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New species of Vetulicolians from the Lower Cambrian Guanshan Biota, China

Li, J.S.¹, Liu, J.N.^{1*}

¹ Early Life Institute, State Key Laboratory of Continental Dynamics, Department of Geology, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, China.

* Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Liu, J.N. E-mail: liujianni@126.com or eliljn@nwu.edu.cn

Vetulicolians are enigmatic Cambrian metazoans which play an important role in Guanshan biota^{[1][2][3][4][5]}. Here we describe *Vetulicola* cf. *longbaoshanensis* Yang et al., 2010 from the Lower Cambrian Wulongqing Formation (the so-called Guanshan biota) in southeast Wuding and compare it to described species of *Vetulicola* in Chengjiang biota. *Vetulicola* cf. *longbaoshanensis* Yang et al., 2010 possesses a flat oar-like posterior section and dorsal edge leans up posteriorly in 10 degree. The anterior/posterior body junction and the fin-like dorsal projection of *Vetulicola* cf. *longbaoshanensis* Yang et al., 2010 migrates more anteriorly than do most described taxa. The gill slits of the new species are relatively primitive than that of Vetulicolians in Chengjiang Lagerstätten. Besides, compared with the carapace of Vetulicolians in Chengjiang Lagerstätten, the carapace of the new species is more soft, which probably make the new speices more flexible and thus enhance the capablity of swimming and predation.

References:

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