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Gregory J. Retallack

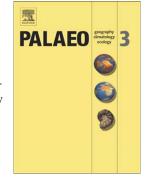
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Gregory J. Retallack*

Department of Geological Sciences, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403

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?

* E-Mail address: gregr@uoregon.edu (G.J. Retallack)

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