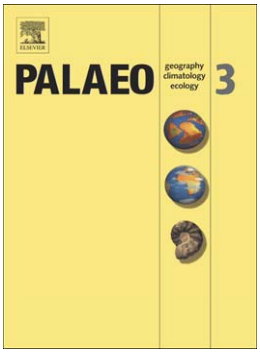

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ABSTRACT

Dickinsonia is an enigmatic fossil of Ediacaran age, various interpreted as a lichen, foraminiferan, placozoan, cnidarian or worm, and now Evans et al. (2015) have provided documentation of new and informative specimens from Nilpena in the Flinders Ranges of South Australia. They consider missing marginal slivers evidence for soft bodied free living *Dickinsonia* lifted by current, but such marginal dismemberment of *Dickinsonia* by currents requires attachment of the rest of the body to the substrate more firmly than body cohesion. Unidirectional orientation of missing pieces of *Dickinsonia* were considered evidence of shallow marine storms, but such directed currents are found in floods or tsunamis. Finally, curved conchoidal fracture of the missing slivers reveals that the unskeletonized carapace of *Dickinsonia* was not always soft and flexible, but sometimes hardened, perhaps by desiccation or freezing.

Key words: Ediacaran, *Dickinsonia*, South Australia, taphonomy

1. Missing pieces indicative of attachment or free living?

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