

A NEW SPECIES OF *ATTENUATELLA* (BRACHIOPODA) FROM PERMIAN BEDS NEAR DRAKE, NEW SOUTH WALES

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Plate 24. Text Figs 1-3

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Abstract

A new species *Attenuatella multispinosa* is described from the mid-Permian Gilgurry Mudstone at the top of the Boorook Group, near Drake, northern New South Wales.

Introduction

Attenuatella is a small spinose Permian brachiopod genus allied to *Crurithyris*. Proposed for American species by Stehli (1954), it has also been described from Russia by Chernjak (1963), New Zealand by Waterhouse (1964) and recently found in New Caledonia by Messrs Noesmoen and Espirat, and the writer. This paper describes the first species to be identified in Australia: it was noticed early in 1965 by the writer in a collection at the Australian Museum and the specimens have been borrowed and described with the kind permission of Mr H. O. Fletcher, Deputy Director of the Australian Museum.

SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTION

Genus ***Attenuatella*** Stehli 1954

Type species: Attenuatella texana Stehli (1954).

Diagnosis: Small brachythyrid species with inflated elongated ventral valve and almost flat dorsal valve, ventral umbo incurved, ventral interarea high, delthyrium open, dorsal interarea low, vertical to commissure. Shallow ventral sulcus, dorsal fold in some forms. Some species costate and all ornamented by fine erect hollow spines in concentric rows. Interior of ventral valve has stubby teeth, short umbonal callosity, long median elevation on which muscle scars are sited. Dorsal valve with large cardinal process, sessile socket and crural plates, large crura, spire, tiny median septum in some species, two narrow elongated impressions or ridges close to mid-line, and two larger rounded impressions laterally. Shell impunctate.

Discussion: Internal features of the dorsal valve in the diagnosis are based on a New Zealand species *A. incurvata* Waterhouse (1964) and a Russian species *A. stringocephaloides* Chernychev and Liharev in Liharev and Einor (1938). The ventral valve of the Australian form is unusual in that a low ridge lies each side of the muscle field, probably because the muscle field is deeply impressed.