

to the holotype concept, and a more general agreement and standardization in the use of the infraspecific units—subspecies, variety, and variant.

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SUPPOSED FOSSIL FROM THE CHARNIAN

SIR,—In the course of a study of the Pre-Cambrian rocks of Leicestershire a tubular object, resembling the kind of tube made by burrowing worms, was discovered in the Brand Series of Swithland Wood, Charnwood Forest, near the "Brand" on the east side of the Charnian dome.

The rocks of Swithland Wood and the near-by grounds of the "Brand" are made up of the so-called Brand ash and conglomerate. Quartzite is extremely abundant, interbedded with chloritic and slaty material; the specimen was found in the interbedded slaty material.

The object is approximately 18 mm. long, about 2 mm. wide, tubular, the substance of the central space of the tube being composed essentially of vugh-like crystalline quartz. The tube shows nodular thickening or transverse ridges on its upper surface, the ridges about 3 mm. apart. The material composing the object is chlorite.

Lapworth (Watts, 1947, p. 104)¹ noted the lithological resemblance of the Cardingmill Grit, a member of the Synalds Group of the Stretton Series of the Longmynd, to the lower part of the Brand Series. So-called worm tracks and burrows have been reported from the Synalds Group in the Longmynd and Lapworth (Watts, op. cit., p. 104) also found a worm burrow in Bradgate Park, Charnwood Forest, about 1 to 1½ miles south of the "Brand". From the same locality other specimens have since been reported by Bennett and Rhodes (Watts, op. cit., p. 104).

Nevertheless, some of the supposed markings found in the Pre-Cambrian, such as the so-called ripple-marks of the Longmyndian have lately been considered secondary deformation or related phenomena, and the "ripple-marks" have been termed shear and pressure effects. Similarly the so-called worm boring discussed here may have been of inorganic origin, and the external ridging of the tube may be of a fortuitous nature.

The specimen has been given to the Geological Survey Museum and is registered 84592.

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¹ WATTS, W. W., 1947. *Geology of the Ancient Rocks of Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire*. Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society.