

SILURIAN AND LOWER DEVONIAN FOSSILS FROM THE COBAR AREA OF NEW SOUTH WALES

H. O. FLETCHER

131 Milson Road, Cremorne, N.S.W. 2090

SUMMARY

The fossils dealt with in this paper consist mainly of Silurian trilobites from the Mallee Tank Beds and include a new species *Harpes nymageensis*. Two new species of lamellibranchs, *Kochia rayneri* and *Goniophora hermitagensis* are described from the Barrow Range Beds which are considered to be of early Lower Devonian age. These fossils are from a large collection in the Australian Museum from many localities in the Cobar area and consists of materials from the Mallee Tank Beds, the Barrow Range Beds and the Amphitheatre Group.

INTRODUCTION

The collection of fossils was accumulated by the author during a number of visits to the Cobar area with Dr E. O. Rayner, Department of Mines, Sydney. Additional material collected by Messrs C. C. Brooks and R. T. Russell while carrying out geological investigations in the area was presented to the Australian Museum by Cobar Mines Ltd.

The fossil fauna to a great extent bears a marked resemblance to that described by Philip (1962), and Talent (1963, 1965) from the Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian of Victoria. At the present time research is being carried out by Richard Landrum, Australian National University, Canberra, on a comprehensive collection of fossils recently collected by him from the Barrow Range Beds and the Amphitheatre Group in the Cobar district. Similar material in the Australian Museum collection has been made available to Mr Landrum to assist, if necessary, in his research.

MALLEE TANK BEDS

Outcrops of the Mallee Tank Beds, mainly shales and sandstones, occur in an area about 43·5 km (27 miles) east of Cobar and south of the railway line with a southeasterly trend towards Nymagee. Fossils are fairly numerous in most outcrops and include *Plasmopora*, *Favosites*, a species of small rugose coral (internal casts), *Mycophyllum liliiforme*, *M. crateroides*, trilobites described in this paper and a variety of brachiopods with other groups less represented. The age of the Mallee Tank Beds is generally considered to be late Silurian (i.e.) Pridelian. An interesting trilobite however, *Thomastus thomastus*, was found in considerable numbers at a locality 7·6 km (4·7 miles) northeast of Nymagee on the Hermidale Road, thence