

REPORT

A very large *Bradgatia* fossil

The Golf Club Quarry, in Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, contains a very large specimen of *Bradgatia* aff. *linfordensis* that has been described by the writer (Boynton, 1999). The specimen was then noted to be over a metre long, and preserved as a faint trace of fronds and discs stretching over a large area on one of the uppermost bedding planes in the quarry.

On closer scrutiny of enhanced photographs, more detail has now come to light. The fossil trace is much longer than originally thought, and consists of two prominent ovoid two-ringed discs. From one of these a rhachis emerges on two opposing sides and one of these shows bifurcation into branches. This prominent disc and other smaller ones all occur scattered through a mass of faint anastomosing fronds, together with a number of small knob-like structures. The idea that this very large organism was buoyed by the discs and floated in the sea like a massive seaweed colony today is still retained.

The name *Bradgatia* aff. *linfordensis* is given as the specimen could be a variant of *Bradgatia linfordensis*, which was first described from the Memorial Craggs in Bradgate Park (Boynton and Ford, 1995).

The Golf Club Quarry specimen does show some differences, in that it contains a number of small discs associated with the mass of fronds. These are not found in the holotype at Memorial Craggs. Due to the faintness of the trace of this very large frondose specimen, it can only be seen under exceptional lighting conditions that may occur in mid-summer, and by studying enhanced photographs taken of the washed bedding plane when it has been left slightly damp. This is the first record of such a large frondose specimen, over 2 metres long and up to 500 mm wide. Further similar fossils may still await discovery, but their faintness and the necessity for optimum lighting conditions makes them very elusive to detailed description.

References

- Boynton, H.E. and Ford, T. D., 1995. Ediacaran Fossils from the Precambrian (Charnian Supergroup) of Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, England. *Mercian Geologist*, **13**, 165-182.
 Boynton, H.E. 1999. New fossils in the Precambrian of Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, England. *Mercian Geologist*, **14**, 197-200.

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Bradgatia aff. *linfordensis*

in Charnwood Golf Club Quarry

