On two Ordovician calcareous algae

Roman Kozłowski and Józef Kaźmierczak

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.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (for details please see creativecommons.org), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.