

New Discoveries of Ediacarans/Vendians in Namibia, Saudi Arabia, India and Argentina

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Over the past 5 years a concerted effort has been made under the umbrella of IGCP projects 493 and 587 (www.geosci.monash.edu.au/precsite) to investigate areas with good outcrop of Neoproterozoic sediments in the search for metazoan remains – in places that have not produced any or only low biodiverse assemblages. Fossils of Ediacaran/Vendian-aged metazoans in Namibia have been known since the early part of the 20th century, but exploration over the last few years has increased knowledge significantly and added to a more in depth understanding of both the morphology and taphonomic setting of many of the forms long known. Work in Saudi Arabia, India and Argentina has also led to the discovery of some new body fossils and traces, mainly of non-bilaterians. Thus, these are areas of continued interest. One of the probable restrictors in the Saudi Arabian late Neoproterozoic metazoan record is the likely fresh water source of sediments in basins of appropriate age (@560 +/-).