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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### Restudy of the Early Devonian rugose coral Xystriphylloides from South China

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#### Abstract

Early Devonian rugose coral *Xystriphylloides* in South China is restudied from the perspective of its taxonomic definition, biostratigraphy, paleoecology, and implication for the Yujiang Event. The diagnostic characters of the genus are clarified and its taxonomic position is also revised. In particular the septa of *Xystriphylloides* are shown to be fibrous rather than trabeculate. *Xystriphylloides distinctus* Yu n. sp. is described. Species of *Xystriphylloides* are widely distributed in South China and North Vietnam, so they are useful for regional biostratigraphic correlation and regional geological mapping. As an important biostrome builder, *Xystriphylloides* became extinct below the base of the *nothoperbonus* Conodont Zone, so it can be considered as one of the important pieces of evidence for recognizing the first episode of the Early Devonian Emsian Yujiang Event, which is also significant for studying paleoecology and event stratigraphy.

**Keywords:** rugose corals; fibrous septa; Devonian; biostrome; event stratigraphy; Yujiang Event

#### **1. Introduction**

The generic name *Xystriphylloides* with its type species *X. nobilis* was proposed in a paper recording the subdivision of Devonian Yukiang Formation and its underlying Nahkaoling Formation in central-eastern Guangxi (Wang et al., 1964). No systematic

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