



A new species of the genus *Follicrinus* (Echinodermata, Crinoidea) from the Middle Devonian (Eifelian) of the Czech Republic

Rudolf J. Prokop

Department of Palaeontology, Václavské náměstí 68, National Museum, CZ-115 79 Praha 1, Czech Republic; e-mail: rudolf.prokop@seznam.cz

ABSTRACT. This paper presents the first record of unique crinoid from the Bohemian Middle Devonian, Choteč Limestone (Lower Eifelian) of the Barrandian area. The crinoid species is described here as *Follicrinus astacus* sp. n.

KEY WORDS. Crinoidea, Inadunata, *Follicrinus astacus* sp. n., Middle Devonian, Lower Eifelian, Choteč Limestone, Barrandian Area, Czech Republic.

INTRODUCTION

In 2007, our colleague Štěpán Rak enriched the collections of the Department of Palaeontology, National Museum, by a unique Middle Devonian crinoid. The specimen belongs to the family Mastigocrinidae Jaekel, 1918, till present unknown from the Czech Republic and it represents the new species of the genus *Follicrinus* Schmidt, 1934.

SYSTEMATIC PART

Subclass: Inadunata Wachsmuth et Springer, 1885

Order: Cladida Moore et Laudon, 1943

Family: Mastigocrinidae Jaekel, 1918

***Follicrinus* Schmidt, 1934**

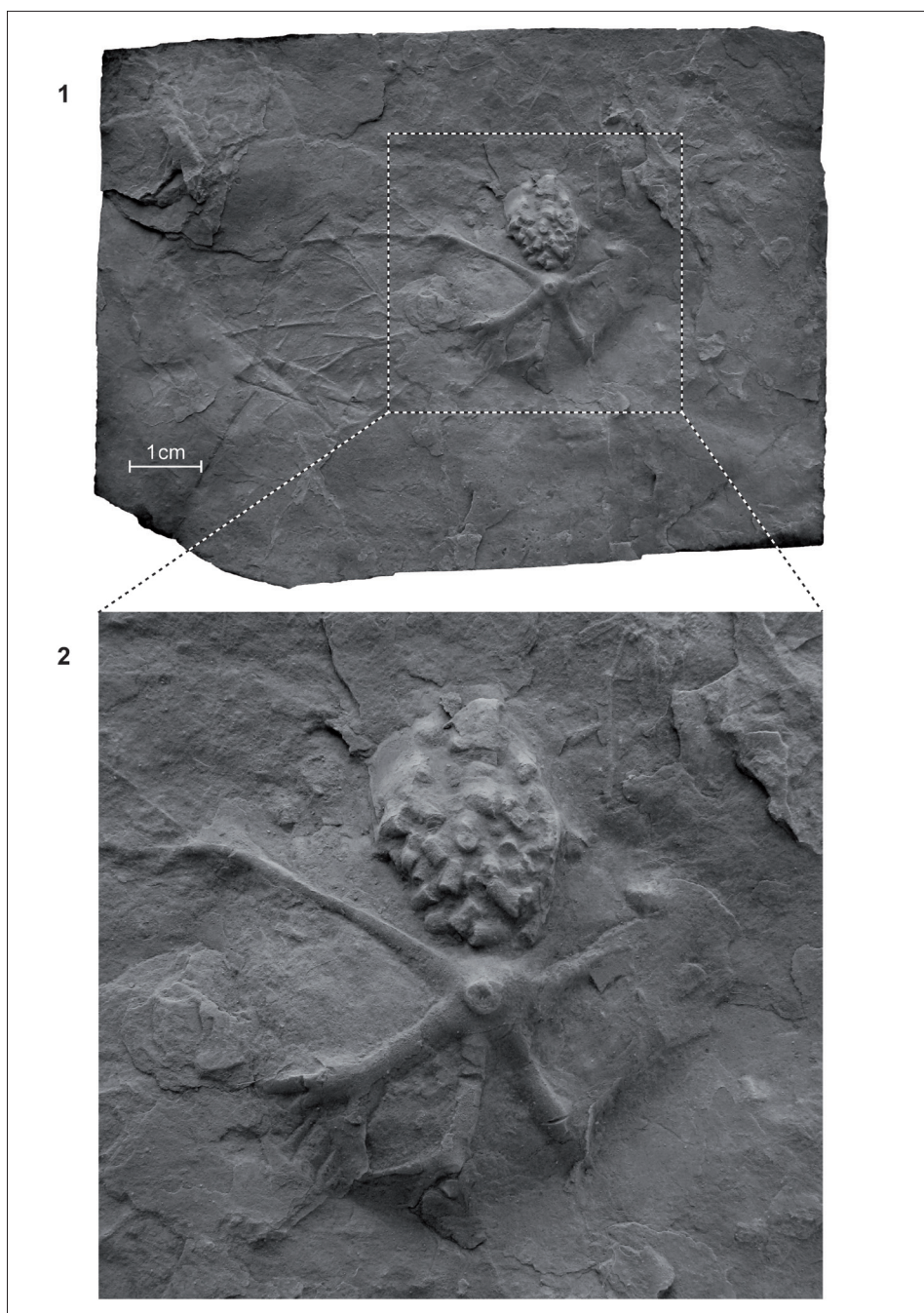
Type species: *Taxocrinus arebei* Follman, 1887

***Follicrinus astacus* sp. n.**

(Figs. 1-2.)

HOLOTYPE: NMP L 40888, almost complete, slightly dorsoventrally compressed crown with opened arms, preserved on the surface of the slab of micritic Choteč limestones.

TYPE HORIZON: Middle Devonian, Eifelian, Choteč Formation, Choteč Limestone.



Figs. 1-2. *Follicrinus astacus* sp. n. from "U jezírka" quarry, Praha-Hlubočepy; Middle Devonian, Eifelian, Choteč Formation, Choteč Limestone. 1 - Holotype NMP L40888, almost complete crown extended on the surface of slab of the Choteč Limestone, basal view. 2 - dtto, detail of the crown. Photographs by V. Turek and the author.

TYPE LOCALITY: Praha-Hlubočepy, section in the western part of the abandoned quarry “U jezírka”.

DERIVATIO NOMINIS: *astacus* (Latin name for crayfish, in Czech “rak”); after Štěpán Rak, who found and donated this unique specimen to the Palaeontological Department of the National Museum.

MATERIAL: Only the holotype.

DESCRIPTION: Cup small, low cone shaped with height approximately equal to width. Surface of cup plates finely granulated. Base convex, infrabasals laterally well visible. Radial articular facet wide, peneplenary. Radianal and anal X in cup. Anal sac greatly inflated, ballon shaped. It is composed of numerous platelets, preserved only in the small fragments of lateral walls. Noteworthy is contents of anal sac – indigestible skeletal remains, i.e. columnals of the small undeterminable crinoids (prey?). Arms slender, uniserial, spreading with 3-4 isotomous branches. Stem or columnals not preserved.

REMARKS: *Follicrinus astacus* sp. n. is related to the type species *Follicrinus arebei* (Follman, 1887) from the Hunsrück Slates (Lower Devonian, Emsian, Germany). The new species from Bohemia is stratigraphically younger (Middle Devonian, Eifelian) and it differs from the type species in having broader primibrachials and non-stellate platelets that composed the anal sac.

The only specimen of *Follicrinus astacus* sp. n. is preserved in dark-grey micritic limestone that probably sedimentated in the deeper, weakly aerated portion of the sedimentary basin with relatively low currents.

DIMENSIONS (in mm): diameter of cup, 6.0; height of cup, 3.0; max. width of radial facets, 1.3; max. preserved length of arms, 47.0; length of anal sac, 14.0; diameter of anal sac, 10.

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