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Late Cretaceous fossils from Ula Point, James Ross Island, collected during the 1986–1987 expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula

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A 1-day reconnaissance visit was made to Ula Point ($64^{\circ}7'S$ $57^{\circ}10'W$), on the eastern coast of James Ross Island on 5 January 1987 (figures 1 and 2). The purpose of the visit was to measure the Upper Cretaceous sequence at Ula Point and to make paleontological collections. The Cretaceous sediments at Ula Point are part of the Snow Hill Island Series which crops out on James Ross, Vega, and Snowhill islands (Andersson 1906; Zinsmeister 1982). The sequence at Ula Point is characterized by unconsolidated sands with intercalated sandy clays and clays with concretionary horizons and occasional fine-grained glauconitic sandstone beds.



Figure 1. Ula Point, James Ross Island, Antarctic Peninsula. View to the southeast.



Figure 2. Fossil specimens were collected as lag on the gentle to moderate slopes in the sequence shown.

A conspicuous element of the Ula Point fauna is the great abundance of the serpulids, *Rotularia* spp., which in some cases cover the gentle slopes. Ball (1960) stated that *Rotularia* is rarely present at Lachman Crag and Cape Lamb but common at The Naze. *Rotularia* specimens are also found in vast numbers on Snow Hill and Seymour islands (Macellari 1986) as well as Ula Point. Megafossils are relatively rare and occur mainly as weathered molds and casts. The fossils collected include the following: the ammonites *Maorites* cf. *densicostatus* (Kilian and Reboul), *Jacobites* cf. *crofti* Spath including an unusual pathologic specimen, *Gunnarites* spp. and *Pseudophyllites* cf. *peregrinus* Spath; the nautiloid "*Eutrophoceras*" sp. the bivalves *Acesta* cf. *snowhillensis* (Wilckens), *Entolium* sp., and *Cucullaea* sp.; the gastropods *Euraticina arctowskiana* (Wilckens), *Amberleya* cf. *spinigera* (Wilckens), an archaeogastropod and a naticid?; the scaphopod *Eodentalium grandis* Medina and del Valle; the decapod *Hoploparia stokesi* (Weller); and teredid bored wood.

Spath (1953) described some Lower to Middle Campanian ammonites (*Jacobites* and *Gunnarites*) "North of Cape Gage" (presumably Ula Point) and Bibby (1966) discussed the presence of *Jacobites*, *Gunnarites*, and *Rotularia* there but made no mention of any other taxa present. As with the Humps Island faunal assemblage, most of the specimens occur in concretions and extensive preparation is needed before a final faunal analysis can be made. This preliminary report suggests that the data from

Ula Point will provide important stratigraphic and faunal data concerning the Late Cretaceous history of the James Ross basin.

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Late Cretaceous faunal assemblage of Humps Island collected during the 1986–1987 expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula

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During the 1986–1987 expedition to Seymour Island, a 1-day visit to Humps Island (figure 1) was made to measure a section through the poorly known Upper Cretaceous sequence that exists on the island. Humps Island is located on the extreme northeastern part of the Antarctic Peninsula just northeast of James Ross Island (63°59'S 57°25'W). A large collection of exceptionally well-preserved macroinvertebrates and other fossils was taken from an outcrop on the western part (figure 2) as well

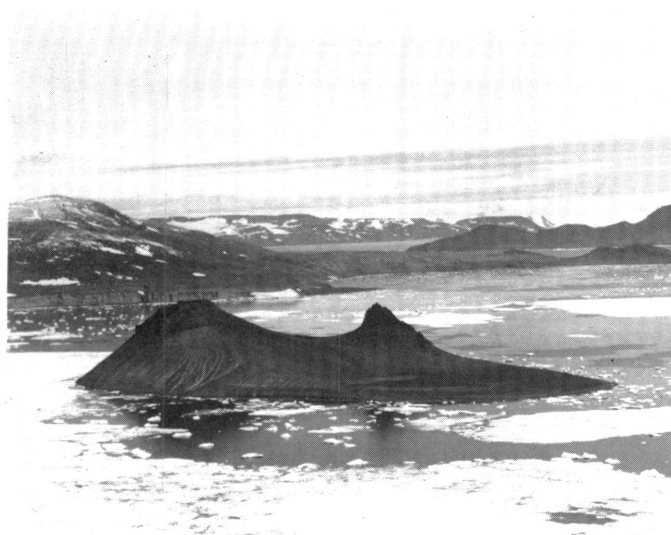


Figure 1. Humps Island, Antarctic Peninsula. View to the west.



Figure 2. Fossil locality on the west side of the island. A large number of well-preserved specimens were collected from this horizon.

as from exposures on the eastern part of the island. The Upper Cretaceous sediments on Humps Island belong to the Snow Hill Island Series which crops out on James Ross, Vega, and Snow Hill islands (Andersson 1906; Zinsmeister 1982) and is composed of variegated, loosely consolidated sands and sandy clays with interbedded calcareous siltstone concretions. The siltstone concretions contain abundant fossils which are overlain by Late Cenozoic volcanic rocks of the James Ross Island Volcanic Group.