

Phosphatic tubes

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Narrow tubes composed of phosphate, most of them found in acid-resistant residues, have been recorded at Vattenfallet at several levels (Fig. 66). The walls of the tubes are laminated, and there may be fine annulations on the outer surface. The shape and cross section are usually somewhat irregular. Observed diameters vary from 0.1 to 1.0 mm, and the angle of divergence from just a few degrees to about 10°. Tubes of this kind are currently referred to the Order Hyolithelminthes Fisher, 1962. They can be assumed to have housed a sedentary worm-like animal. Some recent sedentary polychaetes contain phosphatic minerals in their tubes (Vinogradov 1953:235–237), and phoronids, by virtue of their close affinity with brachiopods and bryozoans (with regard to phosphate secretion in bryozoans, see, e.g. Martinsson 1965), may also be suspected of having once been capable of secreting phosphatic tubes. What kind of animal did in fact inhabit the tubes from Vattenfallet is at present open to speculation.

REFERENCES

- MARTINSSON, A., 1965: Phosphatic linings in bryozoan zooecia. – Geol. Fören. Stockholm Förh. 86:404–408.
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