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A LATE MIDDLE CAMBRIAN DAMESELLID TRILOBITE
CRANIDIUM FROM BEACONSFIELD, TASMANIA

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(with one plate)

ABSTRACT

JAGO, J.B., 1981 (30 ix): A Late Middle Cambrian dameselliid trilobite cranidium from Beaconsfield, Tasmania. *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tasm.*, 115, 19-20 (with one plate).
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A recent discovery confirms the presence of dameselliid trilobites in a late Middle Cambrian fauna from near Beaconsfield.

Jago (1980) illustrated and briefly discussed a poorly-preserved late Middle Cambrian fauna from near Beaconsfield, which was discovered by Green (1959). In February 1980, Professor D. Green, Dr M.R. Banks and a party of geology students from the University of Tasmania collected further fossils from this locality. The fossils include the best preserved specimen (Plate 1, figs. 1 and 2) so far found at this locality. It is a substantially complete trilobite cranidium of a member of the Damesellidae; both the internal and external moulds are available. Of the specimens figured in Jago (1980) the cranidium figured in pl. 1, fig. 17 and the pygidium figured in pl. 1, fig. 21 probably belong in the same species as the newly discovered cranidium. As far as can be determined, the Beaconsfield specimens probably belong in a new genus of the Damesellidae, which is characterized by a substantial spine emerging from the posterior margin of the occipital ring and a glabella, with a broadly rounded anterior, which stops well short of the anterior margin of the cranidium. However, the preservation is not adequate to warrant formal description of the material and the erection of either a new species or a new genus.

The catalogue numbers refer to the collection of the Geology Department, University of Tasmania.

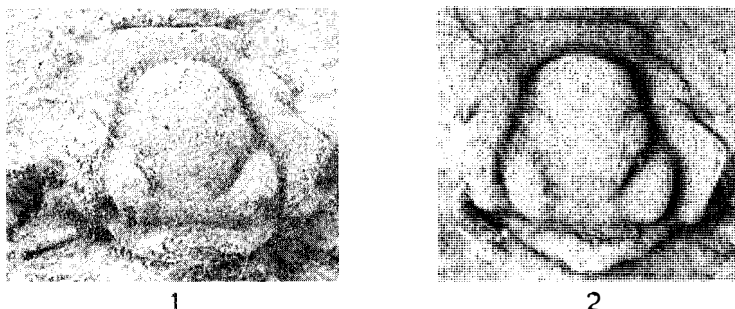


FIG.1.- UT 121077a, internal mould of dameselliid cranidium, x 2.5.

FIG.2.- UT 121077b, rubber cast of external mould of dameselliid cranidium, x 2.5.

Both specimens were whitened with magnesium oxide prior to photography.

Cambrian Trilobite from Beaconsfield

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