

DEVONIAN CHAROPHYTA OF WESTERN CANADA

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Abstract

Devonian Charophyta assemblages of Western Canada are compound of five species of which *Xinjiangochara burgessi*, *Moellerina greenei* and *Karpinskya laticostata* are recorded from across the North American continent. *Karpinskya aperta* n. sp., and the first Devonian record of Porocharaceae, *Stomochara moreyi*, are added as minor assemblage constituents. Two groups of species are recognized reflecting their different origins and paleoecological affinities. *Xinjiangochara burgessi* is the primary species encountered in freshwater shales in the vast majority of the assemblages from the late Givetian sequences in Western Canada. All of the other species were found associated with typical marine assemblages, suggesting that the earlier representatives of the Charophyta were adapted to a variety of sedimentary environments in contrast to the modern taxa which are fresh- and brackish-water inhabitants exclusively.

Key words: Charophyta, Devonian, western Canada, new species.

Resumen

Las asociaciones de carofitas devónicas del oeste de Canadá están constituidas por cinco especies, de las cuales *Xinjiangochara burgessi*, *Moellerina greenei* y *Karpinskya laticostata* han sido descritas en Norteamérica. *Karpinskya aperta* n. sp. y el primer registro devónico de Porocharaceae, *Stomochara moreyi*, están presentes en una proporción menor. Dos grupos de especies descritas muestran diferentes orígenes y afinidades paleoecológicas. *Xinjiangochara burgessi* es la especie principal encontrada en la pizarras lacustres entre todas las asociaciones descritas en las secuencias del Givetiense superior del oeste del Canadá. El resto de las especies están asociadas con asociaciones marinas, sugiriendo que los primeros representantes de Charophyta estuvieron adaptados a una amplia variedad de ambientes sedimentarios en contraste con los representantes actuales, que habitan medios lagunares y salobres exclusivamente.

Palabras clave: Charophyta, Devónico, oeste de Canadá, nueva especie.