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CAMBRIAN MEGASCOPIC ALGA-LIKE FORMS ACCOMPANYING CORALLICYATHIDA IN QUARTZITE BEDS OF ŁYSA GÓRA

SEDLAK, W.: Cambrian megascopic alga-like forms accompanying Corallicyathida in quartzite beds of Łysa Góra. Acta Palaeont. Polonica, 25, 3/4, 669—670, January 1981.

In the years 1974—1978, the author found algae in rocks bearing a corallicyathid fauna (order Corallicyathida Sedlak, 1975) outcropping on Łysa Góra Mt. in Świętokrzyskie Mountains (= Holy Cross Mts), Central Poland. They belong to the class Rhodophyta and resemble representatives of *Erbina* Korde, 1973, and of *Epiphyton* Bornemann, 1886, except for their much larger size. Some of them are assigned to the genus *Erbina*, which gives further support to the Early Cambrian age of the rocks bearing them, suggested by the author with reference to Corallicyathida.

K e y w o r d s: algae, Lower Cambrian, Poland.

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In 1974, the author found algae in Cambrian quartzite beds forming the summit and southern slope of Mt. Łysa Góra. Until 1978, 270 specimens had been found in this area, 222 of which were catalogued. The occurrence of these algae corresponds with a paleobiochemistry factor, namely 1 tone of quartzite from Łysa Góra contains from 0.8 to 1.5 kg silico-complexes, called kerogen.

The algae belong to Rhodophyta and are preserved much better than the accompanying corallicyathid fauna (order Corallicyathida Sedlak, 1975). The specimens from Mt. Łysa Góra resemble Siberian algae, especially those of genera *Erbina* Korde, 1973, and *Epiphyton* Bornemann, 1886, except for their much larger size.

The thallus of *Erbina* sp. is bush-like. Filaments projecting from the parent cluster are slightly bent, forming corn-ear-shaped clusters of the second order, or they assume an oval hollow shape at their apical ends. They are up to 120 mm in size. Collection includes 31 specimens; pl. 57: 1, 2.

The thallus of *Epiphyton* sp. is bushy in shape and consists of multiple

rows. The section comprising the first row is shortened. Successive branching is dichotomous, widening towards the apical parts, sometimes lanceolate in shape. They are about 70 mm in size; clusters of thalli connected at the base are sometimes found. Collection includes 29 specimens; pl. 58: 1, 2.

Quartzite beds of Mt. Łysa Góra were dated as the Middle Cambrian on the basis of lithostratigraphical premises. The author interpreted Corallicyathida occurring in these beds as possibly of the Early Cambrian age (Sedlak 1975). The algae recorded in these beds, especially those of the genus *Erbina* Korde, 1973, seem to give further support to the claim that the age of Corallicyathida and rocks bearing them is Early Cambrian.

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EXPLANATIONS TO THE PLATES 57 AND 58

Plate 57

1. *Erbina* sp., quartzite from Mt. Łysa Góra, specimen no. F 02; ×4.
2. *Erbina* sp., Mt. Łysa Góra, specimen no. F 01c; ×4.

Plate 58

1. *Epiphyton* sp., quartzite from Mt. Łysa Góra, specimen no. F 176; ×2.
2. *Epiphyton* sp., quartzite from Mt. Łysa Góra, specimen no. F. 33; ×2.

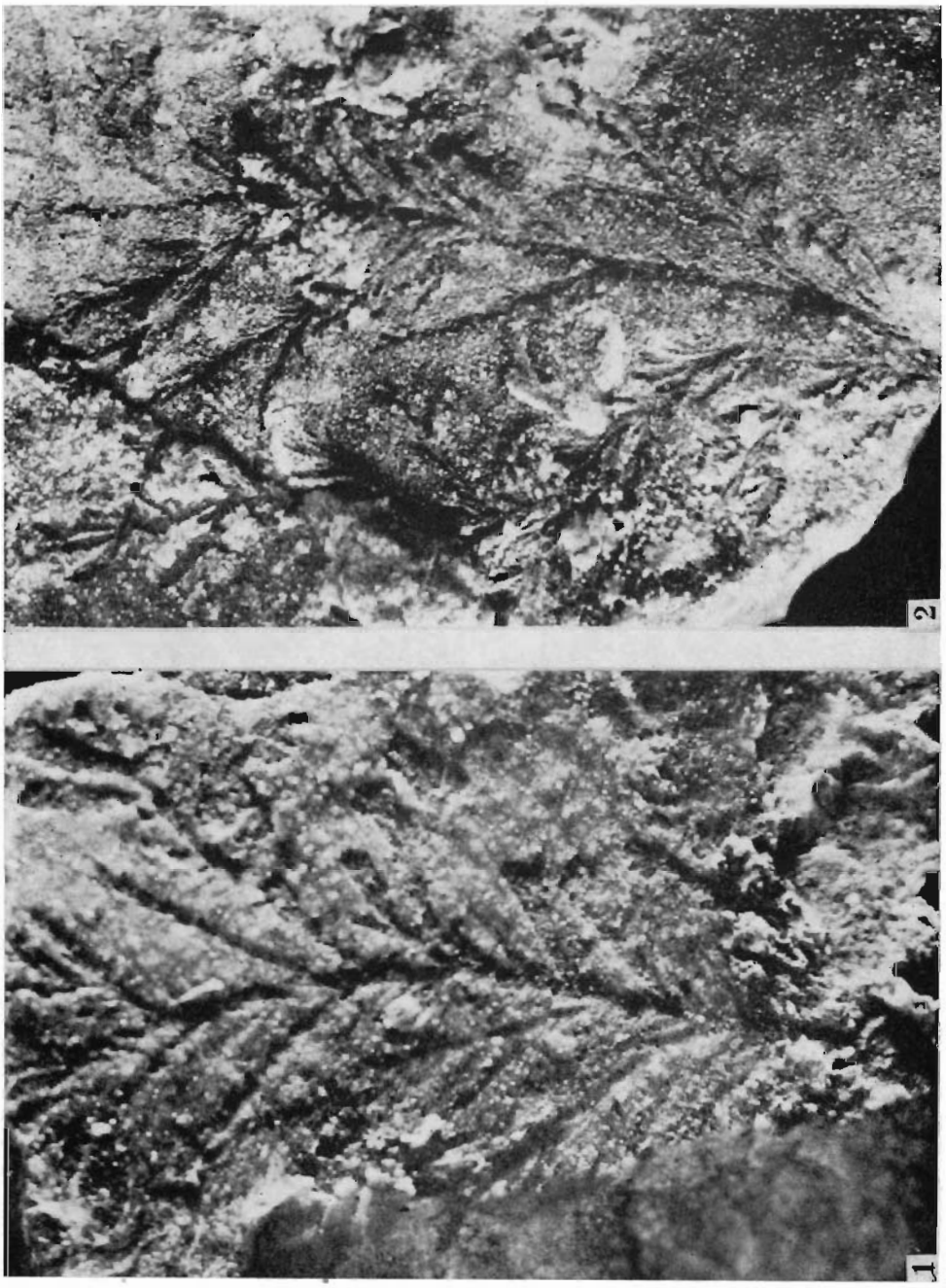
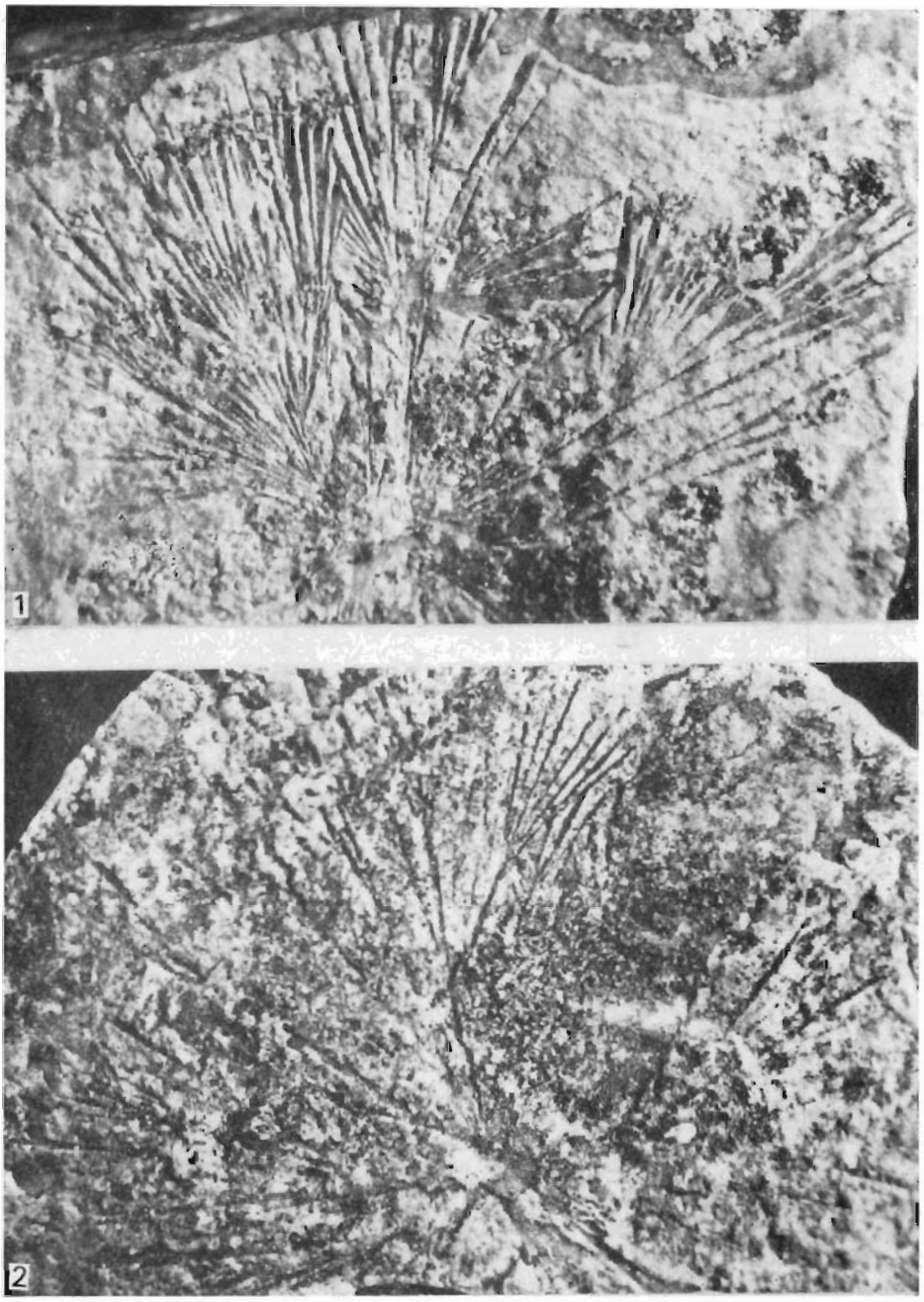


Photo: A. Owczarek



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