

Potyphyllum, a new phillipsastroid genus of rugose corals in the Upper Frasnian of Belgium with precisions about the age of the Petit-Mont Member

MARIE COEN-AUBERT

OD Earth and Life History, Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium; Marie.Coen-Aubert@naturalsciences.be.

ABSTRACT. The new genus *Potyphyllum* is erected with *Cyathophyllum ananas* Goldfuss, 1826 as type species, for which a neotype is selected here from the north side of the Namur Basin. It is a massive pseudocerioid rugose coral like *Frechastraea* Scrutton, 1968 with rather large corallites, spindle-shaped dilated septa as well as some horseshoe and inner dissepiments. In the Belgian Upper Frasnian, *Potyphyllum ananas* and *P. veserense* (Coen-Aubert, 1974) occur mainly in the Upper *Palmatolepis rhenana* conodont Zone. The latter two coral taxa, together with diverse species of *Frechastraea* and *Phillipsastrea* D'Orbigny, 1849, permit dating of the red marble lenses from the Petit-Mont Member which are developed at different levels of the Champ Broquet Formation, in the Dinant Synclinorium. In this lithostratigraphic unit are also incorporated the Neuville and Les Valisettes Members, formerly considered as two separate formations. At the present time, *Potyphyllum* is only known from Western and Eastern Europe.

KEYWORDS: Rugosa, taxonomy, lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, Frasnian

1. Introduction

This work serves as conclusion for the revision of massive rugose corals belonging to the family Phillipsastreae Roemer, 1883 and occurring in the Upper Frasnian of Belgium. The diverse species of *Frechastraea* Scrutton, 1968 have been investigated in detail by Coen-Aubert (2012, 2015). As for *Phillipsastrea* D'Orbigny, 1849, *P. falsa* Coen-Aubert, 1987 and *P. ranciae* Coen-Aubert, 1987 were described by Coen-Aubert (1987) and *P. conili* Tsien, 1978 was studied by Coen-Aubert (1994). The present paper is concerned with two pseudocerioid species like *Frechastraea*, but with larger corallites, which have been previously ascribed to *Phillipsastrea*, but which are herein assigned to the new genus *Potyphyllum* based on *Cyathophyllum ananas* Goldfuss, 1826 as type species. Most Belgian occurrences of *Potyphyllum ananas* and *P. veserense* (Coen-Aubert, 1974) characterize the Upper *Palmatolepis rhenana* conodont Zone. As mentioned by Coen-Aubert (2012, 2015), the base of the Upper Frasnian has been fixed by the Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy, at the entry of the conodont *Palmatolepis semichatovae*. In Belgium, the entry of *P. semichatovae* is observed within the Lower *Palmatolepis rhenana* Zone, together

with the first occurrence of *Ancyrognathus triangularis* whereas the massive rugose coral *Frechastraea coeni* Coen-Aubert, 2012 can be considered as an excellent marker for the base of the Upper Frasnian. As it is explained by Coen-Aubert (2015), the expression Namur Basin is used in this paper instead of the term Namur Synclinorium.

The main part of the material investigated herein was collected by the author and Michel Coen *in situ*, during geological surveys made bed by bed in different localities from the southern part of Belgium (Fig. 1). This sampling is supplemented by a few older thin sections referred in this paper to the "Old collection from the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique".

2. Geological and stratigraphical setting

Within the Dinant Synclinorium, the Champ Broquet Formation was proposed by Coen-Aubert (2015) to include the red marble lenses of the Petit-Mont Member as well as the Neuville and Les Valisettes Members which were formerly considered as two different formations. The stratotype of the Champ Broquet Formation in the Philippeville Massif is constituted by the northern and southern

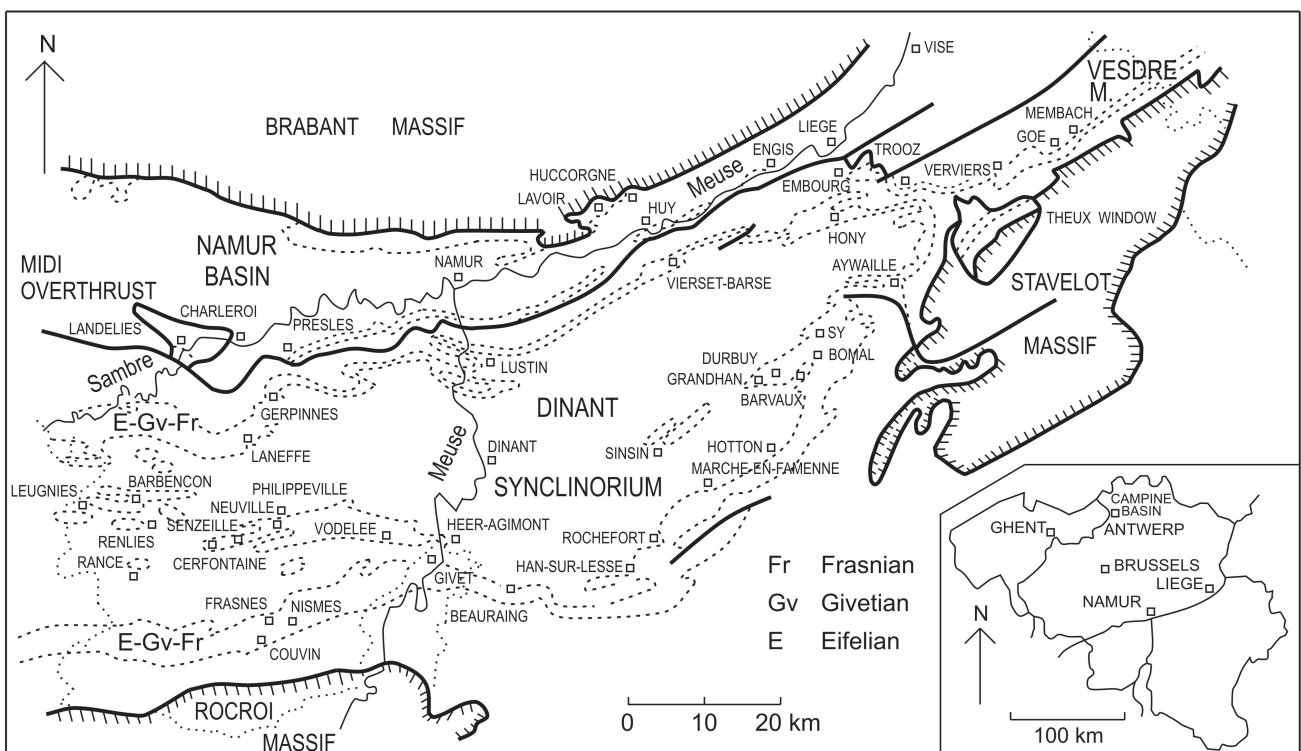
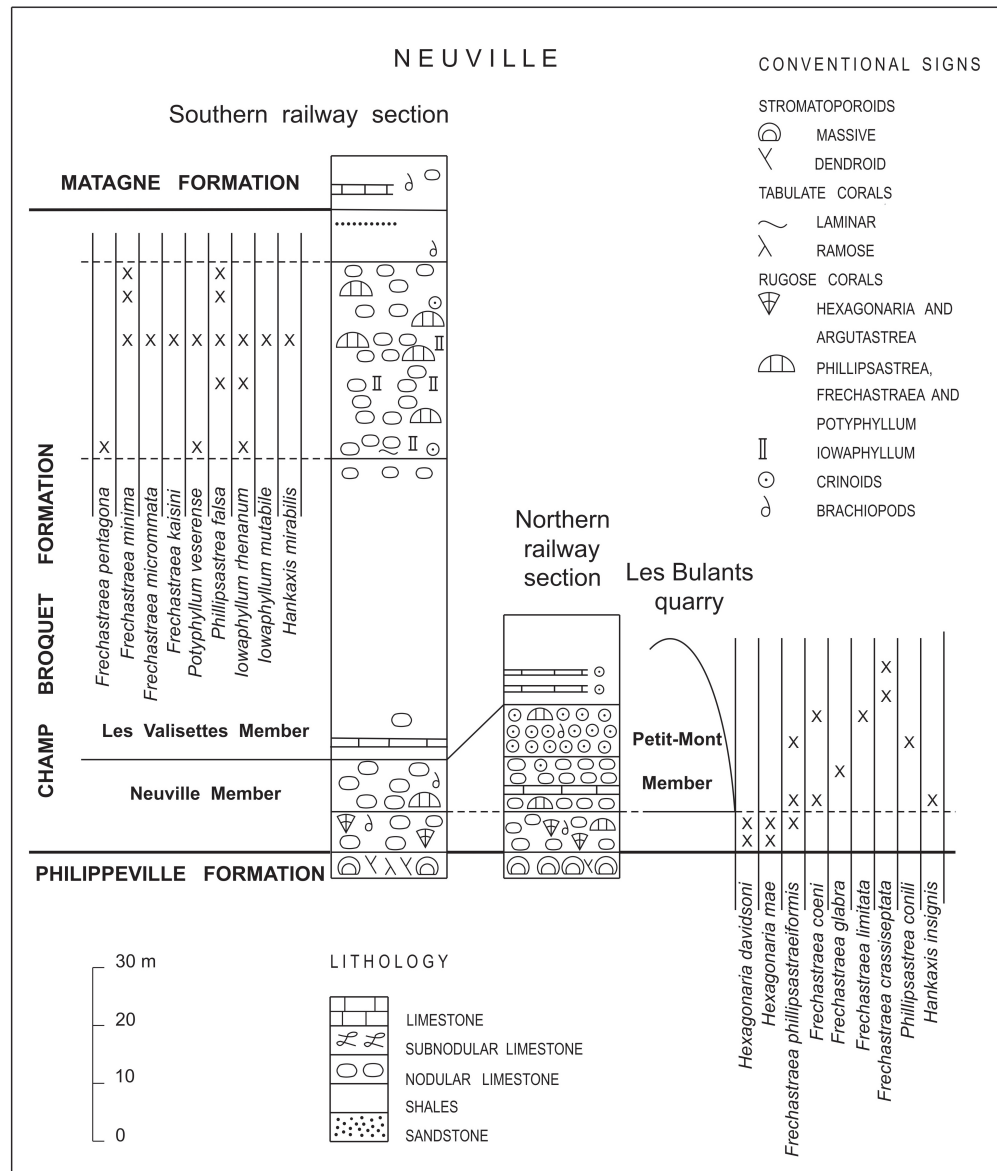


Figure 1. Geological setting and locality map in the southern part of Belgium.

Figure 2. Schematic logs of the southern and northern railway sections of Neuville, which constitute the stratotype of the Champ Broquet Formation, with the nearby Les Bulants quarry and the distribution of rugose corals.



railway sections of Neuville described by Boulvain et al. (1999) and illustrated herein with the distribution of the rugose corals (Fig. 2). Laterally to the northern railway section of Neuville, the bioherm of the Petit-Mont Member is exposed in Les Bulants quarry. It is about 30 m thick and its base lies above the first 7 m of the Neuville Member which contain *Hexagonaria davidsoni* (Milne-Edwards & Haime, 1851), *H. mae* Tsien, 1978 and *Frechastraea phillipsastreaeiformis* (Moenke, 1954). In fact, the bioherm starts at the level of nodular limestones rich in *F. coeni* and *Ancyrognathus triangularis* indicating the base of the Upper Frasnian. In the red lens of Les Bulants quarry occur also *Frechastraea glabra* Coen-Aubert, 2012, *F. phillipsastreaeiformis*, *F. limitata* (Milne-Edwards & Haime, 1851) and the rare species *Phillipsastrea conili* whereas *Frechastraea crassiseptata* (Tsien, 1978) formerly identified as *F. micrastraea* (Penecke, 1904) by Coen-Aubert (2012) is observed in the last 10 m. The same situation is reported in the Petit-Mont quarry at Vodelée which is the stratotype of the Petit-Mont Member. However, this reefal lens has a thickness of more than 70 m so that it is partly developed laterally to the Les Valisettes Member. *F. crassiseptata* has also been collected in its upper part together with *Potyphyllum ananas*. As mentioned by Coen et al. (1977, p. 329), this fauna is associated in both Les Bulants and Petit-Mont quarries with the conodont *Ancyrognathus asymmetricus* indicating the Upper *Palmatolepis rhenana* Zone. *Frechastraea crassiseptata* and *Potyphyllum ananas* also characterize the main part of the Petit-Mont Member excavated in the Haumont quarry at Vodelée; however, another fauna with *P. veserense*, *Frechastraea pentagona* (Goldfuss, 1826) and *F. minima* (Rózkowska, 1953) appears at its top as noted by Boulvain et al. (2011, p. 38). These species with

Phillipsastrea falsa and *Iowaphyllum rhenanum* (Schlüter, 1880) are typical of the nodular limestones occurring in the upper part of the Les Valisettes Member from the south railway section of Neuville (Fig. 2). They have also been recorded in a few metres of the same facies at Cerfontaine and Philippeville and in the upper part of the lateral deposits to the Petit-Mont Member from Beauchâteau quarry at Senzeille which have been figured by Coen et al. (1977, fig. 3) and Birenheide et al. (1991, fig. 18). In a faulted outcrop of La Redoute at Cerfontaine studied by Mottequin (2004, p. 36), *Potyphyllum ananas* has been collected in a bed of coarsely crinoidal limestone just below the nodular and coralliferous limestones of the Les Valisettes Member. This bioclastic bed recalls the slope deposits exposed laterally or directly above the bioherms of the Petit-Mont Member in the Petit-Mont quarry at Vodelée, the Beauchâteau quarry at Senzeille (lower part of the lateral deposits) and the Tapoumont quarry at Neuville where *P. ananas* and *Frechastraea crassiseptata* are still recognized; the Tapoumont quarry has been investigated by Boulvain et al. (1988).

So the lenses of the Petit-Mont Member from the Philippeville Massif start in the Neuville Member, which constitutes their basement, and grow up more or less high in the Les Valisettes Member. In other parts of the Dinant Synclinorium, the position of the bioherms of the Petit-Mont Member may be very different. On the south side of this structural unit, these bioherms are often restricted to the Neuville Member and overlain by a great thickness of black shales belonging to the Matagne Formation whereas the Les Valisettes Member is poorly represented (Fig. 3). On the southeastern side of the Dinant Synclinorium, the red marble lenses of Sy, Bomal, Durbuy, Barvaux and Grandhan mentioned by Coen

(1974) are entirely developed in the Les Valisettes Member and capped by purple shales of the Barvaux Formation. The massive rugose corals of this area are not as diversified as those of the Philippeville Massif (Fig. 4). Indeed, *Hexagonaria davidsoni* and *H. mae* have been found at the base of the Neuville Member in the sections of Durbuy and Le Rote to the south of Bomal described by Coen (1974, pp. 86 and 93). *Frechastraea crassiseptata*, *F. limitata* and *Potyphyllum ananas* are common in the lenses of the Petit-Mont Member from Sy, Durbuy, Bomal, Barvaux and Grandhan whereas *P. veserense* and *Frechastraea pentagona* have been observed locally in the Barvaux Formation at Sinsin and Marche-en-Famenne.

To the northwest of the Philippeville Massif, there are also small lenses of the Petit-Mont Member limited to the Les Valisettes Member. This is the case for the localities of Barbençon, Solre-Saint-Géry and Leugnies studied by Dumoulin (2001, p. 24); in these bioherms occur *F. crassiseptata* and *Potyphyllum ananas*. A composite log for Barbençon is figured herein (Fig. 5) with some unpublished data of M. Coen. The lower part of the Neuville Member crops out in the Cuvelier quarry located by Dumoulin (2001, fig. 3). *Hexagonaria davidsoni* has been collected 2 m above the base of this lithostratigraphic unit. One meter higher, there are

numerous specimens of *Hankaxis insignis* Coen-Aubert, 1982 and *Frechastraea coeni* with a few colonies of *F. limitata*. The conodont *Ancyrognathus asymmetricus* has been identified 23 m above the base of the Neuville Member, in the basement of a red bioherm which is about 20 m thick. These Upper Frasnian deposits of Barbençon are compared with those of Laneffe and Chastres lying on the north side of the Dinant Synclinorium where there are no lenses of the Petit-Mont Member. The exposures of Laneffe and Chastres (Fig. 5) have been investigated by Dumoulin & Marion (1997, p. 26) and Boulvain et al. (1999, p. 81). The Neuville Member consists of 10 m of nodular limestones rich in *Frechastraea coeni* with rare specimens of *F. phillipsastraeiformis*; at the top of the member, *Ancyrognathus triangularis* is succeeded by *A. asymmetricus*. The Les Valisettes Member starts with 6.5 m of fine shales followed by 31.5 m of shales with several levels of carbonate nodules containing a few massive rugose corals represented by *Frechastraea crassiseptata* at their base, *Potyphyllum ananas* in their middle part and *P. veserense* at their top. The section ends with about 27 m of shales which are locally purple and show coquina beds in their upper part and still *Ancyrognathus asymmetricus* close to their top. According to Dumoulin (2001) and Dumoulin & Marion (1997),

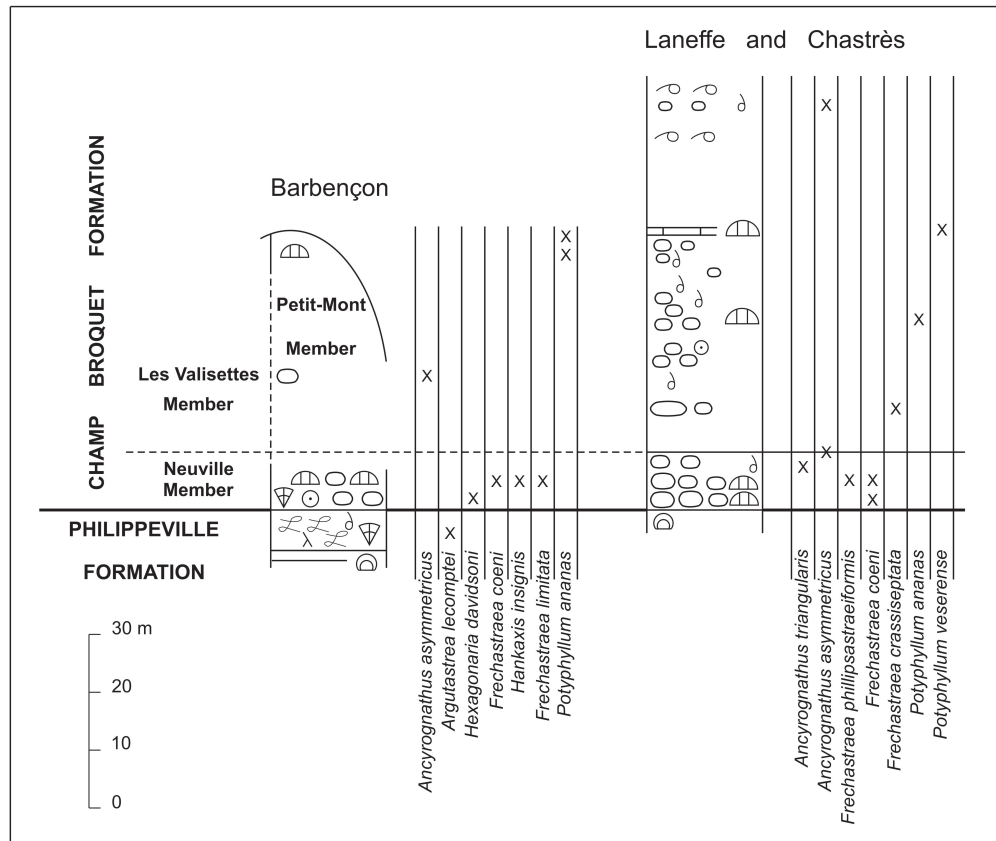
Figure 3. Lithostratigraphy in the Upper Frasnian of Belgium with the distribution of massive rugose corals on the north side of the Dinant Synclinorium, the south side of the Namur Basin and the Vesdre Massif. The broken line corresponds to the base of the Upper Frasnian.

CONODONT ZONES	SOUTH SIDE OF THE DINANT SYNCLINORIUM	SOUTHEASTERN SIDE OF THE DINANT SYNCLINORIUM	NORTH SIDE OF THE DINANT SYNCLINORIUM, SOUTH SIDE OF THE NAMUR BASIN, VESDRE MASSIF	
<i>linguiformis</i>	MATAGNE FORMATION	BARVAUX FORMATION	LAMBERMONT OR FALISOLLE FORMATION	
Upper <i>rhenana</i>		Les Valisettes Member CHAMP		
Lower <i>rhenana</i>	BROQUET FORMATION		Lower Limestone	<i>Frechastraea phillipsastraeiformis</i> <i>Frechastraea coeni</i> <i>Frechastraea glabra</i> <i>Frechastraea limitata</i> <i>Frechastraea crassiseptata</i> <i>Frechastraea pentagona</i> <i>Potyphyllum ananas</i> <i>Potyphyllum veserense</i>
<i>jamieae</i>	Petit-Mont Member Neuville Member			
<i>hassi</i>	GRANDS BREUX FORMATION	PHILIPPEVILLE FORMATION	LUSTIN FORMATION	
<i>punctata</i>	MOULIN LIENAUX FORMATION	PONT DE LA FOLLE FORMATION	FORMATION	
<i>transitans</i>	NISMES FORMATION	FORMATION	NISMES OR PRESLES FORMATION	
<i>falsiovalis</i>				

Figure 4. Stratigraphic distribution of massive rugose in the Upper Frasnian from the Philippeville Massif and the southeastern side of the Dinant Synclinorium. The broken line corresponds to the base of the Upper Frasnian.

PHILIPPEVILLE MASSIF		SOUTHEASTERN SIDE OF THE DINANT SYNCLINORIUM	
MATAGNE FORMATION		BARVAUX FORMATION	
CHAMP BROQUET FORMATION	Les Valisettes Member	Petit-Mont Member	
	Petit-Mont Member		
PHILIPPEVILLE FORMATION		FORMATION	<i>Hexagonaria davidsoni</i> <i>Hexagonaria mae</i> <i>Frechastraea crassiseptata</i> <i>Frechastraea limitata</i> <i>Frechastraea pentagona</i> <i>Potyphyllum ananas</i> <i>Potyphyllum veserense</i>
PONT DE LA FOLLE FORMATION		FORMATION	
NISMES FORMATION		FORMATION	

Figure 5. Composite comparative logs of Barbençon and the area of Laneffe and Chastrès with the distribution of rugose corals. The log of Barbençon is drawn after Dumoulin (2001, fig. 5b) whereas the log of Laneffe and Chastrès is drawn after the description given in Boulvain et al. (1999, p. 81). Unpublished data of M. Coen are also used. (For explanation of conventional signs, see Fig. 2).



the Champ Broquet Formation is directly overlain by the Famenne Formation in this northwestern part of the Dinant Synclinorium. A similar situation has been recognized in the Renlies and Rance Anticlines to the south of Barbençon. After the data given by Biron et al. (1983) and Coen-Aubert (1987), Famennian conodonts of the *Palmatolepis triangularis* Zone have been identified in the Famenne Formation at Rance, just above a red lens of the Petit-Mont Member characterized by the occurrence of *Frechastraea minima* and *Phillipsastrea ranciae*. In the quarry Le Fief at Renlies located by Marion & Barchy (2004, p. 20), *P. falsa* and *Frechastraea pentagona* have been sampled by M. Coen at the top of a red bioherm lying once more high in the Upper Frasnian.

In the northern areas, that is to say, at Huccorgne and Lavoir on the north side of the Namur Basin, on the south side of the same structural unit, in the Vesdre Massif and on the north side of the Dinant Synclinorium to the east of the Meuse valley, the Upper Frasnian is represented by the well known Aisemont and Lambermont Formations; the distribution of their massive rugose corals reillustrated herein (Fig. 3) has already been discussed by Coen-Aubert (2012, 2015). According to Coen (1974), the basement of the Petit-Mont Member between Grandhan and Sy, which corresponds to the base of the Matagne Formation on the south side of the Dinant Synclinorium, can be correlated with a bed of limestone from the middle shaly part of the Aisemont Formation at Comblain-la-Tour and Aywaille, on its northeastern side. Additionally, the base of the Lambermont Formation is laterally equivalent to the base of the Barvaux Formation according to Boulvain et al. (1999, p. 62).

3. Systematic Palaeontology

The neotype of *Potyphyllum ananas* and all the figured specimens are stored in the Collection of Palaeontology from the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique at Brussels (IRScNB).

Family Phillipsastreaeidae Roemer, 1883

Genus *Potyphyllum* gen. nov.

= *Pseudoacervularia* sensu Rózkowska, 1953, non Schlüter, 1881.

Type species. *Cyathophyllum ananas* Goldfuss, 1826.

Derivation of name. The genus is dedicated to Edouard Poty, a distinguished Belgian specialist of Tournaisian and Viséan rugose corals who is also much interested in the investigation of the Belgian Upper Frasnian.

Diagnosis. Massive pseudocerooid rugose corals with rather large corallites. Septa of two orders, non-carinate or slightly carinate, spindle-shaped dilated in the inner part of the dissepimentarium. Major septa reaching the axis of the corallites or leaving an open space in the centre of the tabularium. Minor septa traversing the entire dissepimentarium. Dissepimentarium composed of several rows of globose dissepiments arranged in horizontal layers; some horseshoe dissepiments occurring close to the border of the tabularium and separated from it by inner inclined dissepiments. Narrow symmetrical fans of septal trabeculae centred over the horseshoe dissepiments. Tabulae incomplete or compound.

Discussion. The genus *Potyphyllum* is introduced herein for massive pseudocerooid rugose corals akin to *Phillipsastrea* which have been informally assigned to "*Pseudoacervularia*" by Rohart & Semenoff-Tian-Chansky (1981, pp. 12, 18), Sorauf & Pedder (1986, p. 1286) and McLean (1989, p. 240). It corresponds to the *Phillipsastrea ananas* species group of Wrzolek (2011, p. 193) and to *Pseudoacervularia* Schlüter, 1881 sensu Rózkowska (1953, p. 49). *Acervularia coronata* Milne-Edwards & Haime, 1851 from the Upper Givetian of South Devon in Great Britain was selected by Lang et al. (1940) as type species of *Pseudoacervularia* and is conspecific according to Scrutton (1968, p. 214) and McLean (1994, p. 53) with *Phillipsastrea hennahi* (Lonsdale, 1840) of the same age and area and type species of *Phillipsastrea*. So the two genera *Phillipsastrea* and *Pseudoacervularia* are synonyms. Rózkowska (1953) invalidly chose *Acervularia macrommata* Roemer, 1855 as genotype for *Pseudoacervularia*. Though this species is inadequately known, it is considered by several authors to be conspecific with *Potyphyllum ananas* which is widely distributed in the Upper Frasnian of Belgium and for which a neotype is designated in this paper, not too far from the type area of Namur mentioned by Goldfuss (1826).

Phillipsastrea hennahi, type species of *Phillipsastrea*, has been investigated in detail by Scrutton (1968) in the Upper Givetian from South Devon in Great Britain. *Phillipsastrea* differs from *Potyphyllum* by asterooid to thamnasterioid colonies with variably developed horseshoe dissepiments and separated from the

tabularium by rather few inner dissepiments. Diverse species of *Phillipsastrea* from the Givetian of Spain, Morocco and Mauritania showing these features have been described by Coen-Aubert (2013). *Frechastraea* is pseudoceroid as *Potyphyllum*, but it is characterized by much smaller corallites so that it is often possible to distinguish the two genera on the field, in the Upper Frasnian of Belgium. In *Frechastraea* also, the septa are uniformly dilated throughout the dissepimentarium and the horseshoe dissepiments are rather rare. *F. pentagona* from the Upper Frasnian of the Vesdre Massif in Belgium and type species of *Frechastraea* has been revised recently by Coen-Aubert (2015).

Potyphyllum is characterized by a straight or zigzagged pseudotheca with locally a dark median line. The same situation occurs in *Smithicyathus* Rózkowska, 1979. In typical Upper Frasnian species of this taxon such as its type species *S. cinctus* (Smith, 1945) from the Northwest Territories in Canada, *S. savagei* Pedder, 2006 from Southeastern Alaska in USA and *S. lubliniensis* Rózkowska, 1979 from the Lublin area in Poland, the corallum is partly aphyroid whereas the septa are reduced or poorly developed in the outer dissepimentarium and separated from the corallite wall by large dissepiments. In other species such as *S. lacunosus* (Gürich, 1896) and *S. smithi* (Rózkowska, 1953) from the Upper Frasnian of the Holy Cross Mountains in Poland and revised by Wrzolek (2007), the septa are nearly continuous throughout the dissepimentarium, restricted to it and strongly dilated in its inner part with a continuous pipe of horseshoe dissepiments at the border of the tabularium. All these features separate *S. lacunosus* and *S. smithi* from *Potyphyllum*. The material assigned to *Pseudoacervularia* cf. *smithi* by Pickett (1967, p. 52) is clearly pseudoceroid and is probably a species of *Potyphyllum* with rather small corallites and major septa reaching the axis of the corallites. It was considered by Wrzolek (2007, pp. 614, 622) to be close to *Phillipsastrea ranciae* from the Upper Frasnian of the Rance Anticline. However, the latter taxon is astreoid and is characterized by septa more thickened only at the border of the tabularium, by often complete tabulae and by much smaller septal number and diameters of the tabularia and corallites.

As mentioned by Pickett (1967, p. 27) and Coen et al. (1977, p. 326), *Potyphyllum ananas* and other species of that genus were probably derived from *Hexagonaria* Gürich, 1896. Both genera have spindle-shaped dilated septa in the inner part of their broad dissepimentarium and major septa reaching the axis of the corallites. However, *Hexagonaria* is cerioid whereas *Potyphyllum* is pseudoceroid with outer globose dissepiments arranged in horizontal layers and separated from the inner inclined dissepiments by some horseshoe dissepiments. In Belgium, the last representatives of *Hexagonaria* are succeeded close to the base of the Champ Broquet Formation by several species of *Frechastraea* whereas *Potyphyllum ananas* appears higher in the lithostratigraphic unit (Fig. 4). So it is not possible to follow in Belgium the continuous evolution between *Hexagonaria* and *Potyphyllum*. The latter genus was certainly not derived from *Frechastraea*.

Species assigned to the genus. In addition to the type species of *Cyathophyllum ananas* from the Upper Frasnian of Belgium, the following taxa are assigned to *Potyphyllum*:

- *Pseudoacervularia dybowskii* Rózkowska, 1953 from the Upper Frasnian of the Holy Cross Mountains in Poland;
- *Pseudoacervularia intercellulosa* (Phillips, 1841) *sensu* Pickett (1967) from the Lower Frasnian of the Harz Mountains in Germany;
- *Schlüteria lyskovensis* Ermakova, 1957 from the Upper Frasnian of the Russian Platform;
- *Acervularia macrommata* Roemer, 1855 from the Middle Frasnian of the Harz Mountains in Germany;
- *Phillipsastrea plantana* Rózkowska, 1979 from the Middle to Upper Frasnian of the Holy Cross Mountains in Poland;
- *Cyathophyllum profundum* Michelin, 1845 from the Givetian or the Frasnian of the Boulonnais in France;
- *Phillipsastrea rozkowskiae* Scrutton, 1968 from the Upper Frasnian of South Devon in Great Britain;
- *Pseudoacervularia* cf. *smithi* (Rózkowska, 1953) *sensu* Pickett (1967) from the Lower Frasnian of the Harz Mountains in Germany;
- *Phillipsastrea ananas veserensis* Coen-Aubert, 1974 from the Upper Frasnian of Belgium;

- *Phillipsastrea zerda* Galle, 1992 in Hladil et al. (1992) from the Upper Frasnian of Moravia in the Czech Republic.

***Potyphyllum ananas* (Goldfuss, 1826)**

(Plate 1A-F; Plate 2E-G)

- * p. 1826 *Cyathophyllum ananas* nobis; Goldfuss: 60, pl. 19, fig. 4b (non fig. 4a).
- 1851 *Acervularia troscheli*; Milne-Edwards & Haime: 416.
- 1855 *Acervularia macrommata* n. sp.; Roemer: 33, pl. 6, fig. 22;
- p. 1885 *Phillipsastrea ananas* Goldfuss, sp.; Frech: 49, pl. 2, figs 1-3, 5a-b, pl. 3, figs 1-3, 14, pl. 8, fig. 9 (non pl. 2, fig. 4, pl. 3, fig. 5).
- 1948 *Phillipsastrea ananas* Goldf.; Dembinska-Rózkowska: fig. 22.
- v 1953 *Pseudoacervularia ananas* (Goldfuss); Rózkowska: 52, pl. 7, figs 1-2.
- v 1953 *Pseudoacervularia macrommata* (F.A. Roemer); Rózkowska: 49, pl. 7, figs 5-7.
- v 1953 *Pseudoacervularia roemeri* (Verneuil & Haime); Rózkowska: 53, pl. 7, figs 3-4;
- non 1966 *Phillipsastrea* cf. *ananas* (Goldfuss); Mirouse: 393, pl. 14, fig. 3.
- 1967 *Pseudoacervularia macrommata* (F.A. Roemer, 1855); Pickett: pl. 2, fig. 8.
- 1967 *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (F.A. Roemer); Sorauf: 33, figs 14, 2a-c.
- 1968 *Phillipsastrea ananas* (Goldfuss); Scrutton: 228, pl. 5, figs 1-4.
- non 1970 *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (Roemer, F.A., 1855); Brice: 275, pl. 17, figs 1a-b.
- v 1974a *Phillipsastrea ananas ananas* (Goldfuss, G.A., 1826); Coen-Aubert: 19, pl. 3, figs 5-6.
- v non 1974a *Phillipsastrea* cf. *ananas ananas* (Goldfuss, G.A., 1826); Coen-Aubert: pl. 4, figs 1-2.
- v p. 1974a *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (Roemer, F.A., 1855); Coen-Aubert: p. 23, pl. 5, fig. 1;
- v 1974b *Phillipsastrea ananas* (Goldfuss); Coen-Aubert: pl. 3, fig. 1.
- 1975 *Phillipsastrea ananas*; Tsien: fig. 26g.
- 1975 *Phillipsastrea macrommata*; Tsien: fig. 26h.
- 1977 *Phillipsastrea ananas*; Tsien: fig. 7e.
- 1977 *Phillipsastrea macrommata*; Tsien: fig. 7f.
- 1978 *Phillipsastrea ananas* (Goldfuss, 1826); Tsien: 203, fig. 2, pl. 1, fig. 3.
- 1978 *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (Roemer, 1855); Tsien: 203, fig. 3.
- 1978 *Phillipsastrea ananas* (Goldfuss 1826); Birenheide: 100, pl. 15, fig. 2;
- 1978 *Hexagonaria macrommata* (F.A. Roemer) *sensu* Pickett 1967; Birenheide: 97, pl. 13, fig. 4;
- 1980 *Phillipsastrea ananas* (Goldfuss, 1826); Oekentorp: 104, pl. 16, fig. 3.
- non 1981 *Marisastrum macrommata* (Roemer, 1855); Tsyganko: 67, pl. 30, fig. 3.
- non 1982 *Hexagonaria ananas* (Goldfuss); Wu et al.: 120, pl. 1, fig. 2.
- non 1997 *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (Roemer); Tsyganko et al.: 42, pl. 6, figs 1-2.
- v 2003 *Phillipsastrea ananas* (Goldfuss, 1826); Fedorowski: 102, pl. 47, fig. 3.
- v 2003 *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (Roemer, 1855); Fedorowski: 103, pl. 47, figs 1-2.
- ? 2005 *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (Roemer, 1855); Schröder: 87, pl. 12, fig. 5.

Holotype. Specimen formerly stored in the Goldfuss collection from the Paläontologisches Institute of the University of Bonn in Germany. Transition limestone from the area of Namur (Frasnian?) in Belgium. This specimen was chosen as lectotype by Coen-Aubert (1974a, p. 20), but is in fact a holotype by monotypy. In any case, it is lost as mentioned by Scrutton (1968, p. 228) and this situation was confirmed to me during my visit at Bonn in April 2007. Pl. 19, fig. 4b in Goldfuss (1826) only in external shape.

Neotype (designated herein). IRScNB a 12989 (= Plate 1A-C). Specimen Couthuin MC-1980-2-X77 collected by M. Coen-Aubert in 1980, in the upper limestone level of the Aisemont Formation.

Type locality and horizon. Locality 7 lying to the southeast of Lavoisier, below the Walloon motorway, described and located by Coen-Aubert & Lacroix (1985, fig. 4). Map sheet Couthuin 48/2, Lambert coordinates: x = 204.4 and y = 137.025, north side of the Namur Basin. Upper limestone level of the Aisemont Formation, Upper Frasnian.

Material. In addition to the 25 colonies cited by Coen-Aubert (1974a), 70 specimens with 125 thin sections. Personal sampling with that of M. Coen, E. Groessens and F. Tournier: Couthuin MC-1980-2-X77; Braives MC-1979-2-W48, W49, W50, W52, W58, W59, W60, W62, W64, W65, W69 and W70; Fontaine l'Évêque MC-1974-137-L8; Limbourg MC-1974-53-A48; Verviers MC-1988-4-A670, A671, A675, A680, A683 and A687; Chênee MC-1974-83-L3; Huy MC-1974-105-H25I; Naninne MC-174-115-R60; Hamoir MC-133-I. 8581; Hamoir MC-1974-111-984B and 984C; Hamoir MC-120-D844, D845, D847, D849, D854, D859 and D863; Grandhan MC-39-B714, B719, B726, B727 and B730; Walcourt MC-1976-6-749; Beaumont MC-1977-14-770A, 770B, 770C and 770D; Beaumont MC-134-795; Grandrieu MC-1975-11-T8 and I. 14459; Senzeille MC-1984-1-T200; Senzeille MC-1974-15-N56, B4, B5, B15, B15A, B17, B19, B19A, B20bis, B31 and B32; Froidchapelle MC-75-C989, D104, D112, D113 and D114; Surice MC-1974-133-V18 and V26; Surice MC-1986-5-B27 and B30; Agimont MC-129-Heer 2 and 3.

Diagnosis. A species of *Potyphyllum* with 28 to 38 septa at tabularial diameters of 2.8 mm to 4.6 mm. Septa typically dilated in a wide zone of the inner dissepimentarium. Major septa reaching the axis of the corallites. Occurrence of some horseshoe dissepiments outside several rows of inner dissepiments.

Description. The material consists of sheet-like, platy, nodular and sometimes tabular or massive colonies which are complete or fragmentary. Their height varies commonly between 1.5 cm and 8 cm, but reaches occasionally 12 cm to 16 cm. The largest piece has an area of 11 cm x 16 cm. On the upper surfaces of some samples, excavated calices bordered by flat peripheral platforms can be observed. The polygonal corallites are separated by a straight or zigzagged pseudotheca. In several specimens, the outer wall is locally characterized by a dark median line. Pericalicinal and rarely lateral or axial offsets occur in a few colonies.

The septa are rather slender or more or less thick at the periphery. They are typically dilated in the inner part of the dissepimentarium. This wide zone of inner thickening is sometimes stronger (Plate 2E), weaker or narrower. A few small knobby, spinose and even yardarm carinae may be present outside and inside this spindle-shaped area. In some specimens, the fusiform dilation of the septa occurs in nearly all the dissepimentarium; this situation is more frequent in small colonies with small corallites. The septa become thin in the tabularium or slightly beyond their entry into it. They are rarely weakly thickened in the tabularium.

The major septa reach usually the axis of the corallites or leave occasionally a small open space in the centre of the tabularium which is more important in very few corallites. Their axial ends are rather often fusing laterally to form pseudofossulae and in rare cases a plane of bilateral symmetry. The minor septa traverse the entire dissepimentarium; sometimes they are somewhat shorter, discontinuous at their inner ends or barely projecting into the tabularium. Herringbone dissepiments may be present at the border of the tabularium.

The dissepimentarium consists of 3 to 11 rows of globose dissepiments which are arranged in horizontal layers at the periphery and inclined at its inner end. At the bases of some corallites, the dissepiments are restricted to 1 or 2 series whereas there are up to 14 to 17 series at maturity, in a few colonies from Cerfontaine. Horseshoe or specialized dissepiments occur rather often within the dissepimentarium and they are separated from the tabularium by 1 to 5 rows of inner dissepiments (Plate 1B-C, E-F). In three colonies, peneckielloid dissepiments have also been observed. Some

symmetrical tight fans of septal trabeculae are centred over the horseshoe dissepiments. The tabulae are incomplete and intersecting laterally or compound with broad flat-topped axial parts.

There are 24 to 42 septa per corallite. The width of the tabularium ranges from 2.5 mm or even 2 mm to 5.7 mm. The diameter of the corallites varies commonly between 5.5 mm and 12.5 mm and more generally between 4.7 mm or even 4.2 mm and 16 mm.

Discussion. The abundant Belgian material of *Potyphyllum ananas* shows a wide variability mostly related to the size of the corallites. The main part of the colonies has large corallites and tabularia with about 28 to 38 septa. However, there are also some specimens with small corallites and tabularia and about 26 to 32 septa (Plate 2F-G) whose spindle-shaped dilation may be stronger, narrower or extending to nearly all the dissepimentarium. These colonies of smaller size occur mostly in the red bioherms of the Petit-Mont Member and they are accompanied by samples of *P. ananas* with larger corallites. These specimens with smaller corallites are more similar to those described as *P. macrommatum* by Rózkowska (1953). However, it is clear that these particular Belgian specimens enter into the variability of *P. ananas*. Additionally, it is clear also that the colonies figured by Rózkowska (1953, pl. 7) as *P. ananas*, *P. macrommatum* and *Phillipsastrea roemeri* (De Verneuil & Haime, 1850) belong to the same species. The type specimen of *P. roemeri* from the Harz Mountains in Germany, which is inadequately known, is probably conspecific with *P. hennahi* according to Scrutton (1968, p. 220). *Potyphyllum ananas* and *P. macrommatum* were considered as synonyms or close species by Frech (1885), Scrutton (1968), Birenheide (1978) and Schröder (2005). The original material of *P. macrommatum* has only been poorly illustrated by Roemer (1855) without thin sections and any longitudinal section.

Concerning the references excluded from the list of synonymy, the colonies from the Upper Givetian of the Pyrenees in France and from the Frasnian of Afghanistan described respectively by Mirouse (1966) and Brice (1970) have septa that are weakly carinate and thickened in the inner dissepimentarium. The septa of the specimen illustrated by Schröder (2005) are slightly spindle-shaped dilated in a narrow zone at the border of the tabularium. On the contrary, the Frasnian material investigated from Tibet in China by Wu et al. (1982) and from the Northern Urals and Southern Timan in Russia by Tsyganko (1981) and Tsyganko et al. (1997) is characterized by septa more or less thick across the whole dissepimentarium. As for the Belgian sample identified as *P. cf. ananas* by Coen-Aubert (1974a), it is locally cerioid with rather slender septa and may belong to *Hexagonaria davidsoni*.

Several taxa are closely related to *Potyphyllum ananas*. The holotype of *P. zerda* illustrated by Hladil et al. (1992, pl. 12, figs 1-2) is poorly preserved and has rather few septa. The German material assigned to *Phillipsastrea intercellulosa* by Pickett (1967, p. 51) and Birenheide (1978, p. 97) is different from *Potyphyllum ananas* in having septa strongly thickened in a wide zone of the dissepimentarium. The holotype of *Phillipsastrea intercellulosa* from the Givetian of South Devon in Great Britain has been figured by Scrutton (1968, pl. 2, figs 2-3) and is once more conspecific with *P. hennahi*. *Potyphyllum lyskovense* and *P. dybowski* are represented by massive to phaceloid colonies which resemble *P. ananas*. *P. lyskovense* has been referred to *Peneckiaella* Soshkina, 1939 by McLean (2005, p. 41) and is mainly separated from *P. ananas* by a more or less continuous row of horseshoe dissepiments bordered by rare inner dissepiments. *P. dybowski* is characterized by the same feature and by fusiform septa in a rather narrow zone at the border of the tabularium. *Phillipsastrea samsonowiczi* (Rózkowska, 1953) from the Upper Frasnian of the Holy Cross Mountains in Poland is more fasciculate than *Potyphyllum dybowski* and the septa of its holotype figured by Rózkowska (1953, pl. 6, figs 7-8) and ascribed by this author to *Pseudoacervularia* have nearly no inner thickening. According to Wrzolek (2007, p. 614), the two latter species are very similar, which is not my opinion.

Distribution. The species has been collected *in situ* by the author, M. Coen, E. Groessens and F. Tournier, in different coral deposits from the Upper Frasnian of Belgium. On the north side of the Namur Basin, in the La Tombe, Streupas and Kinkempois outliers, the Vesdre Massif, the Theux Window as well as on the

north and east sides of the Dinant Synclinorium, it is already present in the lower limestone level of the Aisemont Formation, but it is more abundant in the upper one; it occurs locally at the base of the overlying Lambermont Formation. At Laneffe, on the north side of the Dinant Synclinorium, one colony has been observed about 21 m above the base of the Les Valisettes Member (Fig. 5). *Potyphyllum ananas* is common in the red bioherms of the Petit-Mont Member from Barbençon, Solre-Saint-Géry and Leugnies, in the northwestern part of the Dinant Synclinorium and from Neuville, Senzeille, Vodelée and Heer-Agimont in the Philippeville Massif; at Cerfontaine, several specimens have been sampled just below the base of the nodular limestones from the Les Valisettes Member. The species is also widespread on the east side of the Dinant Synclinorium, in the red bioherms of Sy, Bomal, Durbuy, Barvaux and Grandhan.

Outside Belgium, *P. ananas* is known in the Upper Frasnian from South Devon in Great Britain and from the Holy Cross Mountains in Poland. It occurs also in the Frasnian of the Aachen Syncline and the Harz Mountains in Germany and may be present in the Upper Frasnian of the East Sauerland, in the same country.

***Potyphyllum veserense* (Coen-Aubert, 1974)**
(Plate 1G-H; Plate 2A-D)

* v 1974a *Phillipsastrea ananas veserensis* n. subsp.; Coen-Aubert: 21, pl. 4, figs 3-6.

v p. 1974a *Phillipsastrea macrommata* (Roemer, F.A., 1855); Coen-Aubert: 23 (non pl. 5, fig. 1).

v 1974b *Phillipsastraea* sp.; Coen-Aubert: pl. 3, fig. 2.

Holotype. Specimen IRScNB a733 (= Verviers MC-1974-7-19) stored in the Collection of Palaeontology from the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique at Brussels, Belgium. Locality 7 to the north of Pepinster in the Vesdre Massif, Belgium, which has been described by Coen-Aubert (1974b, p. 61). Lower part of the Lambermont Formation, Upper Frasnian. Pl. 4 fig. 3 in Coen-Aubert (1974a).

Material. 24 specimens with 45 thin sections. Personal sampling with that of M. Coen: Verviers MC-1974-7-19; Limbourg MC-1974-9-A88; Esneux MC-1974-89-D71 and F85; Walcourt MC-1976-5-750 and 751; Grandrieu MC-1974-158-1181; Senzeille MC-1974-139-697; Senzeille MC-1974-14-P32, P35 and P45; Froidchapelle MC-71-C945; Froidchapelle MC-75-C990 and C995; Surice MC-1986-5-B47; Aye MC-114-D811, D813, D816, D818A, D819, D822 and D823. Old collection from the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique: Esneux 5380 (close to Esneux MC-1974-89) - F2II-16616 and 16617.

Diagnosis. A species of *Potyphyllum* with 24 to 32 septa at tabular diameters of 2.5 mm to 4 mm. Septa rather slender at the periphery and only spindle-shaped dilated at the border of the tabularium. Major septa reaching the axis of the corallites. Horseshoe and inner dissepiments weakly developed.

Description. The material consists of sheet-like, platy and nodular colonies which are complete or fragmentary. Their height varies between 1.5 cm and 7 cm whereas the largest piece has an area of 18 x 16 cm. The corallites polygonal in shape are separated by a straight or zigzagged pseudotheca. Rare lateral offsets have been observed.

The septa are non-carinate or bear a few small carinae. The septa are slender or faintly dilated in the greater part of the dissepimentarium. Usually, they are weakly spindle-shaped thickened at the border of the tabularium and this situation concerns mostly the major septa. In a few colonies, this inner dilation is stronger or somewhat wider. The septa become thin in the tabularium or slightly beyond their entry into it.

The major septa reach commonly the axis of the corallites or leave occasionally a small open space in the centre of the tabularium which is more important in a few cases. Their axial ends are rather often fusing laterally to form pseudofossulae and sometimes a plane of bilateral symmetry. The minor septa traverse the entire dissepimentarium and rarely project into the

tabularium. Occasionally, they do not extend to the inner border of the dissepimentarium where herringbone dissepiments may be observed; they are discontinuous in rare corallites.

The dissepimentarium consists of 5 to 13 or even 18 rows of globose dissepiments which are arranged in horizontal layers and only inclined at its inner end. In some colonies, horseshoe or specialized dissepiments occur locally at the border of the tabularium or separated from it by 1 or 2 rows on inner inclined dissepiments. The tabulae are incomplete and intersecting laterally with sometimes a flat-topped axial part; they are rarely horizontal or concave.

There are 24 to 36 septa per corallite. The width of the tabularium ranges from 2.3 mm to 4.4 mm. The diameter of the corallites varies commonly between 7 mm and 12.5 mm and more generally between 6 mm and 16.5 mm.

Discussion. *Potyphyllum veserense* differs from *P. ananas* by septa rather slender at the periphery and only spindle-shaped dilated at the border of the tabularium, by fewer inner dissepiments and by faintly smaller septal number and diameter of the tabularium for corallites of nearly the same size. The two specimens from Hony (Esneux MC-1974-89) were assigned by Coen-Aubert (1974a) to *P. macrommatum* because one of them shows a stronger thickening in the inner dissepimentarium. *P. plantanum* is separated from *P. veserense* by a weaker zigzagged pseudotheca, by the slight dilation of all the septa in the inner part of the dissepimentarium and by somewhat more septa and larger tabularia.

Phillipsastrea conili, a rare species occurring at the base of the Upper Frasnian in Belgium, has already been compared with *Potyphyllum veserense* by Coen-Aubert (1994, p. 37). It is astreoid with once more all the septa thickened at the border of the tabularium. It resembles more *Phillipsastrea falsa* which is characterized by fewer septa and by smaller tabularia and corallites. *P. falsa* is associated with *Potyphyllum veserense* in the Les Valisettes Member from the Philippeville Massif. However, it is easy to distinguish the two taxa by their quantitative data and their outer wall: typically pseudoceroid in *P. veserense* and astreoid in *Phillipsastrea falsa*. It must be added that the pseudoceroid colony from Beauchâteau quarry at Senzeille, ascribed by Tsien (1978, pl. 2, fig. 6) to *P. conili*, probably belongs to *Potyphyllum veserense*. There are also some affinities between the latter species and a specimen from the Frasnian of Stolberg in the Aachen Syncline, Germany, identified by Frech (1885, pl. 4, fig. 3) as *Phillipsastrea roemeri*.

Distribution. *Potyphyllum veserense* is only known rather high in the Upper Frasnian of Belgium and Cousolre in France. The material collected by the author and M. Coen comes from:

- the lower part of the Lambermont Formation at Pepinster and Les Surdents in the Vesdre Massif and at Hony, on the north side of the Dinant Synclinorium;
- the Les Valisettes Member at Laneffe and Cousolre in the northwestern part of the same structural unit and in the Philippeville Massif, at Philippeville, Neuville and Cerfontaine whereas *P. veserense* has also been observed at the top of the Petit Mont Member in the Haumont quarry at Vodelée;
- the Barvaux Formation at Marche-en-Famenne, on the southeast side of the Dinant Synclinorium.

4. Conclusions

Although *Potyphyllum veserense* is only present in the Upper Frasnian of Belgium, *P. ananas* is also known in the Upper Frasnian from South Devon in Great Britain and from the Holy Cross Mountains in Poland; moreover, it occurs in the Frasnian from the Aachen Syncline, which is the continuation of the Vesdre Massif to the east, and from the Harz Mountains in Germany. A similar palaeogeographic distribution has been pointed out by Coen-Aubert (2015) for *Frechastrea pentagona*, *F. minima*, *F. limitata* and *F. phillipsastraeiformis*. Other species of *Potyphyllum* have been introduced in the same areas as well as in the Upper Frasnian from Moravia in the Czech Republic and from the Russian Platform; one taxon is from the Boulonnais in France. At the present time, *Potyphyllum* has only been recorded in Europe and can be considered as a good marker for the Frasnian of the Old World Realm.

Another important conclusion of this work concerns the red lenses of the Petit-Mont Member which occupy a variable position in the Upper Frasnian Champ Broquet Formation of the Dinant Synclinorium. Though their lithofacies and microfacies are rather similar according to the detailed descriptions of diverse outcrops given among others by Boulvain (1993, 2001), their ages are very different as it can be deduced from the identification of conodonts and massive rugose corals (Figs 3-4). About the latter group of fossils, *Frechastraea coeni* is frequent in the lower limestone level of the Aisemont Formation, close to the base of the Neuville Member and in the lower part of the bioherms from the Petit-Mont Member in the Philippeville Massif. It is sometimes accompanied by *F. glabra*, *F. phillipsastraeiformis*, *F. limitata* and *Phillipsastrea conili*. *Frechastraea crassiseptata*, *F. limitata* and *Potyphyllum ananas* are the species characteristic of the upper limestone level from the Aisemont Formation; they occur also on the southeastern side of the Dinant Synclinorium, in the lenses of the Petit-Mont Member developed laterally to the Les Valisettes Member. *P. ananas* and *Frechastraea crassiseptata* are abundant in the upper part of the red bioherms from the Philippeville Massif. *F. pentagona*, *Potyphyllum veserense* and occasionally *lowaphyllum rhenanum* are locally present in the lower part of the Lambermont Formation, in the Barvaux Formation and in the upper part of the Les Valisettes Member. In the Philippeville Massif, these taxa are associated with *Phillipsastrea falsa* and *Frechastraea minima* and rarely with *F. micrommata* (Roemer, 1852) and *F. kaisini* (Tsien, 1978). Some of these species are sometimes observed at the top of the Petit-Mont Member in the Philippeville Massif and the Renlies Anticline. At Rance, *F. minima* is accompanied by *Phillipsastrea ranciae*, just below Famennian shales dated by conodonts. To complete this overview of the Belgian Upper Frasnian, *Potyphyllum ananas* and *Frechastraea limitata* have been identified by Coen-Aubert (2014) in the upper limestone level of the Aisemont Formation intersected by the Booischoot borehole in the Campine Basin whereas *F. pentagona* is present at the base of the overlying Falisolle Formation in the Heibaart borehole. Close to the top of the Frasnian from the Visé Massif, colonies of *F. minima* and *Phillipsastrea falsa* have been studied by Coen-Aubert (1987, 2015). This is rather strange as these two taxa are only known elsewhere in Belgium, from the Philippeville Massif.

From a biostratigraphic point of view, *Frechastraea coeni* is restricted to the Lower *Palmatolepis rhenana* conodont Zone whereas there are two associations of massive rugose corals within the Upper *P. rhenana* Zone: the lower one with *Potyphyllum ananas* and *Frechastraea crassiseptata* often associated with by *F. limitata*, the upper one with *F. pentagona*, *Potyphyllum veserense* and diverse species in the Philippeville Massif. Generally, these massive rugose corals do not reach the Upper Kellwasser Event and the Frasnian-Famennian boundary. At Rance, there is an unconformity between the Petit-Mont Member and the Famennian shales of the Famenne Formation as indicated by Muechez et al. (1996). So it appears that the top of the bioherms from the Petit-Mont Member is variable in age.

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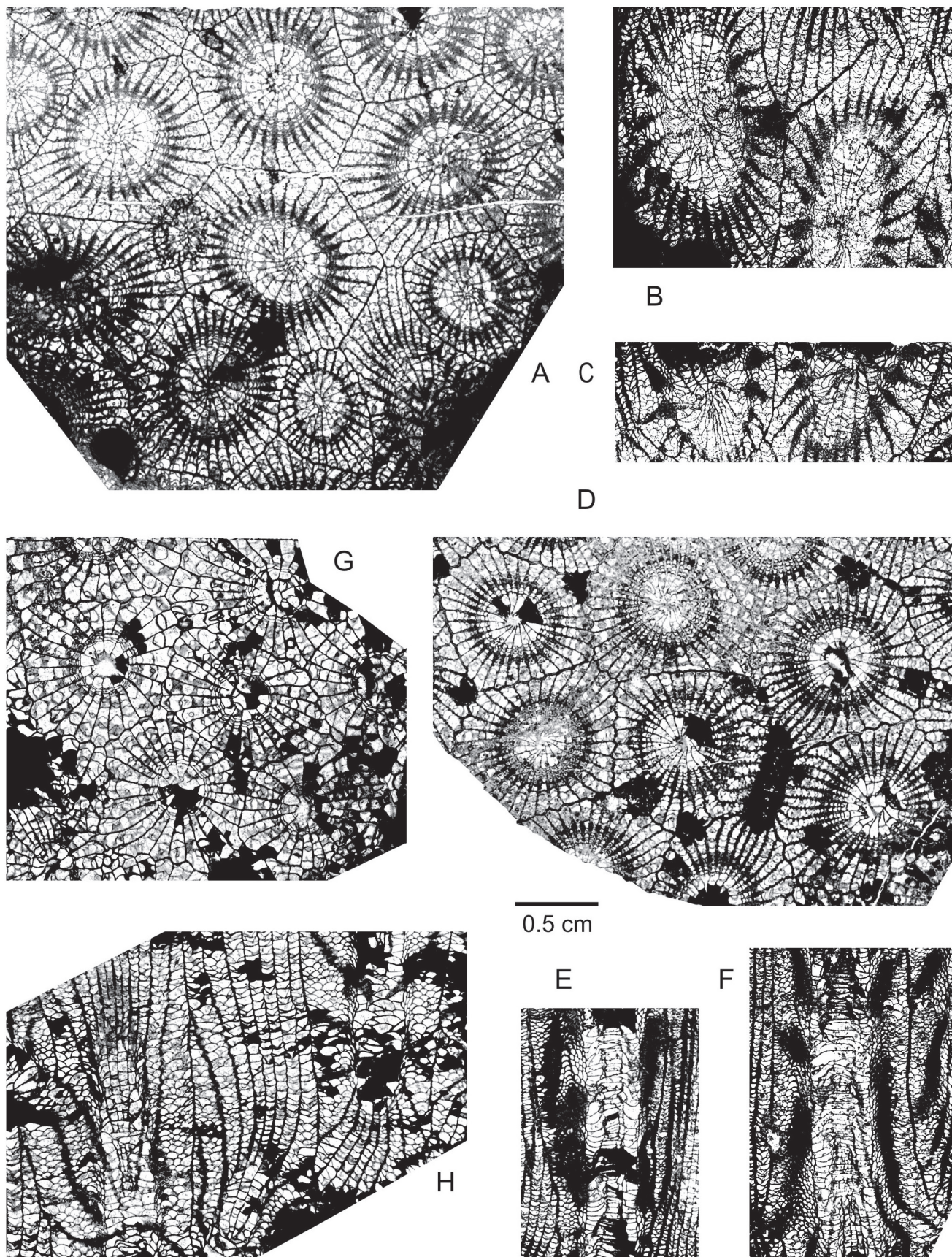


Plate 1. A-F: *Potyphyllum ananas* (Goldfuss, 1826). A-C: Neotype, IRScNB a12989, Couthuin MC-1980-2-X77 at Lavoisier; transverse section and longitudinal sections. D-F: IRScNB a12990, Froidchapelle MC-75-D112 at Cerfontaine; transverse section and longitudinal sections. G-H: *Potyphyllum veserense* (Coen-Aubert, 1974). IRScNB a12993, Froidchapelle MC-71-C945 at Cerfontaine; transverse and longitudinal sections. Magnification x 3.

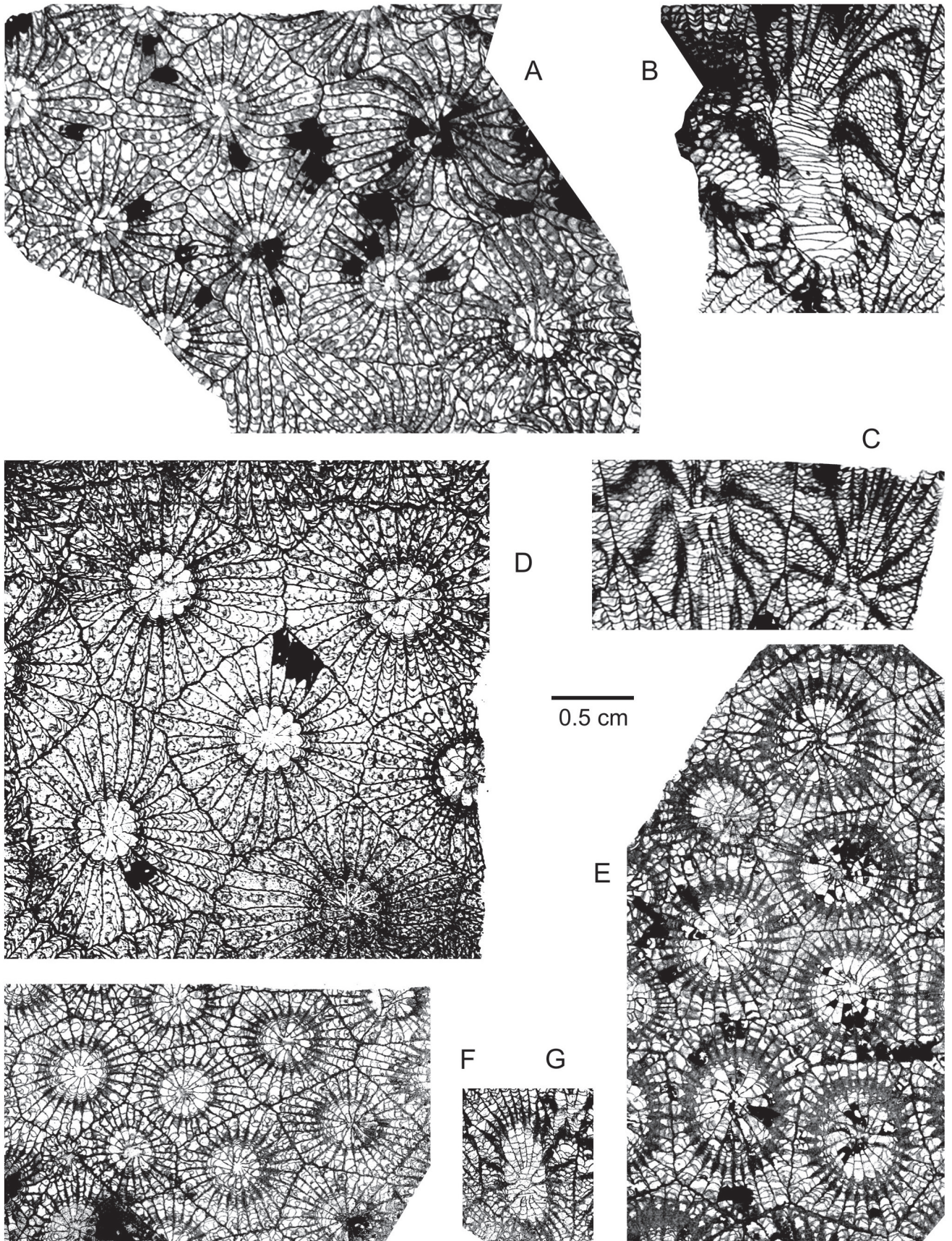


Plate 2. A-D: *Potyphyllum veserense* (Coen-Aubert, 1974). A-C: IRScNB a12994, Aye MC-114-D813 at Marche-en-Famenne; transverse section and longitudinal sections. D: IRScNB a12995, Aye MC-114-D816 at Marche-en-Famenne; transverse section. E-G: *Potyphyllum ananas* (Goldfuss, 1826). E: IRScNB a12991, Hamoir MC-120-D859 at Bomal; transverse section. F-G: IRScNB a12992, Senzeille MC-1984-1-T200 at Neuville; transverse and longitudinal sections. Magnification x 3.