

Coenitids

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There is doubt as to the true taxonomic position of the coenitids (see Brood 1970, 1976a) since some authors refer them to corals and others to bryozoans. For this reason the family is not assigned here to a phylum.

In the Vattenfallet collections coenitids are represented by *Coenites juniperinus* Eichwald and *C. sp. a*. The material comprises about 300 fragments of colonies that can be regarded as macrofossils, together with a great number of small fragments. The distribution is shown in Fig. 55.

Branched colonies of *Coenites* from the Wenlockian of Gotland have previously been generally identified as *C. repens* (Wahlenberg) (Hennig 1906; Brood 1970, etc.). However, the status of *C. repens* is doubtful because no types exist and the type locality is unknown. Klaamann (1964) revised *Coenites juniperinus*, the type species of the genus, and stabilised the concept of the species by designating a neotype from the Jaagarahu Stage of Estonia. The specimens from Vattenfallet compare closely with *C. juniperinus* both in structure and dimensions. No attempt is made here to distinguish the growth forms of the species described by Hennig (1906) because they appear have no taxonomic value. Colonies of *Coenites sp. a* have a laminar growth.

The volumetric importance of *Coenites* relative to bryozoans is shown on Figs. 56–57. The genus is particularly common in some beds at the top of Högklint *c*, but the fragments there are rounded and frequently encrusted by algae. The material was probably transported. Colonies of *Coenites* lived with a holdfast attached to, or encrusting a hard substrate. On Gotland the genus is especially common in reef environments (Brood 1976b), and particularly in basal portions of reef bodies.

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