

Some remarks on colony organization in graptolites

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Implications of the presence of perithecal membrane for understanding the degree of integration of graptoloid colonies is discussed. In contrast to Kirk's (1975) opinion that graptoloid colonies can be thought of as a kind of superindividual,

a view is advanced that most of morphogenetic functions were delegated to particular zooids. The share of common colonial structures is too small to consider graptoloid colonies as single individuals. Irregular and localized secretion

speaks against the concept of rhabdosome being a precisely controlled counting device.

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