ABSTRACT

Upper Oligocene echinoids of Jamaica
Harold Lloyd Dixon

Relatively few Oligocene echinoids are known from the Caribbean. This may be a consequence of the extinction of many taxa from the diverse Eocene fauna during the late Eocene to mid Oligocene, but it also reflects a lack of collecting by palaeontologists. Only one species, the spatangoid *Eupatagus hildae* Hawkins, has been previously described from the Oligocene of Jamaica, in contrast to at least 70 species recognised from the Eocene of the island. However, echinoids are locally common and moderately diverse, at least in the Upper Oligocene (Chattian). Exposures in old and working quarries in the type area of the Browns Town Formation in the parish of St. Ann, north central Jamaica, have yielded 11 species of echinoid. Regular echinoids are represented by radioles, such as those of *Prionocidaris spinidentatus* (Palmer), and rare coronal plates. Many regular echinoid fragments are considered incerti ordinis. Irregular echinoids are more common, better preserved and more diverse. The irregular echinoid fauna is dominated numerically by three species of *Clypeaster*, *C. batheri* Lambert, *C. oxybaphon* Jackson and *Clypeaster* sp. nov. Other irregular echinoid taxa include the holectypoid *Echinoneus* sp. cf. *E. cyclostomus* Leske; the cassiduloid
Echinolampas lycopersicus? Guppy and the spatangoids Eupataquus hildae Hawkins, Agassizia sp. and indeterminate sp. or spp. Comparison with the echinoid fauna of the Chattian Antigua Formation of Antigua shows some generic/specific similarities. However, echinoids from the Oligocene of Puerto Rico agree less well with those of Jamaica and Antigua.