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### BOOK REVIEW

Palaeontological Results of the Polish Antarctic Expeditions. Part III, edited by A. Gaździcki, *Palaeontologia Polonica*, No. 60 (2001), 184 pages, 54 text-figs, 36 plates. Editorial Office, Instytut Paleobiologii PAN, Warszawa, Poland. US\$ 65. ISSN 0078-85262.

*Palaeontologia Polonica* is a monographic series, published since 1929, that has maintained a consistent high quality. The series has published a broad spectrum of paleontological works including taxonomic monographs, studies on the paleontology of Poland, and research results of Polish expeditions. This latest contribution is the third in a series of monographs on the work of Polish scientists in Antarctica, all edited by Andrzej Gaździcki. This volume certainly meets the high standard of quality for which the series is noted, and it will constitute a valuable contribution to our understanding of the paleontology of Antarctica.

This work contains three systematic papers on the fauna of Seymour Island, as well as a brief dedication recognizing the Centennial of the Swedish South Polar Expedition, led by Dr. Otto Nordenskjöld. Nordenskjöld's party was the first to conduct serious scientific study of Seymour Island. Certainly, the dedication is appropriate.

The three taxonomic papers are diverse in their subject matter. They include analysis of the anatomy and histology of plesiosaur remains from the Late Cretaceous López de Bertodano Formation, by Lucja Fostowicz-Frelik and Andrzej Gaździcki; systematics of Eocene bryozoans from the La Meseta Formation, by Urszula Hara; and systematics of ostracods, also from the La Meseta Formation, by Janina Szczechura. Each of these papers deals with relatively rare groups, relative to the broad spectrum of organisms that has been described from Seymour Island, and constitute significant additions to the fauna of the region.

Although plesiosaurs previously have been noted from Seymour and adjacent islands, details of histology have not been recorded. This work not only illustrates the gross morphology of parts of the axial skeleton and the appendages, but it also details the histology of the bone material. The authors conclude that the various bones may represent a single individual, a subadult, that lived in a shallow water setting.

Anecdotal references to Bryozoa in the La Meseta Formation have previously been published but Hara's work constitutes the first detailed treatment. Forty-three species in 30 genera are described which makes the group one of the most speciose in the La Meseta. However, specimens are extremely rare in all but one locality near the base of the formation. This single exposure yielded 91% of all the specimens collected from the unit. Discovery of that locality was indeed serendipitous.

Ostracods have not previously been described from Eocene rocks of Antarctica so the addition of 16 species embraced within 15 known genera and one indeterminate genus constitutes a significant addition to the fauna of the La Meseta Formation. Unfortunately, the specimens are

rare enough and poorly enough preserved that confident species identification was possible in only two instances. The composition of the ostracod fauna suggests affinities with that of Argentina, an observation supported by study of other groups as well.

The volume is very well edited and, in all cases, the reviewers include internationally known experts on the relevant taxa. The papers are uniformly well constructed and brilliantly illustrated. Photographs include conventional photographs of overall views of the plesiosaur and bryozoan remains, thin section views of the structure of the plesiosaur bones and the bryozoan zooecia, and SEM views of bryozoan zooecia and ostracod valves. The illustrations are exceptionally crisp, well contrasted, and uniform in tone; detail is clearly visible so that the papers will form a very useful basis for comparative studies. In summary, this is an excellent volume that will be of particular interest not only to students of marine reptiles, bryozoans, and ostracods, but also to paleontologists interested in faunal analyses and biogeographic implications of Antarctic faunas.

RODNEY M. FELDMANN

Department of Geology  
Kent State University  
Kent, Ohio 44242 U.S.A.  
e-mail: rfeldman@kent.edu