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“Algal”-nodules in the Upper Werracarbonat from Gera

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Abstract

The author describes sphaeroid calcereous “algal” nodules up to 3 cm in diameter from the Rogensteinhorizont in the Upper Werracarbonat from Gera. Previously, these nodules were called “*Sphaerocodium*”. Their formation is discussed here. The “*Sphaerocodium*” bearing dolomite is intensively micritised preventing any more detailed structural observations.

This shape of spongiostromate oncoids has not been found in the German Zechstein before. However, they are well known from other ancient marine environments. If the primary structure of filaments is visible, then the sphaerocodia are considered to be created by *Girvanella*, a porostromate cyanobacteria, and their nodules are called Cyanoids. The sphaerocodia from Gera are autochthonous and it is assumed that they were also built by *Girvanella*.