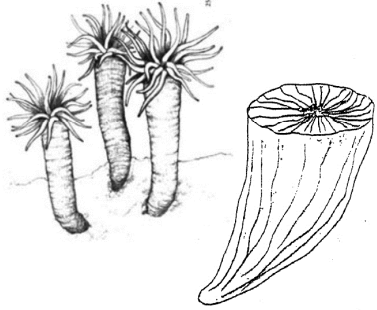


Ordovician Fossils of South West Ohio

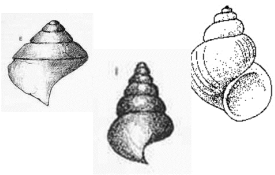
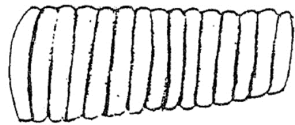


Horn Coral

These were attached to the ocean floor by the pointed end. Tentacles protruded from the wide end. These tentacles waved in the water to capture food. Horn corals are related to modern corals and sea anemones.

Cephalopods

These were squide-like animals that were probably the most common predators of the Ordovician seas. They had tentacles like squid or octopus that protruded from their heads located in the wide end of the shell. By releasing compressed water from their chambered shells, cephalopods were capable of fast motion on the same principle as jet propulsion.

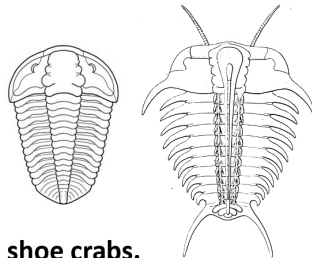


Gastropods

These were snails and resemble the same ones we see today. The land snails evolved from these aquatic snails which lived in the ocean 450 million years ago.

Trilobites

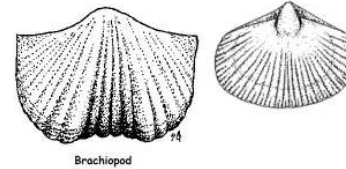
These are Ohio's state fossil. They are considered to be the great-grandfathers of today's insects, crabs, lobsters, and spiders. These uncommon fossils are often found rolled-up, making people believe they are fossil roly-poly bugs, but they are actually more closely related to horse shoe crabs.



Ordovician Fossils

Here, in SW Ohio, our rocks are really old. They are from the Ordovician Period which was about 488 - 444 million years ago. During this time, Ohio was much closer to the equator and was covered by warm, shallow seas. The fossils that we find in this area were animals that lived in this warm, shallow sea.

Please remember that fossil collection is not allowed in Butler County Parks. Good places to look for fossils are at Trammel Fossil Park in Sharonville, and at both Hueston Woods and Caesar Creek State Parks. At the State Parks you must receive permission from the rangers.

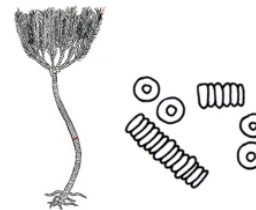
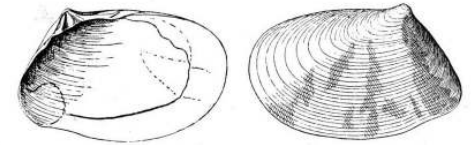


Brachiopod

Shellfish that lived on the ocean bottom like most other Ordovician animals. They were very abundant and their fossils are found in almost every limestone rock.

Pelecypods

Similar to modern clams. You can tell the difference between these and brachiopods by looking to see if the shell is symmetrical either side of the hinge. Pelecypods are not symmetrical and brachiopods are.



Crinoid

These animals looked like "see flowers". The fossils found today were part of the stem that was rooted to the ocean floor. The "flower head" portion of the animal was fleshy and did not often fossilize. The "flower" part was tentacles that waved in the water current to catch food.

Bryozoans

These formed large colonies like coral reefs of today's oceans. These are not coral as they have different digestive system, or way of eating their food. Each fossil is actually hundreds of tiny houses built on top of each other.

