

The stromatoporoid fauna of the West Point Formation (Silurian) on the Gaspé Peninsula

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Stromatoporoids are the major constituent of most of the facies of the West Point reef complex around Port Daniel, Quebec. Variations in the amount and grain-size of siliclastic deposition seems to have effected the biota colonizing the facies. The base of the formation is a relatively shallow, sublittoral distal deltaic sequence of siliclastic siltstones colonized by large stromatoporoids and tabulate corals. Other facies include sponge-supported (?) mudmounds, algal banks and crinoid debris layers. The complex climaxes in a stromatoporoid reef and an associated lagoon of mudflat facies with a variety of

stromatoporoid morphologies suggestive of changing depth and wave energy regimes. Several small stromatoporoid patch reefs of bioherms are also present. Progressing analysis of the taxonomy and morphologies of these stromatoporoids suggest that the West Point Formation displays a normal community succession from pioneer stages to climax and dominance stages but with several setbacks in the process. These "setbacks" can probably be related to changes in water depth and sediment influx associated with contemporaneous volcanic activity in the area.