

## CRETACEOUS ECHINOID FOSSILS FROM CENTRAL HISPANIOLA AND JAMAICA

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### ABSTRACT

A thin fossiliferous marble band has been found in the Maimon Formation, about 6 km E of the town of Maimon (1:50,000 Hatillo sheet; grid reference <sup>3</sup>714<sup>20</sup>912). Although deformed, fossils are robust echinoid spines that are globular to elongate (up to about 45 mm long) and are elliptical in section. The preservation of these spines is undoubtedly a function of their mineralogy (they are composed of single calcite crystals) and the fact that there are few delicate structures to be destroyed. Similar spines have also been recently found in Jamaica in the Devils Racecourse Formation, in limestones of the Copper Member (Hauterivian-early Aptian) and Benbow Member (early Aptian). The spines are reminiscent of those of the hemicidarid genus Pseudocidaris, such as P. Clunifera (L. Agassiz) which have been found in the Zapotitlan (Valangian-Albian) and San Juan Raya (Aptian-Albian) Formations of central Mexico. In the geological record, the hemicidarids range in age from late Jurassic to Cenomanian. The protolith age of the Maimon Formation is unknown, but the preliminary comparison with the other occurrences of the hemicidarids in the central Americas probably indicates an Early Cretaceous (Neocomian) age.