

The Rise and Fall of the Ediacaran Biota

Edited by
P. Vickers-Rich and P. Komarower

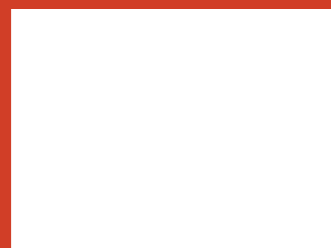
The Proterozoic and early Phanerozoic was a time punctuated by a series of significant events in Earth history. Glaciations of global scale wracked the planet, interfingering with dramatic changes in oceanic and atmospheric chemistry and marked changes in continental configuration. It was during these dynamic and 'weedy' times that metazoans first appeared. Their subsequent diversification culminated in the appearance of hard tissue skeletons and deep 'farming' of the marine substrate in late Proterozoic and first few millions of years of the Phanerozoic. The papers in this book deal specifically with the precise timing of physical events and teasing out of the effects which these changing environments,



climates, global chemistry and palaeogeography had on the development and diversification of animals, resulting in the spectacular Ediacaran/Vendian faunas of the late Precambrian.

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Cover illustration:

Yorgia rising – an imaginative vista by Melbourne artist Peter Trusler of the White Sea cliffs of northern Russia. *Yorgia* is one of the oldest animals on Earth, an Ediacaran, common in the Vendian sequences of the Russian north, which left traces of movement and detailed imprints of its anatomy in the shallow marine muds more than 550 million years ago.



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