

**SPINOCYRTIA FROM KINNAUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

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The present note records the occurrence of Devonian brachiopods belonging to the genus *Spinocyrtia* Frederike from the grey limestone exposed in the Yulang River (31°55' : 78°36'), Kinnaur District, Himachal Pradesh. The fossiliferous limestone is about 10 metres thick and forms a transitional horizon between the Muth Quartzite below and Lipak Formation above.

The occurrence of Devonian brachiopods (*Atrypaaspera* Schl., *Orthotheses* aff. *crenistris* Phill. and *Productella* or *Strophalosia* sp.), stromatoporids (*Idiostroma yulangensis* Reed), a simple turbinate cyathophylloid coral and crinoid stems was recorded from the Yulang River section by Reed (1912). According to Reed (1912), the fauna from the Yulang River section suggested upper Middle or Upper Devonian age.

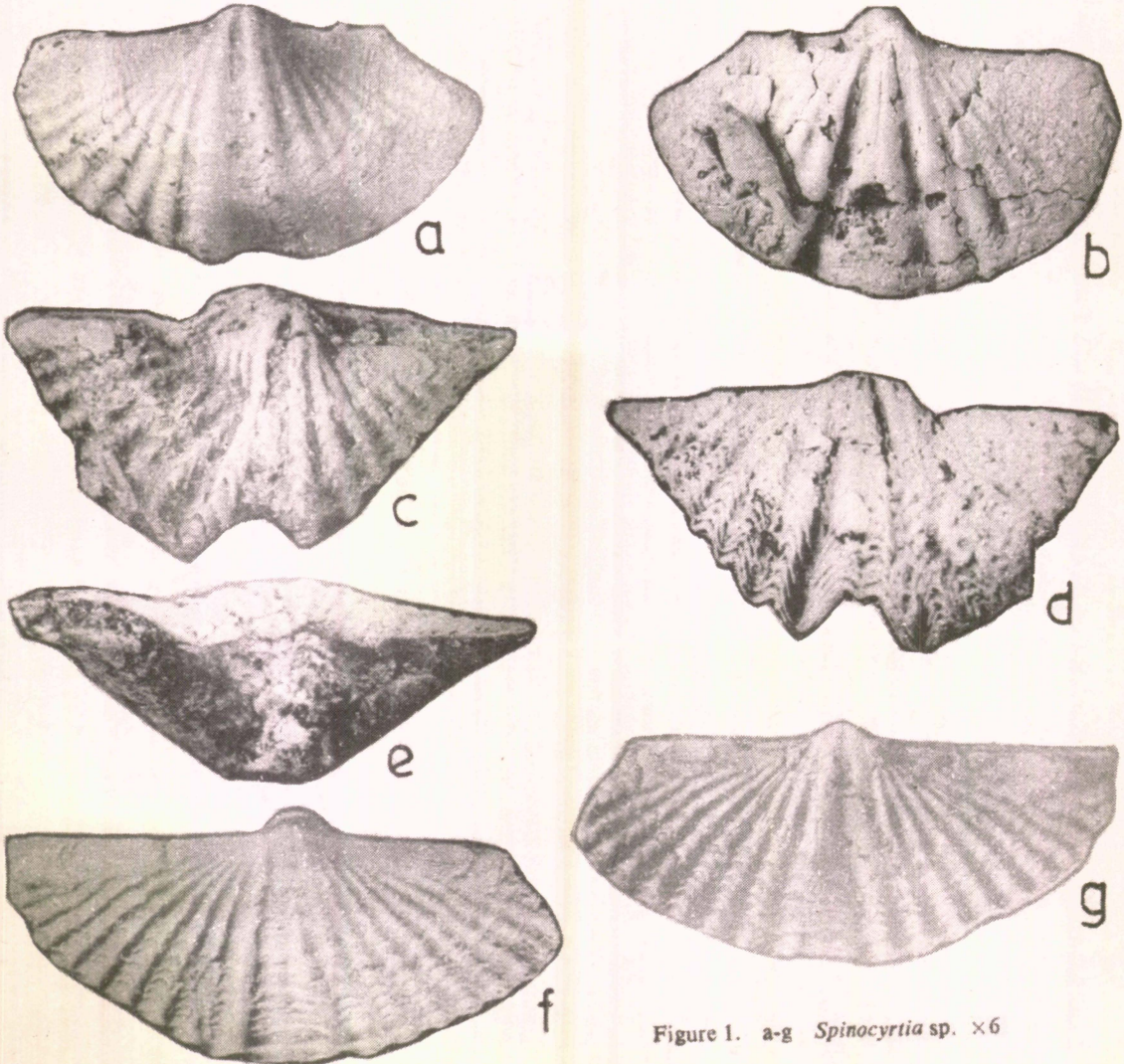


Figure 1. a-g *Spinocyrtia* sp.  $\times 6$

The fresh collection of brachiopods from the limestone succession exposed in the Yulang River contains, in addition to the fossils already described by Reed (1912), several representatives of small, transverse brachiopods with lateral plication. The specimens show concentric lamellae (Fig. 1, a-g). The specimens are identical to the cosmopolitan brachiopod genus *Spinocyrtia* Frederiks. This genus has been described from the Middle and Upper Devonian rocks of Eurasia (Frederiks, 1916) and North America (Moore, 1965). It is not possible to assign specific identification to specimens of *Spinocyrtia* from Himalaya in view of the fact that it is not possible to observe details of the internal characters.

The limestone samples containing representatives of *Spinocyrtia* on maceration in acetic acid have yielded representatives of Upper Devonian conodonts *Palma-tolepis*, *Polygnathus*, etc. corresponding to the Lower *marginifera* Zone of Fammenian age (Gupta and Uppal, 1984).

The occurrence of *Spinocyrtia* Frederiks and associated conodonts suggests uppermost Upper Devonian (Fammenian) age for the limestone-yielding fossils.

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