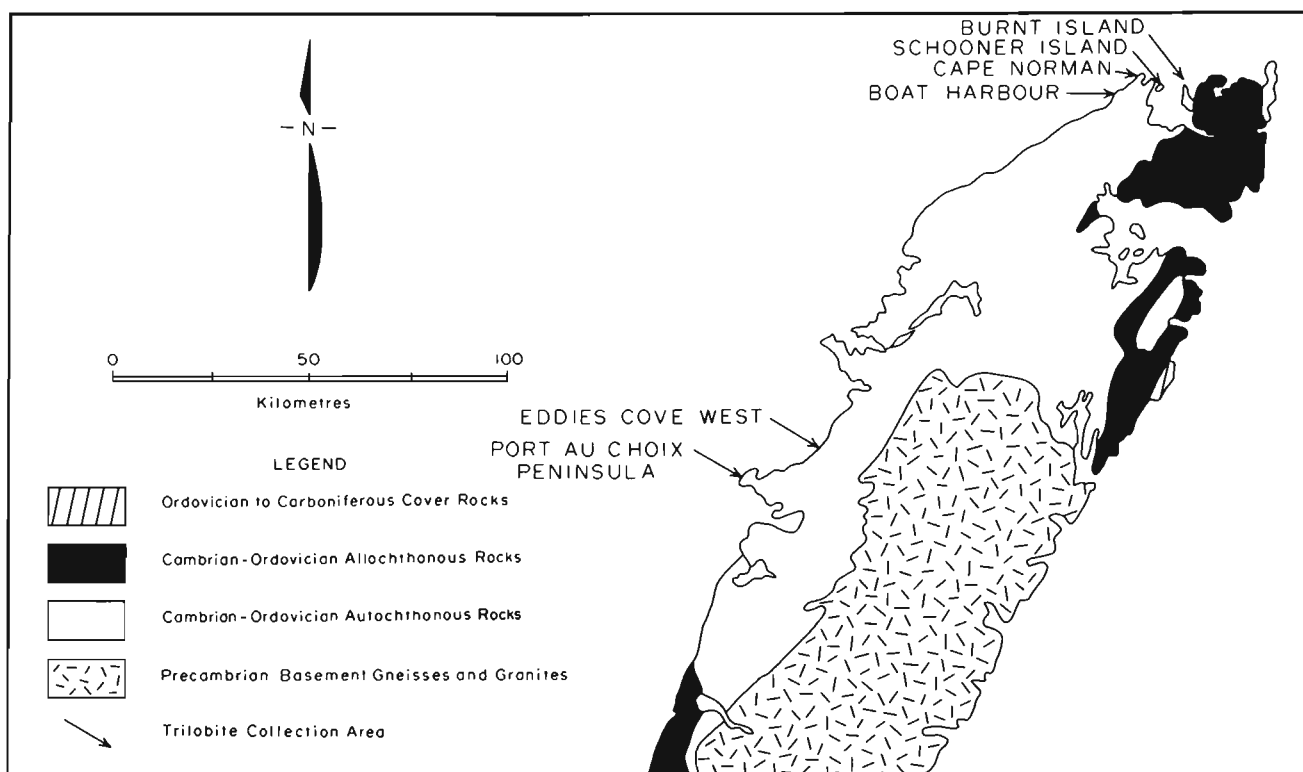


Figure 1: Geological elements of the Great Northern Peninsula and trilobite collection areas discussed in this report.

DETAILED BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC WORK

Detailed biostratigraphic sampling for Early Ordovician trilobites and conodonts continued in the Boat Harbour and Catoche formations of the St. George Group. Sampling was done in the following areas: a) Barbace, Catoche and Laignet Points on the Port au Choix Peninsula, b) Eddies Cove West, c) Boat Harbour, and d) Cape Norman.

Port au Choix Peninsula

At Barbace Point and Catoche Point, sampling was done to fill gaps left in the sections by Fortey (1979) and Boyce (1983a, 1985). Lime boundstone mounds and their associated grainstone/packstone interfill were sampled at Catoche Point. This was done to determine if the trilobite faunas of these beds were markedly different from those in the more typical, rubbly weathering, lime mudstones/wackestones and lime packstones/grainstones of the Catoche Formation. The following species were collected from the mound beds:

- Bathyuirellus abruptus* Billings
- Bathyuirellus platypus* Fortey
- Bolbocephalus convexus* (Billings)
- Catochia glabra* Fortey
- Iliaenus* sp. nov.
- Ischyrotoma anataphra* Fortey
- Isoteloides latimarginatus* Fortey
- Jeffersonia angustimarginata* Boyce, 1983b (see Stouge and Boyce, 1983; Plate 13, figure 4).
- Jeffersonia timon* (Billings)
- Petigurus nero* (Billings)
- Punka flabelliformis* Fortey
- Strigigenalis caudata* (Billings)
- Uromystrum* sp. cf. *U. affine* (Poulsen) of Fortey (1979)

Iliaenus sp. nov. was recovered for the first time from the Catoche Point section. This species was previously only known from algal-sponge mound biofacies of the Catoche Formation at Forked Feeder Pond (Port Saunders (121/11) map area), on Burnt Island in Pistolet Bay, and along the road to Roddickton (Boyce, unpublished data). *Bolbocephalus convexus* (Billings) is the only other trilobite besides *Iliaenus* sp. nov. that occurs more commonly in the boundstone mound beds than in the more typical Catoche Formation limestones.

The tidal island at Laignet Point was sampled in detail for trilobites for the first time. It is located at the extreme western tip of the Port au Choix Peninsula. The Catoche Formation here comprises thin bedded, laminated, sparsely bioturbated, platy lime mudstones and grainstones, which are locally peloid rich. The strata were previously referred to as the Laignet Point Member by Knight (1977, 1978), Stouge (1982) and Stouge and Boyce (1983); however, the term is no longer regarded as valid (Knight, personal communication, 1985).

Stouge (1982, Figures 3 and 4) and Stouge and Boyce (1983, Figure 2.2) reported eleven biostratigraphically significant conodont species from the Laignet Point Member on the tidal island. These species also occur in the Pogonip Group at Ibex, Utah (Ethington and Clark, 1981). The species and their Ross-Hintze zonal ranges are as follows:

- Drepanodus parallelus* Branson and Mehl s.f.
- Zone B to Zone L
- Scolopodus? gracilis* Ethington and Clark s.f.
- Zone E to Zone M
- Oistodus inaequalis* Pander s.f.
- Zone G₁ to Zone J
- '*Scolopodus*' *quadruplicatus* Branson and Mehl s.f.
- Zone D to Zone I
- Drepanodus? gracilis* (Branson and Mehl) s.f.
- Zone G₁ to Zone I
- Oepikodus communis* (Ethington and Clark)
- Zone G₂ to Zone J
- Drepanodus arcuatus* Pander - Zone E to Zone J
- Tropodus comptus* (Branson and Mehl)
- Zone G₁ to Zone I
- ?*Microzarkodina marathonsensis* (Bradshaw)
- Zone G₂ to Zone N
- Semiacontiodus asymmetricus* (Barnes and Poplawski)
- Zone H to Zone L
- ?*Paroistodus parallelus* (Pander) - Zone G₁ to Zone I

With reference to Ethington and Clark (1981, Figure 3), the minimum age range of the above species assemblage is Ross-Hintze Zone H to Zone I.

Macrofossils are generally difficult to find on the tidal island. There are a few rich layers, however, which contain articulate brachiopods, cephalopods, echinoderm debris, gastropods, graptolites, ostracodes, receptaculitids and trilobites. Trilobites were collected from nine horizons over a 9.3 m stratigraphic interval. The following species were obtained:

- Petigurus* sp. nov. (= *Petigurus* sp. indet., Fortey, 1979)
- Goniotelus? sp.* cf. Ross (1951; Plate 15, figure 12)
- Petigurus nero* (Billings)
- Punka flabelliformis* Fortey
- Ischyrotoma anataphra* Fortey
- Jeffersonia timon* (Billings)
- Strotactinus insularis* (Billings)
- Isoteloides latimarginatus* Fortey
- Benthamaspis gibberula* (Billings)
- Iliaenus* sp. nov.
- Catochia glabra* Fortey
- Bathyuirellus platypus* Fortey
- Punka* sp. nov. (= *Punka* sp. indet., Fortey, 1979)

Most of the above species also occur in the stratigraphically lower Catoche Point section. The presence of *Benthamaspis gibberula* (Billings) indicates that the beds on the tidal island are no older than early Arenig Ross-Hintze Zone H (Fortey, 1979; Boyce, 1985). The presence of *Goniatelus?* sp. cf. Ross (1951) further suggests that these beds are of early Arenig Ross-Hintze Zone I age, as *Goniatelus?* sp. of Ross (1951) occurs in Zone I in Utah (Ross, 1951, Plate 15, figure 12).

During the sampling on the island, a *Phyllograptus* - rich horizon was discovered. This horizon occurs 4.81 to 4.95 m above the *Phyllograptus* horizon documented by Boyce (1985, Figure 2). Either of these horizons may be the one originally reported by Kindle (1945).

Eddies Cove West

Lime boundstone beds of the Catoche Formation, originally sampled by Boyce (1983a), were resampled in more detail to determine if their trilobite faunas differed from those of the more typical Catoche Formation limestones. The following species were collected:

- Bathyurellus abruptus* Billings
- Bathyurellus platypus* Fortey
- Benthamaspis gibberula* (Billings)
- Bolbocephalus convexus* (Billings)
- Ischyrotoma anataphra* Fortey
- Isoteloides latimarginatus* Fortey
- Jeffersonia angustimarginata* Boyce, 1983b (see Stouge and Boyce, 1983; Plate 13, figure 4).
- Jeffersonia timon* (Billings)
- Petigurus nero* (Billings)
- Strigigenalis caudata* (Billings)

Although both *Bolbocephalus convexus* (Billings) and *Il-laenus* sp. nov. are common in mound beds of the Catoche Formation elsewhere, only *Bolbocephalus convexus* (Billings) was recovered from the mounds of the Eddies Cove West section.

Phyllograptus was recovered for the first time at Eddies Cove West from the uppermost lime boundstone mound bed of the Catoche Formation. It is probably the same species as that collected from the upper beds of the Catoche Formation on the Port au Choix Peninsula (Boyce, 1985, *this report*).

Boat Harbour

The exact stratigraphic positions of Barnes and Tuke's (1970) conodont samples A and B were identified (see Figure 2). The samples were originally collected from grainstones between algal mounds (R.K. Stevens, personal communication, 1985) and the geographic location of each was visited to find the appropriate unit. Both sampled localities were found to definitely occur above the Boat Harbour pebble bed of Knight (1977, 1978, 1980), and Boyce (1978, 1983b).

Furthermore, it was determined that both samples were obtained from the same bed, although they were taken 1 km apart (see Figure 2) and Barnes and Tuke (1970, Table 1) documented slightly differing species assemblages.

The bed from which the samples were obtained is distinctive. It is about 1.6 m thick and consists of algal mounds with highly fossiliferous grainstones between them. The base of the bed occurs about 3.1 m above the top of the 'pebble bed'. The mounds are large, isolated, steep-sided, circular to slightly elliptical, and up to 1.5 m in diameter (Boyce, 1983b).

Twenty-one conodont species were obtained by Barnes and Tuke (1970, Table 1). Of these, ten form an assemblage that is also recognizable in the Pogonip Group at Ibex, Utah (Ethington and Clark, 1981). The species and their Ross-Hintze zonal ranges are as follows:

- ?Acodus* sp. 3 Ethington and Clark, 1981
- Zone F to Zone G₂
- Drepanodus* sp. 1 Ethington and Clark, 1981
- Zone D to Zone J
- Drepanodus parallelus* Branson and Mehl s.f.
- Zone B to Zone L
- Oistodus inaequalis* Pander s.f. - Zone G₁ to Zone J
aff. *Oneotodus simplex* (Furnish) - Zone E to Zone I
- '*Scolopodus*' *emarginatus* Barnes and Tuke
- Zone G₂ to Zone I
- Scolopodus?* *gracilis* Ethington and Clark s.f.
- Zone E to Zone M
- Scolopodus multicostatus* Barnes and Tuke - Zone G₂
- '*Scolopodus*' *quadruplicatus* Branson and Mehl s.f.
- Zone D to Zone I
- Ulrichodina abnormalis* (Branson and Mehl)
- Zone G₁ to Zone I

With reference to Ethington and Clark (1981, Figure 3), the above species assemblage is firmly indicative of an early Arenig Ross-Hintze Zone G₂ age. The biostratigraphic conclusion of Boyce (1979, 1983a, b) and Stouge (1982) as to the age of the Boat Harbour Formation above the 'pebble bed' is thus supported by the data of Barnes and Tuke (1970).

Hystricurus sp. cf. *H. crassilimbatus* Poulsen and *Peltabellia* sp. cf. *P. crassimarginata* (Cullison) were recovered for the first time from the same algal mound bed at Boat Harbour. *Hystricurus crassilimbatus* Poulsen occurs in the Cape Weber Formation of East Greenland (Poulsen, 1937, pages 47, 48; Plate 5, figures 5-8) and Ellesmere Island (Poulsen, 1946, page 327, Plate XXII, figure 18). It is also reported from the Deadwood Formation of North Dakota by Lochman (1966, page 533; Plate 65, figure 41). *Peltabellia crassimarginata* (Cullison) is present in the standard deposits of the upper part of the Jeffersonian Stage *sensu* Flower (1978) in Missouri-northern Arkansas. There it occurs in the Black-jack Member of the Theodosia Formation of the Jefferson City Group (Collison 1944, pages 75-77; Plate XXXV, figures 17-22).

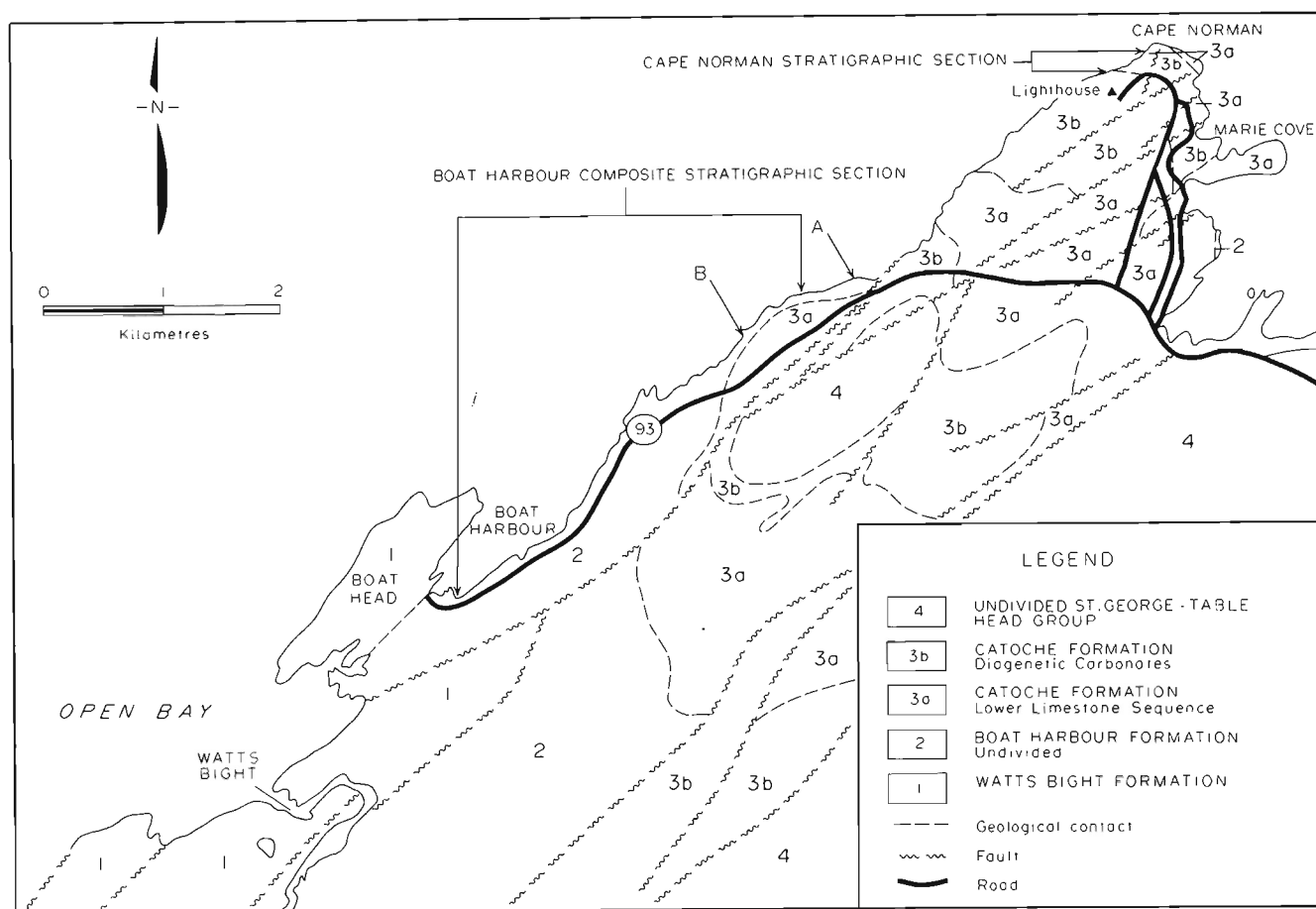
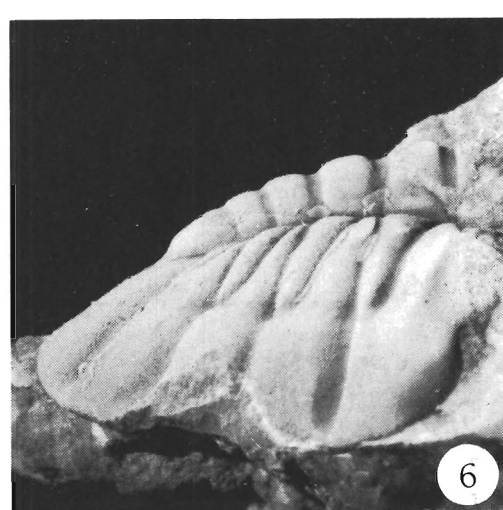
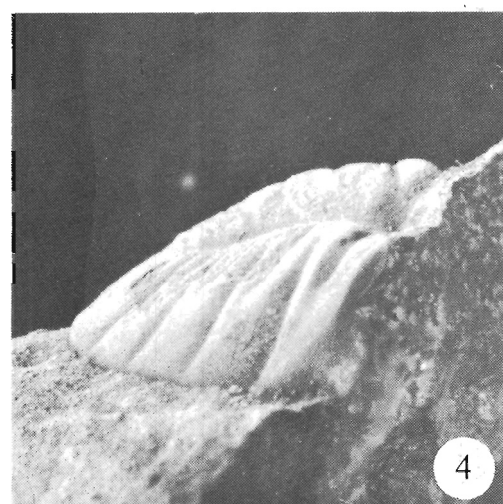
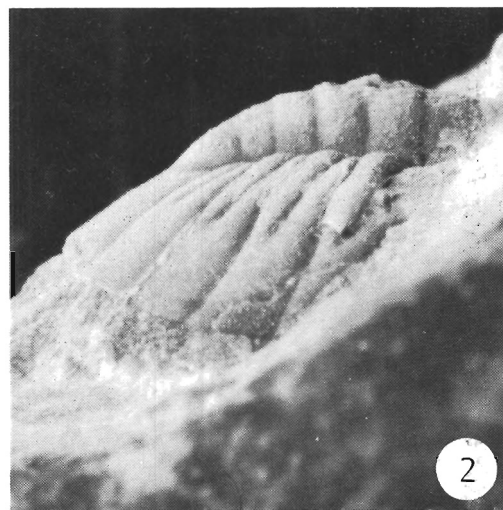


Figure 2: Geology of the Boat Harbour - Cape Norman study area and location of measured stratigraphic sections of Boyce (1983b, this report). Geology modified from Knight and Edwards (1978a, b). A, B indicate sampled conodont localities of Barnes and Tuke (1970).

Plate 1: *Bolbocephalus* sp. nov.

- Figures 1, 2:** *Pygidium*, dorsal and lateral views, MMH 3714 (the original of Poulsen, 1937; Plate 8, figure 2), x 9, Cape Weber Formation, Ella Island, East Greenland. MMH = Geologisk Museum, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Figures 3, 4:** *Pygidium*, dorsal and lateral views, NFM F-209, x 6, Catoche Formation, Cape Norman, Newfoundland. NFM = Newfoundland Museum, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.
- Figures 5, 6:** *Pygidium*, dorsal and lateral views, G.S.C. 82296, x 3.75, Catoche Formation, Burnt Island, Newfoundland. G.S.C. = Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Specimen originally collected by C.H. Kindle (1945).



Cape Norman

Limestones of the Catoche Formation at Cape Norman were the object of detailed biostratigraphic sampling for trilobites and conodonts. The section exposed north of the lighthouse (see Figure 2) was previously investigated by Whittington (1968), Whittington and Kindle (1969) and Boyce (1978, 1979, 1983b). Boyce (1983b) documented seven species from twenty sampled horizons within a 17 m stratigraphic interval. This past summer, thirty-three horizons were sampled within a 21 m stratigraphic interval. The closer sample spacing and sampling of the additional 4 m (lower in the section) has resulted in a considerable revision of the biostratigraphic ranges of the species. Most have substantially longer ranges than indicated by Boyce (1983b, Figure 3.1). In addition, the number of species identified has been doubled. The revised biostratigraphic chart will be published later. The following species were collected:

Trilobita

Bathyuirellus abruptus Billings

Bolbocephalus convexus (Billings)

Bolbocephalus sp. nov. (= Genus et sp. ind., Poulsen, 1937; Plate 8, figure 2; see also Plate 1, *this report*)

Catochia ornata Fortey

Illaeus sp. nov.

Ischyrotoma parallela Boyce, 1983b (see Stouge and Boyce, 1983; Plate 13, figure 3)

Petigurus nero (Billings)

Uromystrum affine (Poulsen)

Jeffersonia timon (Billings)

Ischyrotoma anataphra Fortey

Uromystrum sp. cf. *U. affine* (Poulsen) of Fortey (1979)

Benthamaaspis conica Fortey

Benthamaaspis sp. cf. *B. conica* Fortey

Strotactinus insularis (Billings)

Cephalopoda

Cassinoceras wortheni (Billings)

Protocycloceras lamarcki (Billings)

Whittington and Kindle (1969, page 659) reported the trilobite *Carolinites* sp. from Cape Norman. Fortey (1979) identified *Isoteloides peri* Fortey, *Punka flabelliformis* Fortey and *Benthamaaspis* sp. cf. *B. gibberula* (Billings) from collections obtained by Whittington and Kindle.

The Catoche Formation trilobite fauna at Cape Norman correlates broadly with the early Arenig Ross-Hintze Zone G₂ to Zone H fauna of the lower 30 m of the Catoche Point section of Fortey (1979, Figure 11) and Boyce (1985, Figure 2) on the Port au Choix Peninsula.

The cephalopod *Protocycloceras lamarcki* (Billings) also occurs in the Romaine Formation of the Mingan Islands,

Quebec (Billings, 1865) and in the Oxford Formation in southeastern Ontario (Billings, 1865).

RECONNAISSANCE BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC WORK

Reconnaissance biostratigraphic sampling for Early Ordovician trilobites and conodonts commenced in the Boat Harbour and Catoche formations on Schooner Island and Burnt Island in Pistolet Bay. These islands have not been examined in detail since the investigations of Kindle (1945) and Johnson (1949). The upper part of the Catoche Formation consists of fossiliferous limestone on the islands, whereas in most other places on the Great Northern Peninsula this stratigraphic interval consists of diagenetic dolostones. The dolostones are generally unfossiliferous except for local silicified cephalopods and/or gastropods.

Schooner Island

Twelve collections were made on Schooner Island. Three were obtained from the upper member of the Boat Harbour Formation. They collectively yielded the following trilobites:

Peltabellia knighti Boyce, 1983b (see Stouge and Boyce, 1983; Plate 16, figures 3-5)

Jeffersonia angustimarginata Boyce, 1983b (see Stouge and Boyce, 1983; Plate 13, figure 4)

Bolbocephalus convexus (Billings)

Bolbocephalus stevensi Boyce, 1983b

Isoteloides peri Fortey

Strigigenalis brevicaudata Boyce, 1983b (see Stouge and Boyce, 1983; Plate 16, figure 6)

The above fauna correlates with the early Arenig Ross-Hintze Zone G₂ fauna that occurs above the 'pebble bed' and its equivalents in the upper member of the Boat Harbour Formation at Boat Harbour, Barbace Point and Eddies Cove West (Boyce 1983a, b, 1985).

Nine collections were obtained from the Catoche Formation on Schooner Island. The lower burrowed limestone member and the middle limestone mound member of Knight (*this volume*) were sampled and the following trilobite species identified:

Bathyuirellus abruptus Billings

Benthamaaspis sp. undet.

Bolbocephalus convexus (Billings)

Jeffersonia angustimarginata Boyce, 1983b (see Stouge and Boyce, 1983; Plate 13, figure 4)

Uromystrum affine (Poulsen)

Isoteloides peri Fortey

Punka sp. nov. (= *Punka* sp. indet., Fortey, 1979)

Petigurus nero (Billings)

Illaeus sp. nov.

The above fauna correlates with the early Arenig Ross-Hintze Zone G₂ to Zone H faunas of the lower part of the Catoche Formation at Boat Harbour, Cape Norman, Eddies Cove West and Barbace Point (Boyce 1983a, b, 1985).

Burnt Island

Eighteen collections were obtained from the Catoche Formation on Burnt Island. The upper burrowed limestone member and the white limestone member of Knight (*this volume*) were sampled and the following trilobites recovered:

Bolbocephalus convexus (Billings)

Bolbocephalus sp. nov. (= Genus et sp. ind., Poulsen, 1937; Plate 8, figure 2; see also Plate 1, *this report*)

Gignopeltis rarus (Billings)

Ischyrotoma sp. cf. *I. anaphra* Fortey

Jeffersonia sp. cf. *J. jenii* Cullison

Strotactinus sp. cf. *S. insularis* (Billings)

Uromystrum affine (Poulsen)

Uromystrum sp. undet.

The Burnt Island fauna most probably correlates with the early Arenig Ross-Hintze Zone H to Zone I fauna of the upper part of the Catoche Formation at Catoche Point and Laignet Point on the Port au Choix Peninsula.

Gignopeltis rarus (Billings) and *Bolbocephalus convexus* (Billings) also occur in the Oxford Formation of southeastern Ontario (Ludvigsen, 1979; Plate 1, figures 4-6). *Uromystrum affine* (Poulsen) and *Bolbocephalus* sp. nov. (see Plate 1, *this report*) are also present in the Cape Weber Formation of East Greenland (Poulsen, 1937; Plate 7, figures 6, 7, and Plate 8, figure 2).

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Note: Mineral Development Division file numbers are included in square brackets.