

## EVOLUTION OF PTEROTOCRINUS IN THE EASTERN INTERIOR BASIN DURING THE CHESTER EPOCH

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### ABSTRACT

The evolution of *Pterotocrinus*, an aberrant and highly specialized genus of Camerate crinoids is traced. Under the influence of the rapidly and constantly changing conditions in the Eastern Interior Basin, *Pterotocrinus* evolved into a large number of species most of which are grouped into three principal evolutionary lines or "gentes". The genus is shown to have started in early Chester time, to have expanded into the greatest number of species during the middle Chester, and to have continued until the close of the Mississippian period. The possible ancestry of the genus is discussed. The practical value of certain species as stratigraphic markers in the Chester (Upper Mississippian) series is pointed out. Fourteen new species are defined and thirteen earlier described species are re-described, bringing into one paper all that is known to the writer concerning this genus.