

The Geological Society of America, Inc.

Memoir 108

COPROLITES

An Annotated Bibliography

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1968

PREFACE

Coprolites, or fossilized animal excrements, have received a considerable amount of attention since their nature became known to scientists. The present study has grown out of the 1958 paper by G. C. Amstutz on *Coprolites: A review of the literature and a study of specimens from southern Washington*. The response to this review was so great that it appeared worthwhile to elaborate it and to cover the subject by a review as complete as possible. W. Häntzschel provided most of the European entries; F. El-Baz and W. Häntzschel abstracted the non-European literature. The work was co-ordinated by G. C. Amstutz.

In the introductory part of this work we discuss briefly some general questions about coprolites — their occurrences in the geologic column, their preservation and their chances of becoming fossilized, their importance for stratigraphy, sedimentology and paleoecology, the problem of their nomenclature and classification, the difficulty of ascribing them to specific animals, their size, shape, and composition.

The Annotated Bibliography includes abstracts of all works consulted by the authors. The attempt to review all available studies on fossil and recent coprolites necessitated incorporation of works that do not deal exclusively with coprolites, but that refer to them in the course of description of other fossils. Probably several of these papers have been overlooked. References which have no special interest, in other words, those which mention occurrences of coprolites only very briefly were not included. Textbooks and similar works containing only short definitions of the term coprolite have also been omitted.

Appendix I by W. Häntzschel contains the names of the animals (or taxonomic units of them) to which coprolites are ascribed and the "generic" names of the coprolites as far as any have been given. This index will enable the reader to find the literature describing coprolites of special animals. Appendix II by F. El-Baz contains an alphabetical list of authors arranged according to the year of publication.

Hamburg, Washington,
and Heidelberg,
March 1968

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