GENNAEOCRINUS SP. FROM THE GLEN PARK FORMATION OF NORTHEASTERN MISSOURI

GEORGE H. FRAUNFELTER

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

ABSTRACT. — The presence of *Gennaeocrinus* sp. in the Glen Park Formation suggests a Devonian age for that unit.

To my knowledge a specimen of *Gennaeocrinus* collected by me represents the first reported occurrence of this genus in the Glen Park Formation. The collection locality is a road cut along the west side of a gravel road about one-half mile south of Stark Nursery in the SE¼ SE¼ SW¼ sec. 25, T. 54 N., R. 2 W., Pike County, Missouri. The specimen is deposited as University of Missouri No. 14849.

DESCRIPTION

Calyx medium-sized, incomplete, about 28 mm. in diameter, apparently wider than high, semi-globose, slightly distorted. BB 3, pentagonal, slightly thickened to form rim. RR 5, hexagonal, about as wide as high. T plate narrower than RR, rounded, followed by three plates in the first row (one missing) and five in the second row (two missing). PBrBr 3, hexagonal, much smaller than RR. IBrBr 4, hexagonal, apparently followed by three plates in the second row. PBrBr followed by hexagonal PAxAx of slightly smaller size. Calyx above PAxAx missing or poorly preserved (Fig. 1).

Ornamentation, plates and plate arrangement similar to that of *G. kentuckyensis* (Shumard).

DISCUSSION

Stuart Weller (1906, pp. 435-471) described the Glen Park fauna, consisting largely of pelecypod, brachiopod and gastropod species, the majority of which exhibit strong Devonian affinities. Some of the species, according to Weller, indicate a strong lower Mississippian relationship. It was primarily, however, the presence of fragmentary crinoid remains identified by Weller as *Ac-*

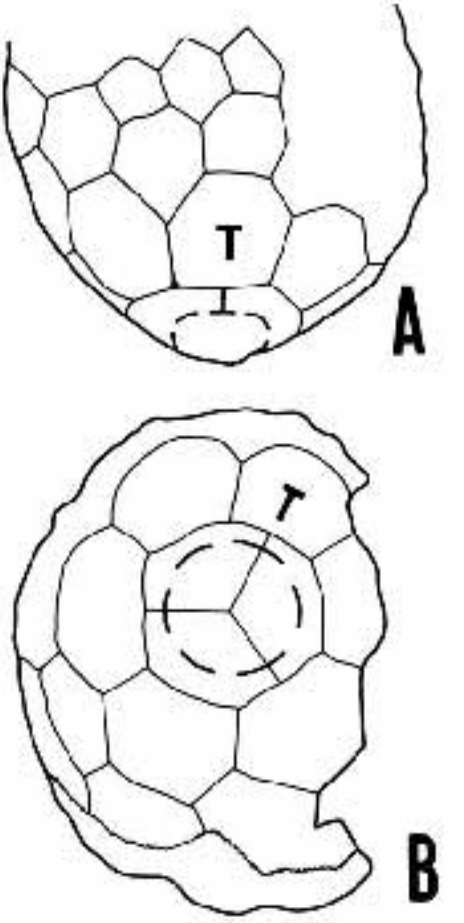

FIGURE 1.—Calyx of *Gennaeocrinus* sp., University of Missouri No. 14849, from the Glen Park Formation near Louisiana, Missouri. (A) Posterior view showing the position of T and associated anal plates, x1, and (B) Basal view showing the position of BB, RR, and T plates, x1.

Actinocrinus? sp. and *Agaricocrinus*? sp., which led him to assign a Kinderhookian age to the Glen Park Formation.

A later review by Moore (1928, pp. 136-137) listed the same crinoid genera from the Glen Park and confirmed its Kinderhookian age.

In 1938 E. B. Branson (part 1, p. 132) stated: "The fragments figured by Weller and referred questionably to *Actinocrinus* and *Agaricocrinus* are not complete enough to distinguish them from Devonian genera." Branson, nevertheless, still considered the Glen Park to be lower Mississippian in age.

Judging by Weller's illustration, some of his crinoid fragments might be referrable to *Gennaeocrinus*. The specimen here described is both complete enough and well enough preserved to be referred to *Gennaeocrinus* with certainty.

In the past the Glen Park Formation has been assigned to the Mississippian. Some geologists, however, have considered it to be Devonian in age (Mehl, 1960, pp. 73-74 and 104). The presence of *Gennaeocrinus* sp., which is considered restricted to Devonian strata, suggests to this author that the Glen Park might more properly be included among Devonian beds.

Literature Cited

Branson, E. B. 1938. Stratigraphy and Paleontology of the Lower Mississippian of Missouri. University of Missouri Studies, 13(3) pt. 1, p. 132.

Mehl, M. G. 1960. The Relationships of the Base of the Mississippian System in Missouri. Jour. Sci. Lab. Denison University 45(5), pp. 73-74 & 104.

Moore R. C. 1928. Early Mississippian Formations in Missouri. Mo. Bur. of Geol. & Mines 21, 2nd ser., pp. 136-137.

Weller, S. 1906. Kinderhook Faunal Studies: IV, The Fauna of the Glen Park limestone. Ac. Sci. St. Louis Trans. 16, pp. 435-471.

Manuscript received February 4, 1965.