

CAMBRIAN FOSSIL LOCALITY CHRISTMAS HILLS

During the course of geological field work in the Christmas Hills area in 1956 a new fossil locality was discovered.

Christmas Hills Post Office is situated about eight miles from Smithton on the Marrawah road. At the Post Office a road branches left from the highway and extends into the forest to the south.

Two fossil localities were found in this area. The better site A is a cutting on this road about one mile from the Christmas Hills Post Office. The road at this point has a fairly steep grade and forms a U shaped bend. There is an abandoned sawmill on this corner. (Woolnorth Bun 5; 30 chs. Photo No. 48570) 3.1 inches and 176°S of the centre point. Locality B is shown on the accompanying map.

The rocks in which the fossils occur occupy the same stratigraphical position as, and have similar lithology to the Cambrian Dundas Group. Up till the time of this find there was no proof of the age of the sediments in this area.

The fossils occur in thinly bedded tuff and grey siltstones which dip shallowly to the south east. The exact position of these beds above the base of the Group is not certain. From the dip values and the proximity of Precambrian rocks the fossil horizon lies close to the base of the Cambrian rocks. It is estimated that little more than 250 feet of sediments lie between the fossiliferous strata and the underlying Precambrian rocks which are locally quartzites.



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30th July, 1958