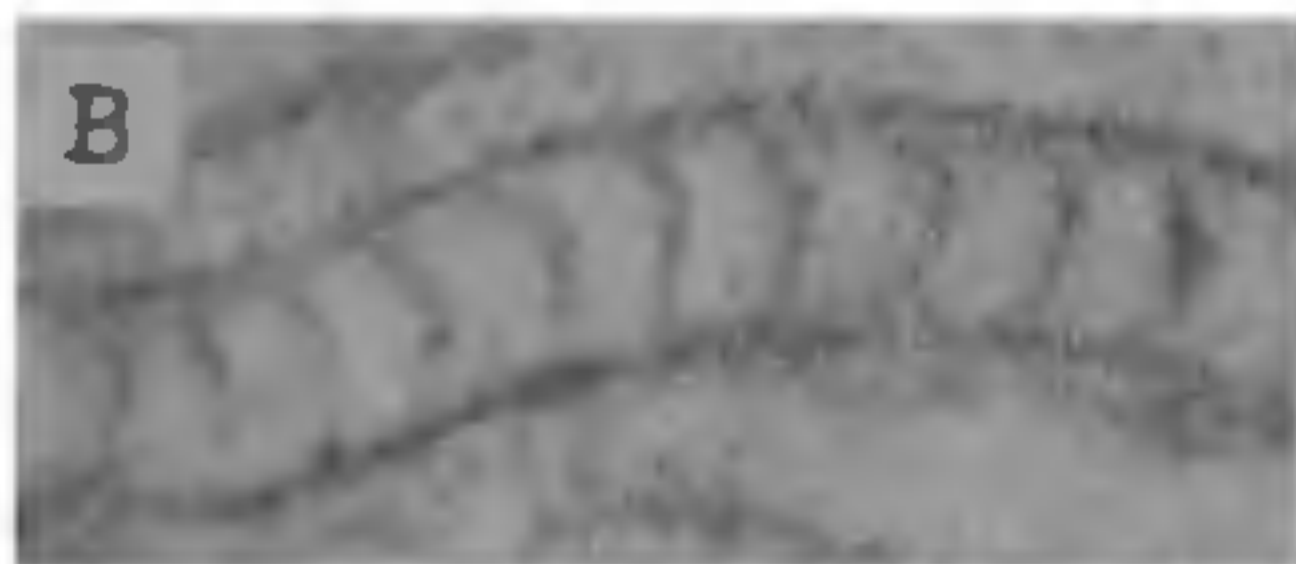
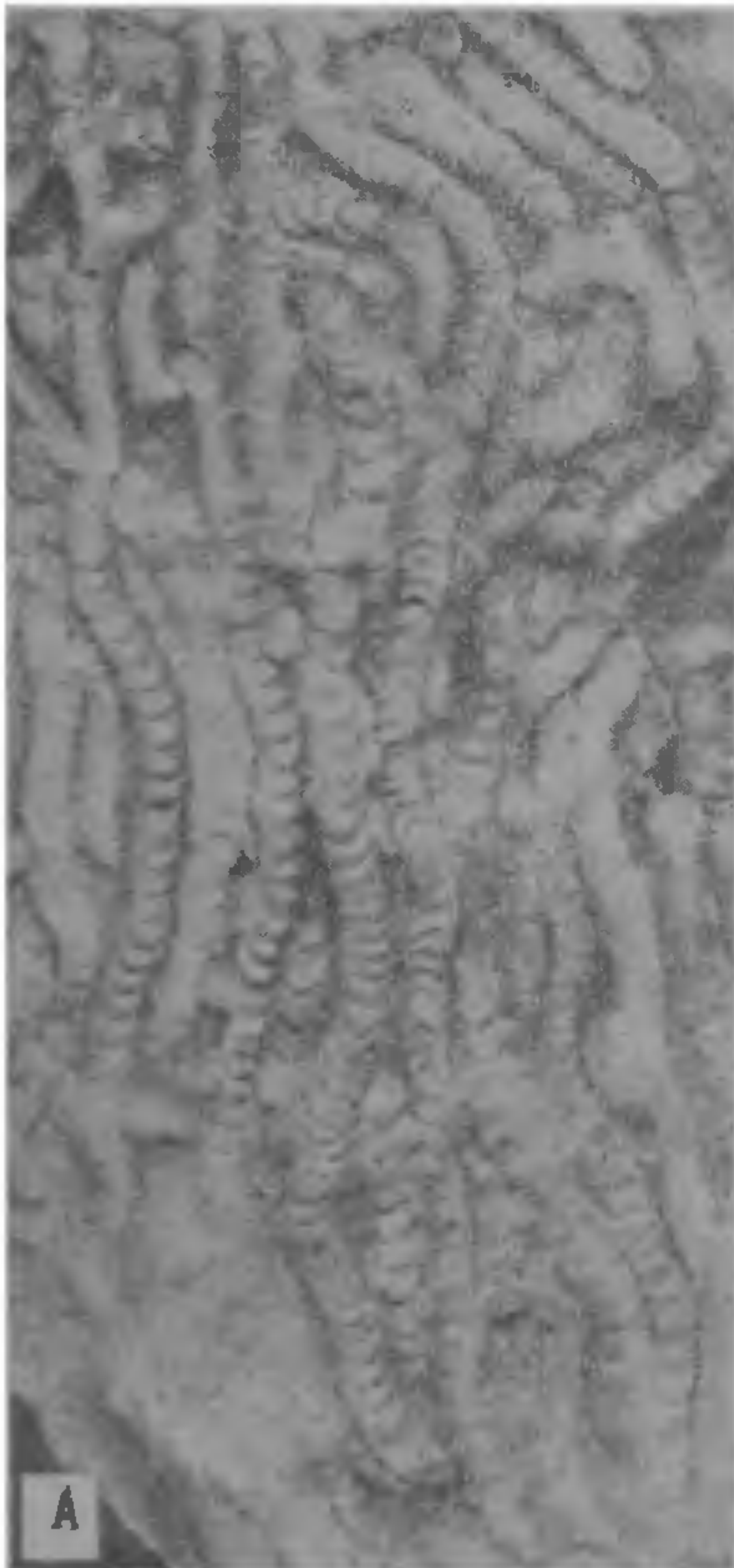


**A NEW TRACE FOSSIL FROM THE  
UPPER CRETACEOUS OF SOUTH INDIA**

A NEW burrow type *Trace Fossil* from the South Indian Cretaceous series is reported here.

Genus *Scalarituba* Weller 1899.

*Scalarituba indica* sp. nov.



1 cm

*Description*: Burrows cylindrical, sub-surface, parallel to bedding plane; in general slightly flexuous, though more or less broad bending not uncommon acute bending not noticed; when much crowded burrows running almost parallel, otherwise more or less deflecting away from one another, and sometimes one crossing over another; diameter of burrow in axial section almost constant. Each burrow filled with a series of cones inserted into one another; cones not very deep, posteriorly broadly rounded, but not having U-shaped nor narrowly V-shaped axial section; apertural edge of each cone touching burrow wall; no sign of any tube or even thin lining along the burrow wall.

Along either side of some burrows a series of minute pits visible just posterior to the apertural edges of the cones.

*Remarks*: The cones filling the burrows show their circular cross-section exposed on the broken edges of the slabs containing the burrows; also the burrows are always parallel to the bedding planes; the habit of the animal was thus to make burrows sub-surface in position, horizontal and definitely not vertical in disposition as made by *Polyupsilon coloradoensis* described by Howell (1957) from the Cretaceous Dakota formations near Turkey Creek Canyon, Pueblo Country, Colorado, and other similar U-in-U structures referred to by him.

Compared to *Scalarituba missouriensis* Kinderhook from the Lower Mississippian of the U.S.A. (Häntzschel, 1962, W 215, Fig. 133·4) our present species differs in having slightly narrower burrow, the cones a little deeper but posteriorly less narrow and the burrows longer and in general apparently far more crowded together.

The burrows from the Lower Barremian sandstone of Westphalia, Germany, figured by Pettijohn and Potter (1964, pl. 116 A) are much broader, cones more conical, deeper and less regularly spaced; also those burrows are much shorter and irregular in trends.

*Occurrence*: Buff coloured sandstone of Trichinopoly group 1·5 km north-east of Alundalipur.

Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science, P. M. TAPASWI.  
Poona-4, April 21, 1972.

1. Häntzschel, W., *Trace Fossils and Problematica in Treat. Invert. Pal.* Edt. by R. C. Moore, Kansas Univ. Press, 1962.
2. Howell, B. F., *J. Pal. Soc. Ind.*, 1957, 2, 149.
3. Pettijohn, F. J. and Potter, P. E., *Atlas and Glossary of Primary Sedimentary Structures.* Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1964.

FIG. 1 A. Burrows showing crowding, X 1.  
FIG. 1 B. Enlarged portion of a burrow, X 2.  
*Material*: Large No. of Specimens. *Holotype* No. Al 10/70.  
*Dimensions*: Width of burrow.....3 mm to 4 mm. Max. length measured on our specimen.... 120 mm. Distance between apertural edges of two consecutive cones.....2·5 mm to 3 mm.