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Geological Survey of Canada Bulletin 603



**Central Foreland NATMAP Project: Proterozoic to Devonian
stratigraphic sections in British Columbia and Yukon**

Edited by L.S. Lane and R.B. MacNaughton

2017



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ISSN 2560-7219

ISBN 978-0-660-04324-1

Catalogue No. M42-603E-PDF

<https://doi.org/10.4095/299863>

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Cover illustration

Aerial view northward across Redfern Lake (NTS 94G/05). The ridge north of the lake reveals well-exposed thrust-faulted repetitions of Ordovician to Devonian carbonate strata of the Beaverfoot, Nonda, Muncho-McConnell and Stone formations. 2017-099

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SUMMARY

The Central Foreland NATMAP Project was initiated in 1997, and received NATMAP support between 1998 and 2002. Its principal objectives were to carry out new bedrock and surficial mapping through two contrasting transects across the Cordilleran foothills of northern British Columbia and adjacent southeastern Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The two transects straddle a geologically unique transition, marked by a dramatic broadening and change in trend of the Cordilleran deformed belt, and by related changes in stratigraphy, sedimentary environments, paleogeography, and structural style. These profound changes in the style and scale of folds and faults reflect the influence of older structures at depth. Improved knowledge of how these influences have interacted help to improve the efficiency of resource exploration and development, and reduce its cumulative impact on this ecologically sensitive region.

A significant aspect of the project included measuring stratigraphic sections in outcrop within and near the areas of detailed mapping, using the project's base camp to facilitate the logistics. This work was done by staff scientists, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty affiliated with collaborating universities. This bulletin provides detailed descriptions of most of the stratigraphic sections measured in Proterozoic to Devonian strata as part of the Central Foreland NATMAP Project, as well as a number of sections that were measured in the project area in the 1960s and 1970s. These earlier-measured sections have either not been published or have been published only in summary form. In addition to detailed section descriptions, this bulletin includes additional documentation such as correlation charts and field photographs, as well as a digital file of quality-assured metadata (Appendix) for each section representing a step toward a digital-data repository of stratigraphic sections. The result is a citable, data-rich document that serves as a basis for synthesis reports in external scientific journals.

A single, detailed section through an unnamed Proterozoic map unit in southeast Yukon (MacNaughton's contribution), represents the only study from the northern transect included here, whereas the remainder of the studies focus on Paleozoic strata in northeastern British Columbia. MacNaughton's contribution describes the sedimentary structures that document a deep-marine, distal turbidite depositional setting for this unit.

In the first of two contributions, Pyle and Barnes describe twelve sections through Upper Cambrian to Lower Silurian strata along a transect across the

SOMMAIRE

Le projet de l'avant-pays central du programme CARTNAT a été lancé en 1997 et a bénéficié du soutien de ce programme de 1998 à 2002. Le projet avait pour principaux objectifs de produire une nouvelle cartographie du substratum rocheux et des formations superficielles le long de deux transects contrastants dans le piémont de la Cordillère, s'étendant au nord de la Colombie-Britannique et aux parties adjacentes du sud-est du Yukon et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Les deux transects s'étendent de part et d'autre d'une transition unique sur le plan géologique, qui se manifeste par un élargissement marqué et un changement de direction de la zone déformée de la Cordillère, ainsi que par des changements connexes dans la stratigraphie, les milieux sédimentaires, la paléogéographie et le style structural. Ces profonds changements dans le style et la dimension des plis et des failles témoignent de l'influence de structures anciennes en profondeur. L'amélioration des connaissances sur la façon dont ces influences ont interagi, devrait contribuer à rendre plus efficaces l'exploration et la mise en valeur des ressources et à réduire leurs effets cumulatifs sur cette région écosensible.

L'un des aspects importants de l'étude consistait à mesurer des coupes stratigraphiques en affleurement dans les secteurs de cartographie détaillée et à proximité de ceux-ci, en se servant du camp de base du projet pour faciliter la logistique. Ses travaux ont été accomplis par des chercheurs internes, des étudiants diplômés, des boursiers de recherche postdoctorale et du personnel d'universités participantes. Ce bulletin fournit des descriptions détaillées de la plupart des coupes stratigraphiques mesurées dans les strates couvrant l'intervalle du Protérozoïque au Dévonien dans le cadre du projet de l'avant-pays central du CARTNAT, ainsi que d'un certain nombre de coupes situées dans le secteur d'étude qui ont été mesurées dans les années 1960 et 1970. Les descriptions de ces coupes plus anciennes sont inédites ou n'ont été publiées que sous forme sommaire. En plus des descriptions détaillées des coupes stratigraphiques, ce bulletin comporte de la documentation supplémentaire, comme des tableaux de corrélation et des photos prises sur le terrain, ainsi qu'un fichier numérique de métadonnées (en annexe) dont la qualité a été vérifiée pour chacune des coupes, ce qui constitue un pas vers la création d'un dépôt de données numériques sur les coupes stratigraphiques. Il en résulte un document riche en données et pouvant être cité qui sert de base à des rapports de synthèse publiés dans des revues scientifiques externes.

Une seule coupe détaillée s'étendant à une unité cartographique non dénommée du Protérozoïque dans le sud-est du Yukon (contribution de MacNaughton), constitue l'unique étude du transect nord incluse dans le présent bulletin. Les autres études sont axées sur les strates du Paléozoïque dans le nord-est de la Colombie-Britannique. La contribution de MacNaughton décrit les structures sédimentaires qui étayent le dépôt de cette unité sous forme de turbidite distale en milieu marin profond.

MacDonald Platform, Kechika Trough, and Cassiar Terrane. These sections reflect depositional-facies transitions from the platform into the trough as well as temporal variations, documented by over 300 conodont ages. In a second contribution, the same authors present ten sections in Lower Ordovician to Middle Devonian units deposited on the MacDonald Platform and in the Ospika Embayment. The facies transition from platformal successions into the basinal facies Road River Group is described in terms of age and depositional setting, and supported by over 250 conodont ages.

Similar stratigraphic and geographic coverage is provided by Norford, who presents 36 stratigraphic sections from Ordovician and Silurian strata, as well as a synthesis of biostratigraphic data from micro- and macrofossils. Five significant unconformities are identified in the platformal and transitional facies; one, of latest Ordovician and early Silurian age, is documented in the basinal facies. Many of the sections presented by Norford predate the Central Foreland Project, but are included here because they are an important historical documentary data set for this region. Five of those were restudied by Pyle and Barnes. In the interest of completeness, both versions of those sections are included.

The contribution by Nadjiwon and coauthors focuses on the Lower and Middle Devonian platform succession and presents 20 sections measured in strata of this age. They document six sections containing dolomites of the Presqu'île Barrier reef complex, corroborate the contact relationships of the Dunedin Formation, and confirm the presence of siliciclastic rocks within the Laurier Embayment, a broad bypass channel through the Presqu'île Barrier reef.

The 79 detailed stratigraphic sections presented in this bulletin do not exhaust the stratigraphic work carried out as part of the Central Foreland NATMAP Project. Additional outcrop stratigraphic sections that were measured as part of the project have appeared in a number of Geological Survey of Canada and external publications.

The Appendix is a complete listing of the metadata attributes of the 79 stratigraphic sections detailed in the body of the work.

Dans la première de deux contributions, Pyle et Barnes décrivent douze coupes dans des strates s'étendant du Cambrien supérieur au Silurien inférieur le long d'un transect traversant la plate-forme de MacDonald, la cuvette de Kechika et le terrane de Cassiar. Ces coupes témoignent des transitions de faciès sédimentaires de la plate-forme à la cuvette, ainsi que de variations temporelles, documentées par plus de 300 âges sur conodontes. Dans la seconde contribution, les mêmes auteurs présentent dix coupes s'étendant à des unités de l'Ordovicien inférieur au Dévonien moyen déposées sur la plate-forme de MacDonald et dans le rentrant d'Ospika. Le faciès de transition des successions de la plate-forme au faciès de bassin du Groupe de Road River est décrit du point de vue de l'âge et du milieu de dépôt et la description s'appuie sur plus de 250 âges sur conodontes.

Une couverture stratigraphique et géographique semblable est offerte par Norford, qui présente 36 coupes stratigraphiques dans des strates de l'Ordovicien et du Silurien, ainsi qu'une synthèse des données biostratigraphiques provenant de microfossiles et de macrofossiles. Cinq discordances importantes ont été relevées dans le faciès de plate-forme et celui de transition; l'une d'elles, remontant à l'Ordovicien terminal et au Silurien précoce, est documentée dans le faciès de bassin. Plusieurs descriptions de coupes présentées par Norford sont antérieures au projet de l'avant-pays central. Cependant, elles sont présentées ici, car elles constituent un important jeu de données d'intérêt historique pour cette région. Cinq de ces coupes ont été étudiées à nouveau par Pyle et Barnes. Afin d'offrir la couverture la plus exhaustive, les deux versions des descriptions de ces coupes sont incluses.

La contribution de Nadjiwon et ses collègues est axée sur la succession de plate-forme du Dévonien inférieur et moyen et elle présente vingt coupes mesurées dans les strates de cet âge. Ils ont documenté six coupes contenant des dolomies du complexe de récif barrière de Presqu'île, corroboré les relations qu'affichent les contacts de la Formation de Dunedin et confirmé la présence de roches silicoclastiques dans le rentrant de Laurier, un large chenal de dérivation recoupant le récif barrière de Presqu'île.

Les 79 coupes stratigraphiques détaillées présentées dans ce bulletin ne rendent pas compte de l'ensemble des travaux stratigraphiques menés dans le cadre du projet de l'avant-pays central du CARTNAT. D'autres coupes stratigraphiques en affleurement qui ont été mesurées dans le cadre du projet ont été présentées dans un certain nombre de publications de la Commission géologique du Canada et dans des publications externes.

L'annexe comprend la liste exhaustive des attributs de métadonnées des 79 coupes stratigraphiques décrites dans l'ensemble de la publication.

Introduction to stratigraphic sections from the Central Foreland NATMAP Project Area: Proterozoic to Devonian successions

L.S. Lane¹ and R.B. MacNaughton¹

Lane, L.S. and MacNaughton, R.B., 2017. Introduction to stratigraphic sections from the Central Foreland NATMAP Project area: Proterozoic to Devonian successions: in Central Foreland NATMAP Project: Proterozoic to Devonian stratigraphic sections in British Columbia and Yukon., (ed.) L.S. Lane and R.B. MacNaughton; Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin 603, p. 3–6. <https://doi.org/10.4095/306301>

Abstract : The NATMAP Program (1991-2003) of the Geological Survey of Canada had a mandate to support field-based bedrock and surficial mapping projects. The Central Foreland NATMAP Project (1997-2002) focused on the bedrock and surficial geology of two contrasting transects across the Cordilleran foothills, one in the northern Rocky Mountain of British Columbia, the other across the Liard Plateau of southeast Yukon and adjacent Northwest Territories. Numerous stratigraphic sections were measured in support of this work. The present Bulletin provides detailed descriptions and photographic documentation of most of the Proterozoic to Devonian sections measured during the Project, as well as a number of sections measured in the project area in the 1960s and 1970s but not previously published in detailed form. This introductory chapter summarizes the Bulletin and points the reader to additional Central Foreland NATMAP Project stratigraphic sections that have been published in other venues.

Résumé : Le programme CARTNAT (1991-2003) de la Commission géologique du Canada avait pour mandat de soutenir les travaux sur le terrain de cartographie du substratum rocheux et des formations superficielles. Le projet de l'avant-pays central (1997-2002) du CARTNAT était axé sur la géologie du substratum rocheux et des matériaux superficiels le long de deux transects contrastants dans le piémont de la Cordillère, l'un situé dans le nord des montagnes Rocheuses en Colombie-Britannique et l'autre, dans le plateau de la Liard dans le sud-est du Yukon et la partie adjacente des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. De nombreuses coupes stratigraphiques ont été mesurées dans le cadre de ces travaux. Le présent bulletin fournit des descriptions détaillées et des photos de la plupart des coupes du Protérozoïque au Dévonien mesurées pendant le projet, ainsi que d'un certain nombre de coupes situées dans le secteur du projet qui ont été mesurées dans les années 1960 et 1970, mais dont des descriptions détaillées n'avaient pas encore été publiées. Ce chapitre d'introduction résume le bulletin et dirige le lecteur vers l'information relative à d'autres coupes stratigraphiques du projet de l'avant-pays central du CARTNAT ayant été publiée dans d'autres publications.

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INTRODUCTION

The NATMAP Program of the Geological Survey of Canada was proposed as a National Geoscience Mapping Program, and subsequently endorsed by participants at a national workshop in March of 1990. The program was managed through the office of the Chief Scientist of the Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada, with the advice of a thirteen-member steering committee consisting of representatives from the Geological Survey of Canada, Provincial/Territorial governments, academia, and industry. Active between 1991 and 2003, the program funded a total of 13 major projects nationwide. Its mandate was to support field-based bedrock and surficial mapping projects that are designed to support Canada's minerals and hydrocarbons industries, to fill gaps in the national geoscience database, or to respond to environmental or societal concerns (Robertson, 2017). The funding support was intended to enhance each project with emphasis on three specific objectives: to promote efficiency and technology transfer through enhanced collaboration with other government geoscience agencies; to promote the application of digital technologies to data collection, data management and map production; and to provide training opportunities for Canadian geoscience students.

The Central Foreland NATMAP Project was initiated in 1997, and received NATMAP support between 1998 and 2002. Its principal objectives were to carry out new bedrock and surficial mapping through two contrasting transects across the Cordilleran foothills: one in the Trutch area of the northern Rocky Mountains midway between Fort St. John and Fort Nelson, British Columbia; and the other across the Liard Plateau area of southeastern Yukon and adjacent Northwest Territories.

The two foothills transects straddle a geologically unique transition, marked by a dramatic broadening and change in trend of the Cordilleran deformed belt, and by related changes in stratigraphy, sedimentary environments, paleogeography, and structural style. These profound changes in the style and scale of folds and faults reflect the influence of older structures at depth. These older structures also influenced the evolution and preservation of petroleum and mineral resources in this frontier area, which lies on the northwest edge of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. Improved knowledge of how these influences have interacted help to improve the efficiency of resource exploration and development, and reduce its cumulative impact on this ecologically sensitive region. Geological mapping and detailed thematic studies (stratigraphy and biostratigraphy, petroleum source-rock potential, and mineral deposit studies), were carried out in collaboration with the British Columbia Geological Survey, Yukon Geology Program (now the Yukon Geological Survey), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (now Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada) (INAC), the Government of the Northwest Territories, 12 universities, and the private sector.

A significant aspect of the project was the measurement of stratigraphic sections in outcrop within and near the areas of detailed mapping, using the project's base camp to facilitate the logistics. This work was done by staff scientists and by graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty affiliated with collaborating universities. This bulletin provides detailed descriptions of most of the stratigraphic sections measured in Proterozoic to Devonian strata as part of the Central Foreland NATMAP Project, as well as a number of sections that were measured in the project area in the 1960s and 1970s. These earlier-measured sections have either not been published or have been published only in summary form. In addition to detailed section descriptions, this bulletin includes additional documentation such as correlation charts and field photographs, as well as a digital data set of quality-assured metadata for each section (Fig. 1), which we view as a step toward a digital data repository of stratigraphic sections. The result is a citable, data-rich document that serves as a basis for synthesis reports in external scientific journals.

Aside from a short contribution that presents a single section through an unnamed Proterozoic map unit in south-east Yukon Territory (MacNaughton), the studies focus on Paleozoic strata in northeastern British Columbia. In the first of two contributions, Pyle and Barnes document twelve sections through Upper Cambrian to Lower Silurian strata along a transect across the MacDonald Platform, Kechika Trough, and Cassiar Terrane. In a second contribution, the same authors present ten sections in Lower Ordovician to Middle Devonian units deposited on the MacDonald Platform and in the Ospika Embayment. Similar stratigraphic and geographic coverage is provided by Norford, who presents thirty-six stratigraphic sections from Ordovician and Silurian strata, as well as a synthesis of biostratigraphic data from micro- and macrofossils. Many of the sections presented by Norford predate the Central Foreland Project but are included here because they are an important historical documentary dataset for this region. Five of those were restudied by Pyle and Barnes. In the interest of completeness, both versions of those sections are included. A final contribution, by Nadjiwon and coauthors, focuses on the Lower and Middle Devonian and presents twenty sections measured in strata of this age. Also included is an Appendix which is provided both as a [Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheet](#) and as a [.csv file](#) that provides a complete list of the metadata attributes of the seventy-nine stratigraphic sections detailed in the body of the work.

The seventy-nine detailed stratigraphic sections presented in this bulletin do not exhaust the stratigraphic work carried out as part of the Central Foreland NATMAP Project. Additional outcrop stratigraphic sections that were measured as part of the project have appeared in a number of Geological Survey and external publications. Additional observations on Proterozoic and Cambrian strata in north-east British Columbia were provided by Post (2001) in an unpublished Master's thesis (also, Post and Long, 2008). The

Triassic interval was studied in northeastern British Columbia by Zonneveld and Orchard (2002) and Zonneveld et al. (2004) and in southeastern Yukon Territory by MacNaughton (2002) and MacNaughton and Zonneveld (2010). Jurassic and Cretaceous sections have been published by Schröder-Adams and Pedersen (2003), by MacNaughton (2006a, b), and by Jowett and Schröder-Adams (2005). Additional unpublished stratigraphic sections were measured by B.C. Richards (Carboniferous–Permian) and M.J. Johns (Triassic).

In addition to the measuring of sections, the Central Foreland NATMAP Project supported a review and analysis of the techniques used in the collection and recording of locational and stratigraphic metadata during the project. The results of this work were published as a Current Research article (Palmer et al., 2005) that focused on reusability of stratigraphic data, including methods for ensuring collection of rigorous positional data to make the stratigraphic sections more useful to future researchers.

The editors are grateful for the authors' commitments to undertake this collaboration, and also to the numerous critical reviewers who contributed significant effort to ensure the scientific integrity of each chapter. We also acknowledge the important contributions of the scientific and technical support people who contributed to the organization and presentation of the bulletin.

Critical Reviewers

Dr. Mario Coniglio (University of Waterloo), Dr. Larry Lane (GSC Calgary), Dr. Darrell Long (Laurentian University), Dr. Jeff Lukasik (PetroCanada Oil and Gas), Dr. David Morrow (GSC Calgary), Dr. Brian Norford (GSC Calgary), Dr. Godfrey Nowlan (GSC Calgary), Dr. Leanne Pyle (University of Victoria; now at VI Geoscience Services Ltd), Dr. Tom Uyeno (GSC Calgary).

Technical Contributors

Jo Gray (copyediting), Sylvia Leong (digital page figures), Larry MacDonald (data management, metadata, GIS), Elizabeth Macey (page figure specifications, template design), Bryan Rutley (photographer), David Sargent (digital page figures).

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Upper Cambrian to Lower Silurian stratigraphy of a Macdonald Platform–Kechika Trough–Cassiar Terrane transect, Ware, Tuchodi Lakes, Kechika, and Cry Lake map areas (94-F, K, L, 104-P), northeastern British Columbia

L.J. Pyle¹ and C.R. Barnes²

Pyle, L.J. and Barnes, C.R., 2017. Upper Cambrian to Lower Silurian stratigraphy of a Macdonald Platform–Kechika Trough–Cassiar Terrane transect, Ware, Tuchodi Lakes, Kechika, and Cry Lake map areas (94-F,K,L, 104-P), northeastern British Columbia: in Central Foreland NATMAP Project: Proterozoic to Devonian stratigraphic sections in British Columbia and Yukon, (ed.) L.S. Lane and R.B. MacNaughton; Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin 603, p. 7–51. <https://doi.org/10.4095/299864>

Abstract: The Kechika Formation, a laterally extensive platform-to-basin facies, typically lies unconformably on Cambrian strata. Its five members, which are diachronous, have gradational and conformable contacts. Basinal facies of the Road River Group comprise three formations: the Ospika (Lower to Middle Ordovician), Pesika (Lower Silurian), and Kwadacha (upper Lower Silurian to Lower Devonian). Volcanism, prominent unconformities, and abrupt changes in deposition indicate a complex history delineated temporally by conodont biostratigraphy. Deposition of the Kechika and Ospika formations is attributed to periods of renewed extension followed by thermal subsidence. Silurian units unconformably and conformably overlie the Ospika Formation. The Pesika Formation, a transitional facies, is present mainly in the eastern part of the Kechika Trough. The Kwadacha Formation records an influx of quartz silt and sand into the trough. The Kechika–Road River boundary in the displaced Cassiar Terrane is older than that east of the Northern Rocky Mountain Trench Fault.

Résumé : La Formation de Kechika est une unité latéralement étendue qui présente des faciès représentatifs de milieux s'étendant de la plate-forme au bassin. De façon caractéristique, elle repose en discordance sur des strates du Cambrien. Les cinq membres qui la composent sont diachrones et présentent des contacts progressifs et concordants. Les faciès de bassin du Groupe de Road River sont constitués de trois formations, soit la Formation d'Ospika (Ordovicien inférieur et moyen), la Formation de Pesika (Silurien inférieur) et la Formation de Kwadacha (de la partie supérieure du Silurien inférieur au Dévonien inférieur). Un volcanisme, des discordances très marquées et des changements brusques dans la sédimentation indiquent une histoire complexe étalonnée dans le temps par la biostratigraphie des conodontes. Le dépôt des formations de Kechika et d'Ospika est attribué à des périodes de réactivation d'une déformation en extension suivies d'une subsidence thermique. Des unités siluriennes reposent en discordance et en concordance sur la Formation d'Ospika. La Formation de Pesika, un faciès de transition, se trouve surtout dans la partie orientale de la cuvette de Kechika. La Formation de Kwadacha témoigne d'un apport de silt et de sable quartzueux dans la cuvette. La limite séparant la Formation de Kechika du Groupe de Road River dans le terrane de Cassiar déplacé est plus ancienne que la limite correspondante à l'est de la faille du sillon des Rocheuses du Nord.

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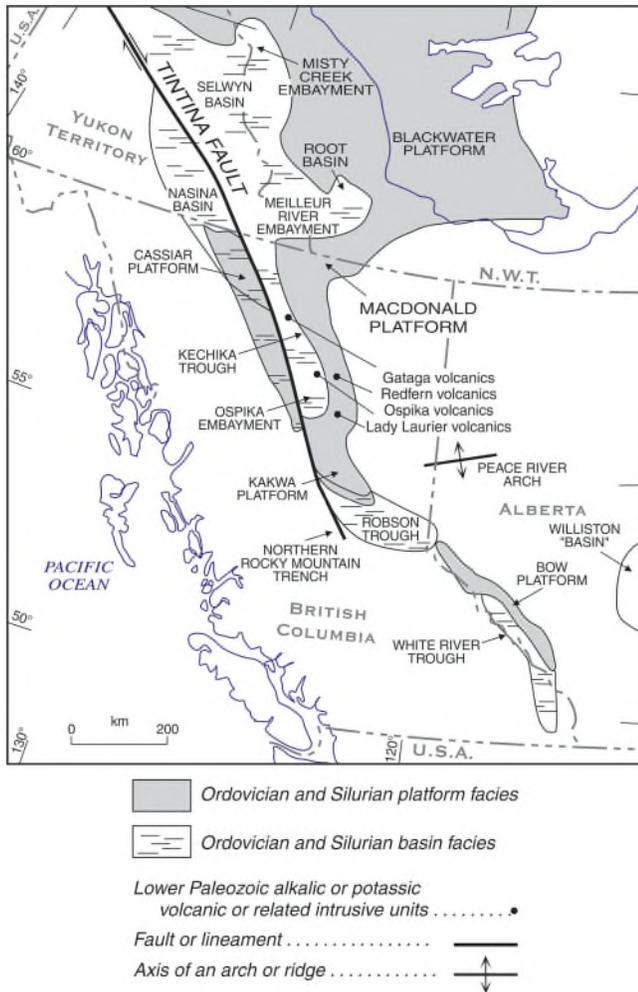


Figure 2. Lower Paleozoic paleogeography and present position of the Cassiar Terrane. (modified from Cecile et al., 1997).

(Cassiar section). Eighty-five conodont samples (4–5 kg each) were collected from this transect. Ferri et al. (1996) and MacIntyre (1992) described the overall structural and metamorphic character of the autochthonous strata in the study area, and Gabrielse (1998) described the geology of the Cassiar Terrane. Conodont elements have colour alteration index (CAI) values ranging from 3 to 5, indicating burial temperatures of 110 to 200°, to more than 300°C.

Revised stratigraphic terminology established by Pyle and Barnes (2000) and refined conodont biostratigraphic framework of Pyle and Barnes (2002) are followed here. The lower Paleozoic succession of the Macdonald Platform consists of platform carbonate of the Kechika Formation (Upper Cambrian to Lower Ordovician), a laterally extensive unit that thickens westward into the Kechika Trough. The Kechika Formation was formally divided into five members by Pyle and Barnes (2000). It is overlain by platform carbonate rocks of the Skoki Formation (upper Lower Ordovician, Arenigian to lower Upper Ordovician, Caradocian), which was divided into three formal members by Pyle and Barnes

(2000) based on this transect, and a fourth member based on a second transect in north-central British Columbia (Pyle and Barnes, 2001a). The Skoki Formation abruptly changes facies westward to the Road River Group (Arenigian to Lower Silurian, Llandovery) that overlies the Kechika Formation in the Kechika Trough (Fig. 3, 4, 5).

The lower Paleozoic stratigraphy and conodont biostratigraphy of the parautochthonous Cassiar Terrane, which represents a northward-displaced margin segment, were described by Pyle and Barnes (2000, 2001b). All sections were measured by L.J. Pyle and C.R. Barnes during the 1994 to 1996 field seasons, and detailed lithological descriptions of sections and conodont samples can be found in Pyle and Barnes (2002). UTM co-ordinates are given based on Datum 27.

SECTIONS FROM THE MACDONALD PLATFORM

Three sections (1, 13, and 5, of Cecile and Norford, 1979) were measured and described in detail from platform and shelf facies of the transect. They were originally measured by Cecile and Norford (1979) but their detailed descriptions are unpublished.

Section 1

Location

The section is situated 12 km north of Muskwa River (94-F/16; 57° 56'N, 124° 03'W; Fig. 1). Camp was established in a cirque southwest of the north-south-trending ridge section that was measured and collected. The first unit of Kechika where samples were collected was an outcrop on the east part of the ridge at 438900E, 6420600N, and the section was measured up to the contact with the cliff-forming Beaverfoot Formation at 438700E, 6421300N. Sample numbers bear the prefix 96-1.

Synthesis

The section (481 m thick, Fig. 6a) consists of brown-weathering Cambrian siliciclastic units underlying the Kechika Formation. The Lloyd George Member (62 m thick) at the base of the Kechika Formation contains orange- to grey-weathering, silty dolostone. The overlying Quentin Member (50 m thick) contains light grey- to yellow-grey-weathering, thin-bedded lime mudstone to trilobitic grainstone and rudstone. The member becomes dolomitic with increased shale upsection. The Quentin Member is younger at Section 1 (*Rossodus manitouensis* Zone, Tremadocian) than at Section 13 (*Iapetognathus* Zone and older, spanning the Cambro-Ordovician boundary) (Fig. 3), indicating the diachronous nature of the Kechika Formation. The Grey Peak Member (85 m thick) consists of an alternation of grey,

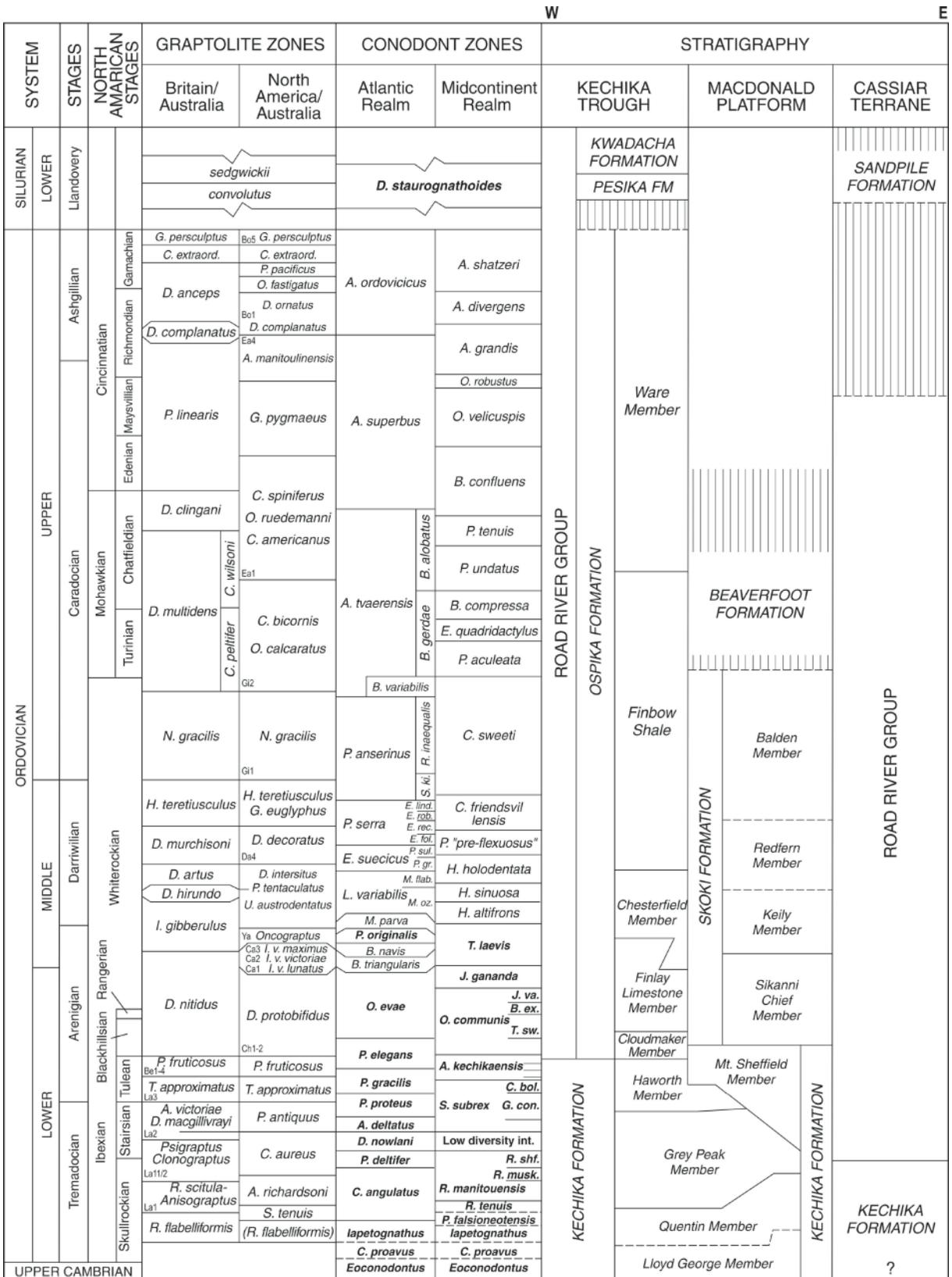


Figure 3. Stratigraphic framework showing lithostratigraphic units and conodont biostratigraphic framework of Pyle and Barnes (2002). Conodont zones in bold indicate those recognized from the study area; others are based on the standard time scale after Webby (1998) and Cooper and Nowlan (1999). Silurian time scale after Norford (1997). Zones determined for the Cassiar Terrane after Pyle and Barnes (2001b) and age of the Sandpile Formation from Gabrielse (1998). The Lower Cambrian Rosella Formation and Upper Silurian to Devonian Ramhorn Formation are not shown in the Cassiar Terrane column. Dashed lines indicate approximate contacts. Shaded areas indicate zones not represented.

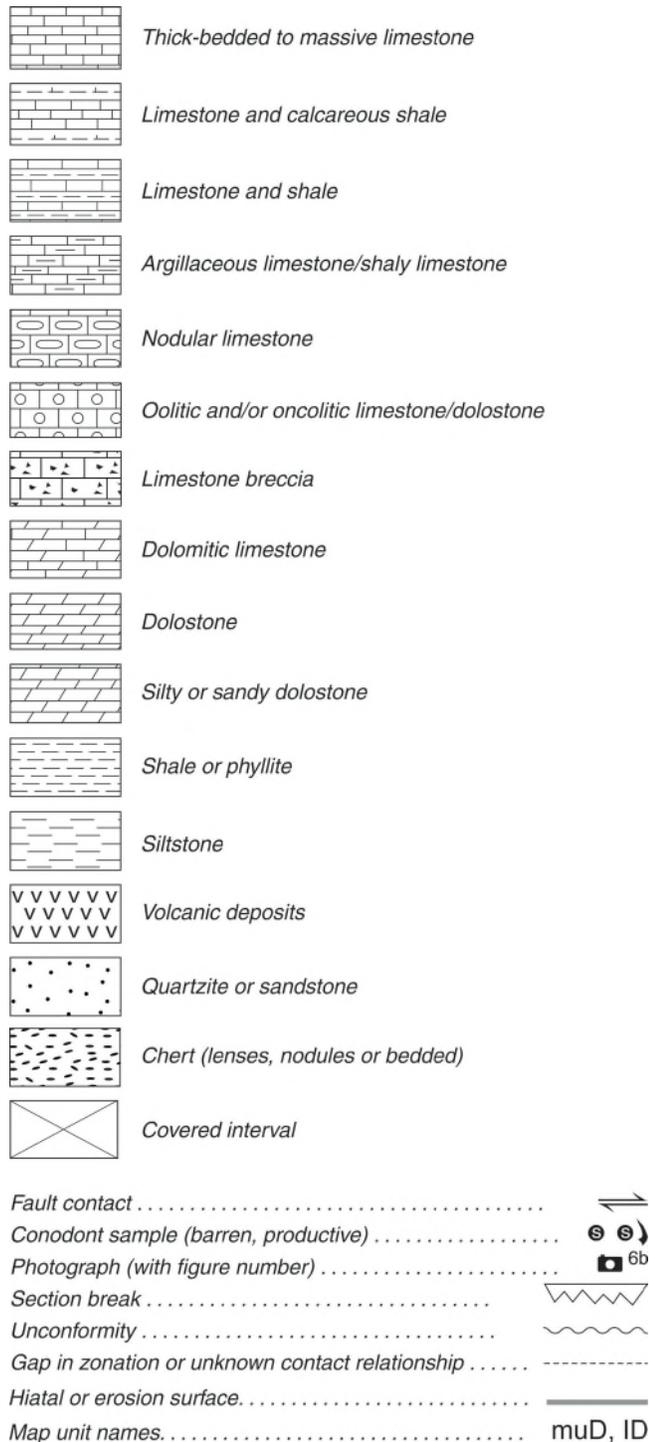


Figure 4. Legend for Figures 5 through 17.

platy-weathering, calcareous shale and thin-bedded lime mudstone to rudstone with orange-weathering, silty dolostone containing abundant horizontal burrows. It spans the *R. manitouensis* Zone and ranges into the upper *Paltodus deltifer* Zone (middle to late Tremadocian). The fourth member of the Kechika Formation, the Haworth Member, is absent at Section 1 (Fig. 3) and the Mount Sheffield Member overlies the Grey Peak Member. The Mount Sheffield Member (204 m thick) contains platy, dolomitic limestone facies and grey-weathering, bedded limestone and chert. Conodonts from the upper part of the unit indicate a late Tremadocian age, *Scolopodus subrex* Zone (Fig. 3). The Kechika Formation is abruptly overlain by the massive, cliff-forming dolostone of the Beaverfoot Formation.

Section 13

Location

The section is situated 4 km southwest of Mount Sheffield, and trends east-west toward two glacial lakes to the west (94-F/10; 57° 42'N, 124° 35'W; Fig. 1). The basal Kechika Formation was measured starting at 405000E, 6396400N up to the contact with the Skoki Formation at 401500E, 6395500N. The section was measured in three parts — A, B and C — and sample numbers given a prefix of 96-13A, B, or C.

Camp was located on a grassy area along a creek running east from the glacial lakes. Section C was reached by walking about 2 km east and down-creek from camp along the north side of the creek and then north along the tree line to collect the basal parts of the Kechika Formation. The contact with underlying Cambrian units was not observed. Sample collection began at the lowest outcrop on the north side of the main gully. Section A was started to the east, down the creek bed from camp to the tree line, where the Kechika Formation is no longer prominent and underlies the grassy and bush-covered hill south of the creek. Collection of samples given the prefix of 96-13A began on the south side, where the creek takes a bend southward, and where slump breccia and folding-in blocks of the creek bed were noted. Section B continued with the Grey Peak Member west of camp and up the creek section.

Synthesis

The basal part of the Kechika Formation, the Lloyd George Member (78 m thick), contains nodular lime mudstone to wackestone, weathering dark grey and interbedded with cleaved, calcareous shale. The unit is late Cambrian, *Eoconodontus* Zone. The contact with the underlying Cambrian unit was not observed. The overlying Quentin Member (over 400 m thick in Section C) contains largely putty-grey-weathering shale and minor lime mudstone to packstone beds (Fig. 7a). The Quentin

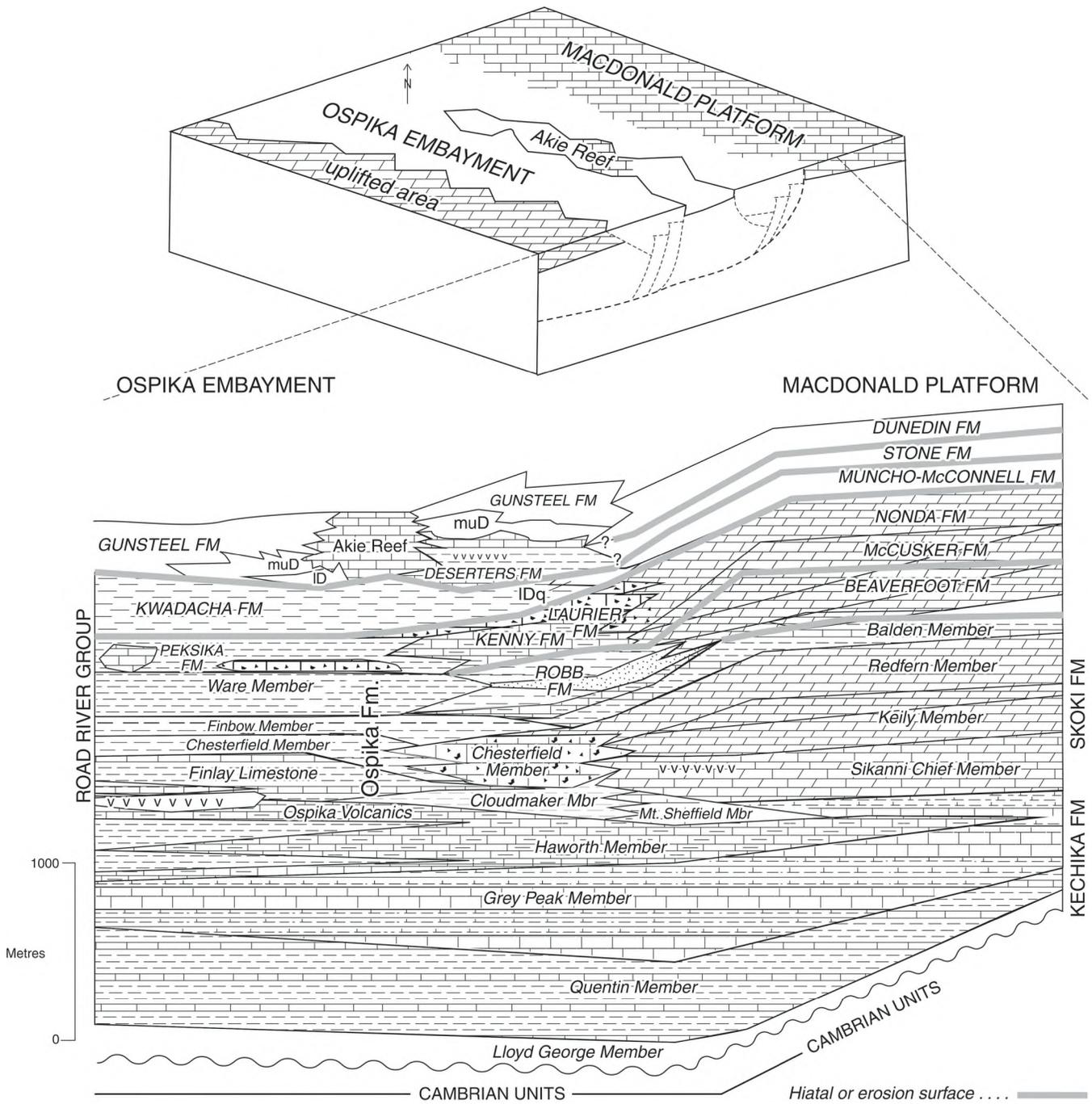


Figure 5. East-west cross-sections from platformal sections 1 and 5 through outer-shelf facies of Grey Peak and outer shelf-to-basin facies of Section 4, showing lateral facies changes (modified from Cecile and Norford, 1979; Pyle and Barnes, 2000, 2003). See Figure 4 for legend.

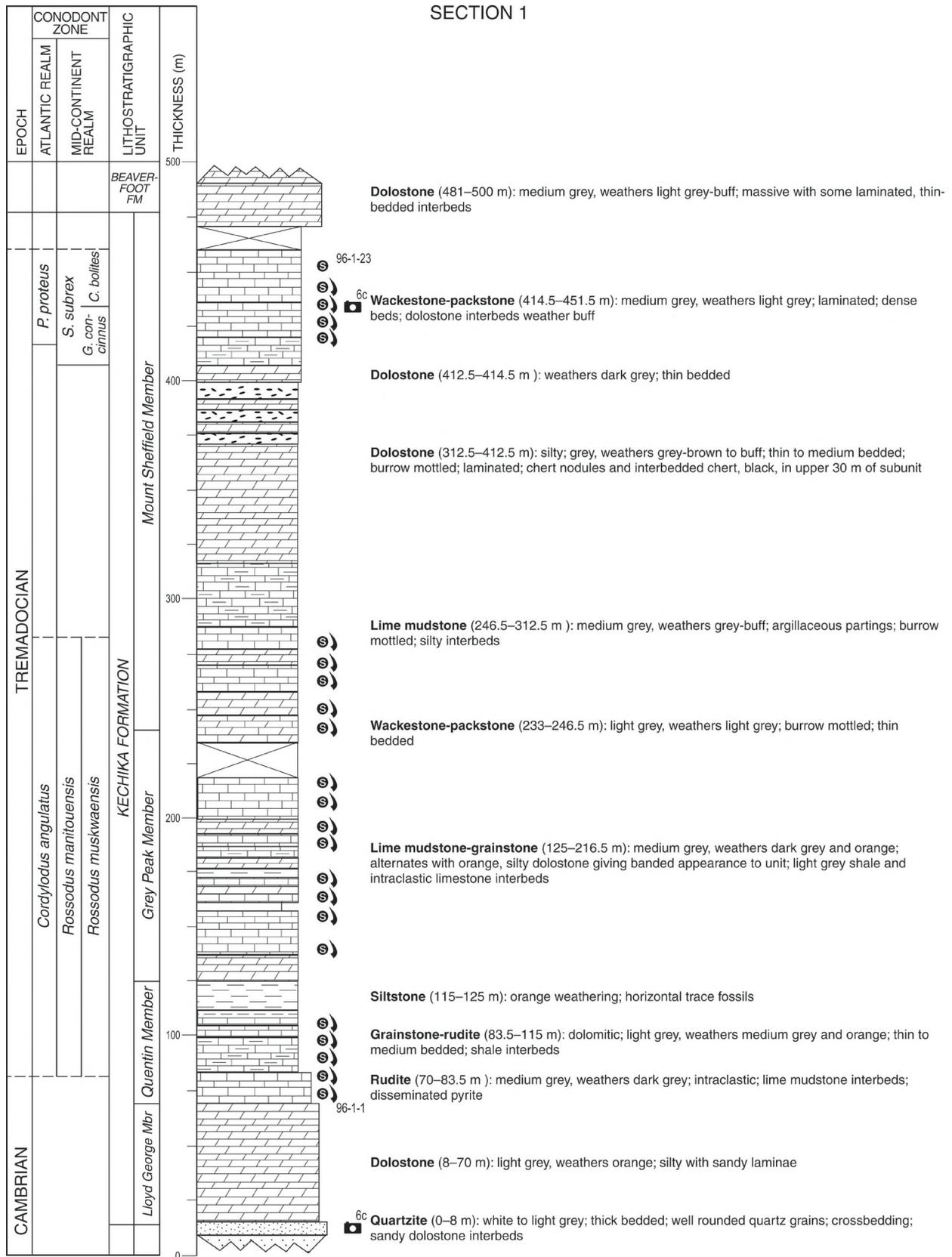


Figure 6a. Measured strata of Section 1.



Figure 6b. View to the southeast across the valley from Section 1, showing members of the Kechika Formation (430 m thick). 2010-088



Figure 6c. View to the north from the top of the Skoki Formation, showing the underlying Kechika Formation and Cambrian units thrust over Mesozoic strata. 2010-089

Member is fault-repeated such that it was recollected within Section A, although its base was not observed. It is at least 325 m thick in Section A, consisting of wackestone to grainstone beds that weather buff and grey among the putty-grey-weathering shale (Fig. 7b). The unit is homogeneous, with undulatory bedding planes. The member spans the Cambro-Ordovician boundary based on the *Cordylopus lindstromi* and *Iapetognathus* zones, and ranges into the *C. angulatus* Zone (Fig. 3).

The contact with the overlying Grey Peak Member is within a covered interval. A change to more regular repetition of thin limestone beds and metre-scale intervals of grey shale occurs at the base of the unit, giving a banded appearance. The member (625 m thick) generally contains an alternation of nodule-rich beds with argillaceous partings and nodule-poor, shaly intervals (Fig. 7b, d). The member spans the *R. manitouensis* Zone and ranges into the upper *S. subrex* Zone (middle to late Tremadocian) (Fig. 3).

The Haworth Member (630 m thick) contains 70% shale and 30% argillaceous limestone or nodular limestone to grainstone beds, and overall is massive (Fig. 7e). It ranges into the base of the *Paracordylopus gracilis* Zone (late Tremadocian) (Fig. 3). The overlying Mount Sheffield Member (453 m thick) contains platy, orange-weathering, thick-bedded, lenticular limestone, dolomitic limestone, and cleaved shale with bedding-parallel partings (Fig. 7e, f). The unit spans the Tremadocian-Arenigian boundary, ranging into the *Oepikodus communis* Zone (Fig. 3). The contact with the Haworth Member is conformable and gradational over a few metres. The contact with the overlying Skoki Formation is also gradational, marked by a change to massive, burrow-mottled, orange- and grey-weathering, fossiliferous dolostone. The basal Skoki Formation lies within the *O. communis* Zone (Arenigian) (Fig. 3, 7f).

Section 5

Location

The section is situated 12 km southwest of where the Prophet River bifurcates (94-F/8 and 94-F/9; 57° 30'N, 124° 26'W; Fig. 1). Camp was established in a cirque, and the section was walked out, south down a creek bed to a gully of the uppermost Kechika Formation at 413650E, 6373550N. Measurement and sample collection occurred north toward camp through the Skoki Formation and north beyond camp, up the ridge to 413300E, 6374900N. Sample numbers bear the prefix 96-5.

Synthesis

The section complements Section 13. Uppermost beds of the Kechika Formation consist of platy limestone, weathering buff-orange and grey (6 m), within the *O. communis*

Zone. The Skoki Formation is marked by a change to more resistant, massive overall, dark grey, lenticular limestone within orange-weathering dolomitic shale. The basal Sikanni Chief Member (440 m thick) contains a number of carbonate lithologies that weather medium to dark grey overall. The contact with the Kechika Formation is conformable and gradational over less than a metre (Fig. 8a). A distinct sub-unit of light-grey-weathering dolostone containing abundant macluritid gastropods occurs near the top of the unit, and conodonts indicate that the unit ranges into the *Tripodus laevis* Zone, Late Arenigian (Middle Ordovician) (Fig. 3). The contact with the overlying Keily Member (340 m thick) is obscured and the lithology changes to a succession of predominantly light-grey- and yellow-weathering, massive dolostone that is extensively burrow mottled. The overlying Redfern Member is at least 300 m thick and contains alternating subunits of dark-grey-weathering, massive dolostone and crossbedded, sandy dolostone, and yellow, light-grey- and buff-weathering, laminated dolostone (Fig. 8c).

The ancient shelfbreak: Grey Peak Section

The Grey Peak Section is Section 11 of Cecile and Norford (1979), but their detailed description is unpublished. The section preserves a thick succession of shaly Kechika Formation that abruptly overlies Cambrian siliciclastic units, and is overlain by the Ospika Formation, which contains spectacular breccia debris flows with clasts of Skoki Formation dolostone.

Location

The stratigraphic section at Grey Peak (94-F/14; 57° 48'N, 125° 13'W; Fig. 1.) was sampled in eight segments, beginning at the Kechika-Ospika Formation contact at approximately 370000E, 6409000N, and progressing upward through the Ospika Formation, eastward along the ridge to the cliff-forming platform carbonate debris-flow deposits of the Chesterfield Member. The upper two members of the Ospika Formation and the Pesika Formation are cut out by an unconformity. The overlying orange-weathering Kwadacha Formation was walked out over a spur to the east. The Kechika Formation was collected in segments: segments 2 through 5 are the upper part that form Grey Peak; segments 6 through 8 are the lower part, which overlies Cambrian units. The base of the section, at the base of the Kechika Formation, is at 368700E, 6408250N, and the top of the section, in the Kwadacha Formation, is at 370950E, 6409900N. The Grey Peak Section is the type section for all members of the Kechika Formation, except the Mount Sheffield Member, which shales out to the west and is partly coeval with the basal member of the Ospika Formation (Fig. 3, 5). Sample numbers of the section were given the prefixes GP-94-1 through GP-94-8 to correspond to segments.

SECTION 13, SEGMENT C

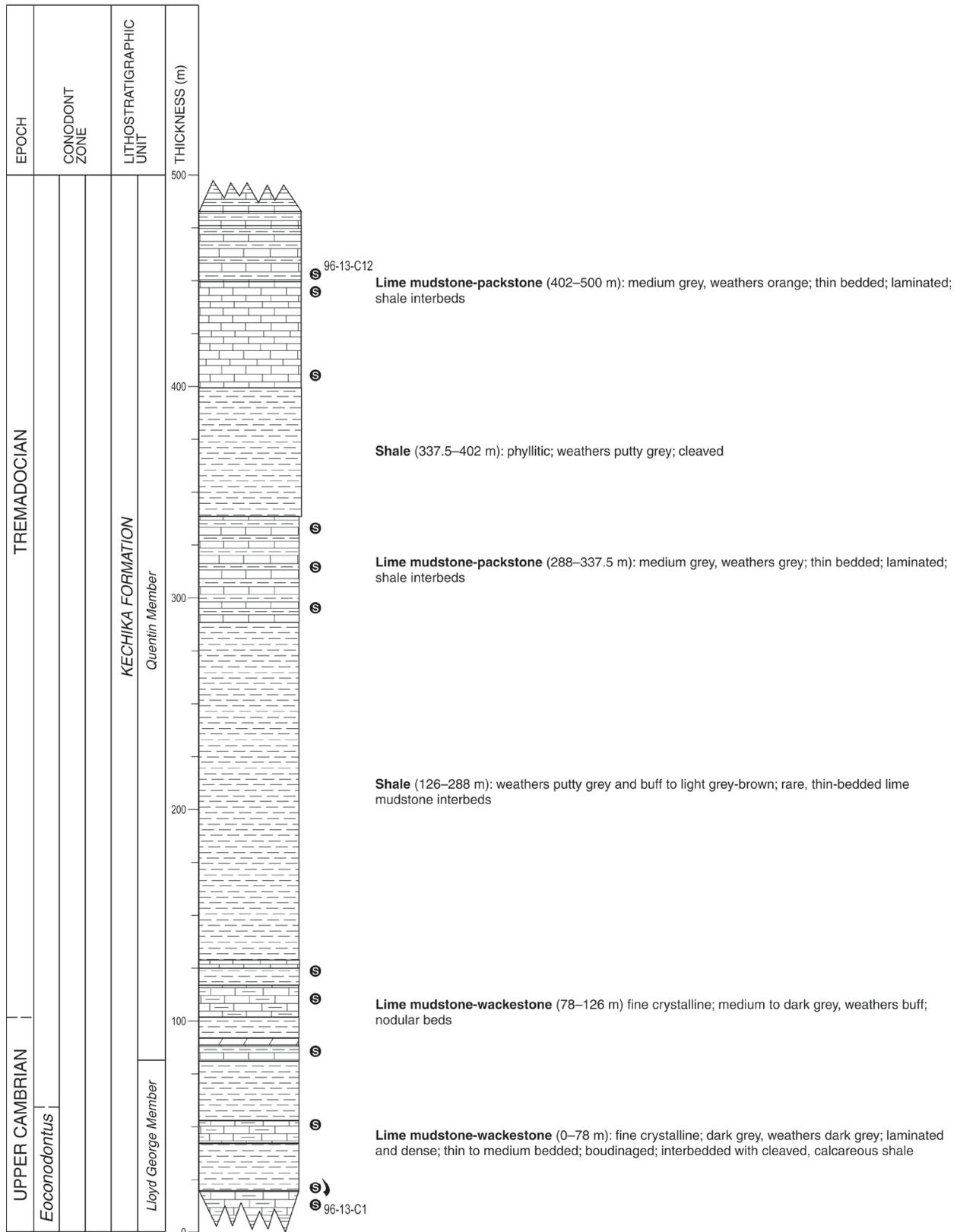


Figure 7a. Measured strata of Section 13, segment C.

SECTION 13, SEGMENT A

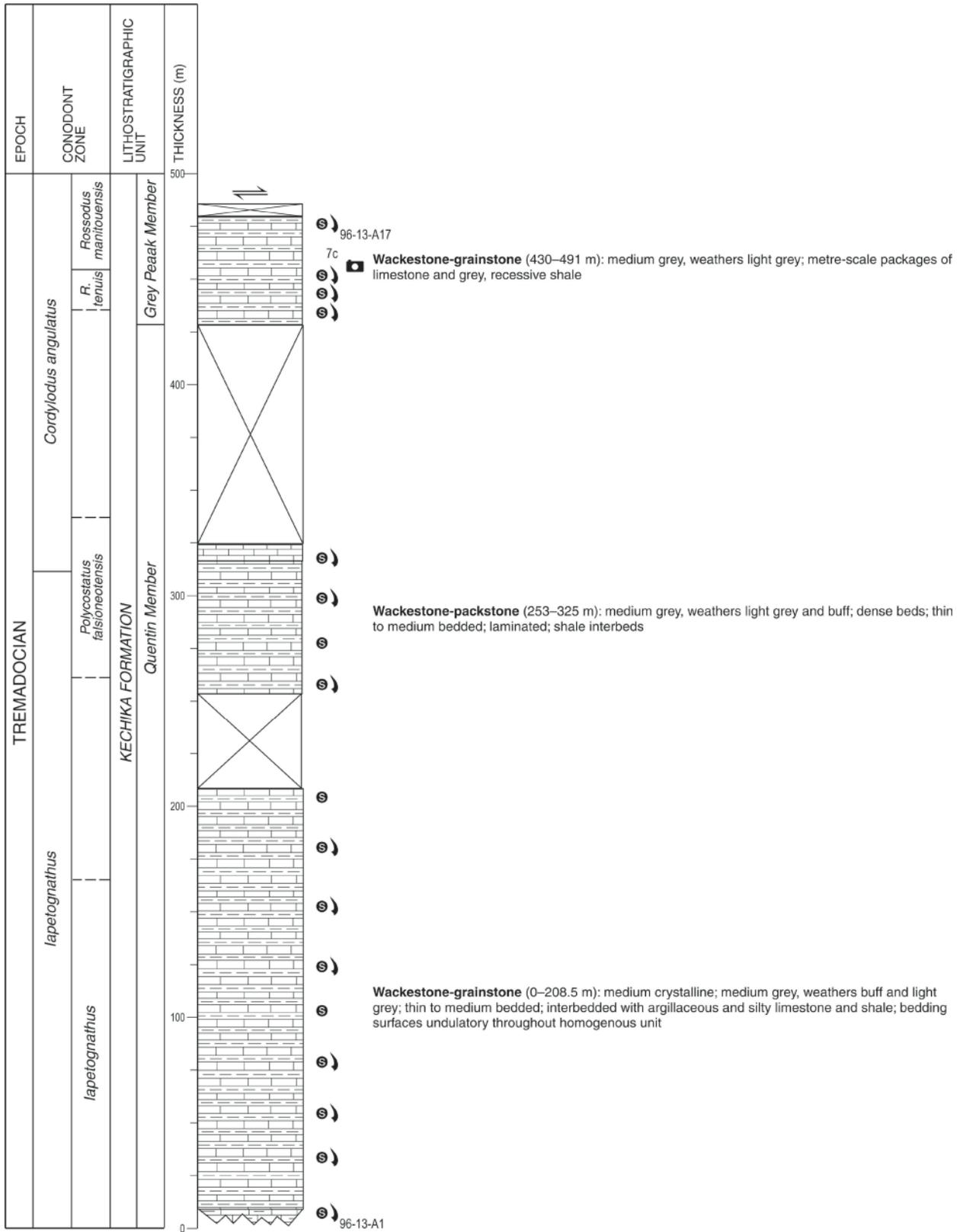


Figure 7b. Measured strata of Section 13, segment A.



Figure 7c. Gradational contact of the Quentin and Grey Peak members of the Kechika Formation, Section 13. 2010-090

Synthesis

The members of the Kechika Formation have conformable and gradational contacts over a few metres. The Kechika Formation is 1408 m thick at Grey Peak. The basal Lloyd George Member unconformably overlies Cambrian sandstone and contains oolitic and conglomeratic facies. The recessive Quentin Member (560 m thick) is defined by strongly cleaved, calcareous shale (70%) that has bedding-parallel partings, with characteristic putty-grey-weathering surfaces. The thin, argillaceous to silty, finely laminated lime mudstone to wackestone beds are commonly nodular and have undulatory bedding surfaces. The base of the Quentin lies within the Late Cambrian, *Cordylodus proavus* Zone, and the unit ranges into the Tremadocian (Fig. 9a). The more resistant Grey Peak Member forms the main peak of the mountain and is a 230 m thick succession of thin-bedded, medium-grey-brown limestone with grey shale partings alternating with metre-scale intervals of light grey,

calcareous, phyllitic shale. The thin-bedded carbonate units include platy, grey-brown-weathering, dolomitic shale and limestone with abundant horizontal burrows (Fig. 9b). The Haworth Member (455 m thick) is distinguished by prominent, widely spaced, nodular, argillaceous limestone beds that increase upsection from 20% at the base to 80% at the top of the unit. The shale interbeds weather light grey and brown (Fig. 9b, c). The contact with the overlying Ospika Formation is abrupt but conformable, marked by a change to brown-black-weathering shale over less than one metre. The Grey Peak and Haworth members are Tremadocian in age, the Haworth ranging into the *P. gracilis* Zone (Fig. 3).

The Ospika Formation (409 m thick) consists of four units at Grey Peak and is unconformably overlain by the Kwadacha Formation. The Cloudmaker Member (88 m thick) contains dark grey, cleaved shale and rare, nodular, medium grey limestone beds (Fig. 9c). The Finlay Limestone Member (62 m thick) is more resistant, consisting of bedded limestone that weathers platy and yellow-grey. The

SECTION 13, SEGMENT B

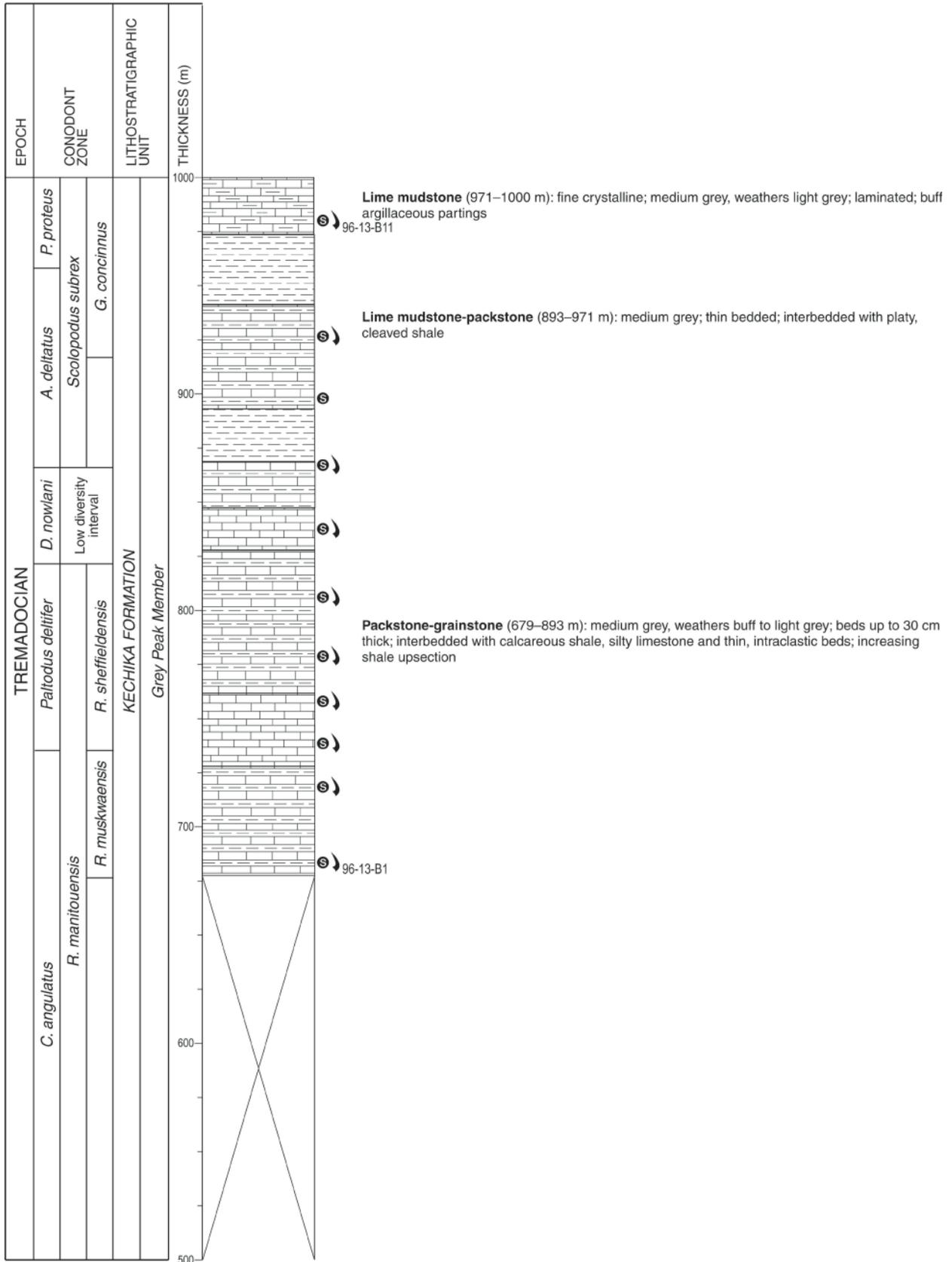


Figure 7d. Measured strata of Section 13, segment B.

SECTION 13, SEGMENT B, continued

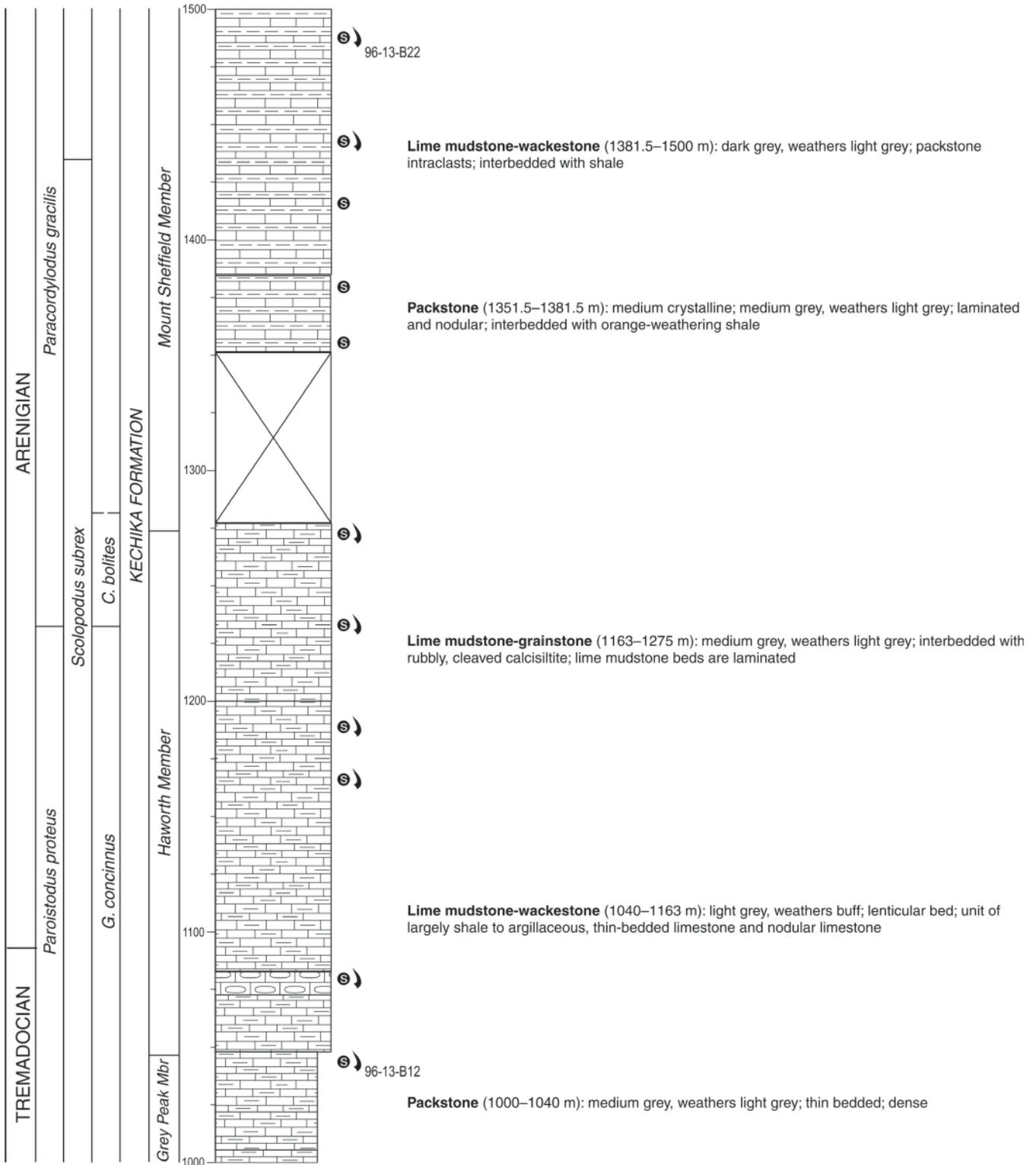


Figure 7e. Measured strata of Section 13, segment B, continued, type section of the Mount Sheffield Member.

SECTION 13, SEGMENT B, continued

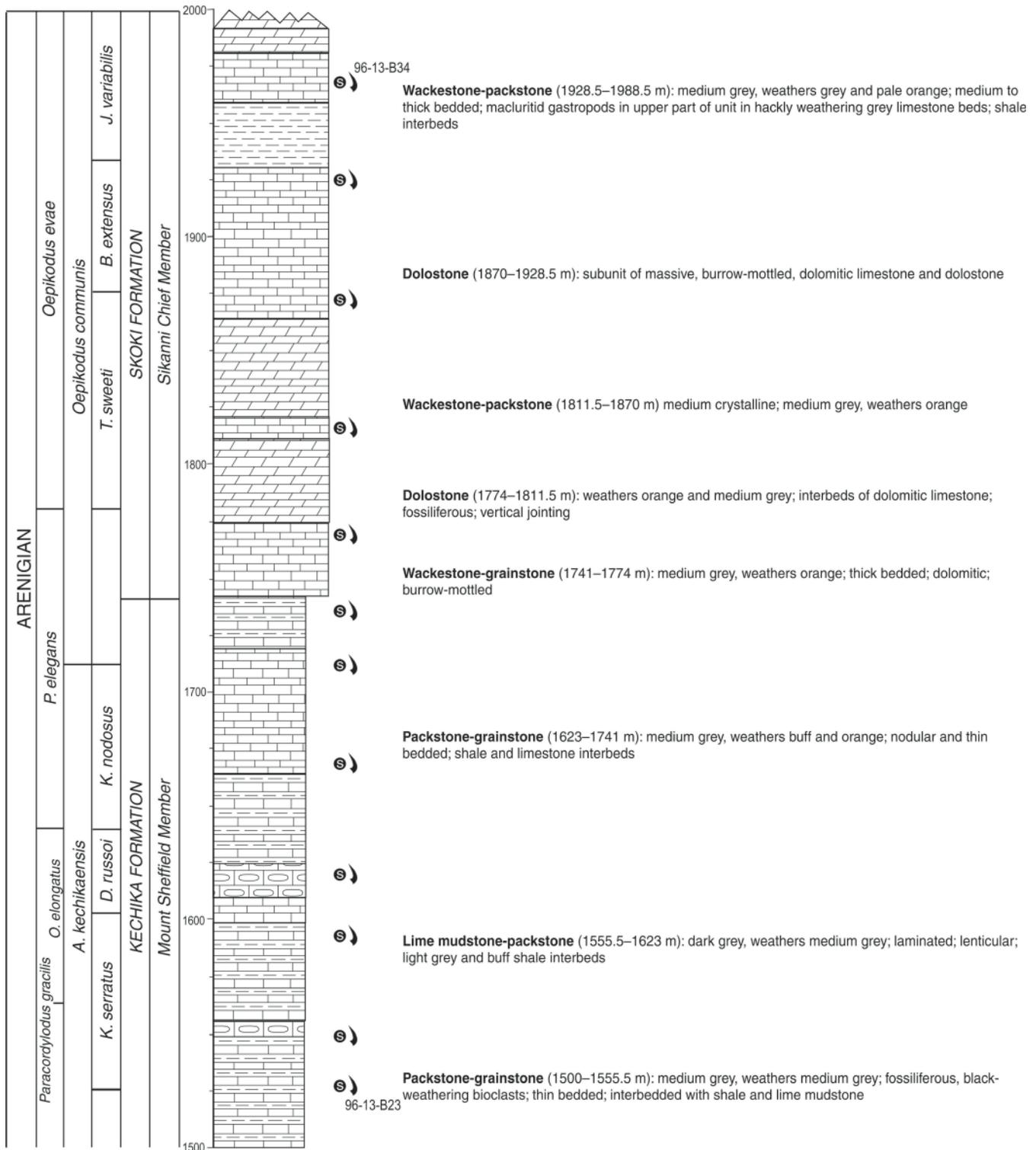


Figure 7f. Measured strata of Section 13, segment B, continued, type section of the Mount Sheffield Member.

SECTION 5

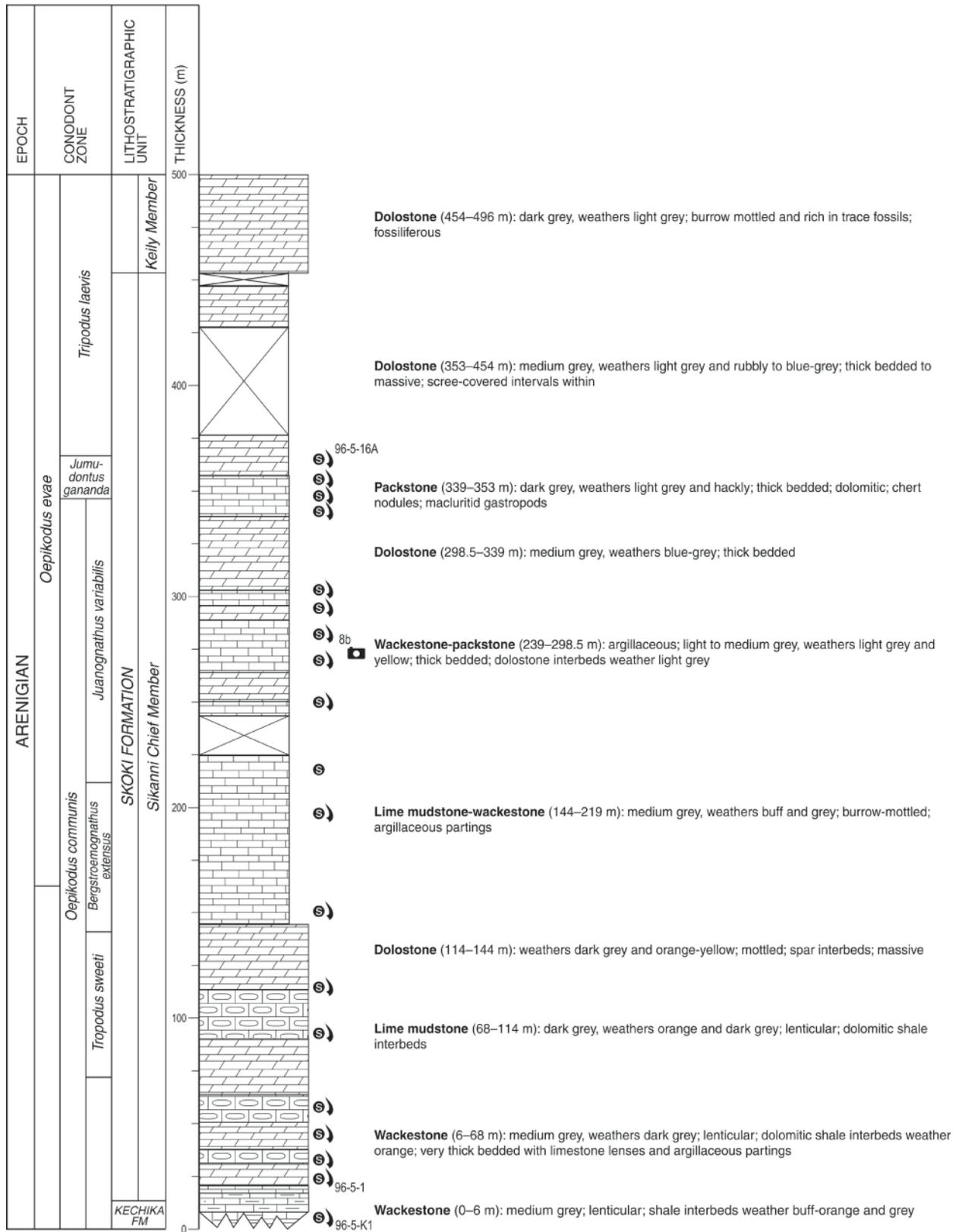


Figure 8a. Measured type section of the members of the Skoki Formation, Section 5.



Figure 8b. Sedimentary characteristics of the Sikanni Chief Member, Skoki Formation, Section 5, showing dark grey weathering colour and medium to massive bedding of dolostone and dolomitic limestone (30 cm sample bag for scale). 2010-091

Chesterfield Member (191 m thick) contains dark grey shale and siltstone, and a series of debris-flow breccias with clasts of Skoki Formation dolostone (Fig. 9e). The Finbow Shale Member overlies the carbonate debris flows and is at least 68 m thick. It is distinguished by the rusty-weathering shale, interbedded with silty dolostone and chert. It is abruptly overlain by orange-weathering siltstone of the Kwadacha Formation (Fig. 9d, 9f). The Ospika Formation at Grey Peak is Arenigian to Darriwilian in age and is part of a spectacular section that preserves the ancient shelfbreak. The base of the Darriwilian was not determined precisely, but Lenz and Jackson (1986) reported graptolites indicative of the *P. tentaculatus* Zone at a level high in the Ospika Formation (at 1736 m based on measurements by Cecile and Norford).

SECTIONS FROM THE KECHIKA TROUGH

Five basal facies sections of the Kechika Trough were measured and described in detail. The number and diversity of conodont taxa decrease from platform to basin. Biostratigraphic constraints were determined for Section 4 of Cecile and Norford (1979), Gataga Mountain, and the Road River Core, but no conodonts were recovered from the Driftpile Creek and Bluff Creek North sections.

Section 4

Location

The ridge section, situated 6 km north of the Akie River (94-F/7; 57° 26'N, 124° 35'W; Fig. 1) trends northeast to southwest. The Kechika Formation is exposed from a col to the northeast at 404600E, 6360500N to the contact with the Road River Group at 404500E, 6360000N. The ridge-forming Kwadacha Formation makes up the peak to the southwest, its basal contact at 404400E, 6359900N. The top of the section is at 404100E, 6359650N. Camp was established on a flat, grassy col within the Road River Group. Measurements and collections proceeded from the Kechika Formation to the north up to the ridge to the south of camp. This section is the type section for three formations of the Road River Group (the Ospika, Pesika, and Kwadacha), and for four of the formally named members of the Ospika (the Finlay Limestone, Chesterfield, Finbow Shale, and Ware members; Pyle and Barnes, 2000). Sample numbers bear the prefix 96-4.

Synthesis

The upper part of the Kechika Formation (178.5 m) consists of light-grey-weathering shale and thin-bedded and lenticular limestone. The Finlay Limestone Member (175 m thick) of the Ospika Formation unconformably overlies the Kechika Formation. The Cloudmaker Member is absent. The Finlay Limestone is distinguished by platy, yellow-grey-weathering limestone and also contains thin-bedded, argillaceous limestone and grey-weathering shale and dolomitic limestone. The Chesterfield Member (55 m thick) is characterized by a distinct, recessive sequence of dolomitic, dark-grey- to green-weathering shale, and minor, pale-weathering dolostone interbeds. The Finbow Shale (25 m thick) contains cleaved, dark grey shale that weathers distinctly rusty orange and dark grey-orange with minor, thin-bedded dolostone. The Ware Member (184 m thick) contains black shale at its base, and thick-bedded dolostone

SECTION 5, continued

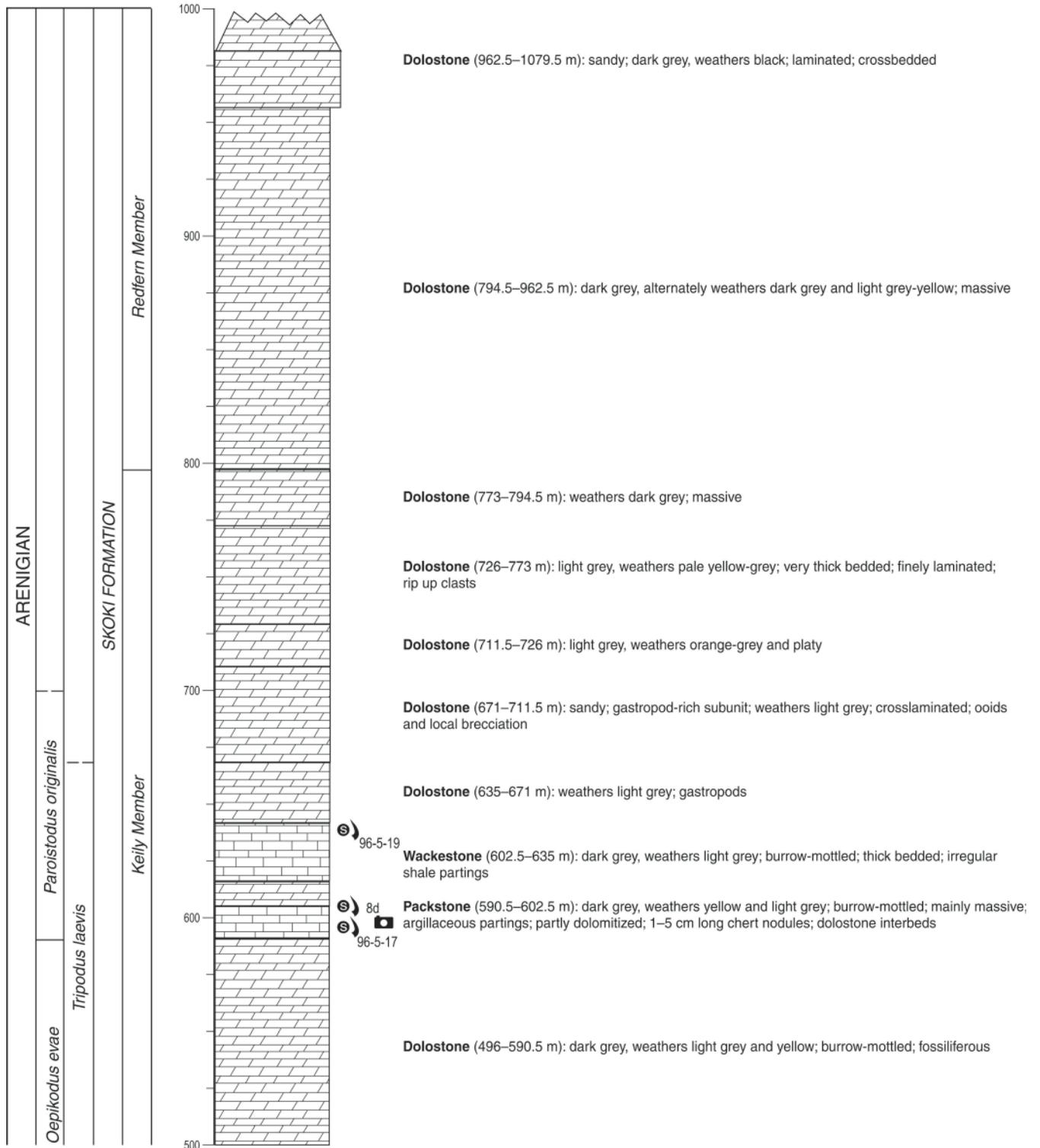


Figure 8c. Measured type section of the members of the Skoki Formation, Section 5, continued.



Figure 8d. Burrow-mottled texture of yellow and light grey weathering dolostone, lower part of the Keily Member, Skoki Formation, Section 5 (1 m stick for scale). 2010-092

and rare blue-grey weathering quartzite that becomes thick bedded upsection. All the members of the Ospika Formation have abrupt but conformable contacts (Fig. 10a, c).

The Pesika Formation (230 m thick) is characterized by thin-bedded, grey, dolomitic limestone and dark grey, graptolitic shale and minor breccia. Its lower contact with the Ware Member and upper contact with the Kwadacha Formation were snow covered when studied by the authors, but were reported to be conformable by Cecile and Norford (1979, Figure 36.2). The Pesika is Early Silurian (Llandovery) in age, within the *Distomodus staurognathoides* Zone (Fig. 3). The overlying Kwadacha Formation (approximately 300 m thick) is a uniform, resistant, cliff-forming unit of orange to brown weathering, thin-bedded, laminated, argillaceous siltstone, and dolomitic siltstone (Fig. 10c). The Kwadacha Formation, based on graptolite collections, is latest Llandovery or Wenlock in age (B.S. Norford, unpub.

rept, 1980). Conodonts from the upper part of the formation in the Kechika Trough indicate an Early to Middle Devonian age (Ferri et al., 1996).

Driftpile Creek Section

Location

The ridge section (94-K/4; 58° 07'N, 125° 51'W; Fig. 1) is situated 5 km northeast of a British Columbia Geological Survey/Teck Corporation base camp and airstrip set up near Driftpile Creek. The section was collected along a southwest spur of the ridge from the contact of the Kechika Formation with an overthrust, ridge-forming Cambrian unit at 331500E, 6444400N, to the Kechika-Road River contact at 331500E, 6444200N. Sample numbers bear the prefix D-94.

GREY PEAK SECTION

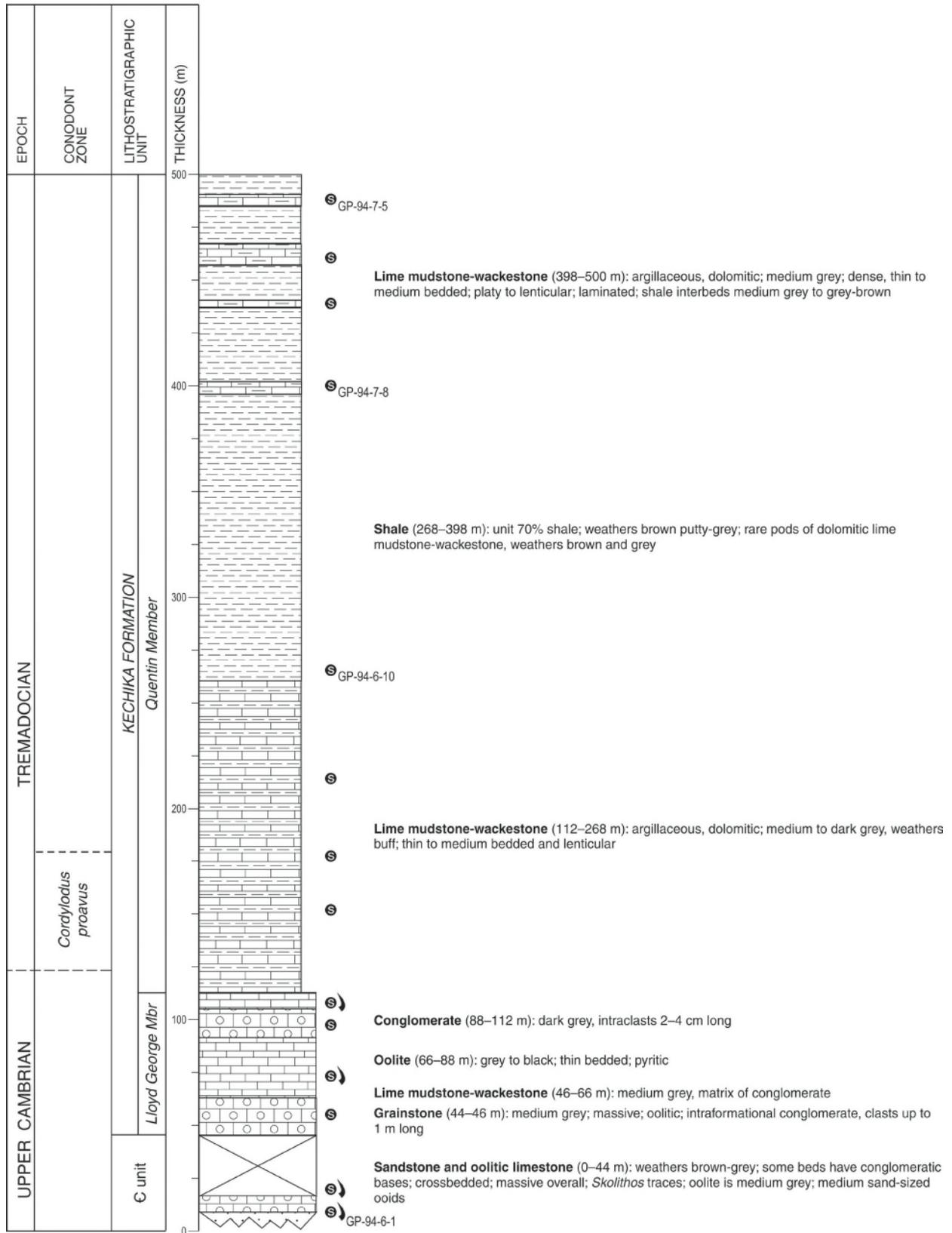


Figure 9a. Measured type section of the members of the Kechika Formation, Grey Peak Section.

GREY PEAK SECTION, continued

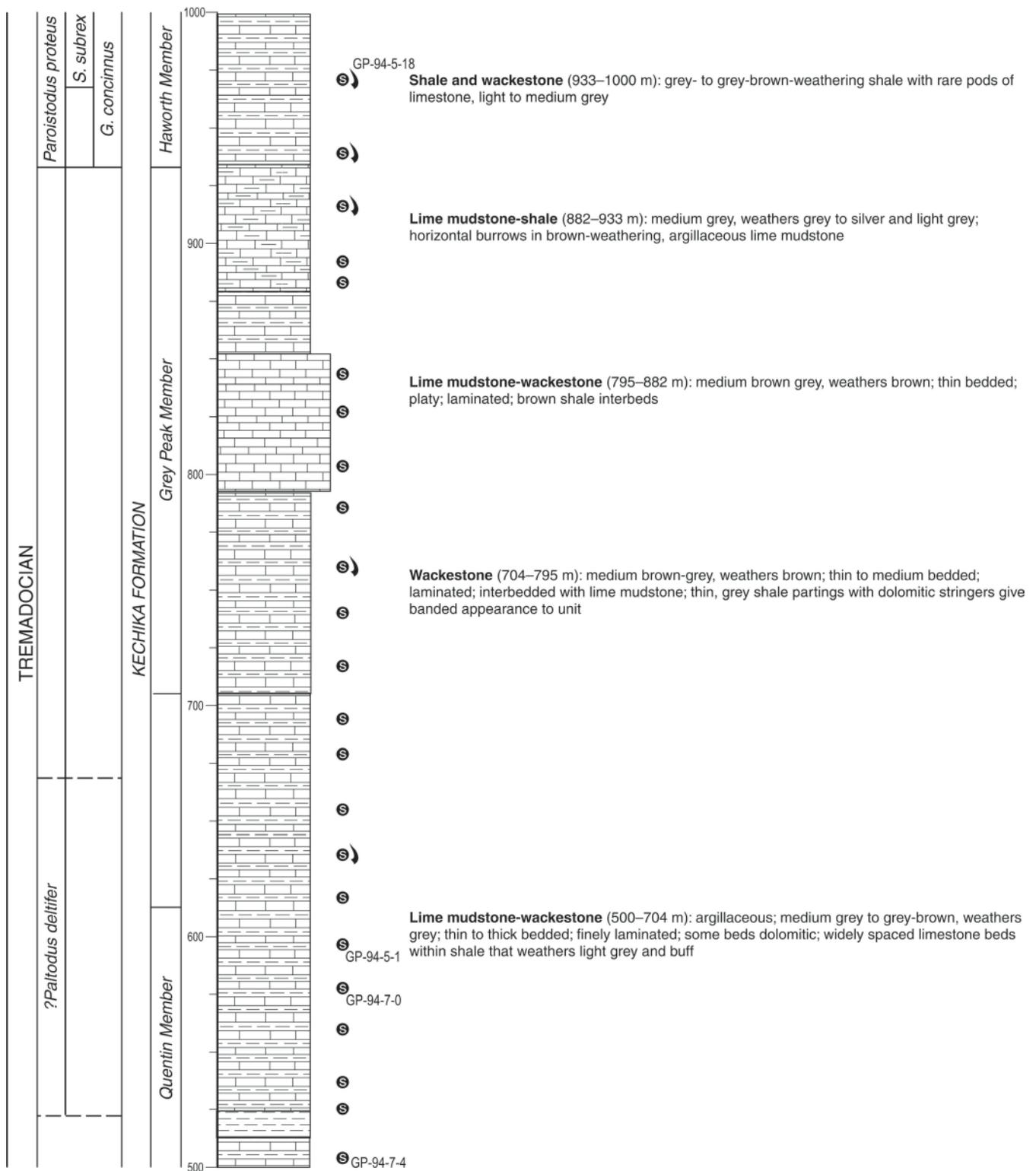


Figure 9b. Measured type section of the members of the Kechika Formation, Grey Peak Section, continued.

GREY PEAK SECTION, continued

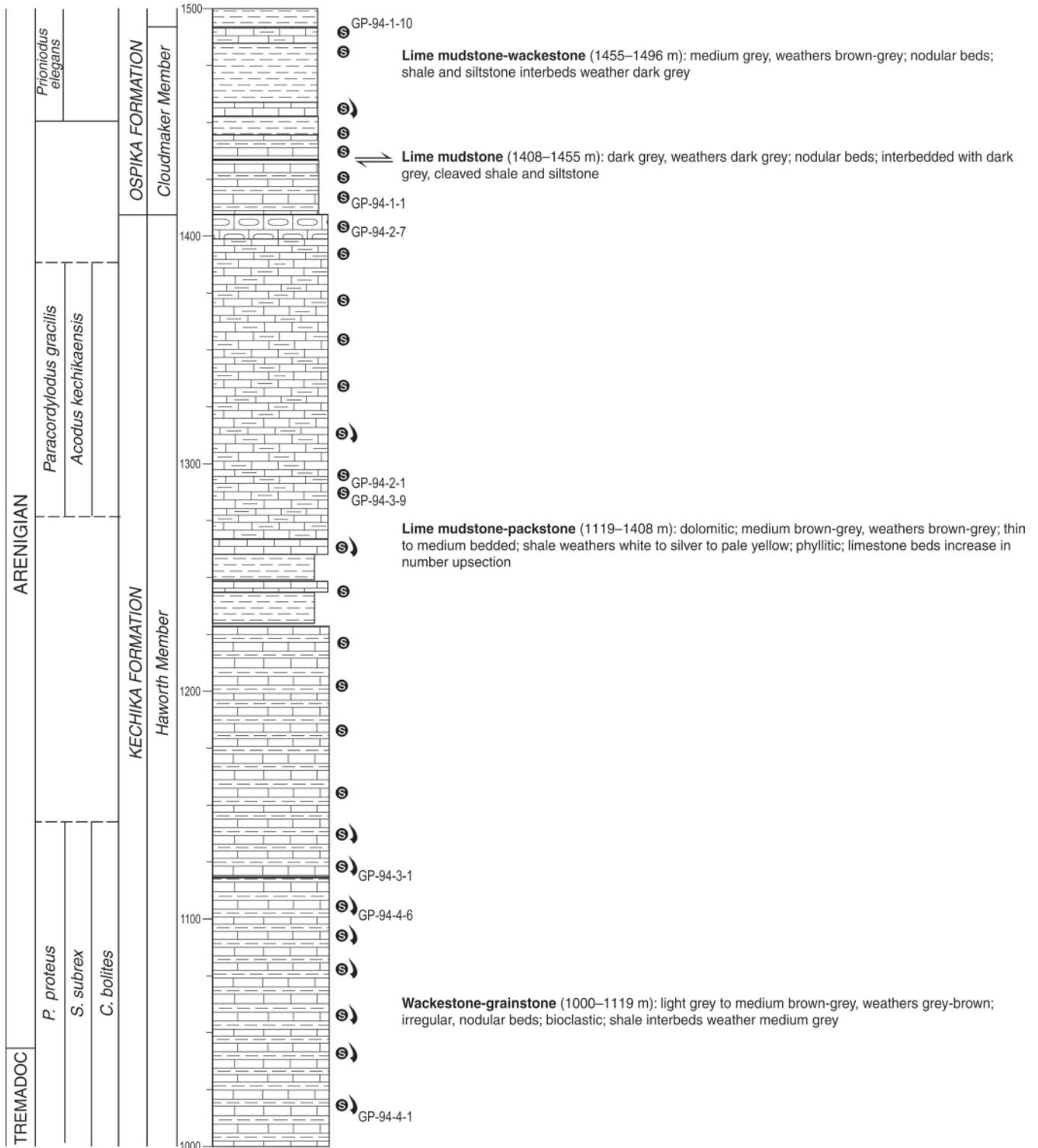


Figure 9c. Measured type section of the members of the Kechika Formation, Grey Peak Section, continued.

GREY PEAK SECTION, continued

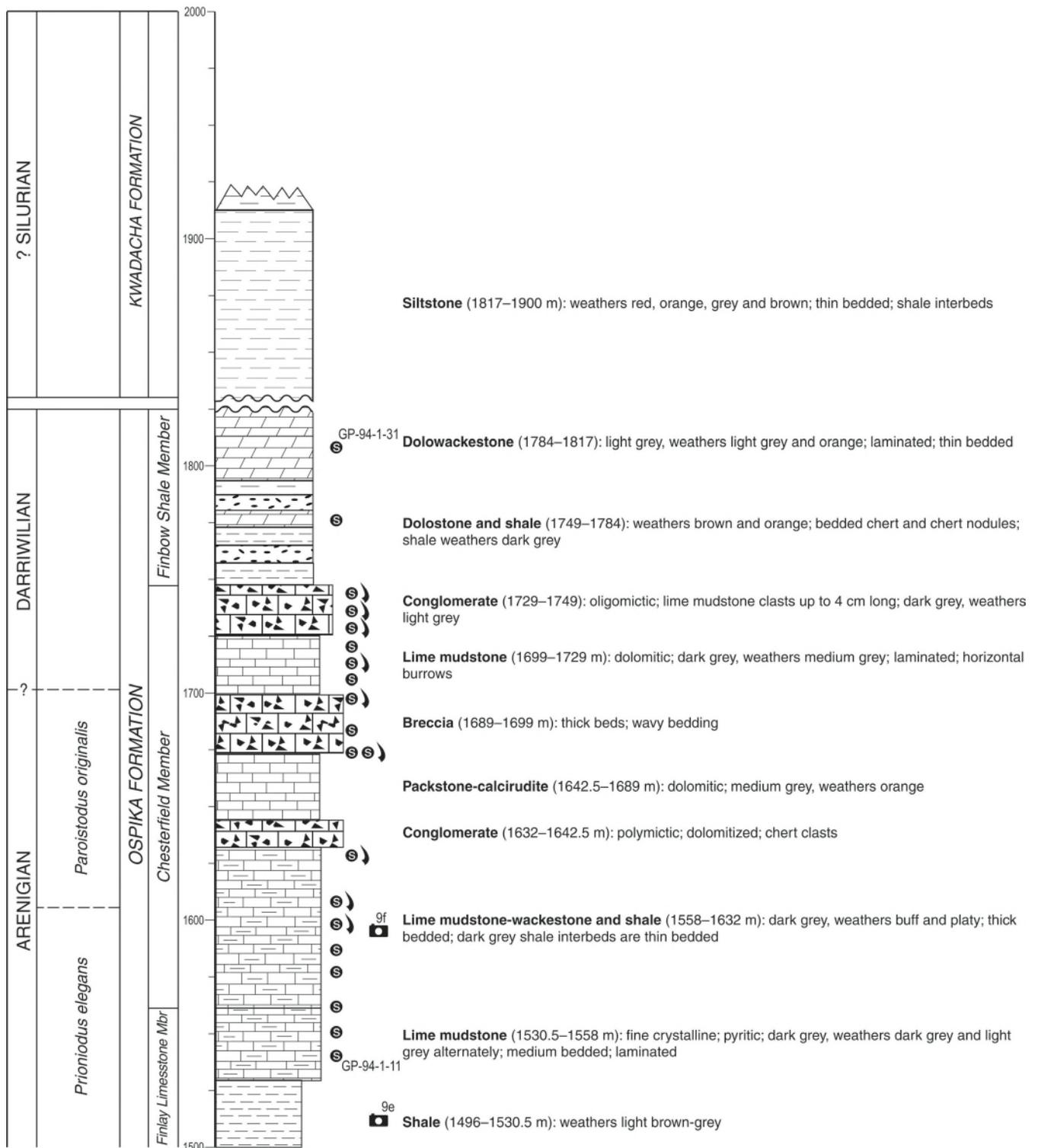


Figure 9d. Measured section of the Ospika Formation, Grey Peak Section, continued.



Figure 9e. Grey Peak Section showing Grey Peak in the distance, composed of the Kechika Formation, Grey Peak Member which is gradationally overlain by the Haworth Member. The Cloudmaker Member (80 m thick) of the Ospika Formation is in the foreground. 2010-093



Figure 9f. Continuation of Grey Peak Section, showing cliff-face of Chesterfield Member and Kwadacha Formation in the distance. 2010-094



Figure 10b. Measured type Section 4, showing the members of the Ospika Formation. 2010-95

Synthesis

The section is part of an inverted sequence. Measurements began at the obscured, talus-covered Kechika Formation (about 45 m) contact with overthrust, massive, Cambrian dolostone that forms the ridge. The Kechika Formation (170 m) contains thin-bedded, orange dolostone and buff-weathering dolomitic shale and siltstone with thin-bedded, isolated, weakly calcareous mudstone beds. The contact with the overlying Road River Group (73 m thick) is marked by a gradual change to dark grey paper shale with thin lime mudstone beds (Fig. 11a).

Gataga Mountain Section

Location

The section is situated 30 km south of a hunting lodge called Terminus Mountain Camp, on the east side of Gataga Mountain (94-L/10; 58° 38'N, 126° 55'W; Fig. 1). Camp was established in a cirque east of the mountain. The Kechika Formation extends along-ridge from northeast to southwest from 621300E, 6506000N to Road River contact at 620800E, 6504000N. Sample numbers have the prefix GBK-95 for the Kechika Formation and GB-95 for a single sample from the Road River Group.

Synthesis

The section was measured in segments, beginning at the boundary of the Kechika Formation and Road River Group in a saddle marked by a 20 m interval of frost-heaved volcanic rocks referred to as the Ospika Volcanics (Goodfellow et al., 1995). The section contains ridges of the mountain below the overthrust Proterozoic(?) units making up the main peak of Gataga Mountain. The Kechika Formation was measured and sampled along the north-south ridge east of camp in two segments (GBK-95-A and B). The formation (720 m, tectonically thickened) contains cleaved, light-grey-weathering shale and thin-bedded to lenticular limestone. The fault-repeated sequence of Kwadacha Formation and Ospika Formation was measured toward Gataga Mountain from the volcanic rocks (Fig. 12).

The Ospika Formation along the ridge section consists of recessive units of dark grey to black, cleaved pencil shale. An isolated carbonate concretion within the Ospika Formation was collected in a creek bed along strike and yielded conodont elements that indicate a Late Ordovician age. The Kwadacha Formation contains resistant, orange-weathering, dolomitic siltstone. The overthrust Proterozoic(?) carbonate and volcanic units forming the crest of Gataga Mountain are light grey weathering.

SECTION 4, continued

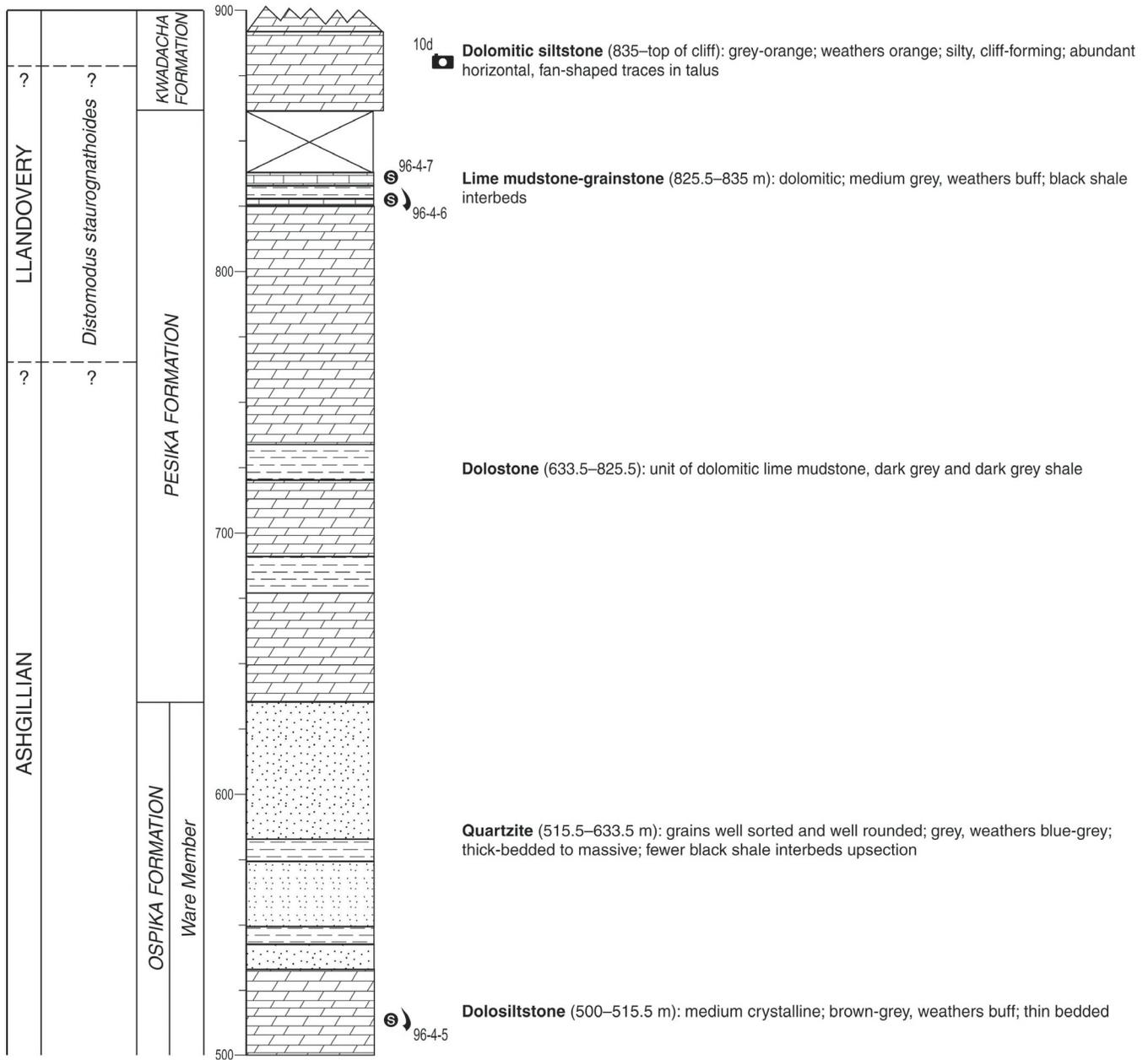


Figure 10c. Measured type section of the Pesika and Kwadacha formations, Section 4.



Figure 10d. Sedimentary characteristics of the Kwadacha Formation, Section 4. Dolomitic siltstone weathers orange and platy, bedding planes covered by abundant fan-shaped horizontal burrows. 2010-096

Bluff Creek Section

Location

Camp was established near a grassy saddle (major animal crossing) at the top of the Cambrian sequence, north of Bluff Creek (94-L/10; 58°34'N, 126°37'W; Fig. 1). The nature of the Cambrian units, Kechika Formation, and Road River Group at this locality make formation contacts difficult to discern. Measurement began within the ?Cambrian unit at 638500E, 6495500N and ended within the Road River at 638700E, 6495000N. Sample numbers bear the prefixes BCN-95-A and BCN-95-B.

Synthesis

Typical Kechika Formation and Road River Group lithologies were not recognized at Bluff Creek. The base of the Kechika Formation is drawn where several recessive units (80 m thick) of mainly shale with dark grey and brown, isolated, platy limestone, overlie a ?Cambrian unit of siltstone, shale, and limestone. The contact with the overlying Road River (200 m thick) lies at the change from the orange- and

grey-weathering shale and minor limestone to bedded limestone, platy, calcareous siltstone, and interbedded chert and black shale. Subsequent units were distinguished based on weathering colour of shale from blue-black to orange and brown. The uppermost unit contains phyllitic shale, weathering green to white, and compact siltstone beds weathering silver (Fig. 13a,b).

Road River Core

Location

Core from Inmet Mining Corp. was sampled at their core shack (94F/7; 57° 23'N, 124° 52'W; 387600E, 6362500N; Fig. 1), located east of a Repeater Station (57° 24'N, 124° 53'W), 5 km north of the Akie River and 37 km northeast of Finbow. The core is from hole A-95-19, 'Cardiac Creek.' Beds dip at about 40° in the core; measurements are directly of core and not corrected for dip. Core sample were given the prefix RR-96.

DRIFTPILE CREEK SECTION

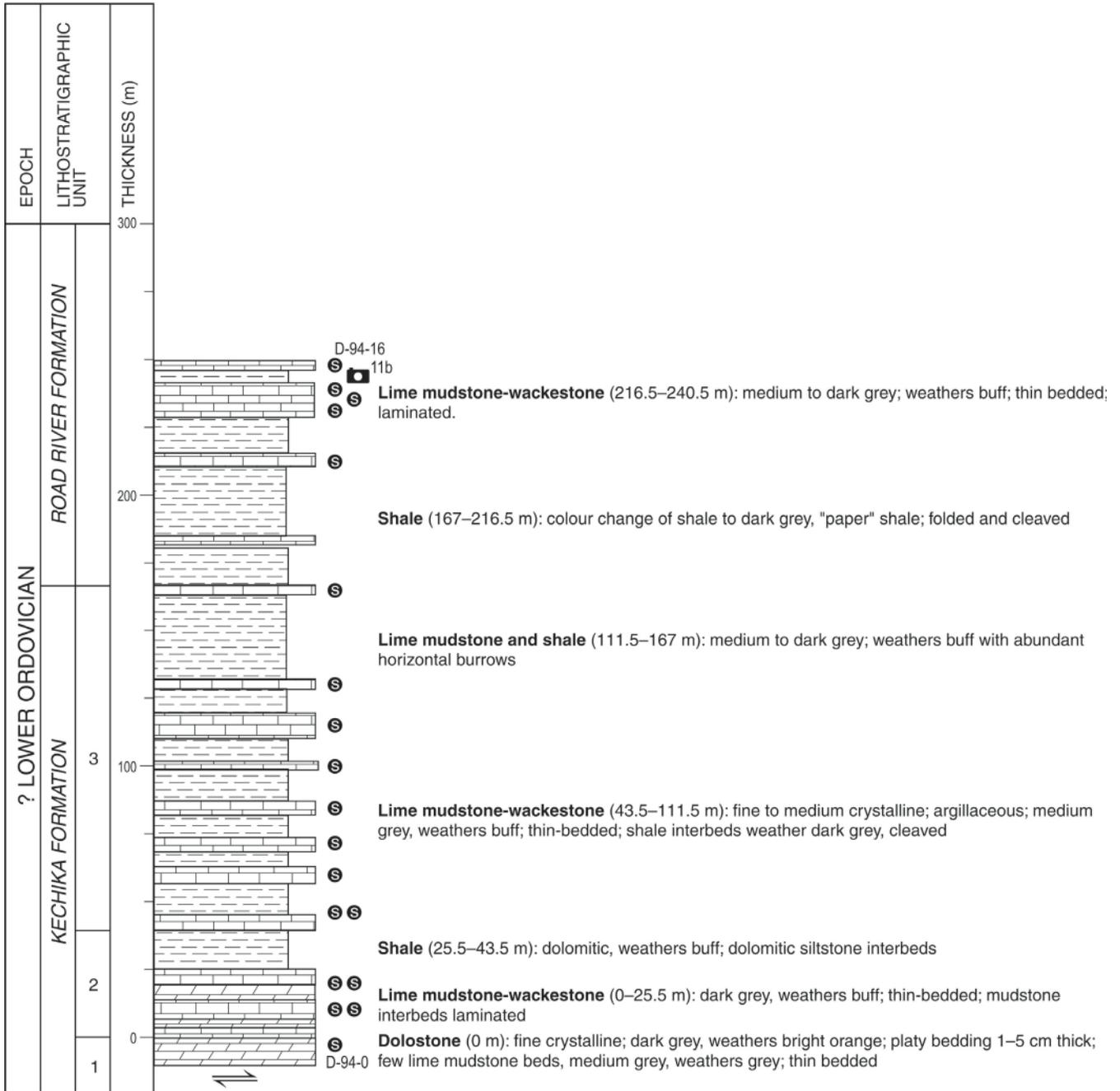


Figure 11a. Measured strata of the Driftpile Creek Section.



Figure 11b. Driftpile Creek Section showing the inverted sequence of cliff-forming Cambrian units overlying the recessive grey shale and thin bedded dolomitic limestone of the Kechika Formation. The black paper shale and thin bedded lime mudstone of the Road River Group are in the foreground. 2010-097

Synthesis

The core (over 600 m) consisted of mainly black, graphitic, sheared shale and phyllite, grey siltstone, calcareous siltstone, and rare lime mudstone. The predominance of siltstone suggests the unit is the Kwadacha Formation of the Road River Group, and a few, poorly preserved conodont elements were assigned to species that indicate a Late Ordovician to Silurian age (Fig. 14).

CASSIAR TERRANE SECTIONS

The parautochthonous Cassiar Terrane represents a Cordilleran margin segment bounded to the east by the Tintina-Northern Rocky Mountain Trench Fault (NRMT, Fig. 2), which offsets strata from autochthonous strata of ancestral North America. Lower Paleozoic strata of the Kechika Formation and Road River Group were examined from three key sections: near Moodie Creek, south of Deadwood Lake, and near the township of Cassiar, at the base of Mount McDame. Stratigraphy of the Kechika Formation and Road River Group is broadly similar to

that of the lower Paleozoic succession east of the NRMT (Fig. 3). A total of 3032 m of strata was measured and described in detail. Eighty-five conodont samples were collected (4 to 5 kg each) through the Kechika Formation and Road River Group.

Moodie Creek Section

Location

The section is situated west of the NRMT along a ridge 1 km east of Moodie Creek. Camp was established near an old mining exploration cabin 'Ewe Drop Inn,' located past the Silurian siltstone and intrusions examined by Pell (1994) (94-L/12; 58° 44'N, 127° 33'W; Fig. 1). Six kilometres of ridge were walked out, trending southwest-northeast and swinging north toward Cambrian strata (94-L/13; 58° 46'N, 127° 33'W). The section was sampled in three parts (A, B, and C), and samples were given the prefix MC-95-A, B, or C. The Kechika Formation extends from 585000E, 6515400N to Road River contact at 584300E, 6510700N (Pell, 1994).

SECTION 5

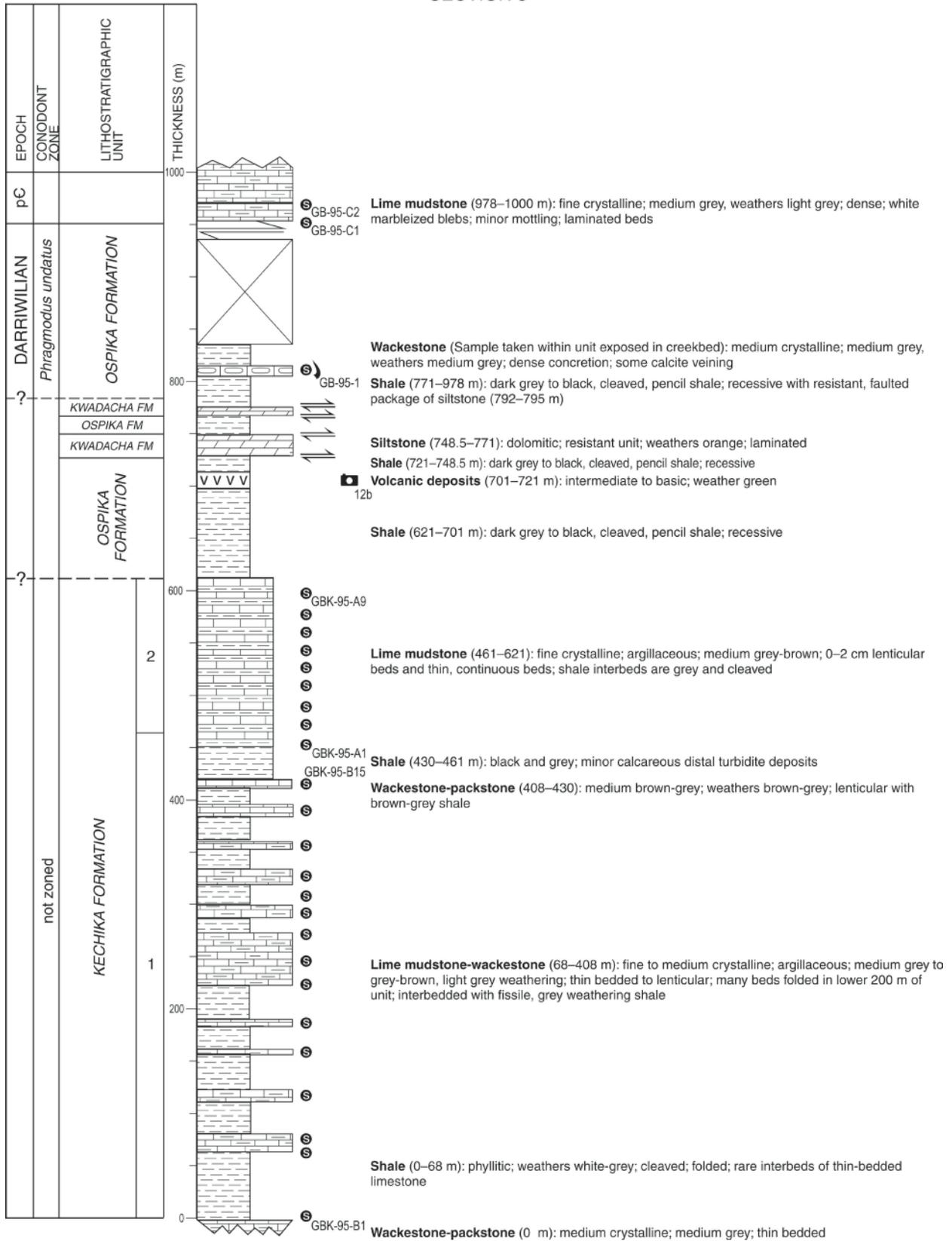


Figure 12a. Measured strata of the Gataga Mountain Section.



Figure 12b. Gataga Mountain Section showing the fault repeated sequence of black shale of the Ospika Formation and orange dolomitic siltstone of the Kwadacha Formation. The Kechika Formation in the foreground consists of light grey weathering shale and thin lime mudstone beds. 2010-098

Synthesis

The section is tectonically thickened and deformed such that the maximum depositional thickness of the Kechika Formation in the area is approximately 900 m (Gabielse, 1998). Recessive shaly units of the Kechika Formation disconformably overlie resistant carbonate and siltstone of the Lower Cambrian Rosella Formation. The Kechika Formation consists of 1940 m of a variety of lithologies including pink-brown, sericitic, cleaved phyllites; orange-brown, massive dolostone with prominent quartz veins; green, argillaceous, sheared siltstone; and grey weathered, thin- to thick-bedded dolomitic limestone (Fig. 15a, b). The contact with the overlying Road River Group is conformable and gradational over a few metres, marked by a change to darker-grey-weathering shale and dolostone. The Road River Group (90 m thick) contains cleaved grey and brown shale and recrystallized silty limestone and dolostone (Fig. 15b). Samples from the basal part of the unit yielded conodont species of the

Tremadocian, Lower Ordovician (Pyle and Barnes, 2001b). Dolomite veins are common in the upper unit of shale and silty dolostone. A unit of dolomitic siltstone and sandstone sharply overlies the Road River Group and is assigned to the Silurian Sandpile Formation (Gabielse, 1998).

Deadwood Lake Section

Location

The section was reached by driving south on Highway 37 from Watson Lake to Centerville and fly camping at the southwest end of Deadwood Lake (104-P/1; 59° 01'N, 128° 23'W; Fig.1) in a natural cleared area east of a major creek in which the section is exposed. The creek runs north and bends to the southwest to drain into the southernmost tip of the lake. Measurements and collections began just above tree line, within the uppermost Kechika Formation at 536200E,

BLUFF CREEK SECTION

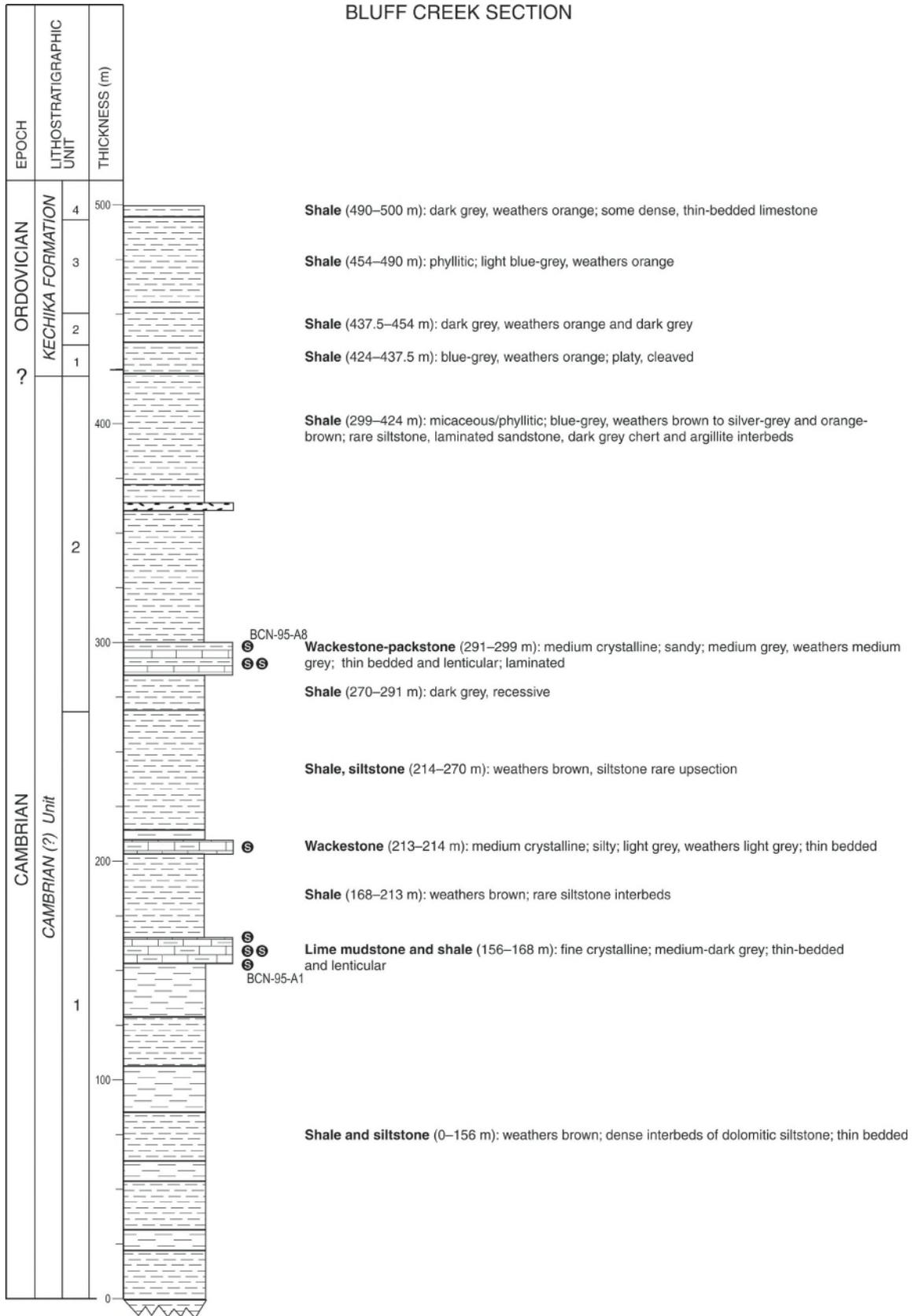


Figure 13a. Measured strata of the Bluff Creek Section.

BLUFF CREEK SECTION, continued

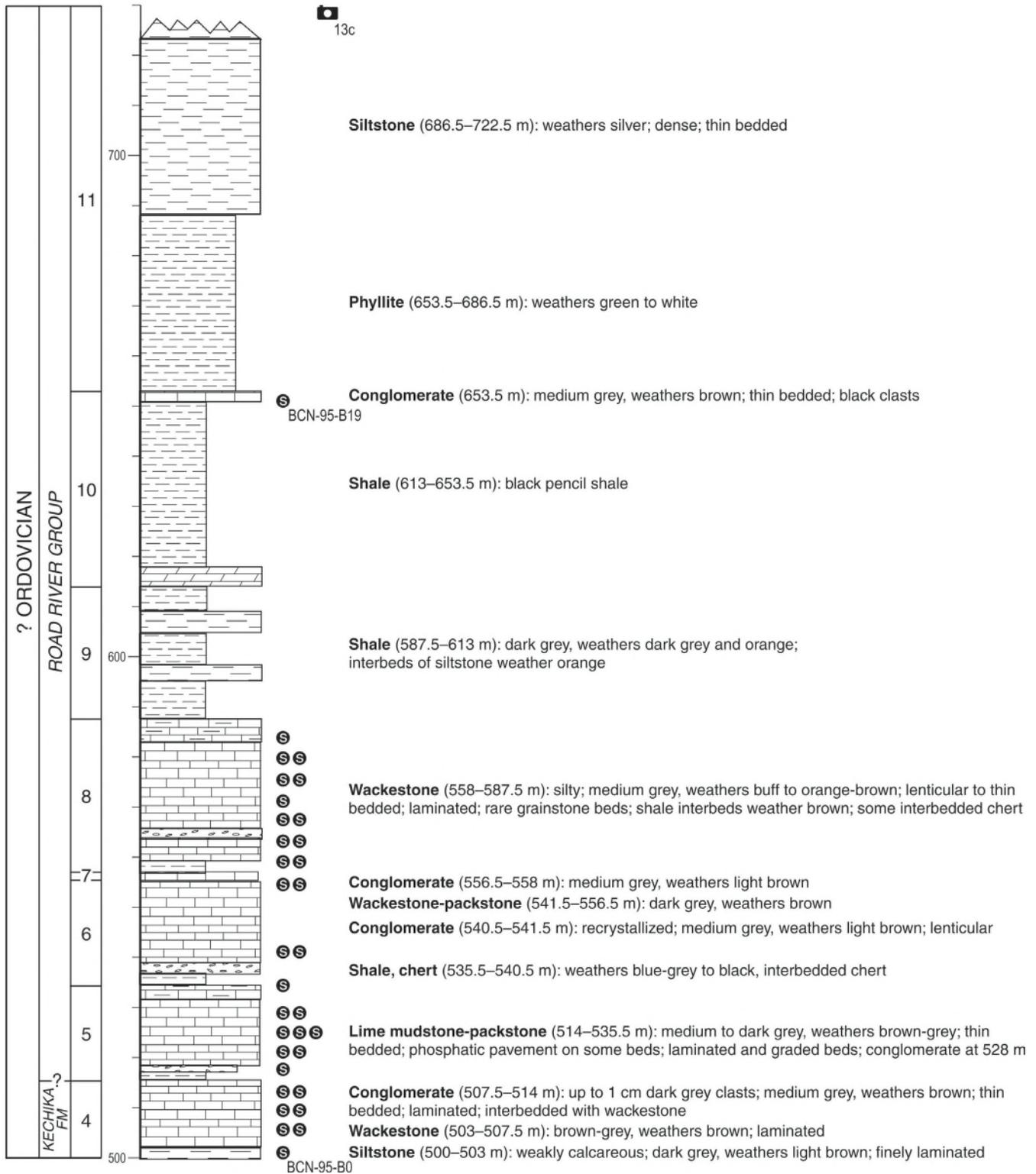


Figure 13b. Measured strata of the Bluff Creek Section, continued (note change in scale from Figure 13a).



Figure 13c. View to the north from camp of ?Kechika Formation and Road River Group. 2010-099

6542100N, and ended at the Road River Group-Ramhorn Formation contact at 536300E, 6541500N. Sample numbers bear the prefix DL-96.

Synthesis

The uppermost Kechika Formation (65 m) contains grey, thin-bedded to nodular limestone and cleaved, folded, light grey and buff shale. The contact with the overlying Road River Group is conformable and gradational over less than one metre. The basal unit of the Road River Group contains lenticular limestone and shale in metre-scale packages that weather orange-grey. The lenses increase in number and lateral continuity upsection. The basal unit (155 m) is overlain by a series of grey quartzite beds, quartz veins, interbedded dolostone and black phyllite (117 m). A third unit (52 m) contains mostly grey, dolomitic siltstone, black shale, and phyllite with minor lime mudstone beds. The uppermost unit (144 m) contains bedded limestone interbedded with black shale, which decreases from 30% at the base to less than 5% at the top of the unit. The limestone is medium to dark grey, thin to medium bedded, and ranges from lime mudstone to grainstone with some intraclast breccia (Fig. 16). The unit is

disconformably overlain by thick-bedded, light grey dolostone that Gabrielse (1963) called the Sandpile Group, now referred to as the Ramhorn Formation (Gabrielse, 1998). Conodonts from the base of the Road River indicate it is much older than the Road River east of the NRMT, lying within the Tremadocian *Rossodus manitouensis* Zone. The Road River Group ranges into the Caradocian *Amorphognathus superbis* Zone (Fig. 3). (Gabrielse 1963)

Mount McDame sections

Location

The township of Cassiar, now abandoned, is reached from the Cassiar-Stewart Highway 37. Two creek beds on the west face of Mount McDame (104-P/5; 59° 17'N, 129° 47'W; 450350E, 6570300N and 450400E, 6570200N; Fig. 1) were measured and sampled. The first creek measured is situated farther west on Mount McDame, and was collected as Section A. Section B occurs in a second major creek about 1 km east of Section A. To reach both sections, the creek running south on the east side of town was crossed. Sample numbers bear the prefix C-95-A and C-95-B.

ROAD RIVER CORE

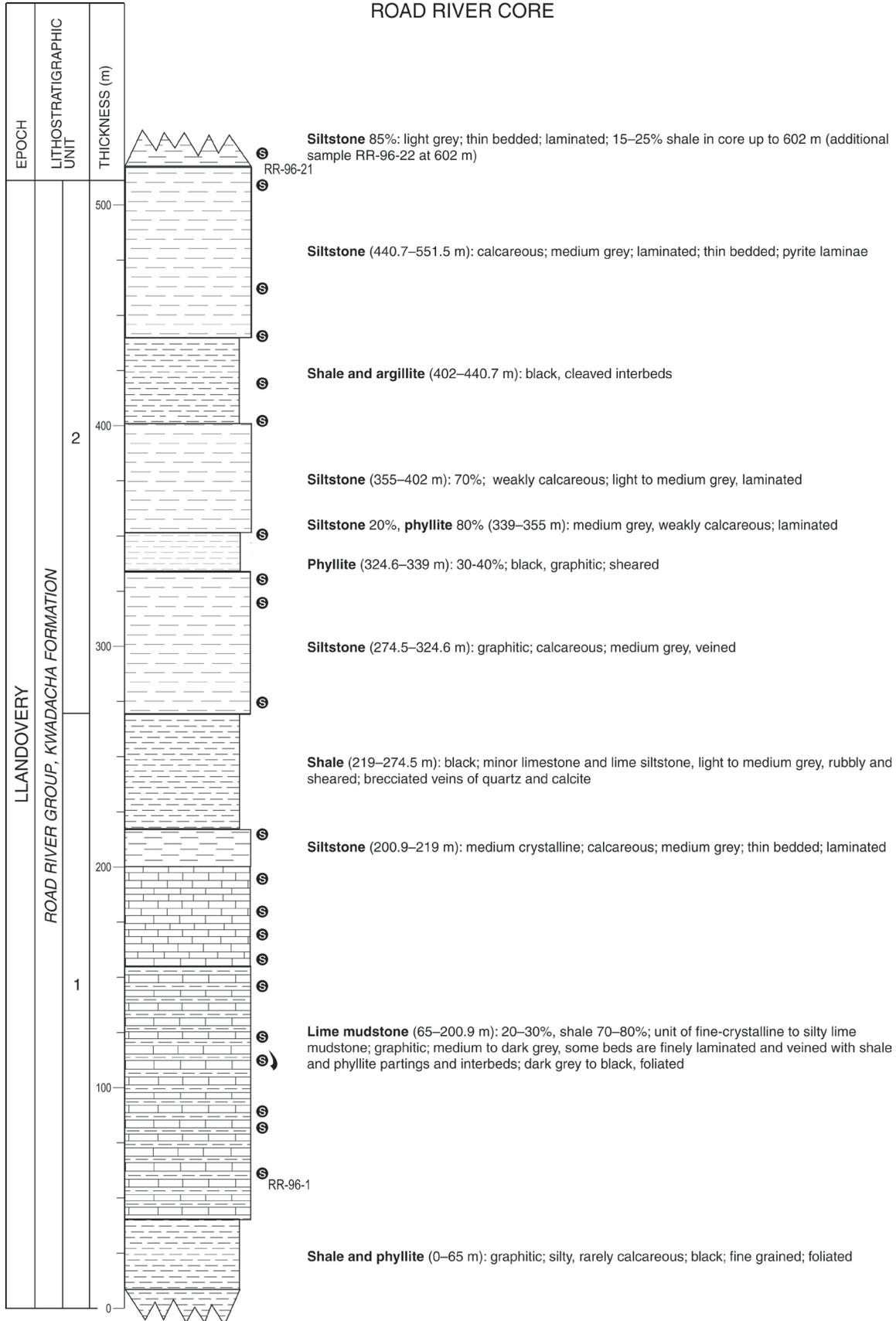


Figure 14. Measured strata of Road River core.

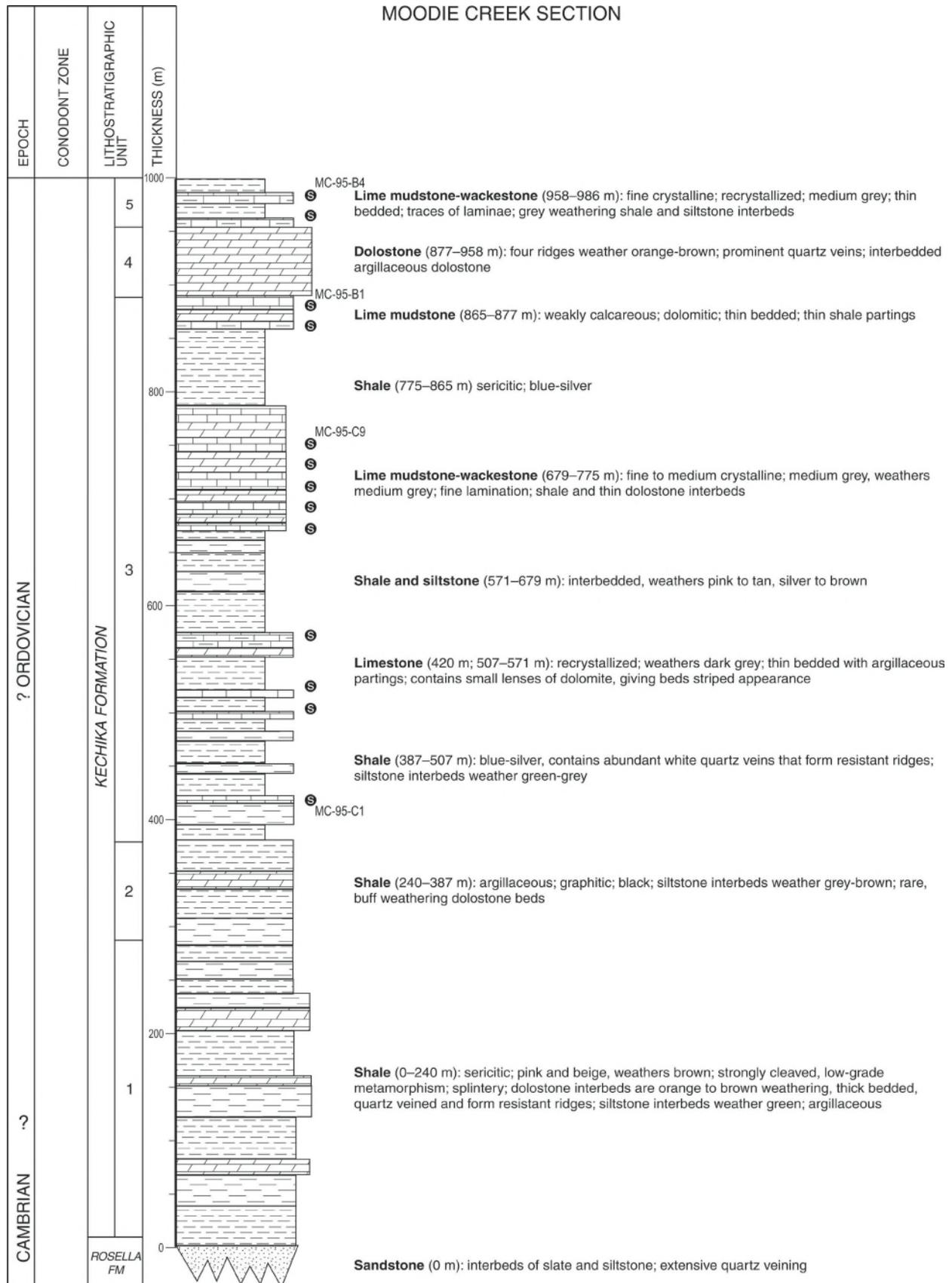


Figure 15a. Measured strata of the Moodie Creek Section.

MOODIE CREEK SECTION, continued

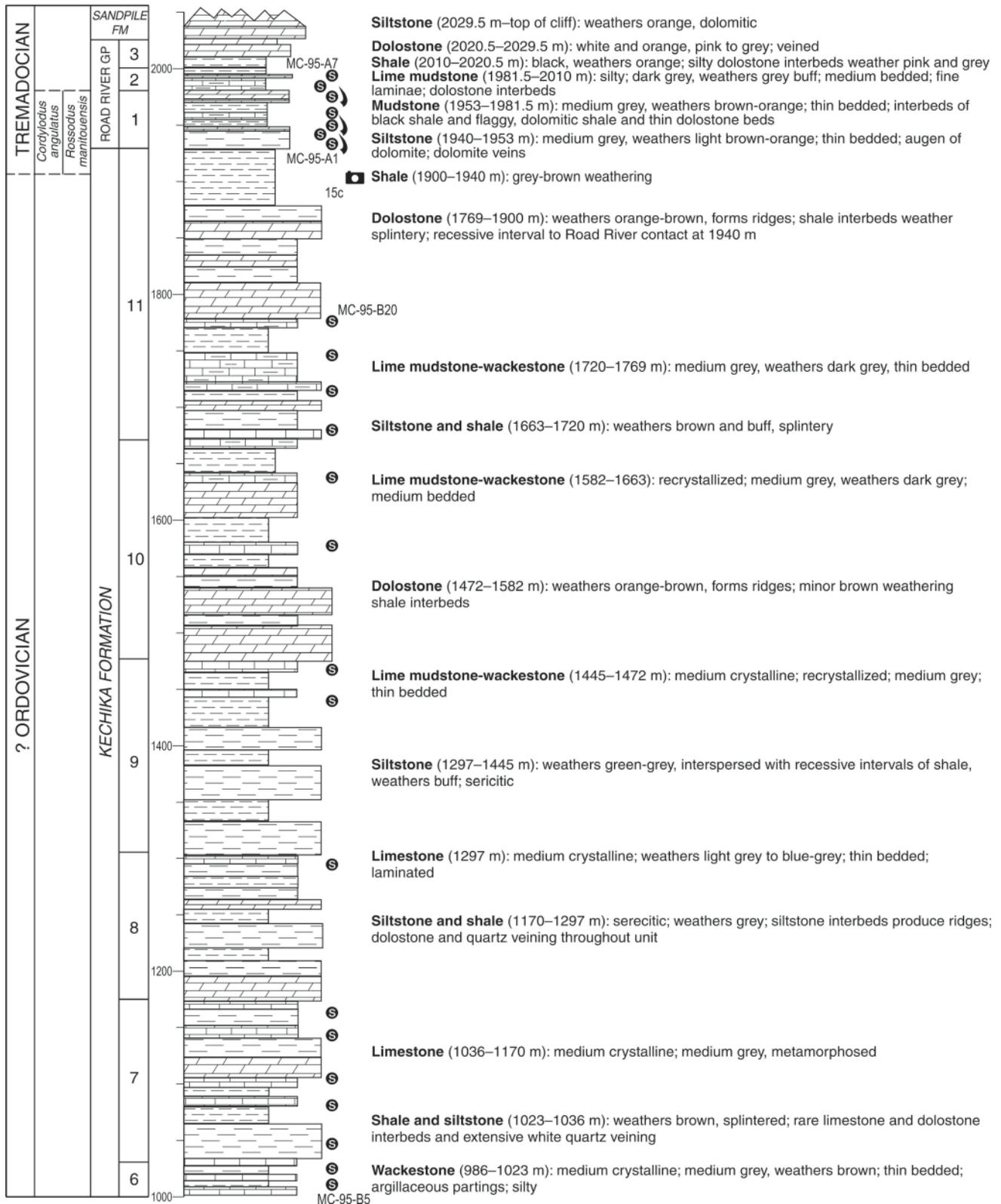


Figure 15b. Measured strata of the Moodie Creek Section, continued.



Figure 15c. Moodie Creek Section within the Cassiar Terrane showing a 6 km long section of Kechika Formation which is gradationally overlain by black shale and thin dolomitic lime mudstone of the Road River Group and orange dolomitic siltstone of the Sandpile Formation. 2010-100

Synthesis

The Road River Group within both sections (120 m and 200 m) contains nodular lime mudstone interbedded with blue-black shale and slate. Thin, rare limestone beds were typically veined with quartz and pyrite. Volcanic rocks were observed near the top of the black shale units (Fig. 17). The Road River Group is conformably overlain by sandstone of the Sandpile Formation (of Gabrielse, 1998).

REGIONAL SYNTHESIS

Regional syntheses by Pyle and Barnes (2003) and Zhang et al. (2005) discussed the implications of these transects (Macdonald Platform to Kechika Trough and across the Cassiar Terrane) to the tectonic evolution of the Laurentian margin. Details of stratigraphic interpretations and regional correlation from the transects are also discussed in Pyle and Barnes (2000). The refined biostratigraphic framework for the Upper Cambrian to Lower Silurian stratigraphic succession of the transects was established by Pyle and Barnes (Pyle and Barnes, 2001a; Pyle and Barnes, 2002).

The refined biostratigraphic framework for the correlative succession of Wilcox Pass, Alberta (Outram, Skoki, and Owen Creek formations) and southeastern British Columbia (McKay Group) and was established by Pyle et al. (2003) and Pyle et al. (2007).

In summary, the Kechika Formation (latest Cambrian to Arenigian) is a laterally extensive unit, thickening westward from 451 m at Section 1 to 1741 m at Section 13 (Fig. 5). It contains platform to outer shelf and basin facies deposited on a broad ramp with gradual lateral facies changes. Five members of the Kechika Formation have gradational and conformable contacts. The basal Lloyd George Member unconformably overlies Cambrian units at most localities. The uppermost Mount Sheffield Member shales out to the west and is laterally equivalent to the Haworth Member and to the basal Cloudmaker Member of the Ospika Formation (Road River Group) (Fig. 3, 5). The diachronous nature of the members, such as the eastward younging of the Quentin Member from Section 13 to Section 1, is interpreted using the refined conodont biozonation.

DEADWOOD LAKE SECTION

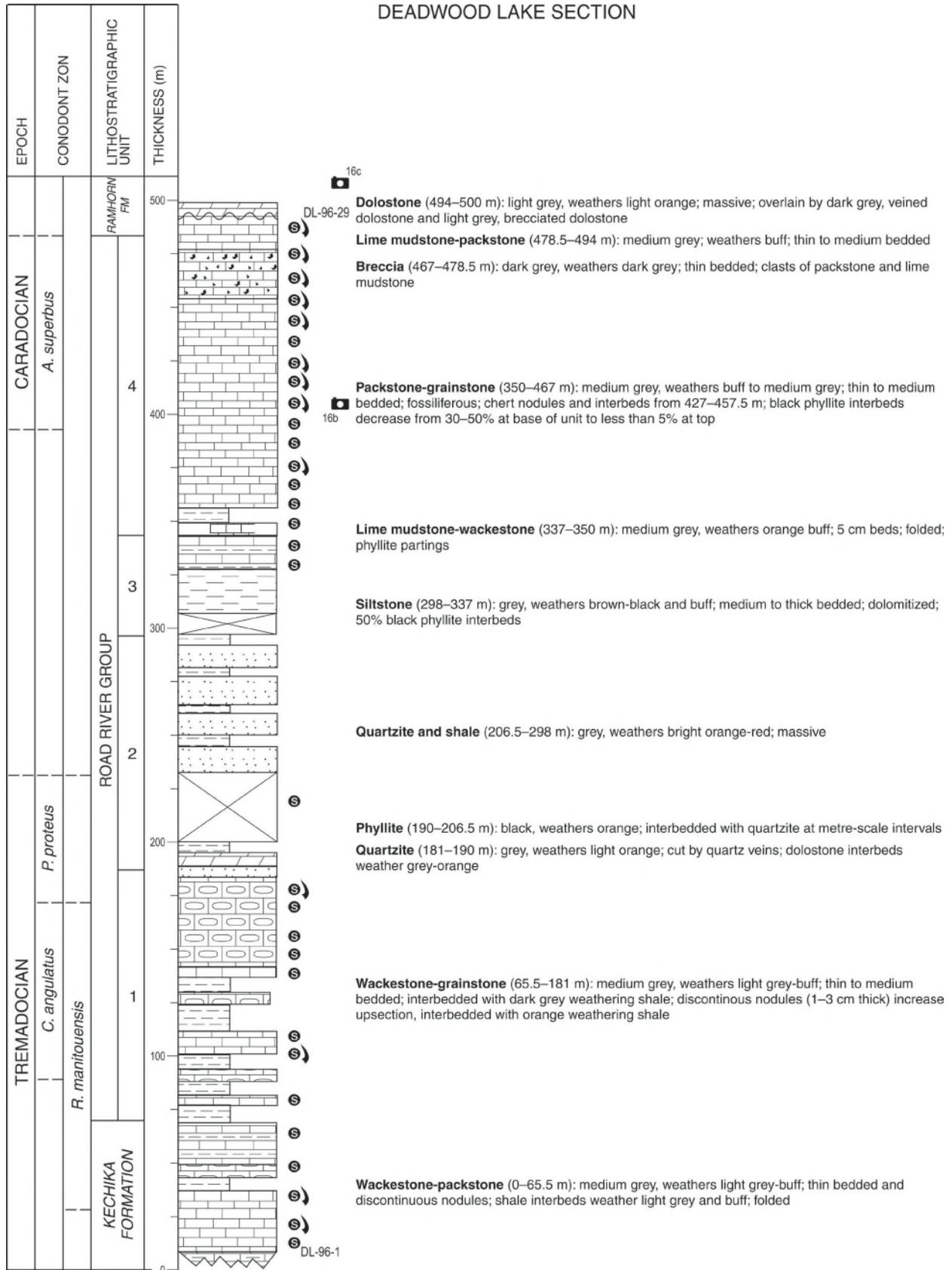


Figure 16a. Measured strata of the Deadwood Lake Section.



Figure 16b. Upper unit of the Road River Group, Deadwood Lake Section, showing the dark-grey- to black-weathering, well bedded, thin, lime mudstone to grainstone. 2010-101



Figure 16c. Deadwood Lake Section within the Cassiar Terrane showing the uppermost part of the light-grey-weathering Kechika Formation overlain by dark shale and limestone of the Road River Group. 2010-102

MOUNT McDAME

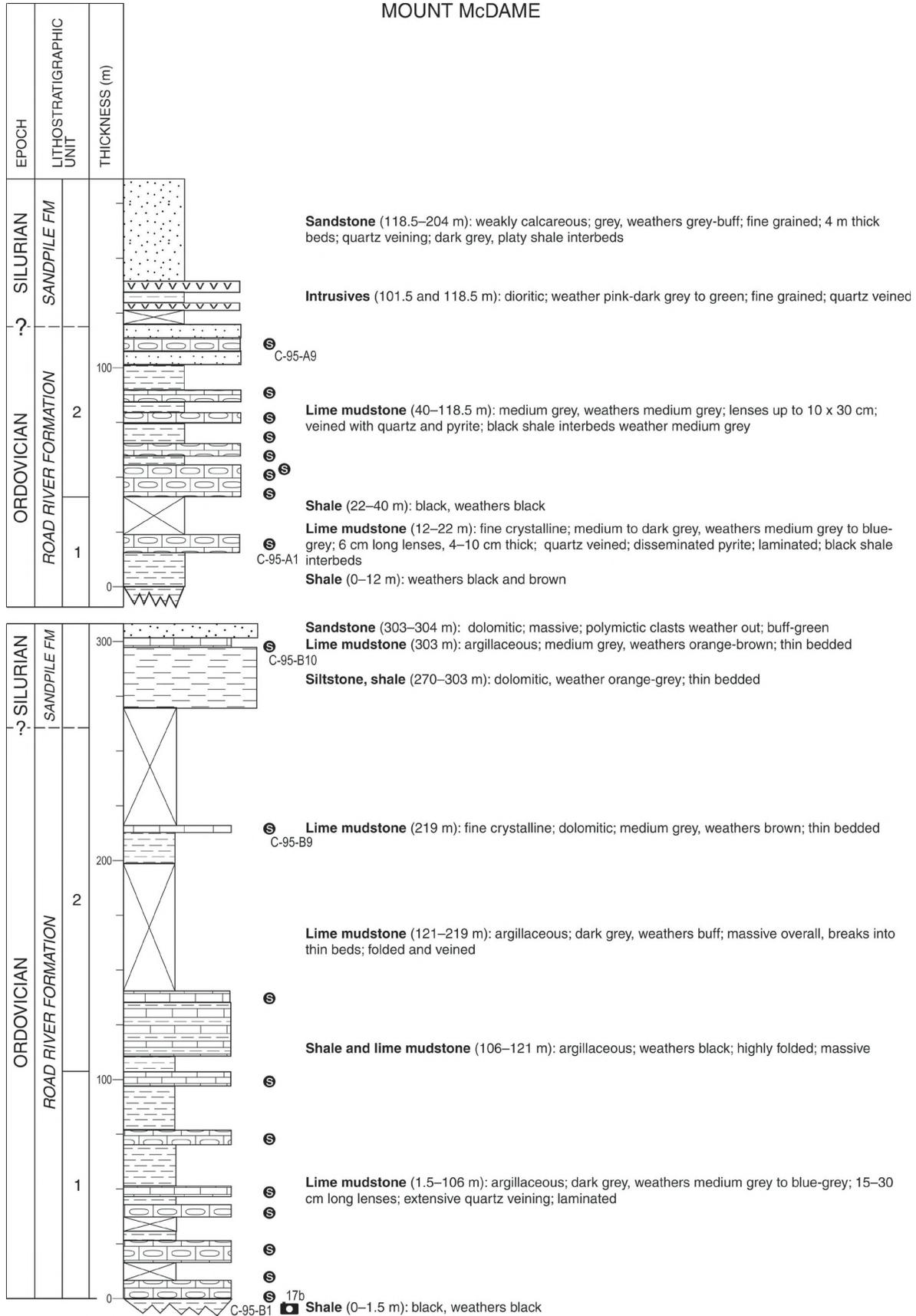


Figure 17a. Measured sections at Mount McDame.



Figure 17b. View of creek section on Mt. McDame. 2010-103

The Ospika Formation represents a pronounced platform to off-shelf transition of abrupt lateral facies changes from platformal dolostone of the Skoki Formation to the east (Fig. 5). The three members of the Skoki Formation recognized in this transect are Arenigian to Darriwilian (Lower to Middle Ordovician) in age. From complementary sections discussed in the following chapter, a fourth unit is recognized that ranges into the Caradocian. Platformal carbonate of the Skoki Formation is laterally equivalent to the basinal facies of the Ospika Formation (Fig. 3, 5). Basinal facies of the Road River Group are divided into three formations. The Opsika Formation (Arenigian to Ashgillian) consists

of five formal members. It is overlain by the Pesika (Lower Silurian) and Kwadacha (upper Lower Silurian to Lower Devonian) formations.

Within the lower Paleozoic succession along an east-west platform-to-basin transect, abrupt changes in deposition, phases of volcanism, and prominent unconformities indicate that the history of the rifted margin is more complex than that of a simple passive margin. Underlying Cambrian units are shallow-water siliciclastic and carbonate deposits. Initiation of the Kechika Formation, which shows a westward change in depositional environment from platform to shelf to deep shelf, indicates part of a post-rift subsidence phase and differentiation of platform and basin strata from

the latest Cambrian to Early Ordovician (MacIntyre, 1992; Pyle and Barnes, 2000). The Kechika Formation represents a westward-thickening, platform to outer shelf-and-basin facies deposited on a broad ramp with gradual lateral facies changes.

Depositional changes in the late Early Ordovician are more abrupt as observed in the well defined Skoki Formation-Road River Group transition. Steepening of the shelf-break margin is recorded in transitional facies in the Grey Peak Section, particularly in the facies of the Chesterfield Member, which include thick debris-flow breccias, conglomerate, and distal turbidites interbedded with black shale. This steepening of the margin possibly coincided with a period of renewed extension along the margin. Silurian units unconformably and conformably overlie the Ospika Formation. The Pesika Formation represents continued deposition of transitional facies and is present mainly in the eastern part of the Kechika Trough. The Kwadacha Formation is a prominent unit that represents an influx of quartz silt and sand to the Kechika Trough.

Depositional onset of both the Kechika and Ospika formations, in the latest Cambrian and late Early Ordovician respectively, can most likely be attributed to renewed periods of extension of the margin followed by thermal subsidence. Local alkaline volcanic deposits are found within the succession, such as those at the Kechika-Ospika formational boundary within the Gataga Mountain Section. The volcanic units localized along reactivated faults within basins are summarized by Goodfellow et al. (1995).

Stratigraphy of the Cassiar Terrane is broadly similar to that east of the NRMT and is regarded as displaced northward along the dextral strike-slip Tintina-NRMT fault a minimum of 450 km to 750 km from the Kakwa Platform (Gabrielse, 1985) or up to 1700 km as a margin segment from Idaho (Pope and Sears, 1997). Stratigraphy and conodont biostratigraphy reveals that the Kechika Formation-Road River Group boundary is older than that east of the NRMT (Pyle and Barnes, 2001b).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

L.J. Pyle gratefully acknowledges receiving financial support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and additional support from the Northern Scientific Research Training Program and a Geological Society of America grant. C.R. Barnes acknowledges primary financial support for the project provided by LITHOPROBE/SNORCLE and NSERC. Logistical support for fieldwork was generously provided by the British Columbia Geological Survey and Inmet Mining Corp.

Valuable advice on stratigraphic sections was provided by M.P. Cecile, F. Ferri, H. Gabrielse, J.L. Nelson, and B.S. Norford. We thank C. Sullivan and D. Pellerin for

cheerful and able field assistance and E. Delahaye for assistance in preparation of figures. We appreciate the comments from the reviewers, G. Nowlan, M. Coniglio, and B.S. Norford.

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Lower Ordovician to Middle Devonian stratigraphy, Macdonald Platform–Ospika Embayment transect, Halfway River, Ware, and Trutch map areas, northeastern British Columbia

L.J. Pyle¹ and C.R. Barnes²

Pyle, L.J. and Barnes, C.R., 2016. Lower Ordovician to Middle Devonian stratigraphy, Macdonald Platform–Ospika Embayment transect, Halfway River, Ware, and Trutch map areas, northeastern British Columbia; in Central Foreland NATMAP Project: Proterozoic to Devonian stratigraphic sections in British Columbia and Yukon, (ed.) L.S. Lane and R.B. MacNaughton; Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin 603, p. 53–83. <https://doi.org/10.4095/299865>

Abstract: This study describes a transect across the Macdonald Platform to Ospika Embayment. At least two periods of renewed extension along the early Paleozoic Cordilleran margin occurred in the latest Cambrian and late Early Ordovician, marked by deposition of the Kechika Formation and the abrupt platform-to-basin transition marking deposition of the Skoki-Ospika formations. Alkalic volcanic rocks associated with abrupt facies changes are consistent with multiphase rifting. Several prominent unconformities punctuate the succession. Conodont biostratigraphy provides new age control for the Skoki, Beaverfoot, McCusker, and Nonda formations. The Robb, Kenny, and Laurier formations are transitional facies of the Road River Group. The lower part of the Kenny Formation is coeval with the McCusker Formation, and the upper part interfingers with the Nonda Formation. The Laurier Formation is correlative with the upper Nonda Formation. The Deserters Formation (Road River Group) was deposited in a linear sub-basin of the Ospika Embayment.

Résumé : Cette étude décrit un transect traversant la plate-forme de Macdonald jusqu'au rentrant d'Ospika. Au moins deux périodes de réactivation d'une déformation en extension se sont manifestées le long de la marge de la Cordillère du début du Paléozoïque, au Cambrien terminal et vers la fin de l'Ordovicien précoce. Elles ont été marquées par le dépôt de la Formation de Kechika ainsi que par le brusque passage d'un milieu de plate-forme à un milieu de bassin révélé par le dépôt des formations de Skoki-Ospika. La présence de roches volcaniques alcalines et les changements brusques de faciès s'accordent avec un rifting polyphasé. Plusieurs discordances marquées parsèment la succession. Une biostratigraphie des conodontes offre un nouveau contrôle chronologique des formations de Skoki, de Beaverfoot, de McCusker et de Nonda. Les formations de Robb, de Kenny et de Laurier sont des faciès transitionnels du Groupe de Road River. La partie inférieure de la Formation de Kenny est contemporaine de la Formation de McCusker, et sa partie supérieure est interdigitée avec la Formation de Nonda. La Formation de Laurier est en corrélation avec la partie supérieure de la Formation de Nonda. La Formation de Deserters (Groupe de Road River) s'est déposée dans un sous-bassin linéaire du rentrant d'Ospika.

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INTRODUCTION

Strata of the northeastern Canadian Cordillera studied across a platform-to-basin transect record the tectonic evolution of the rifted margin of Laurentia from the Early Ordovician to Middle Devonian. The northeast-southwest transect spans more than 70 km within the northern Halfway River, southern Ware, and southern Trutch map areas (94-B, F, G; Fig. 1) and follows the facies transition of the Macdonald Platform to the shelf-break and basinal facies of the Ospika Embayment, the southern extension of the Kechika Trough (Pyle and Barnes, this volume; Fig. 1).

The study area in northeastern British Columbia includes ten stratigraphic sections, in which more than 8000 m of strata were measured and described and a total of 258 conodont samples, 4 to 5 kg each, were collected. Within the study area, the transect spans platform and shelf strata in the

east (Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 8), the ancient shelf-break (Sections 5, 6, 7) and the basin (Sections 9, 10). All sections were measured during the 1998–1999 field season as part of the GSC NATMAP Central Foreland Project. The study complements the detailed stratigraphic framework established for the lower Paleozoic succession studied across a transect about 100 km north in the Ware and Kechika map areas (Pyle and Barnes, 2000, this volume). The general stratigraphic framework was known from previous regional mapping. The objective of this detailed study is to describe the Lower Ordovician to Middle Devonian stratigraphy and document the conodont biostratigraphic framework (Fig. 2, 3).

Previous stratigraphic nomenclature consisted of several informal subunits within formations and several formations that were referred to by their map unit designation (see Norford, 1991, Fig. 2; and Thompson, 1989, Fig. 6, 7; Table 1). Detailed work by Pyle and Barnes (2000) described

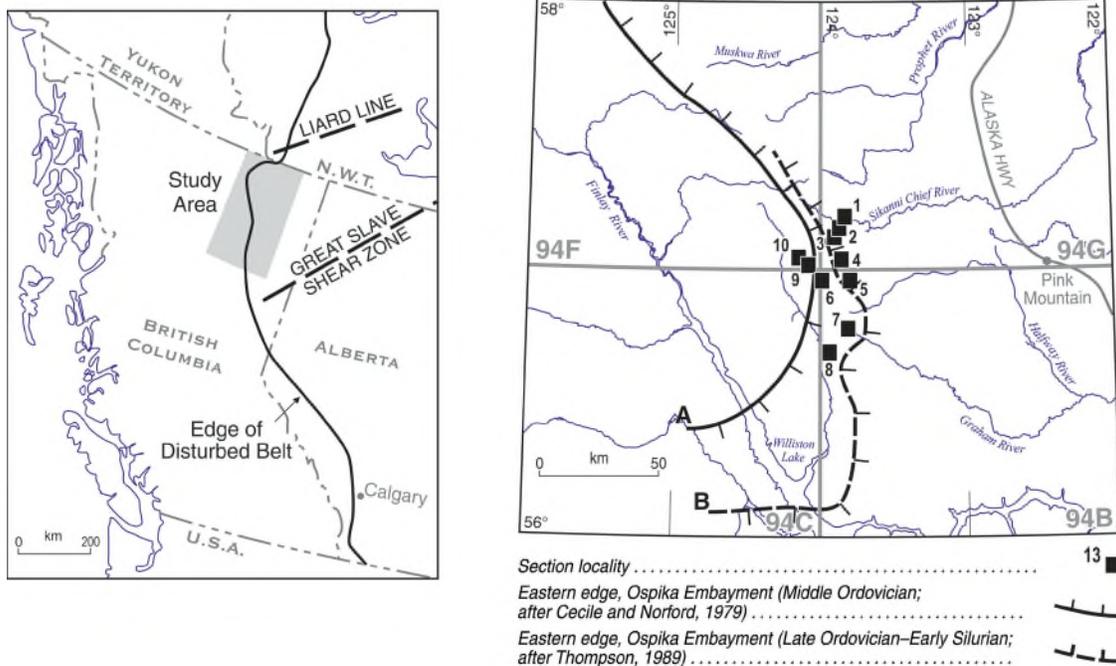


Figure 1. Study area and sections within the Ware (94-F), Trutch (94-G) and Halfway River (94-B) map areas. Section localities: 1. Sikanni Chief River North, 2. Sikanni Chief River South, 3. Gautschi Creek, 4. Mount McCusker, 5. Mount Kenny, 6. Mount Kenny East, 7. Mount Robb, 8. Mount Lady Laurier, 9. Ospika River, 10. Ospika River North.

Figure 2. Biostratigraphic correlation chart for the Ordovician and Silurian. Standard conodont and graptolite zones for the Ordovician after Fortey et al. (1995), Harris et al. (1995), and Webby (1995), and time scale after Webby (1998) and Cooper et al. (2001). The conodont zonation for the Lower Ordovician as shown was revised by Pyle and Barnes (2002). The Silurian standard graptolite and conodont zonations are after Norford et al. (1997). Shading indicates hiatuses and dashed lines indicate that the exact age of the formational boundary is unknown. The lower and upper contacts of the Advance Formation are unconformable; * indicates that the Advance Formation (Norford, 1996) was not examined in this present study.

SYSTEM	STAGES/SERIES		NORTH AMERICAN STAGES		GRAPTOLITE ZONES		CONODONT ZONES		STRATIGRAPHY												
			Britain/Australia	North America/Australia	Atlantic Realm	Midcontinent Realm	OSPIKA EMBAYMENT	Shelf break	MACDONALD PLATFORM												
SILURIAN	Lower	Wentlock	Sheinwoodian	uniformis		w. hesperius w. woschmidtii patula		KWADACHA FORMATION			MUNCHO-McCONNELL FORMATION ?										
				centrifugus - murchisoni		amorphognathoides															
				lapworthi - insectus																	
				spiralis interval																	
				griestoniensis-crenulata																	
				turriculatus-crispus		celloni															
				geurichi																	
				sedgwickii		staurognathoides															
				convolutus																	
	Upper	Llandoverly	Aeronian	triangulatus-pectinatus		kentuckyensis		PESIKA FORMATION	KENNY FORMATION	LAIURIER FORMATION											
				cyphus																	
				vesiculosus																	
				acuminatus		nathani															
				G. persculptus		G. persculptus															
				C. extraord.		C. extraord.															
				D. anceps		D. ornatus															
				D. complanatus		D. complanatus															
				P. linearis		A. manitoulinensis															
ORDOVICIAN	Lower	Arenigian	Ibexian	D. nitidus		D. protobifidus		O. evae		ROAD RIVER GROUP			OSPIKA FORMATION	Ware Member	ROBB FORMATION	Calnan Member	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION				
				P. fruticosus		P. fruticosus		P. elegans													
				T. approximatus		T. approximatus		P. gracilis												A. kechikaensis	
	Middle	Darrivillian	Whiterockian	D. artus		D. intersitus		E. suecicus		OSPIKA FORMATION			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION						
				D. hirundo		P. tentaculatus		M. flab.										H. holodontata			
				I. gibberulus		U. austrodentatus		L. variabilis										H. sinuosa			
						Oncograptus		M. parva										H. altifrons			
						P. originalis		S. ki.										C. sweeti			
						B. navis		R. inaequalis										P. undatus			
						B. triangularis		P. serrata										B. compressa			
								E. lind.										E. quadridactylus			
								E. rob.										P. tenuis			
Upper	Caradocian	Mohawkian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Ashgillian	Cincinnati	D. complanatus		A. manitoulinensis		A. orдовicus		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			G. pygmaeus		A. superbus		A. grandis										O. robustus				
							O. velicuspis										B. confluens				
							P. tenuis										P. undatus				
							B. compressa										E. quadridactylus				
							P. aculeata										B. variabilis				
							P. anserinus										C. sweeti				
							C. friendsvillensis										P. "pre-flexuosus"				
							H. holodontata										H. sinuosa				
Upper	Caradocian	Turinian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Chatfieldian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B. atobatus										P. undatus				
			D. clingani		C. spiniferous		B. gerdae										B. compressa				
					O. ruedemanni		R. inaequalis										E. quadridactylus				
					C. americanus		S. ki.										P. tenuis				
							E. lind.										P. undatus				
							E. rob.										B. compressa				
							E. rec.										E. quadridactylus				
Upper	Caradocian	Edenian	D. multidentis		C. bicornis		A. tvaerensis		ROAD RIVER GROUP			Siderius Member	Advance Fm *	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION							
			C. pellifer		O. calcaratus		B. gerdae										P. aculeata				
			C. wilsoni		C. americanus		B														

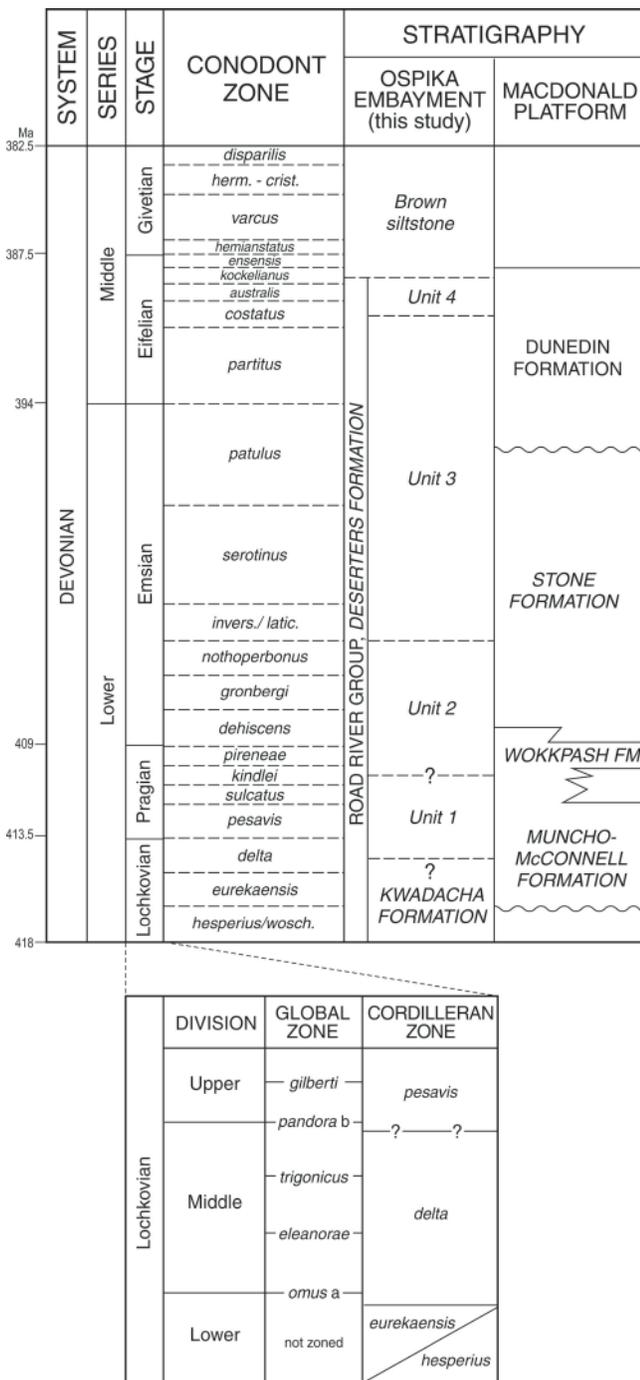


Figure 3. Conodont biostratigraphy of the Lower and Middle Devonian (after Tucker et al., 1998) and stratigraphy of the Ospika Embayment (this study) and Macdonald Platform (after Gabrielse and Yorath, 1991).

the stratigraphic framework and history of nomenclature for the Kechika and Skoki formations and Road River Group based on the more northern transect. Their revised stratigraphic nomenclature is applied to this present transect. In addition, further revision of the lower Paleozoic stratigraphic framework, particularly the overlying platform succession and the units that preserve the ancient shelf-break, was detailed by Pyle and Barnes (2001) and Pyle et al. (2003a). These publications contain the detailed stratigraphy, regional correlations, and stratigraphic interpretations. The conodont biostratigraphy, taxonomy, and faunal lists from the present transect are detailed in Pyle and Barnes (2003a), which builds on the refined biostratigraphy established by Pyle and Barnes (2002).

Platformal units include the Kechika (Lower Ordovician), Skoki (Lower to Upper Ordovician), Beaverfoot (Upper Ordovician), McCusker (Lower Silurian), and Nonda (Lower Silurian) formations. Three new formations defined by Pyle and Barnes (2001) preserve shelf-break facies and are off-shelf equivalents of the Beaverfoot, McCusker, and Nonda formations. They are part of the off-shelf Road River Group and include the Robb Formation (formerly the Upper Ordovician shale and quartzite), Kenny Formation (formerly the Upper Ordovician–Silurian carbonaceous limestone), and Laurier Formation (formerly the unnamed Silurian breccia) (Fig. 2). The basal facies of the Road River Group measured in the Ware map area are the Ordovician Ospika Formation and Silurian Pesika and Kwadacha formations of Pyle and Barnes (2000) (Fig. 2). Section 9 was examined on the premise that it contained Ordovician–Silurian strata. It yielded a Lower to Middle Devonian conodont fauna and represents a new formation of the Road River Group preserved within the Ospika Embayment (Pyle et al., 2003a).

All sections were measured by L. J. Pyle and C. R. Barnes from the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of Victoria during the 1998 and 1999 field seasons. UTM coordinates are given based on NAD Datum 27. Lithological terminology for depositional textures of carbonate rocks is based on the classification scheme of Dunham (1962). The siliciclastic rocks were not classified beyond a basic field determination.

SECTIONS FROM THE MACDONALD PLATFORM

Section 1 (Sikanni Chief River North)

Location

The section is situated 4 km north of the Sikanni Chief River (123°51'W, 57°14'N) and is the northern extension of the Sikanni Chief section measured 3 to 4 km south of the river (B. S. Norford, GSC, unpub. report). The mountain on the north side of river has a tight fold, with the horizontal limb extending halfway up the cliff to the bottom of the cliff

facing the river. Camp was established two creeks to the east of the section. The section was measured and collected starting near the axis of the fold at the base of the main cliff through the top of the Skoki, Beaverfoot, and Nonda formations, to the sandstone at the base of the Muncho-McConnell Formation, from west to east, at 6341500N from 445500 E to 446300 E. Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix SCN-98.

Synthesis

A total of 694 m of strata was measured, ranging from the uppermost Skoki Formation to base of the Muncho-McConnell Formation (Fig. 4, 5). The upper Skoki Formation (65 m thick) consists of grey, medium- to thick-bedded, mottled dolostone of Middle Ordovician age, within the *Histiodella holodentata* Zone. An abrupt change to brown-weathering sandstone and sandy dolostone of the Beaverfoot Formation (290 m thick) occurs at 65 m above the section base. Overall the Beaverfoot Formation consists of silty, mottled dolostone with intervals of two, prominent, orange-white weathering dolomitic quartzite units at 115 and 138 m from the section base. It is Late Ordovician in age, within the *Plectodina aculeata* Zone and possibly extending into the Ashgillian (Fig. 2). The Nonda Formation (335 m thick) is in sharp contact with the underlying Beaverfoot Formation dolostone and overlying Muncho-McConnell Formation. The basal 45 m is medium-grey-weathering, rubbly, thin-bedded dolostone, with abundant pentamerid brachiopods and minor chert. The upper 290 m is predominantly thick bedded to massive, light brown-grey-weathering dolostone with common to abundant silicified fossils (crinoids, halysitid and rugose corals, brachiopods) throughout. A conodont zone was not determined for the Nonda Formation at Section 1. Elsewhere, the Nonda is Early Silurian in age. The Muncho-McConnell Formation was not measured but is marked by a distinct change to white-weathering, massive sandstone and dolostone.

Section 2 (Sikanni Chief River South)

Location

Camp was established in a gully between the ridges of the upper Kechika Formation. The section is situated 3 to 4 km south of the Sikanni Chief River (123°55'W, 57°10'N), south of Section 1. The contact between the Kechika and Skoki formations is at 444500E, 6336500N, and collection began along the peak east of the camp. The base of the Skoki Formation is marked by a break of slope in the main scree slope and highest saddle/col at the edge of the ridge overlooking the Sikanni Chief River. In order to describe the upper Kechika Formation, collections were started from the cliff edge overlooking Sikanni Chief River (cliff of lower Kechika Formation below). There are three ridges

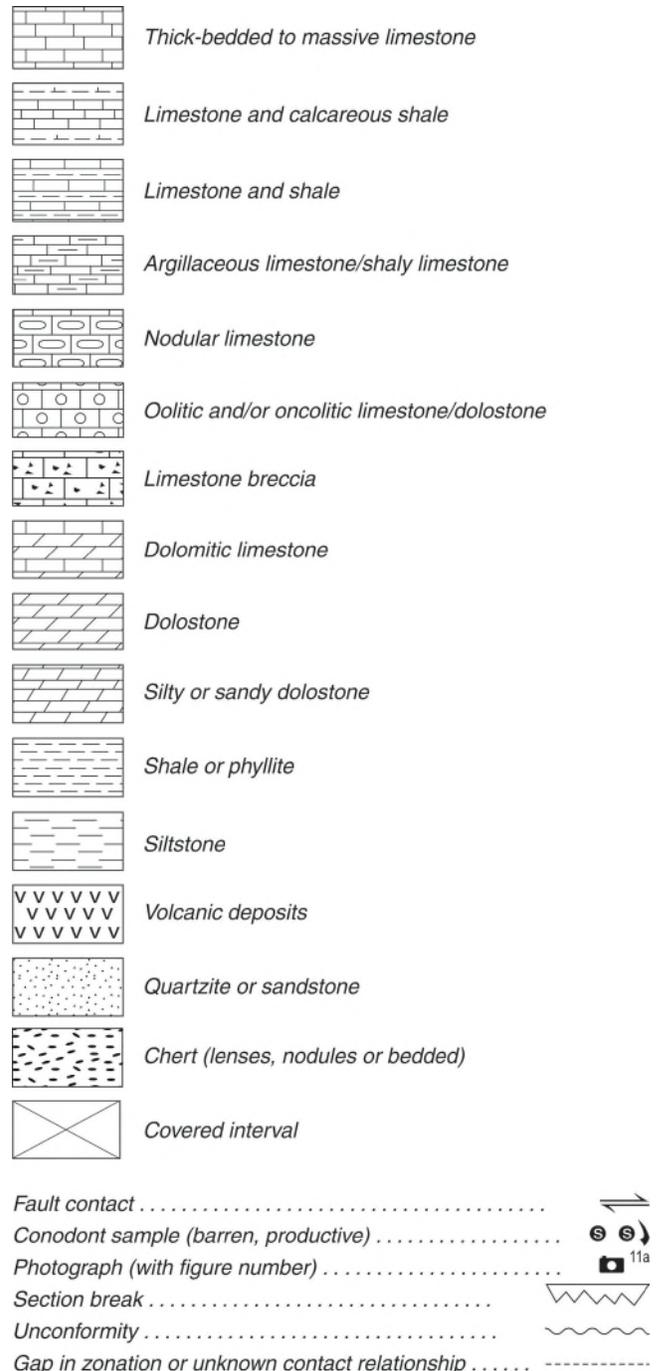


Figure 4. Legend to accompany Figures 5 through 14.

SECTION 1

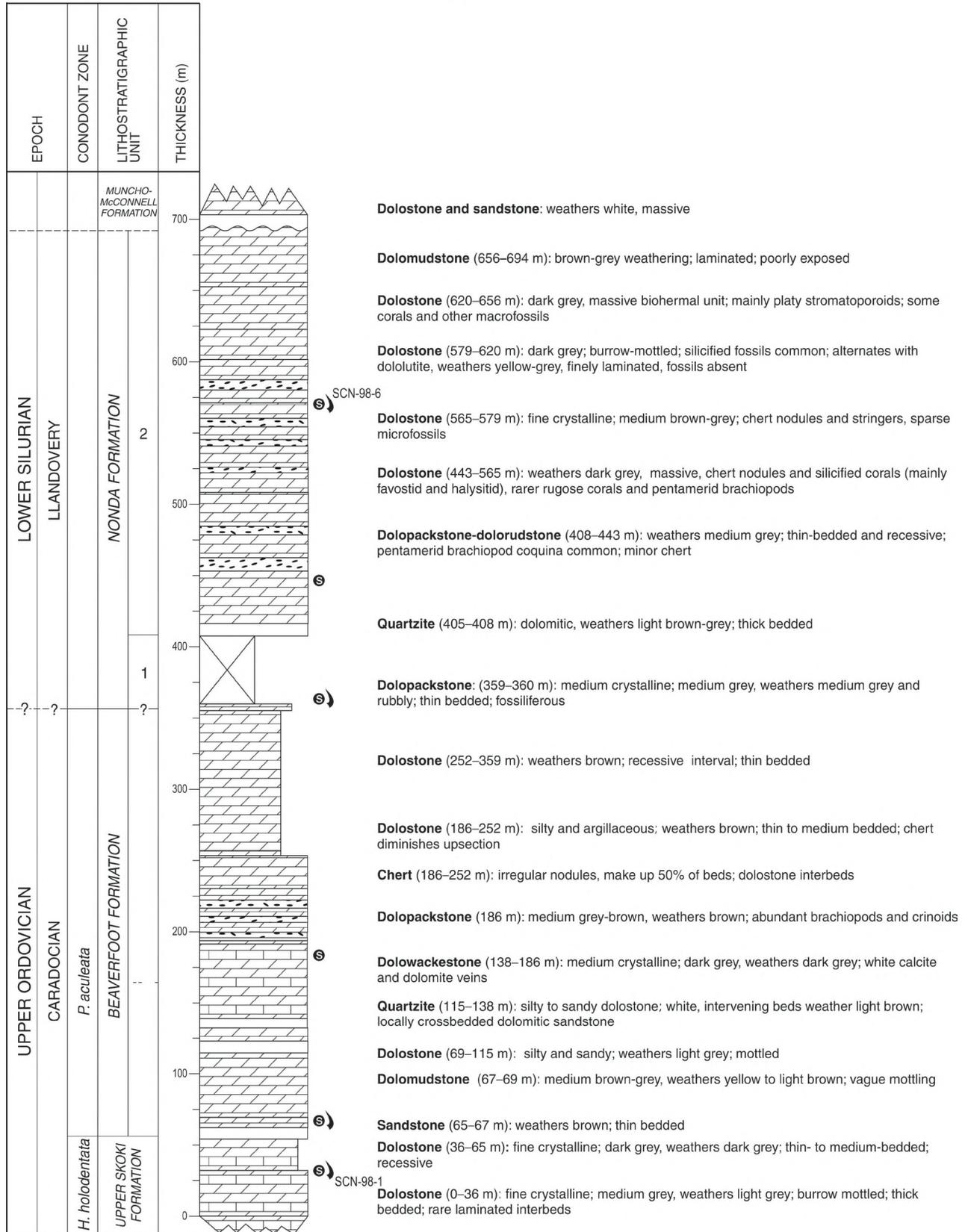


Figure 5. Measured strata of Section 1.

of Kechika Formation to the base of the Skoki Formation, beginning at 443500E, 6337500N. A complete section of Skoki Formation is present, except for the uppermost Balden Member. The basal part of the Beaverfoot Formation forms the top of the ridge section, and Section 3 is a continuation of the succession. Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix SCS-98.

Synthesis

The Mount Sheffield Member of the Kechika Formation (258 m thick) consists of light grey to brown, cleaved, phyllitic, calcareous shale interbedded with nodular or thin-bedded lime mudstone to wackestone beds, and rare, medium-bedded packstone to grainstone beds. Conodonts recovered from the Mount Sheffield Member are Arenigian in age, ranging from the *Acodus kechikaensis* Zone to the *Oepikodus communis* Zone (of Pyle and Barnes, 2002). The Skoki Formation (217 m thick) conformably overlies the Kechika Formation and is marked by a lithological change to brown-grey-weathering, thick-bedded, mottled dolostone (Fig. 6). The Skoki Formation is late Early to early Late Ordovician in age, within the *O. communis* Zone to *P. aculeata* Zone. Oncolites are abundant within the Sikanni Chief Member (54.5 m thick). The Keily Member (50.5 m thick) also contains abundant oncolites and large macluritid gastropods. The Redfern Member (112 m thick) consists of pale, yellow-grey-weathering, mottled dolostone. It is abruptly overlain by dark-brown-weathering, sandy dolostone and quartzite, and brown, finely laminated siltstone of the Beaverfoot Formation (8.5 m thick). The Balden Member of the Skoki Formation is missing below the sub-Beaverfoot unconformity.

Section 3 (Gautschi Creek)

Location

The section is situated 2 km east of Gautschi Creek and is south of the Sikanni Chief sections collected in 1998, allowing for additional study and collection of the Beaverfoot, McCusker, and Nonda formations as a continuation of Section 2. The ridge section continues on a ridge from the peak where collecting stopped at Sikanni Chief River South. Camp was established at 123°54'04"W, 57°09'09"N, and the section began up a cliff of the Skoki and Beaverfoot formations, from 445600E, 6334700N, trending west to east, and then continued on a north-south trend along the ridge up to the Nonda at 445800E, 6333900N. Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix GC-99.

Synthesis

Dolostone of the Redfern Member of the Skoki Formation is 159 m thick (Fig. 7). The upper contact of the Skoki Formation is marked by a lithological change to thin-bedded, dark grey-weathering dolostone and orange-brown-weathering sandstone and dolostone of the Beaverfoot Formation (160 m thick). The Beaverfoot is Late Ordovician in age, ranging into the *Phragmodus undatus* Zone (Caradocian) and younger. Section 3 is the type section of the McCusker Formation (Pyle and Barnes, 2001). The McCusker Formation unconformably overlies the Beaverfoot Formation and is Early Silurian in age, within the *Distomodus staurogathoides* Zone (Fig. 7). It is 223 m thick and the basal 4 m contains a sharp lithological change from the underlying quartzite to thin-bedded, medium-grey-weathering dolostone, dark grey shale and dolomitic intraclast breccia. The rest of the formation is a uniform package of cleaved, medium- to dark-grey-weathering, thin-bedded lime mudstone to wackestone, and yellow to brown-grey-weathering shale interbeds and argillaceous and dolomitic partings. The Nonda Formation conformably overlies the McCusker Formation and contains abundant lime mudstone to grainstone facies in the basal 100 m, and medium-grey-weathering, thick-bedded, fossiliferous dolostone in the upper 48 m. The contact with the McCusker Formation appears gradational. The Nonda Formation is also Early Silurian in age, within the *D. staurogathoides* Zone (Fig. 2).

Section 4 (Mount McCusker)

Location

The section is situated 3 km southeast of Mount McCusker in a cirque with a creek flowing south to Sidenius Creek. The McCusker Formation and lower Nonda Formation are exposed and to the west the Nonda is cut by a thrust. Measurement and collection began at the base of the outcrop on the west side of the valley, 100 m west of camp up to the mouth of the cirque (123°54'W, 57°04'N; 445000E, 6325000N). Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix MM-99.

Synthesis

The section lies on a thrust panel overlying that of Section 3. Because this section originated somewhat farther west, the McCusker Formation contains more argillaceous, relatively deeper water facies. The upper 153 m of the McCusker Formation is a monotonous package of thin-bedded, cleaved, yellow-grey limestone and brown-weathering, dolomitic shale with rare bioclastic lenses. The contact with the overlying Nonda Formation is gradational and marked by a change within the basal 50 m to massive weathering

SECTION 2

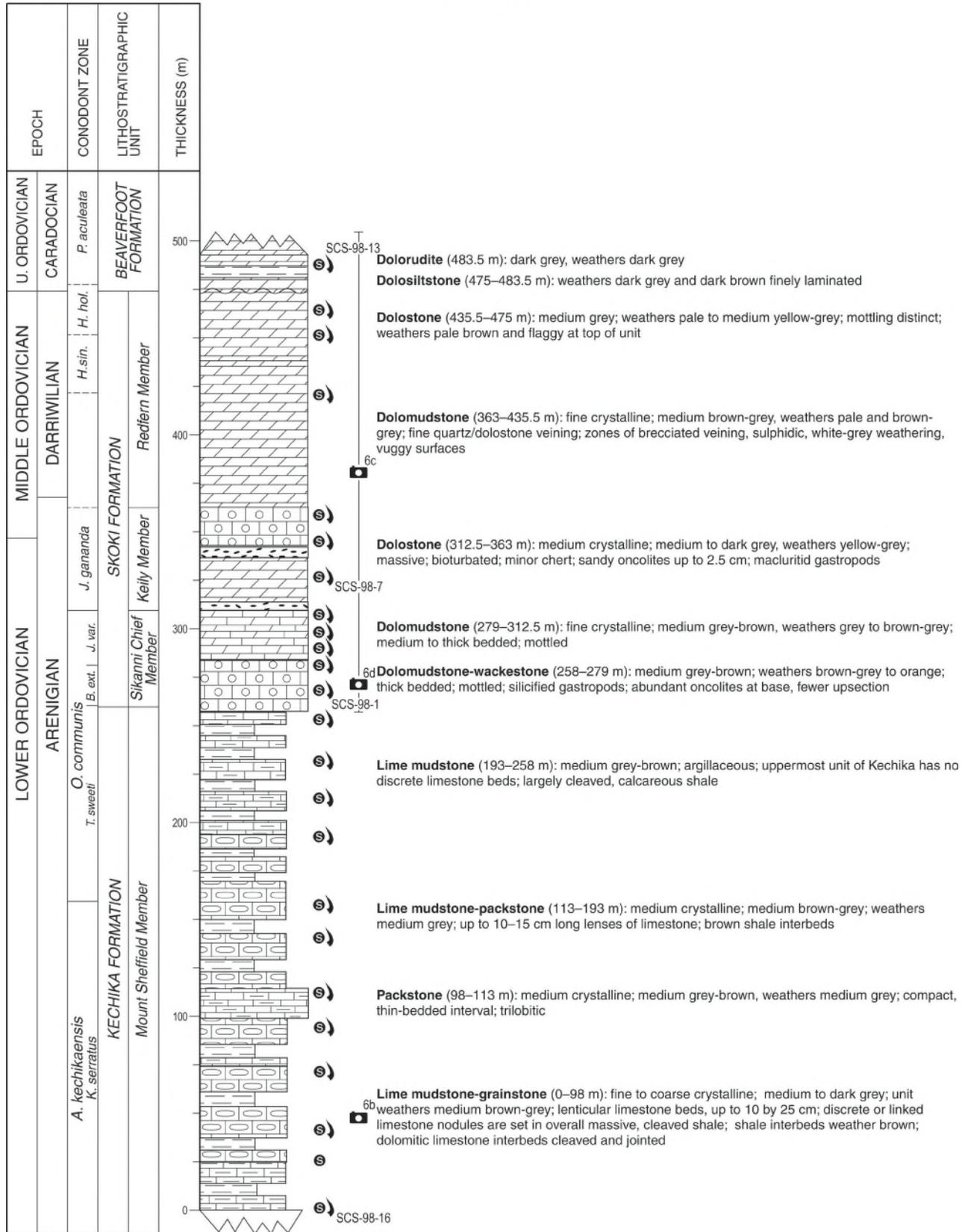


Figure 6a. Measured strata of Section 2.

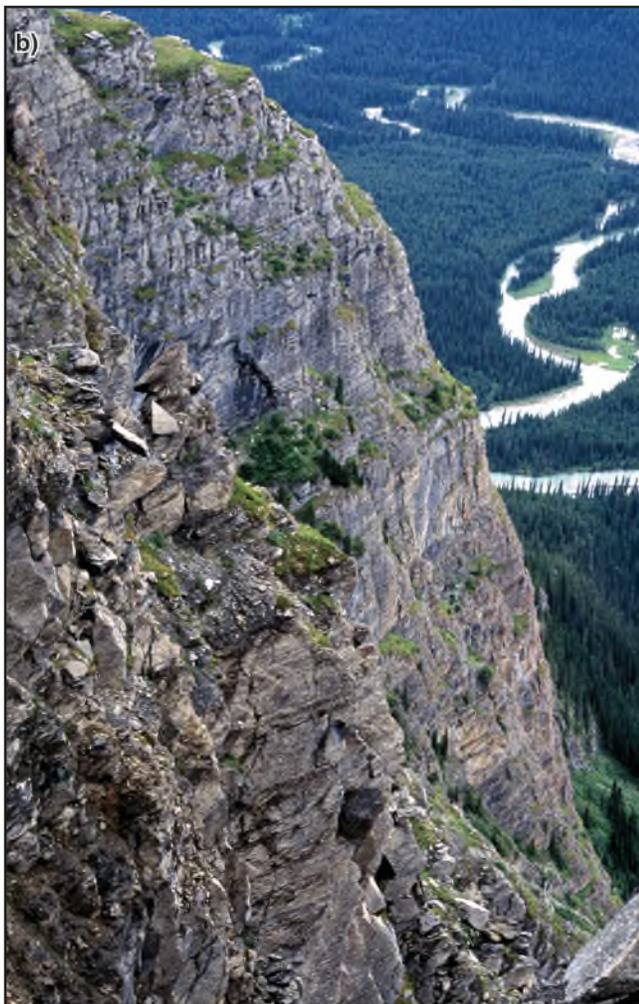


Figure 6b. View northwest toward Sikanni Chief River, showing the nature of the Kechika Formation at Section 2. 2010-104



Figure 6c. Section 3 showing the nature of the Skoki and Beaverfoot along strike with Section 2. 2010-105



Figure 6d. Oncoid (Canadian dollar coin for scale) within the Sikanni Chief Member, Section 2. 2010-106

beds in which the dominant lithology is grey wackestone and packstone with argillaceous stringers and partings. Abundant horizontal burrows indicate shallower facies than the underlying shale and lime mudstone of the McCusker Formation. The upper 35 m is thick-bedded, fossiliferous dolostone that is cut by a thrust fault so the upper contact is missing (Fig. 8). Both formations are Early Silurian in age, within the *D. staurognathoides* Zone (Fig. 2).

Section 8 (Mount Lady Laurier)

Location

This section is Section 9 of Thompson (1989), and is the first east-west ridge south of Mount Lady Laurier (123°47'W, 56°38'N). Collections were made from the Kechika Formation by walking to the peak of the crest about 1.5 km east of camp to approximately the axis of the Balden Creek Anticline (overturned). The uppermost Kechika Formation was examined, overlain by a complete section of the Skoki Formation, itself overlain by the Robb Formation of the Road River Group. The Road River-Skoki contact is at 451000E, 6277500N, and the Skoki-Kechika contact is at 453200E, 6277400N. Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix LL-98.

Synthesis

The Kechika Formation (upper 346 m measured and sampled) is similar to the same unit observed at Section 2, consisting of light grey to brown, cleaved, phyllitic, calcareous shale interbedded with lenticular and thin-bedded limestone beds. The Kechika Formation ranges from the *O. communis* Zone to *Tripodus laevis* Zone (Arenigian)

SECTION 3

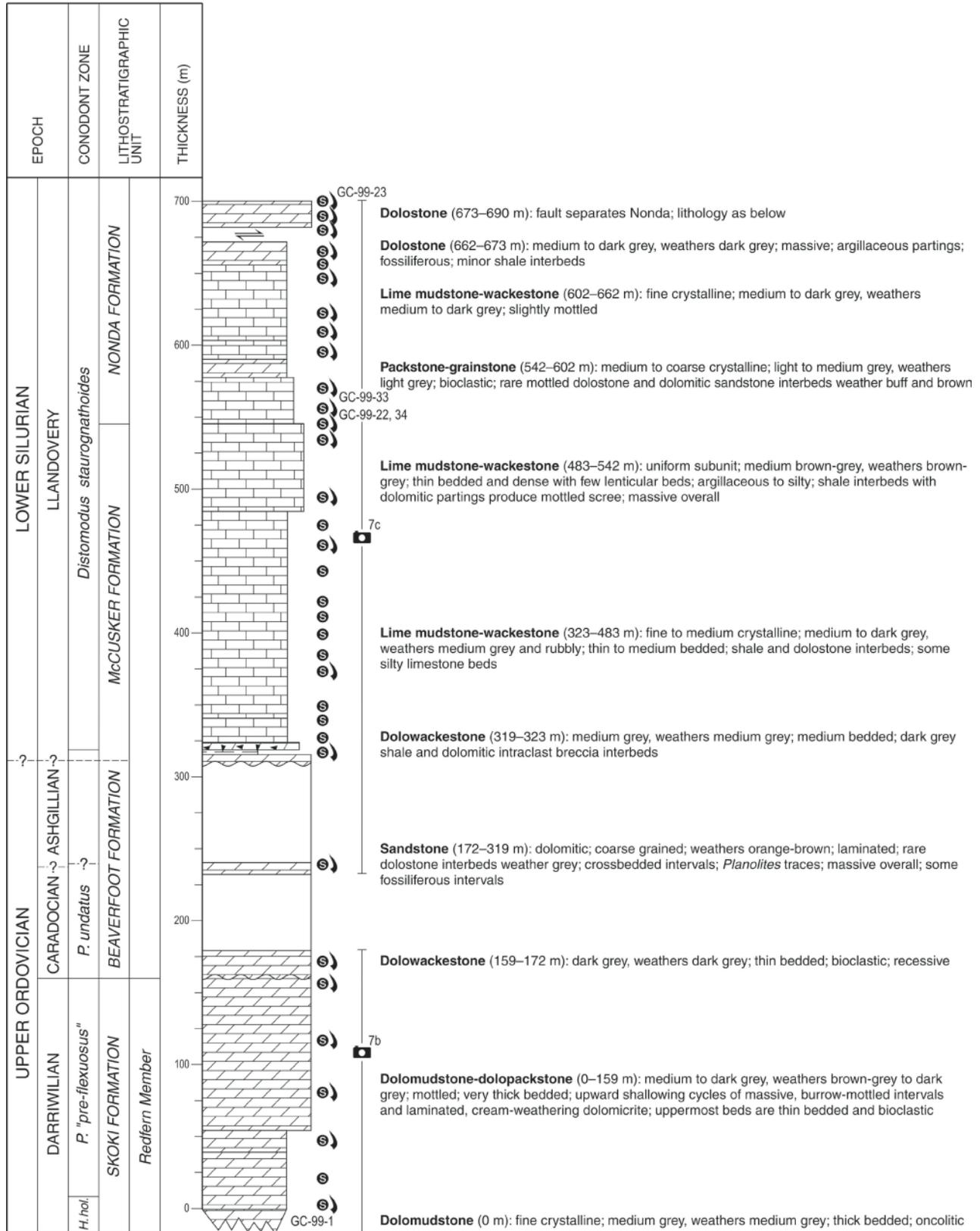


Figure 7a. Measured strata of Section 3.



Figure 7b. Section 3 showing the nature of the Skoki and Beaverfoot along strike with Section 2. 2010-107

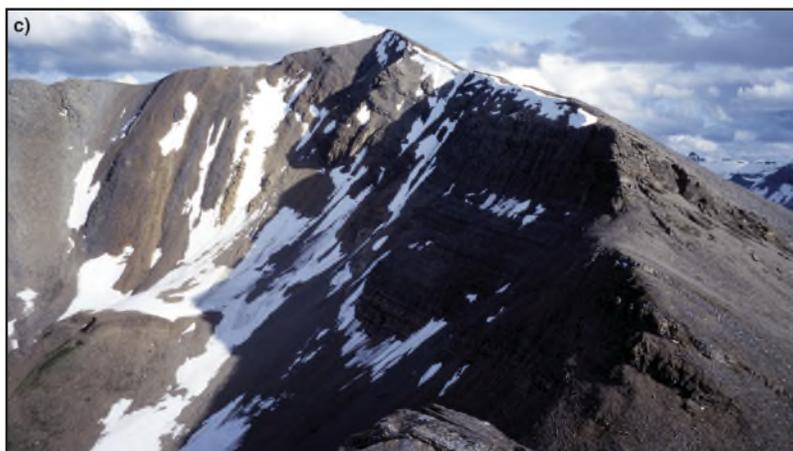


Figure 7c. Beaverfoot, McCusker, and Nonda formations of Section 3. 2010-108

(Fig. 9a). The age of the Kechika-Skoki boundary is younger than that observed to the north, within the Ware map area (Pyle and Barnes, 2000), and it is possible that strata interpreted as upper Kechika Formation may be a more offshore, argillaceous facies of the Skoki Formation. The Skoki Formation conformably overlies the Kechika Formation and is characterized by a lithological change to brown-grey-weathering, massive, mottled limestone with fewer shale interbeds than in the Kechika Formation. Four members of the Skoki Formation (647 m thick) are present. The first three members were described by Pyle and Barnes (2000) and the uppermost Balden Member was defined at this section by Pyle and Barnes (2001). An interval of volcanic deposits (56 m thick) occurs at the top of the Sikanni Chief Member and is Middle Ordovician (Darriwilian) in age (Fig. 9b). The Keily Member is mainly dolostone characterized by large macluritid gastropods and rare intervals of bedded chert. The Redfern Member is light grey and pale weathering dolostone and contains abundant oncolites and oolites. The uppermost Balden Member (95 m thick) consists of dark grey limestone and silty dolostone and is early Late Ordovician in age (*Pygodus anserinus* Zone, Caradocian).

The Skoki Formation is abruptly overlain by dark grey, argillaceous limestone and silty dolostone of the Robb Formation of the Road River Group that is early Caradocian in age, within the *Baltoniodus variabilis* Zone (Fig. 2).

SECTIONS OF PLATFORM-TO-BASIN TRANSITION

Section 5 (Mount Kenny and Mount Kenny Creek/Cirque)

Location

The section is situated 10 km north of Mount Kenny (camp at 123°46.6'W, 56°58.8'N), and was sampled in two legs. The first leg lies along the ridge north of camp, east of the Sidenius thrust. Measurement proceeded from 452800E, 6316500N west along the ridge to 452000E, 6316500N, and then southwest along the ridge to 451900E, 6316000N, toward the Nonda Formation that occurs as a thin, grey-weathering wedge on the crest of ridge. Conodont samples

SECTION 4

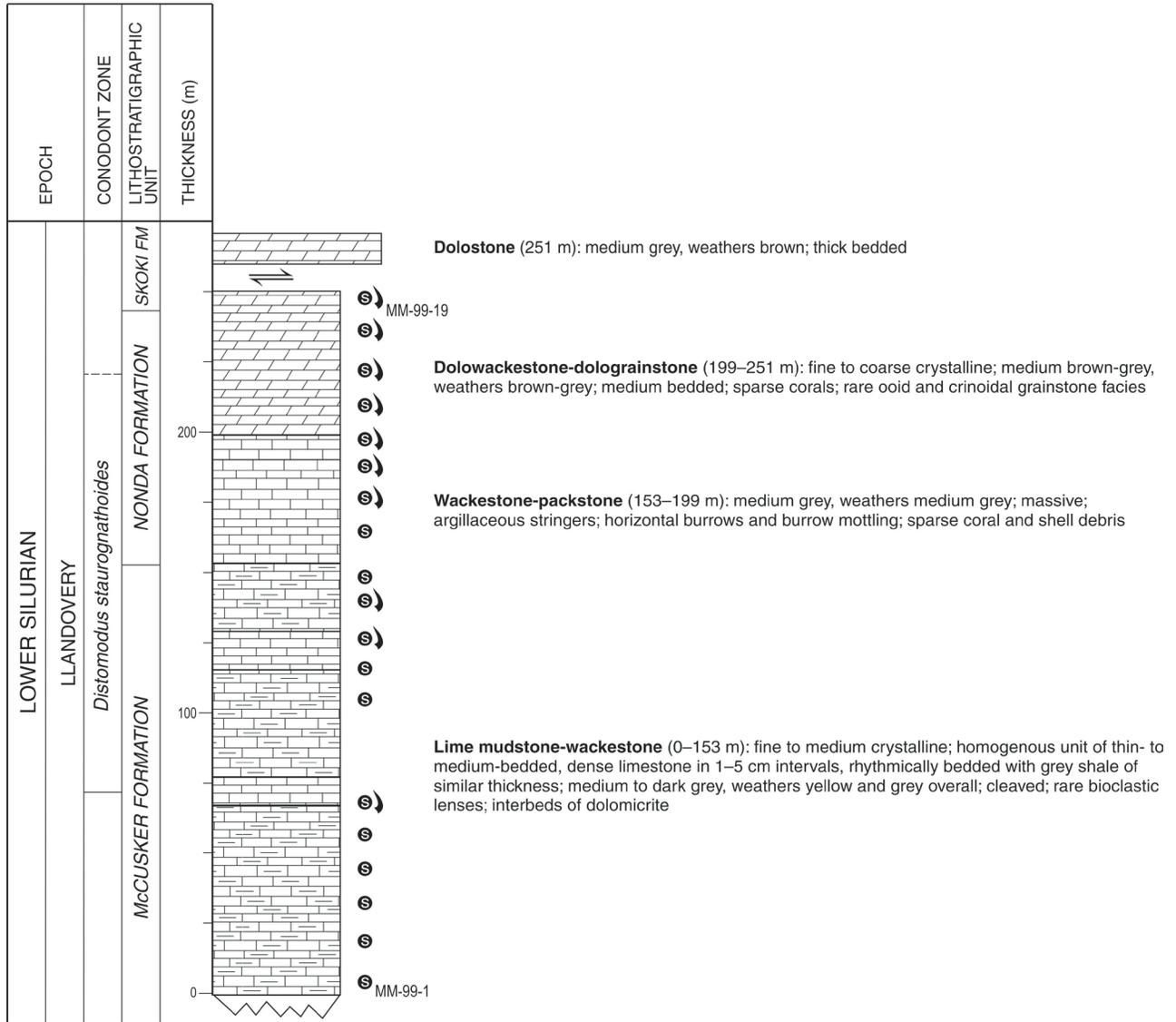


Figure 8. Measured strata of Section 4.

SECTION 8

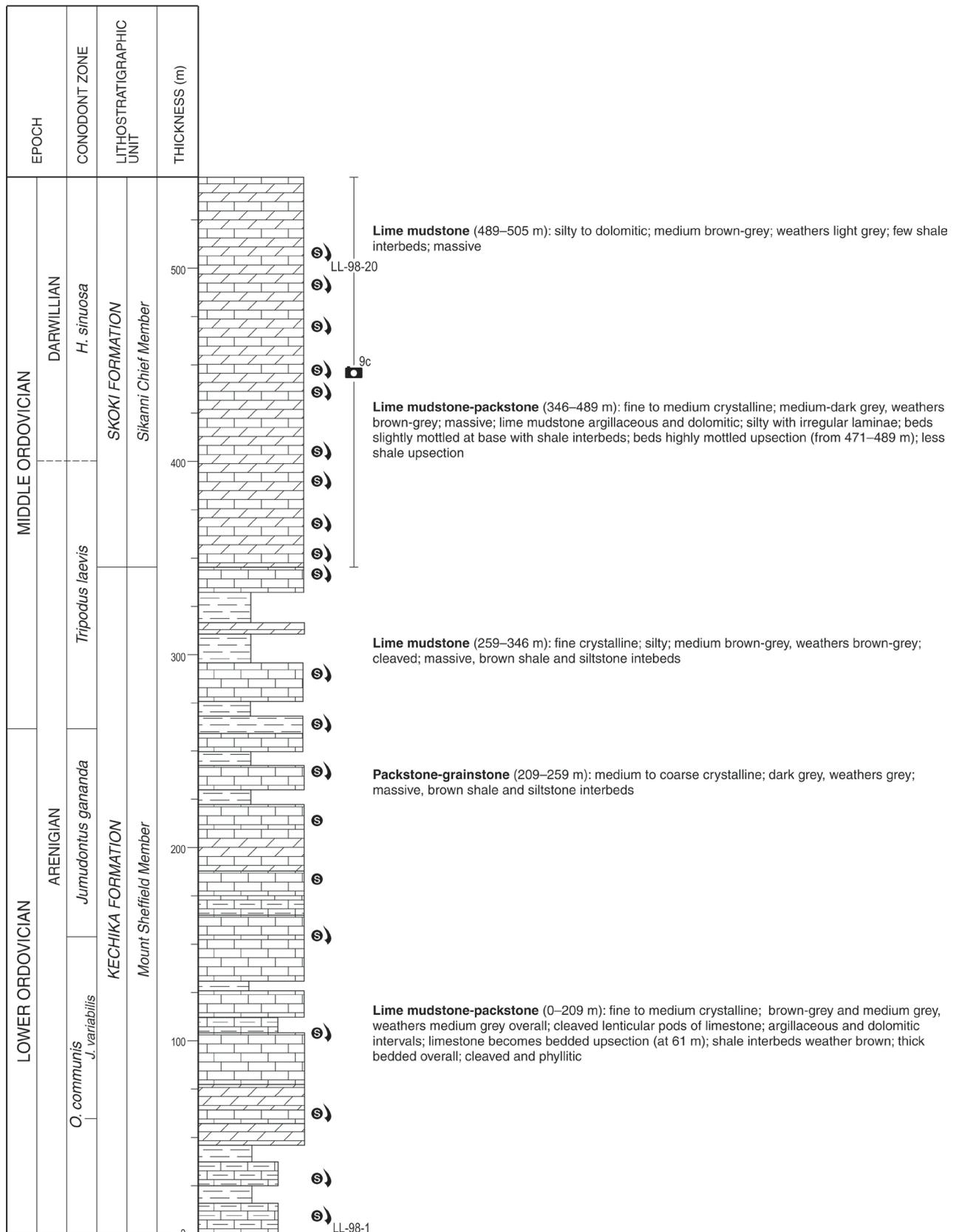


Figure 9a. Measured strata of Section 8.

SECTION 8, continued

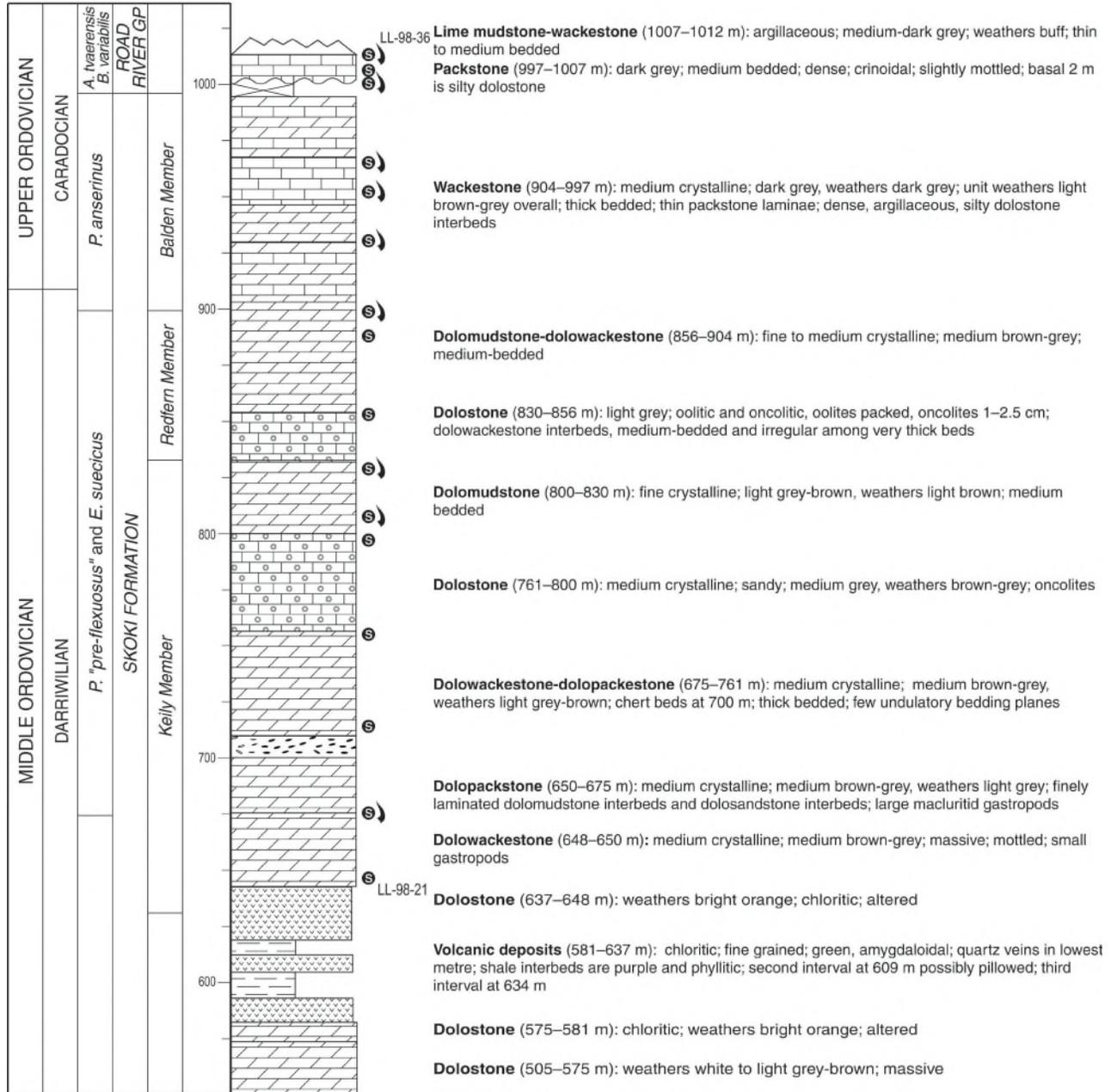


Figure 9b. Measured strata of Section 8, continued.



Figure 9c. Strata of Section 8, type section of Balden Member of the Skoki Formation; Sikanni Chief Member in foreground. 2010-109

from this leg bear the prefix MK-99. The second leg extends southwest along the creek south of the camp, beginning at the Sidenius thrust exposed in the north side of the creek (452500E, 6315300N). The section continues west within the cirque to the cliff-forming Muncho-McConnell Formation (measurement ended at 452100E, 6315000N). Conodont samples from the second leg bear the prefix MKC-99.

Synthesis

At the base of the ridge section (Fig. 10a), the Kenny Formation is in the thrust contact with the SDMS unit of Thompson (1989). The basal part of the formation is similar in nature to the McCusker Formation described from Sections 3 and 4, but brown weathering overall, with more shale, siltstone, and thin-bedded dolostone. Upsection, there is a change to rubbly weathering intraclastic packstone to grainstone representing sediment gravity flow deposits containing crinoidal debris. Very thick beds (2–3 m thick) of dark grey weathering dolostone contain abundant silicified pentamerids and corals (from 377 m above the base to the top of the measured section).

Along the creek section (Fig. 10b), the lower part of the formation contains more carbonaceous, silty limestone beds that weather steel blue and flaggy. These are overlain by debris flows that occur from 120 to 271 m above the section base and interfinger with tongues of Nonda dolostone from the ridge. A change to light-grey-weathering dolostone of the Nonda Formation occurs at 325 m above the section base. The Nonda Formation is overlain by sandy dolostone of the Muncho-McConnell Formation. The Kenny and Nonda formations are Early Silurian, containing conodonts representative of the *D. staurognathoides* Zone (Fig. 2).

Section 6 (Mount Kenny Road River)

Location

Camp was established in the top of a cirque southwest of the main ridge that is the measured section (123°45.9'W, 56°56.8'N; 453500E, 6311700N). Measurement and sampling began on the east side of the saddle where the top of the Skoki Formation outcrops up a dip slope (453000E, 6312000N) and extended south across the recessive Robb and Kenny formations to the top of the cliff-forming Laurier Formation (452800E, 6311400N). Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix MKR-99.

Synthesis

The upper Skoki Formation (15 m) consists of light-grey-weathering, very thick-bedded, oncolitic dolostone. It is abruptly overlain by the recessive, thin-bedded dolostone of the Sidenius Member of the Robb Formation (263 m thick). The Calnan Member of the Robb Formation is primarily black, graptolitic shale with minor, thin-bedded dolostone with intervals of resistant quartzite occurring from 267 m above the section base. A lithological change to more resistant, brown-weathering dolostone marks the base of the Kenny Formation (333 m thick). The Kenny Formation is overlain abruptly by a ridge-forming unit of dolomitic debris-flow breccia deposits with dolostone interbeds belonging to the Laurier Formation (lower 22 m measured, unit extends about 50 m higher as a precipitous cliff). At Section 8, the Sidenius Member yielded conodonts that are Caradocian in age, within the *Baltoniodus variabilis* Zone, and it may range questionably into the Ashgillian, within the *Gamachignathus ensifer* Zone. The lower part of the Laurier Formation is Llandovery in age, within the *D. staurognathoides* Zone (Fig. 2, 11).

SECTION 5

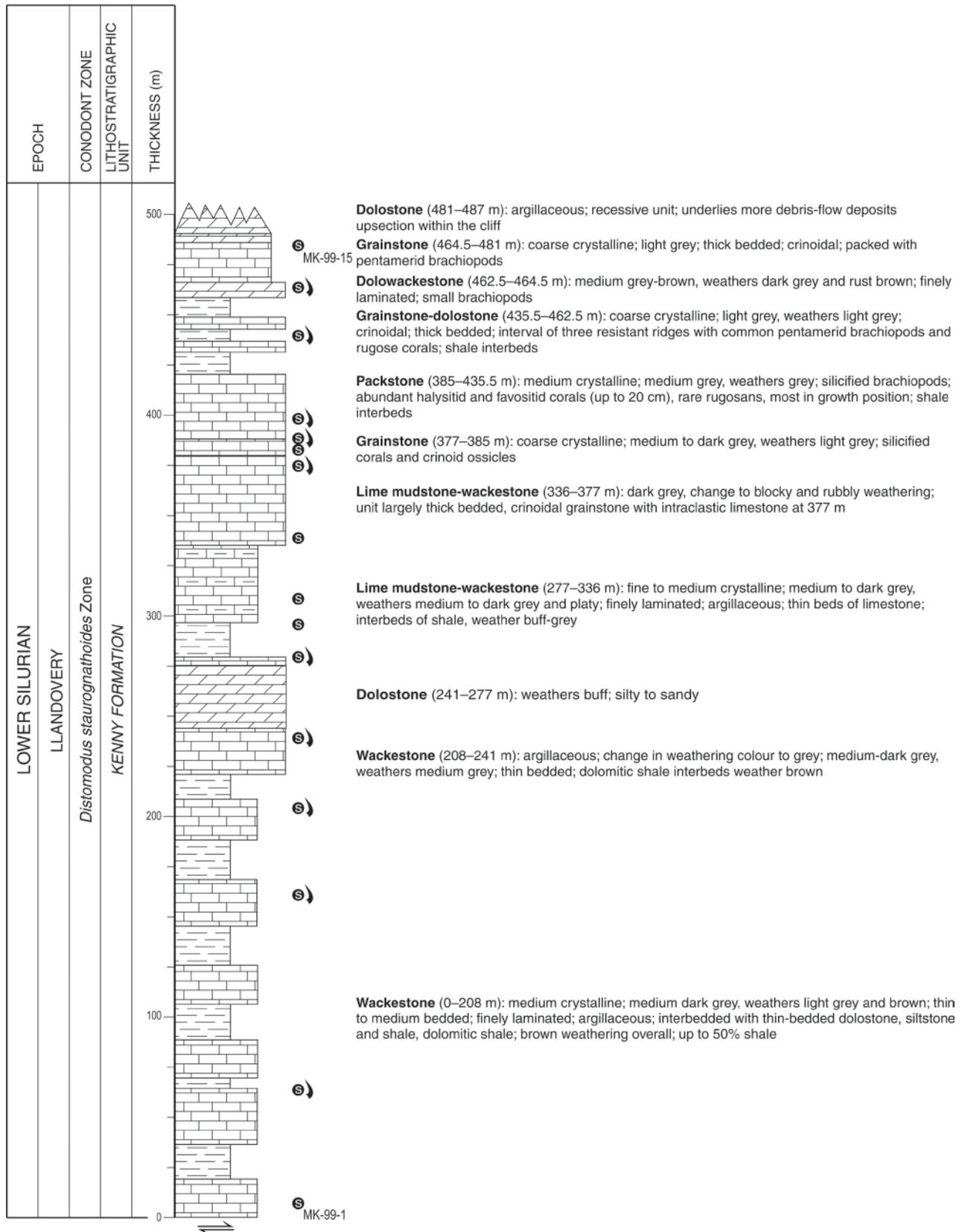


Figure 10a. Measured strata of Section 5.

SECTION 5, continued

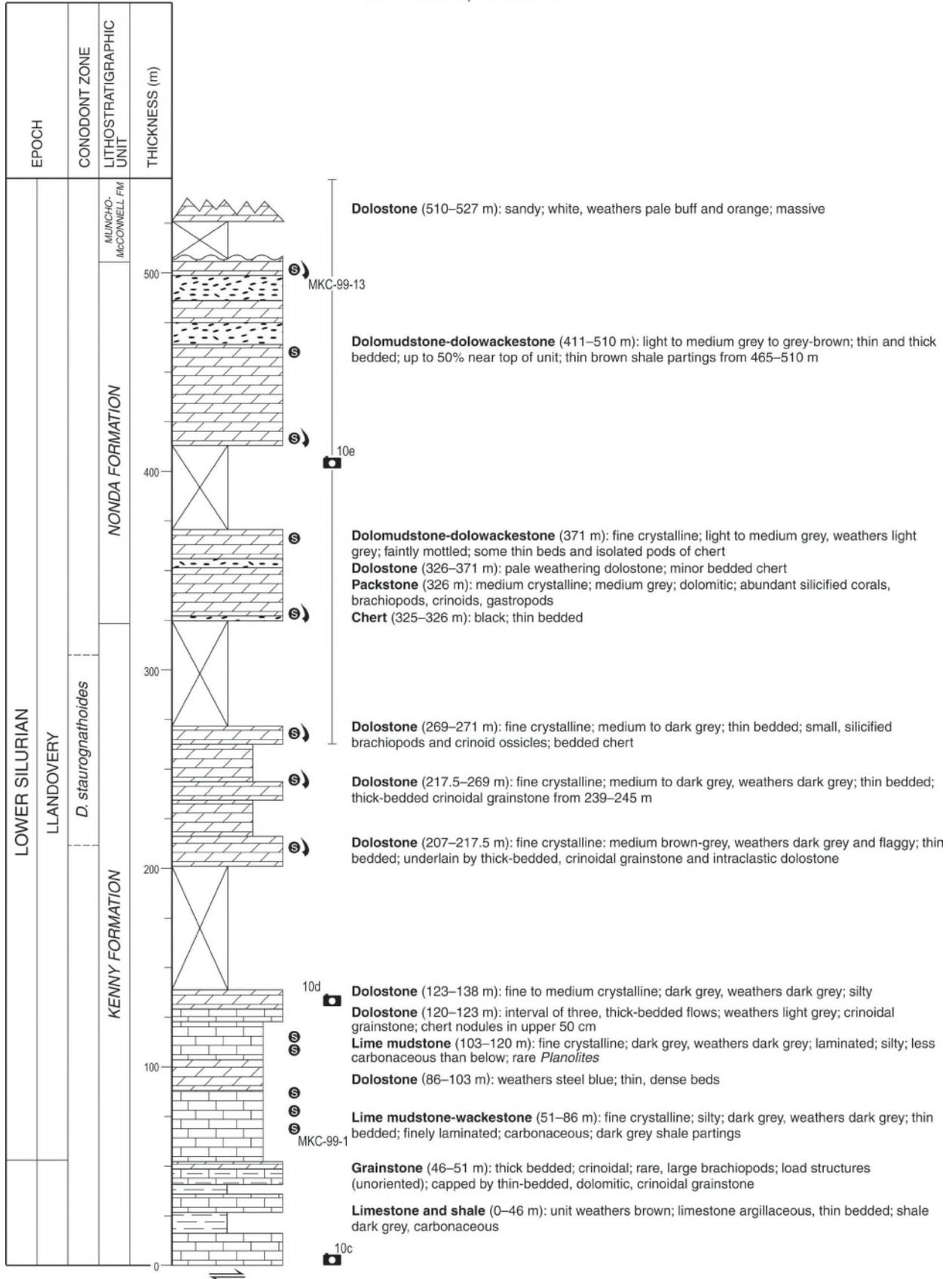


Figure 10b. Measured strata of Section 5, continued.



Figure 10c. View of the Mount Kenny section from the northeast showing Nonda Formation debris-flow deposits, thinning to the south within the Kenny Formation. 2010-110

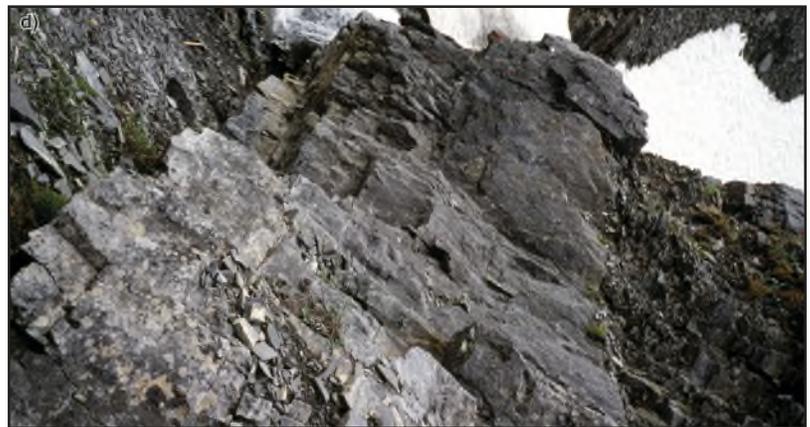


Figure 10d. Contact of a debris-flow deposit with carbonaceous limestone and shale of the Kenny Formation, Section 5. 2010-111



Figure 10e. View of the Mount Kenny Section from the southeast showing Nonda Formation debris-flow deposits interfingering with the carbonaceous lime mudstone of the Kenny Formation, Section 5. 2010-112

SECTION 6

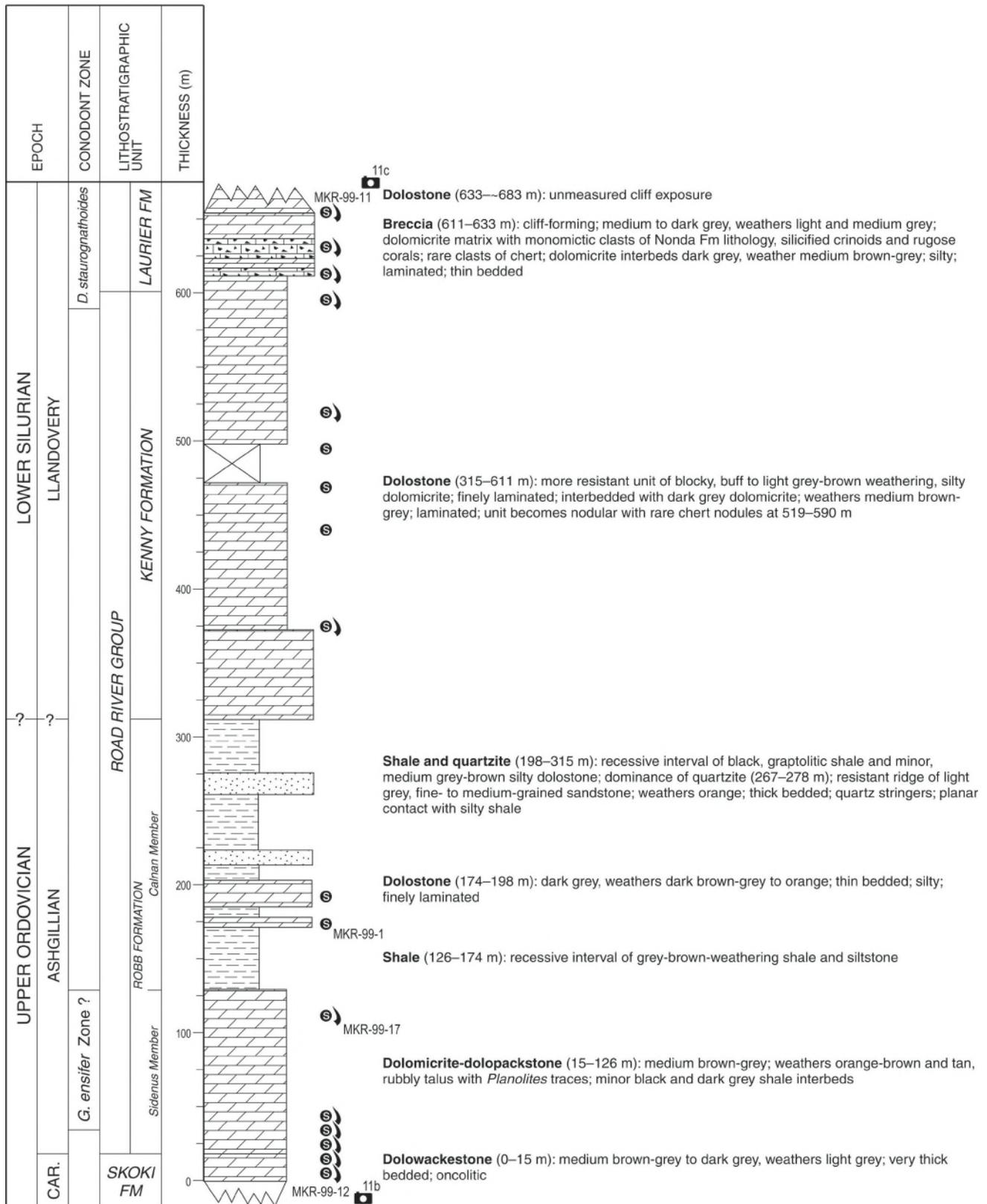


Figure 11a. Measured strata of Section 6.



Figure 11b. View from the northeast toward Mount Kenny showing the succession of Skoki Formation overlain by transitional facies of the Robb Formation, Calnan Member (Sidenius Member not in view, on dip slope), recessive Kenny Formation, and cliff-forming Laurier Formation slope breccia. Mount Kenny in the background. 2010-113

Figure 11c. Large monomictic clasts of Nonda Formation lithology and coral debris of the Laurier Formation breccia. 2010-114



Section 7 (Mount Robb)

Location

The section is situated on a ridge (123°43'W, 56°50'N) 5.5 km southeast of Mount Robb. Camp was established in a col at the base of the Kenny Formation. The section was walked out over ridges of quartzite across the Robb Formation to the contact with the Skoki Formation, to a dry creek (section starts at 455300E, 6298500N) and measurement proceeded back across black shale and quartzite of the Robb, up the ridge of Kenny overlain by a resistant cap of Laurier Formation (measurement ended at 456500E, 6298300N). Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix MR-98.

Synthesis

This section is the type section of three formations of the Road River Group proposed by Pyle and Barnes (2001). The Robb Formation (481 m thick) is divided into the Sidenius

Member (55 m thick) containing limestone, shale, dolostone, and siltstone, and the Calnan Member (426 m thick), which is largely black shale and quartzite. Both the lower and upper contacts with the Skoki Formation and Kenny Formation, respectively, are sharp and unconformable. The Kenny Formation (212 m thick) is a recessive unit of dark brown-grey to black, flaggy-weathering, thin- to medium-bedded, silty lime mudstone, siltstone, and shale. The Laurier Formation (175 m thick) consists mainly of thick- to very thick-bedded, medium-grey slope-debris breccias in a series of flow deposits. Most, but not all, of the breccias are monomictic, and chert, silicified coral, and fossil debris are common. Interbeds include finely laminated dolomudstone turbidites, thin-bedded, grey, dense, uniform shale, and dolomite sandstone. The lower and upper contacts with the Kenny and Kwadacha formations, respectively, are sharp. Conodonts from the *Pterospathodus amorphognathoides* Zone indicate an age close to the Llandovery–Wenlock boundary (late Early Silurian) for the Laurier Formation (Fig. 12).

SECTION 7

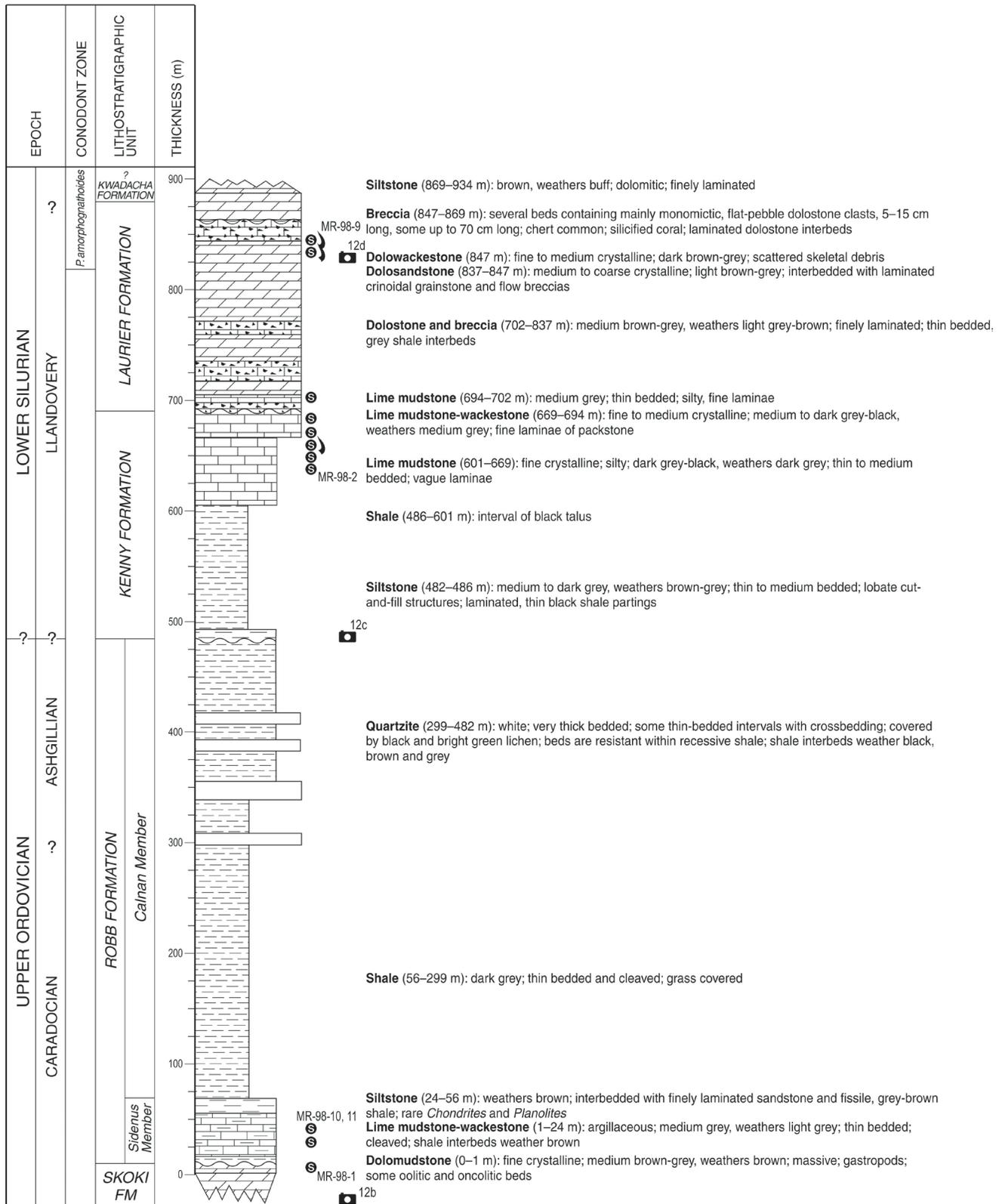


Figure 12a. Measured strata of Section 7.



Figure 12b. Section 7, type section of the Robb, Kenny, and Laurier formations. 2010-115



Figure 12c. Another view of Section 7. 2010-116

Figure 12d. Close-up of the cliff-forming, slope-debris breccia of the Laurier Formation. 2010-117



SECTIONS FROM THE OSPIKA EMBAYMENT

Two sections (9, 10; Fig. 1) were measured and described in detail in the 1998 and 1999 field seasons while examining the basinal facies of the Road River Group. Section 9 was initially measured on the premise that it was Ordovician–Silurian Road River (as shown on the regional map of Taylor, 1979) but conodonts indicate it represents a Lower–Middle Devonian interval. Section 10 represents the Ordovician–Silurian Ospika and Kwadacha formations.

Section 9 (Ospika River Section)

Location

The section is situated east of the Ospika River and west of McCusker Creek. Camp was established at 124°12.72' W, 57°00.70' N. Measurement and sampling of the Deserters Formation (of Pyle et al., 2003a) began in the core of an anticline at 429800E, 6319250N and continued southwest to the contact with a brown siltstone unit at 427550E, 6317350N. Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix OR-98.

Synthesis

A new Lower to Middle Devonian basinal unit of the Road River Group was named the Deserters Formation by Pyle et al. (2003a). There are four distinct units numbered 1 through 4 that are in fault repetition throughout the 1800 m of measured section. Lithologies include dark-grey-weathering, thin-bedded, argillaceous, crinoidal limestone and black shale representing distal turbidites, and units of

dolostone, quartz arenite, volcanic deposits, and shale. The part of the section from 303 m above section base to 1217 m was proposed as the type section.

Unit 1 is the oldest (Lochkovian) and occurs at 303 m above the section base and again at 1217 m above the section base (Fig. 13a, c). It is overlain by Units 2, 3, and 4 (Emsian–Eifelian) in the lower part of the section, up to 1217 m. In the upper part of the section (1299–1800 m), Unit 1 is overlain by a fault repetition of Units 3 and 4 that are overlain by a brown siltstone unit at 1695 m (Fig. 13c, d).

Unit 1 is at least 82 m thick and consists of dark-grey-weathering limestone and shale. It contains a subunit (1217–1280 m) of thin-bedded, compact sandstone at its base that contains a thick-bedded (4 m thick), fossiliferous, sandstone debris-flow deposit containing crinoid columnals, favioid corals, rare brachiopods, and chert fragments. Unit 1 is Lochkovian in age, based on conodonts representative of the *kindlei* Zone and older (Fig. 3). Unit 2 is at least 380 m thick and is predominantly grey weathering, laminated, dolomitic siltstone and brown-orange weathering, feldspathic sandstone interbedded with thin beds of laminated, dolomitic mudstone and shale. Unit 2 is Emsian in age (Fig. 3, 13a). Unit 3 is at least 253 m thick and consists mainly of medium-grey-weathering, thin- to medium-bedded, crinoidal limestone (some of which is graded), distal turbidite. Unit 3 is Emsian in age and ranges into the Eifelian based on conodonts from the *costatus* Zone in the upper part of the unit (Fig. 3, 13b). Unit 4 is at least 267 m thick and contains abundant crinoidal limestone, but more argillaceous limestone, dolostone, and sandstone beds than does Unit 3. It is Eifelian in age, within the *costatus* and *australis* zones (Fig. 3, 13b–d). The unit contains volcanic deposits that are Eifelian in age (Fig. 13c, d).

SECTION 9

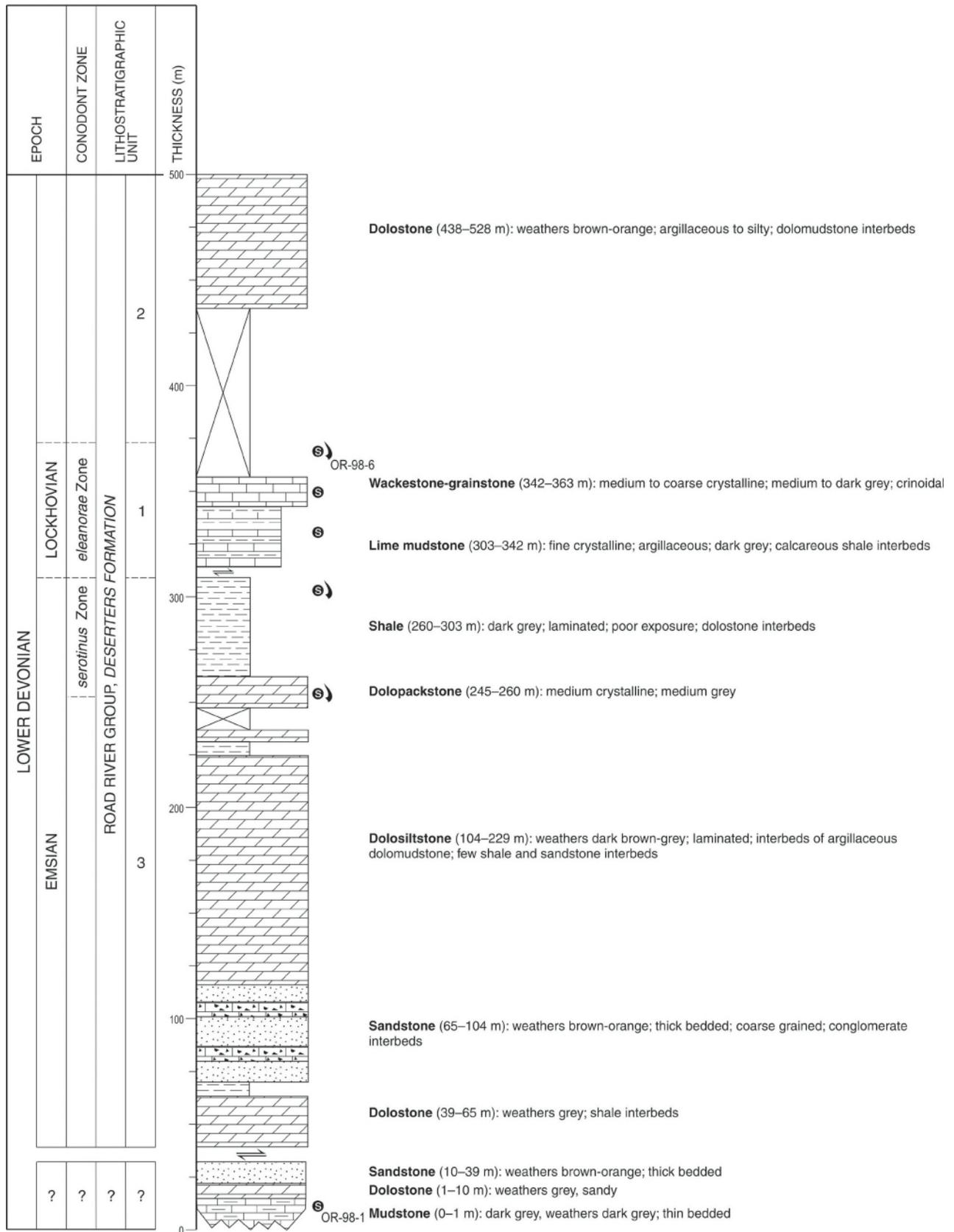


Figure 13a. Measured strata of Section 9.

SECTION 9, continued

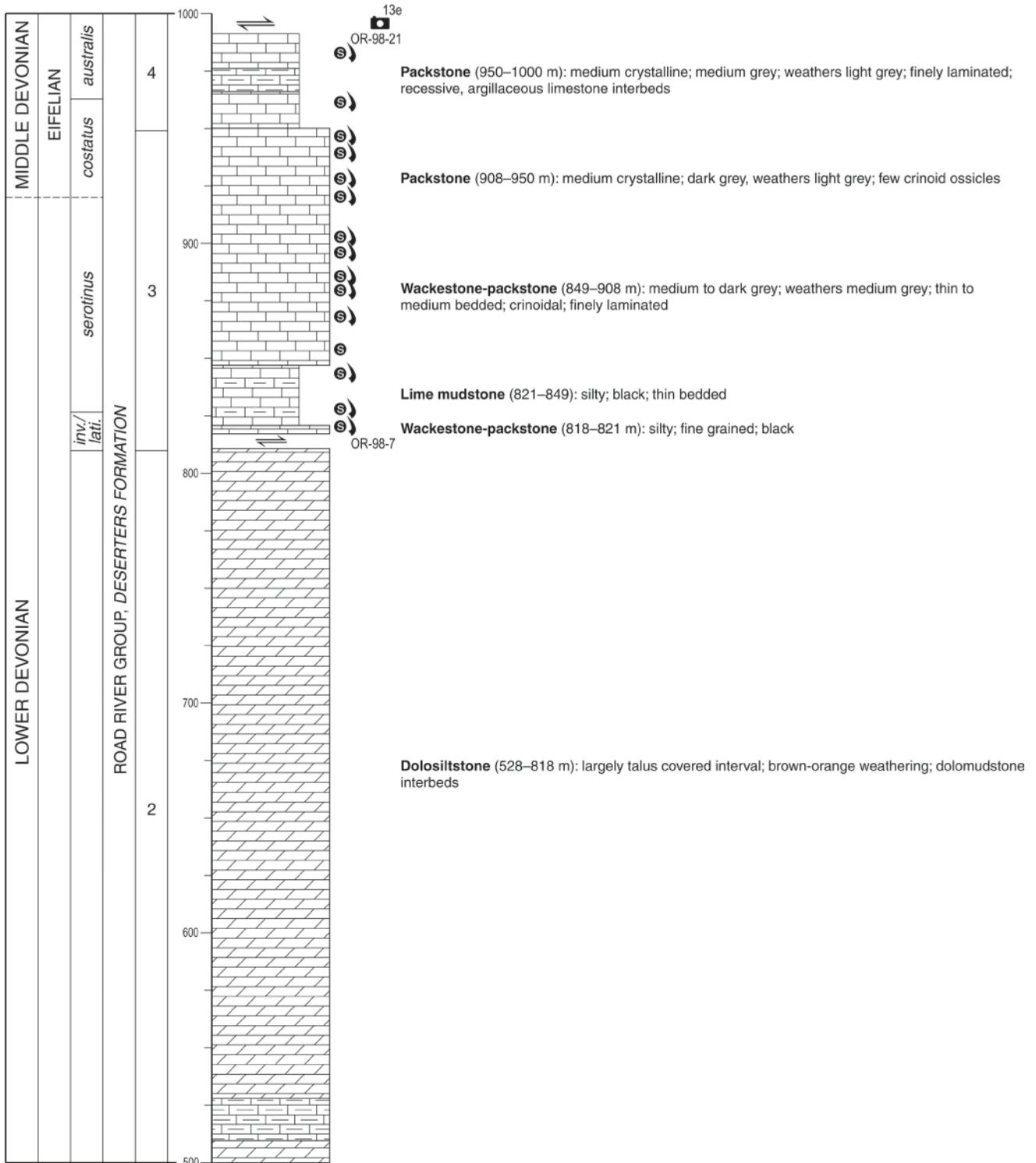


Figure 13b. Measured strata of Section 9, continued.

SECTION 9, continued

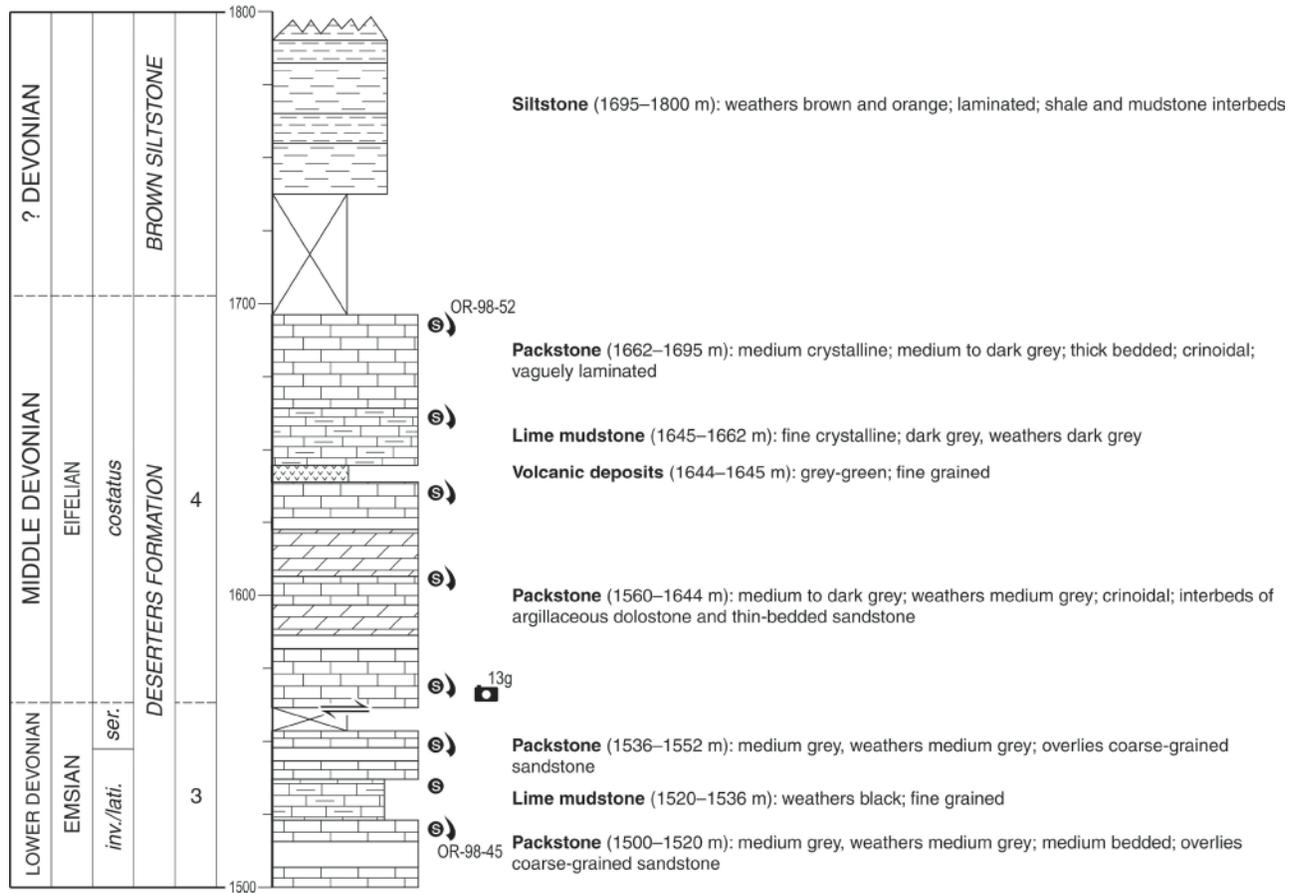


Figure 13d. Measured strata of Section 9, continued.



Figure 13e. View of the lower part of the ridge section of Deserters Formation, looking east, showing the resistant nature of the dolostone of the upper part of Unit 2 and recessive nature of Units 3 and 4. 2010-118



Figure 13f. Subunit of fossiliferous sandstone. 2010-119

Figure 13g. View of the upper part of the ridge section, looking west, showing the fault-repeated Unit 4 overlain sharply by the brown siltstone unit. 2010-120



Section 10 (Ospika River North)

Location

Camp was established near the ridge section (94 F/1; 124°12.72'W, 57°0.7'N). Measurement began in an unnamed, recessive shale unit (425700E, 6318300N) underlying the Ospika Formation, and proceeded up to the more resistant Kwadacha Formation (426500E, 6319900N). The Kwadacha Formation is in thrust contact with the Deserters Formation from Section 9 and along strike from the highest level collected across the valley at Section 9. Conodont samples from this section bear the prefix OS-99.

Synthesis

The section (1288 m thick) consists of the Ospika Formation (814 m thick) overlain by the Kwadacha Formation (474 m thick), which is in thrust contact with the dark grey, crinoidal limestone of the Deserters Formation (Fig. 14). The Ospika Formation consists primarily of alternating beds of medium- to dark-grey-weathering, dense lime mudstone, and shale. Two intervals of thin-bedded breccia containing micritic clasts in an argillaceous matrix occur from 135 to 139 m and 221 to 232 m above the section base. Two volcanic units, 5 m and 85 m thick, occur at 240 m and 263 m above the base of the unit, respectively. Overlying both volcanic units are shale, siltstone, and rare, silty, dolomitic beds. Conodonts indicate the *Eoplacognathus suecicus* Zone and thus a Middle Ordovician (Darriwilian) age. The Kwadacha Formation is a uniform unit of medium-brown weathering, thin-bedded, platy, finely laminated siltstone that lacks macrofossils and trace fossils.

SECTION 10

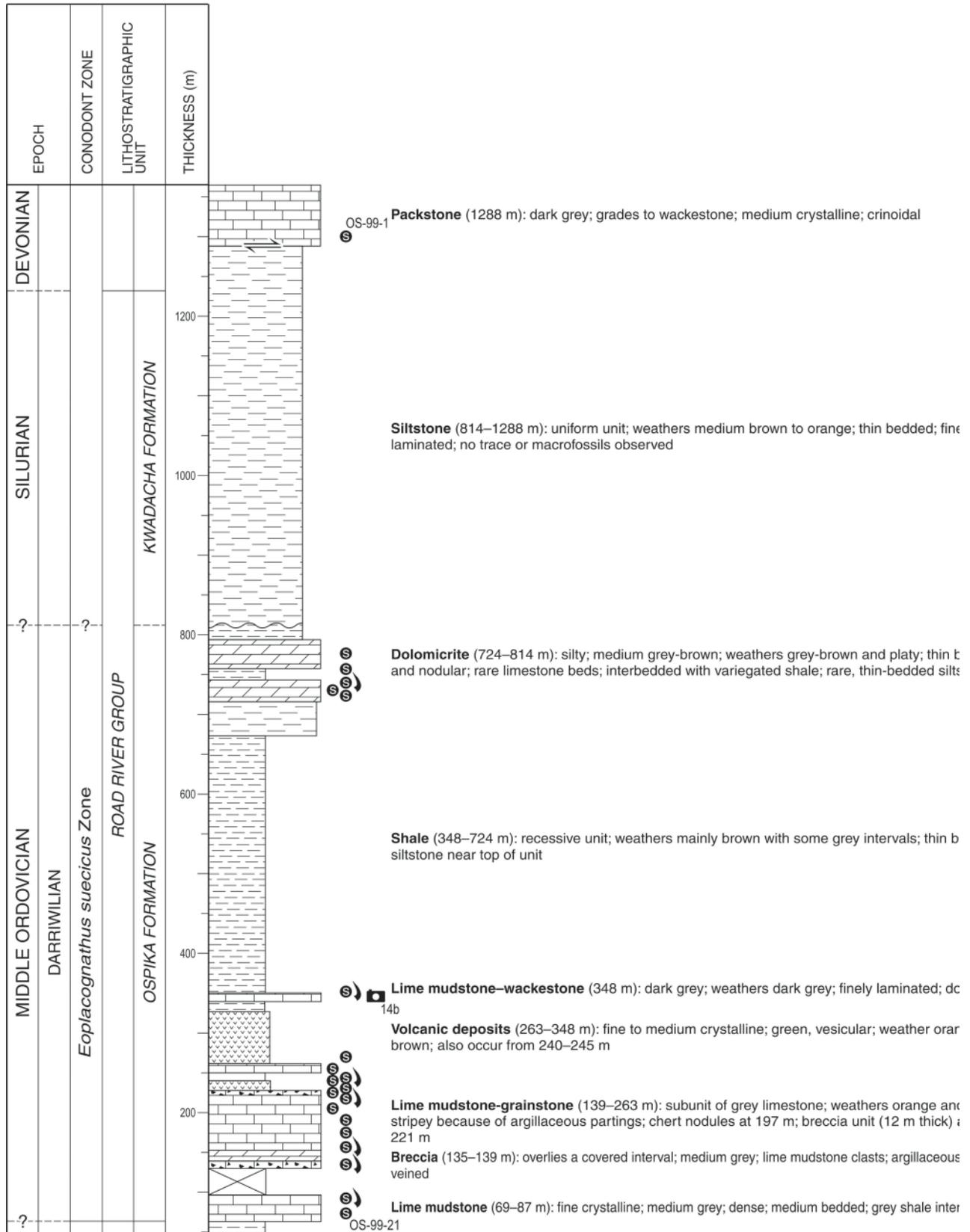


Figure 14a. Measured strata of Section 10.



Figure 14b. View of Section 10 from unit of volcanic deposits, east to shale of Ospika Formation and overlying siltstone of the Kwadacha Formation. 2010-121

REGIONAL SYNTHESIS

The present detailed stratigraphic study complements a more northern transect study of Pyle and Barnes (2000, this volume). Regional syntheses by Pyle and Barnes (2003b) and Zhang et al. (2005) discuss the tectonic evolution of the Laurentian margin based on the stratigraphic framework from the northern transects the transect across the Cassiar Terrane, and a transect from the Bow Platform to White River Trough in the Southern Canadian Rockies. A refined biostratigraphic framework for the southern transect was established by Pyle et al. (2003b) and Pyle et al. (2007). In summary, at least two periods of renewed extension along the margin occurred in the latest Cambrian and late Early Ordovician, marked by the onset of deposition of the Kechika Formation, and the abrupt platform-to-basin transition associated with the onset of the Skoki–Ospika formation deposition, respectively. Alkalic volcanic units in the succession (Middle Ordovician and Middle Devonian) associated

with abrupt facies changes, are consistent with multiphase rifting throughout this interval. Siliciclastic deposits in the succession were likely sourced by a reactivation of tectonic highs such as the Peace River Arch. Several prominent hiatuses punctuate the succession, including unconformities of early Late Ordovician, sub-Llandovery, possibly Early to Middle Silurian, and Early Devonian ages.

A fourth member of the Skoki Formation was formally called the Balden Member by Pyle and Barnes (2001). Conodont biostratigraphy indicates the Skoki Formation is Arenigian to early Caradocian in age (Fig. 2). The Beaverfoot Formation is Caradocian in age and likely ranges into the Ashgillian; the McCusker and Nonda formations are Llandoveryian in age. The Nonda Formation may extend into the Wenlock. The Ospika Embayment preserves the shelf-break and basal facies equivalents of the Beaverfoot, McCusker, and Nonda formations that overlie the Skoki Formation at the shelf break. These are the previously unnamed transitional facies of the Road River Group that are divided into three new formations: the Robb, Kenny, and Laurier formations. The Robb Formation is further subdivided into the Sidenius and Calnan members and is Caradocian to Ashgillian in age. The lower part of the Kenny Formation (Llandovery in age) is coeval with the McCusker Formation and the upper part interfingers with the Nonda Formation at the ancient shelf-break. The Laurier Formation is correlative to the upper part of the Nonda Formation and is Llandoveryian in age, possibly extending into the Wenlock (Fig. 2). A new formation of the Road River Group, the Deserters Formation, spans several zones through the Lower–Middle Devonian (Lochkovian–Eifelian) and was deposited in a linear sub-basin of the Ospika Embayment, southern Kechika Trough.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge logistical support provided by the Geological Survey of Canada's Central Foreland NATMAP Project and additional financial support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Two successful field seasons were made possible by the co-ordinating efforts of M. Cecile and L. Lane (Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary). Discussions on field localities and stratigraphy with A. Legun, M. Cecile, L. Lane, B. Norford, R. Thompson, A. Hedinger, and I. McIlreath were appreciated. We thank G. Ortega and S. H. Williams for graptolite identifications and D. Canil for examining volcanic thin sections. We also thank M. Landry and C. Mohoruk for both field and laboratory assistance, and D. Hanchar, T. Peron, S. Yaqzan, E. Delahaye, and M. Deagle for laboratory assistance. We appreciate the comments from D. Morrow and B. Norford, which improved the manuscript.

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Ordovician and Silurian strata of northeastern British Columbia: stratigraphic sections and synthesis of biostratigraphy

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Norford, B.S., 2017. Ordovician and Silurian strata of northeastern British Columbia: stratigraphic sections and synthesis of biostratigraphy: in Central Foreland NATMAP Project: Proterozoic to Devonian stratigraphic sections in British Columbia and Yukon, (ed.) L.S. Lane and R.B. MacNaughton; Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin 603, p. 85–203. <https://doi.org/10.4095/299866>

Abstract: Thirty-six stratigraphic sections document the Ordovician and Silurian strata of northeastern British Columbia. The sections were measured through outcropping strata deposited on the MacDonald and Cassiar platforms, in the adjoining Kechika Trough of the Selwyn Basin, the Nasina Basin, and within transitional zones between these regions. Synthesis of published and unpublished data from studies of microfossils and of invertebrate and vertebrate macrofossils constrains the ages of the formations and assists in the interpretation of the stratigraphic history of the region. Several regional unconformities are recognized within the successions. From the platformal rocks and the transitional rocks, hiatuses can be documented during the earliest Caradoc, mid to late Caradoc, late Ashgill to very early Llandovery, mid Llandovery and within the interval Wenlock to Ludlow. Within the basinal rocks, only the Llandovery hiatuses have been recognized.

Résumé : Trente-six coupes stratigraphiques permettent de décrire les strates ordoviciennes et siluriennes du nord-est de la Colombie-Britannique. Ces coupes ont été mesurées à l'aide de strates en affleurement ayant été déposées sur les plates-formes de MacDonald et de Cassiar, dans la cuvette de Kechika avoisinante (qui fait partie du bassin de Selwyn), dans le bassin de Nasina et dans les zones de transition entre ces régions. Grâce à une synthèse de données publiées et inédites provenant d'études de microfossiles et de macrofossiles d'invertébrés et de vertébrés, on a pu déterminer des limites d'âge pour ces formations, ce qui facilite l'interprétation de l'histoire stratigraphique de la région. Plusieurs discordances régionales ont été reconnues dans les successions. Dans les roches de la plate-forme et des zones de transition, des hiatus sédimentaires peuvent être mis en évidence au Caradoc initial, au Caradoc moyen-tardif, à l'Ashgill tardif-tout début du Llandovery, au Llandovery moyen et dans l'intervalle du Wenlock au Ludlow. Dans les roches de bassin, seuls les hiatus du Llandovery ont été reconnus.

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INTRODUCTION

Valuable stratigraphic data on Ordovician and Silurian rocks have been acquired over several decades and the present report places these basic data in the public domain. Almost all the following stratigraphic sections were examined in 1961, 1964, and 1978, but two were studied in 1999. M.P. Cecile participated in several of the 1978 studies, and a few of these localities subsequently were visited by Pyle and Barnes (2002a, b, 2003). These and sections at other localities are described by them within the present volume. Many of the present sections (Appendix A) have been referred to within publications by Jin and Norford (1992), Norford (1962, 1965, 1991 and 1996) and Norford et al. (1967, 1994).

Figure 1 shows the locations of the stratigraphic sections and also the approximate outboard edges of the carbonate platforms. Adjacent to the Lady Laurier Embayment, this margin can be interpreted as intricate from geophysical data presented by McIlreath et al. (1995). Doubtless the margin was also intricate in other areas, with similar embayments of relatively deep water into the carbonate platforms. The Kakwa and Cassiar platforms may have been connected in the early Paleozoic, prior to faulting that moved the Kakwa Platform and the adjacent parts of the Nasina Basin and the Kechika Trough laterally to their present site (Fig. 1).

The observations presented here are those made during the fieldwork and use a dated form of lithological description of carbonate rocks. These have not been revised to conform with Pyle and Barnes' descriptions in their contributions to this publication (Pyle and Barnes, this volume).

SYNTHESIS OF BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

The region was situated about the western margin of shallow cratonic seas and included transitions to deeper environments to the west. The margin was complex, with geophysical evidence indicating several embayments of relatively deep water into the MacDonald Platform from the Kechika Trough (McIlreath et al., 1995; Fig. 1 and 2). Outboard of the Kechika Trough were the shallow environments of the Cassiar Platform, and beyond these the deep water of the Nasina Basin, a southern continuation of the Selwyn Basin of the Yukon Territory.

Depositional environments of subtidal to tidal depths on the MacDonald Platform hosted carbonate sediments and quartz sand and silt. Their faunas included stromatoporoids, corals, brachiopods, gastropods, and other benthic animals. Transitional facies at the margin of the platform were mostly debris flows and slumps from the platform facies and contained similar faunal assemblages, albeit transported (Cecile and Norford, 1979). The transitional facies dovetailed with the western basinal facies of deeper water that had few

benthic organisms, but pelagic animals such as graptolites, conodonts, and sponges. Conodonts also were present in the shallower waters of the transitional and platform facies.

Global and regional Ordovician and Silurian schemes of biostratigraphic zonation use graptolites, conodonts, and benthic macrofossils, and the relationships are well established between the schemes based on different animals (Fig. 3). Pyle and Barnes (2002b, 2003) published comprehensive descriptions of conodonts, but there has been little taxonomic description of Ordovician and Silurian macrofossils. However, a few descriptions of significant species have been published, including some of brachiopods (Boucot and Chiang, 1974; Jin and Norford 1992, 1996), gastropods (Rohr et al., 1995), corals (Norford, 1963) and sponges (Rigby and Harris 1979; Rigby et al., 1998). This published information, together with unpublished identifications of taxa from many of the stratigraphic sections, has allowed the ages of the formations to be assessed (Fig. 4).

Of particular paleontological interest are the reports of the Late Ordovician echinoderms *Pleurocystites filitextus* Billings and *P. squamosus* Billings (collection GSC O-45513; R. L. Parsely, pers. comm., 1993) from the Beaverfoot Formation in the Mount Hunter Section. Also interesting are the presence of *Listraspis* and other heterostracans, thelodonts, and fragments of other fish within the Muncho-McConnell Formation in the Keily Creek A Section (collections GSC O-64501 and O-64502; R. Thorsteinsson, pers. comm., 2005). These vertebrates probably indicate a Late Silurian (Ludlow or Pridoli) age for beds 46 m above the base of the Muncho-McConnell Formation, and provide the best known dating of the Formation. Conodonts recovered from these same two collections include elements probably assignable to *Ozarkodina remscheidensis* (Ziegler) and indicate a Late Silurian to Early Devonian age (A.D. McCracken, pers. comm., 2005). At a locality to the northwest, east of Gundahoo River within the Rabbit River map area, fragments of fish from siltstone that probably represents the Muncho-McConnell Formation have been considered Pridolian (Gabielse, 1998, p. 30; R. Thorsteinsson, pers. comm., 1984). Denison (1964) reported species of *Lisatraspis* and *Pionaspis* from a bed in the same general locality. The Muncho-McConnell Formation was measured as 477.9 m thick at its type locality within the Trout River Section, and higher beds of the Formation probably include Early Devonian horizons.

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

Several regional unconformities are present, reflecting episodes of uplift and transgression of the North American craton and of the platforms at its margins (Fig. 4). Subsequent to the deposition of the Skoki Formation, an early Caradoc hiatus can be recognized in the platformal areas throughout the southern and northern Rocky Mountains and in the

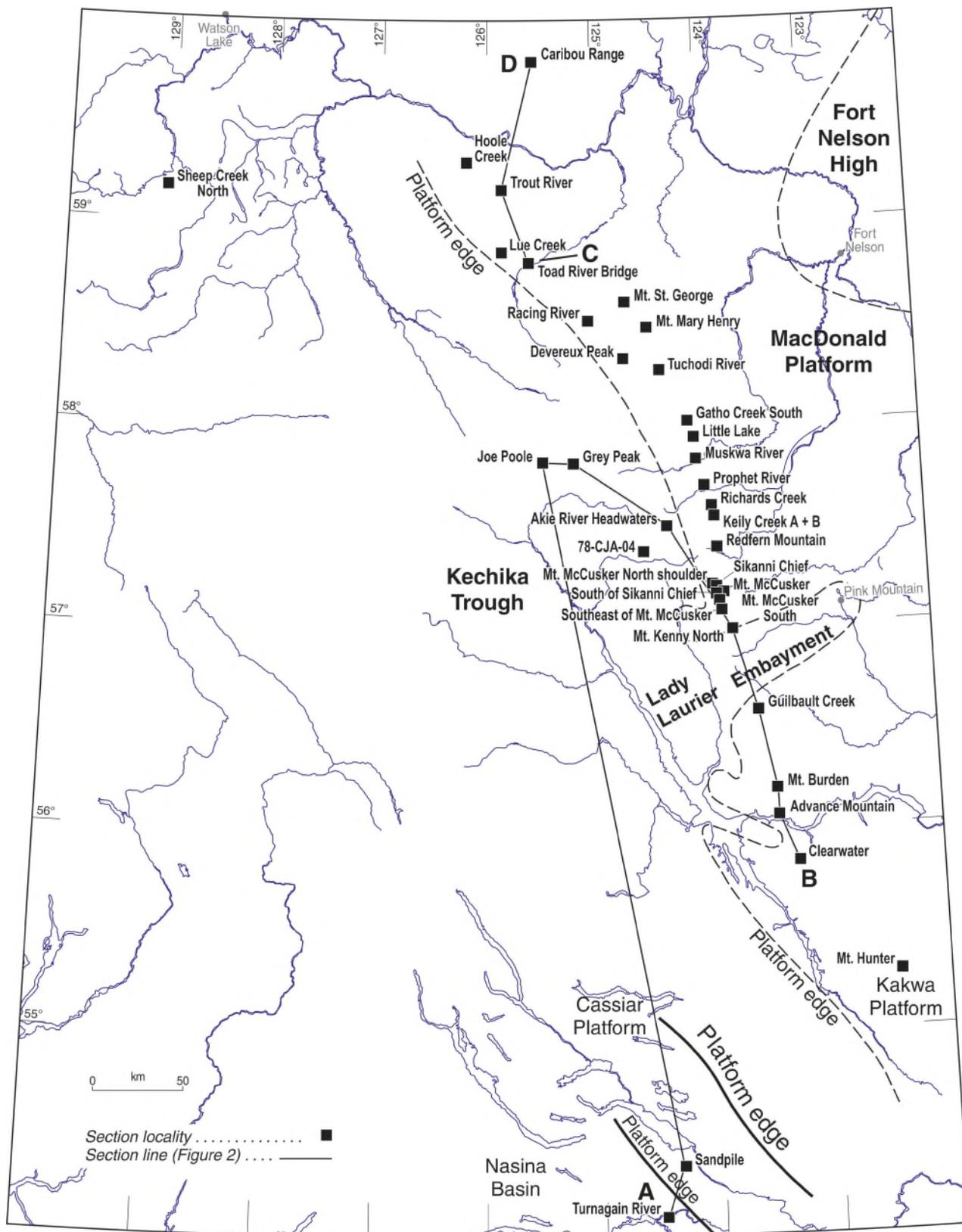


Figure 1. Paleogeography in Early Silurian time with the Cassiar Platform and its adjacent region restored southeastward to an assumed geographic position (*modified from* McIlreath et al., 1995; Norford et al., 1994; Rigby et al., 1998; Pyle and Barnes, 2003). Lines A-B and C-D indicate the transects shown in Figure 2.

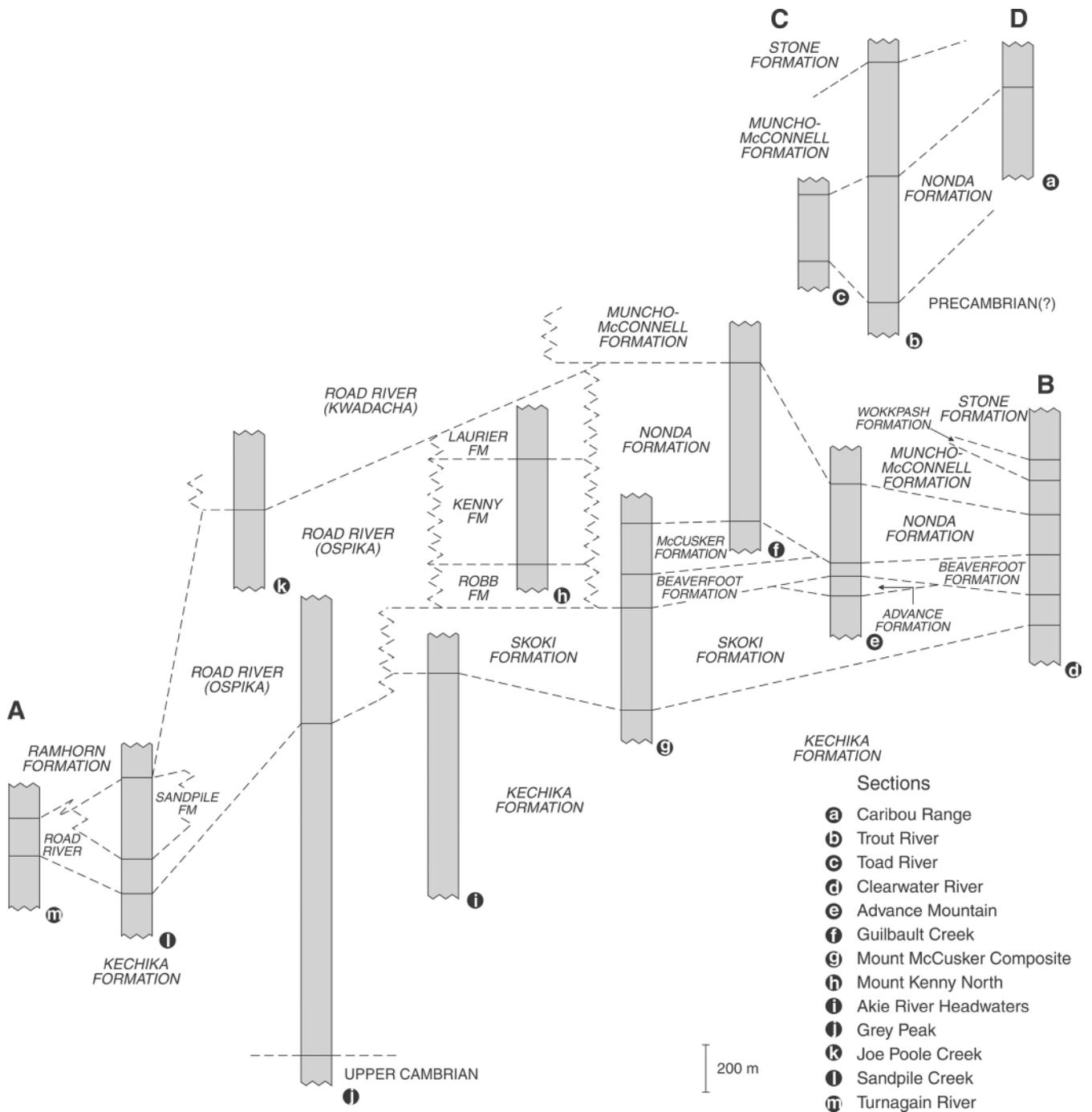


Figure 2. Fence-diagram showing relations between some of the stratigraphic sections shown in Figure 1.

Ma	EPOCH	SERIES	STAGES	CONODONTS MIDCONTINENT	CONODONTS NORTH ATLANTIC	GRAPTOLITES	SHELLY FOSSILS					
417	SILURIAN	Upper	Pridoli	<i>I. woschmidti</i>		<i>M. angustidens</i>						
419				Ludlow		Ludfordian		<i>O. eosteinhornesis</i>	<i>P. transgrediens</i>			
			<i>O. crispa</i>					<i>M. bouceki</i>				
			Gorstian			<i>P. latialata</i>		" <i>M. chelmiensis</i> "				
423			Wenlock	Homerian		<i>P. siluricus</i>		<i>P. parultimus - P. ultimus</i>	<i>M. formosus</i>			
		<i>A. ploeckensis</i>				<i>L. progenitor</i>						
428		Lower	Llandovery	Telychian		<i>O. crassa</i>		<i>L. sherrardae</i> beds	<i>S. harrisoni</i>			
						<i>P. amorphognathoides</i>		<i>C. lundgreni - M. testus</i>	?			
			Aeronian	Sheinwoodian		<i>O. sagitta</i>		<i>M. firmus nahanniensis</i> beds	<i>M. reimari</i>			
								<i>C. rigidus</i>	<i>S. dimitrovi</i>			
433	Llandovery	Aeronian	<i>P. celloni</i>	<i>C. cf. perneri</i>	<i>K. belli</i>							
				<i>D. kentuckyensis</i>	<i>K. besti</i>							
438	Upper	Cincinnati	Ashtgill	<i>A. fluogeli</i>	<i>C. centrifugus</i>	<i>Pentameroides suberectus-Costistricklandia gaspeensis</i>						
				<i>I. discreta/deflecta</i>	<i>C. sakmaricus-C. laqueus</i>	<i>Pentamerus oblongus-Stricklandia lens progressa</i>						
443	ORDOVICIAN	Upper	Cincinnati	Richmondian	<i>R. nathani</i>	<i>R. nathani</i>	<i>O. spiralis</i>					
							Maysvillian	<i>G. ensifer</i>	<i>A. ordovicicus</i>	<i>S. turriculatus</i>	<i>Pentamerus oblongus-Stricklandia lens progressa</i>	
			<i>A. shatzeri</i>	<i>S. sedgwickii</i>	<i>Kulumbella biconvexa-Stricklandia lens intermedia</i>							
			<i>A. divergens</i>	<i>A. grandis</i>	<i>M. convolutus</i>	<i>M. argenteus</i>						
			Caradoc	Edenian	<i>A. superbus</i>	<i>P. acuminatus</i>	<i>D. triangulatus - D. pectinatus</i>	<i>P. cyphus</i>	<i>Virgiana barrandi-Stricklandia lens lens</i>			
		<i>O. robustus</i>					<i>O. fastigatus</i>	<i>P. acinaces</i>				
		<i>O. velicuspis</i>					<i>A. atavus</i>	<i>A. atavus</i>				
		Middle	Whiterockian	Darrivillian	"Chazyan"	<i>A. tvaerensis</i>	<i>P. anserinus</i>	<i>P. acuminatus</i>				
								Shermanian	<i>B. alobatus</i>	<i>G. persculptus</i>	<i>G. pygmaeus</i>	<i>W. planatus</i>
										<i>P. tenuis</i>	<i>C. extraordinarius</i>	<i>C. mackenziensis</i>
Kirkfieldian	Blackriveran		<i>B. gerdae</i>	<i>P. compressa</i>	<i>C. extraordiarius</i>	<i>C. americana</i>	<i>C. necra</i>					
					<i>E. quadridactylus</i>	<i>P. pacificus</i>	<i>C. longispina</i>					
443	Middle	Whiterockian	Darrivillian	<i>B. variabilis</i>	<i>P. serra</i>	<i>O. fastigatus</i>	<i>C. gabrielsi</i>					
						<i>P. aculeata</i>	<i>N. gracilis</i>	<i>B. ulu</i>				
443	Middle	Whiterockian	Darrivillian	<i>P. anserinus</i>	<i>P. serra</i>	<i>D. ornatus-D. companatus</i>	<i>C. nahanniensis</i>					
						<i>H. teretiusculus</i>	<i>G. euglyphus</i>	<i>B. granulatus</i>				
443	Middle	Whiterockian	Darrivillian	<i>L. variabilis</i>	<i>P. serra</i>	<i>A. manitoulinesis</i>	<i>B. nevadensis</i>					
						<i>H. teretiusculus</i>	<i>G. euglyphus</i>	<i>Anomalorthis</i> N				
443	Middle	Whiterockian	Darrivillian	<i>L. variabilis</i>	<i>P. serra</i>	<i>P. decoratus</i>	M					
						<i>P. tentaculatus</i>						

Figure 3. Biostratigraphic zonations (modified from Norford 1997 and Dewing et al., 2008).

Ma	EPOCH	SERIES	STAGES	CONODONTS MIDCONTINENT	CONODONTS NORTH ATLANTIC	GRAPTOLITES	SHELLY FOSSILS					
4957-	ORDOVICIAN	Lower Ibexian	"Arenig"	Rangerian	<i>T. laevis</i>	<i>M. parva</i> <i>P. originalis</i> <i>B. navis</i> <i>B. triangularis</i>	<i>Cardiograptus</i> <i>Oncograptus</i>	<i>Orthidiella</i>	K, L			
				Blackhillsian	<i>R. andinus</i>	<i>O. evae</i>	<i>I. vic. maximus</i> <i>I. vic. victoriae</i> <i>I. vic. lunatus</i>	<i>Hesperonomia</i>	J I			
				Tulean	<i>O. communis</i>	<i>P. elegans</i>	<i>D. bifidus</i>		H			
				Stairsian	<i>A. deltatus-</i> <i>O. costatus</i>	<i>P. proteus</i>	<i>P. fruticosus</i>		G-2 G-1			
				Skullrockian	<i>M. diana</i> <i>low diversity interval</i> <i>R. manitouensis</i>	<i>P. deltifer</i>	<i>T. approximatus</i>		F			
					<i>C. angulatus</i>	<i>C. angulatus</i>	<i>H. copiosus</i> <i>A. murrayi/</i> <i>pulchellus</i>		E D			
					<i>I. fluctivagus</i>	<i>I. fluctivagus</i>	<i>A. victoriae</i>		C			
				CAMBRIAN	Upper Millardian	Tremadoc	Sunwaptan	<i>C. lindstromi s.l.</i> <i>C. intermedius</i> <i>C. proavus</i> <i>Eoconodontus</i> <i>P. muelleri</i>	<i>C. lindstromi s.l.</i> <i>C. intermedius</i> <i>C. proavus</i> <i>Eoconodontus</i> <i>P. muelleri</i>	<i>A. cf. tenellus</i> <i>A. matanensis</i> <i>R. f. parabola</i> <i>S. dichotomus</i>	<i>S. bulbosa</i> <i>S. brevispicata</i> <i>Missisquoia</i>	A
								<i>P. posterocostatus</i> <i>P. tenuiserratus</i>	<i>P. posterocostatus</i> <i>P. tenuiserratus</i>			
											<i>Saukia</i>	
			<i>Ptychaspis-</i> <i>Prosaukia</i>									
			<i>Taenicephalus</i> <i>Elvinia</i> <i>Dunderbergia</i> <i>Aphelaspis</i> <i>Crepicephalus</i>									

Figure 3. (Cont.) Biostratigraphic zonations (modified from Norford 1997 and Dewing et al., 2008).

Williston and Hudson Bay basins (Norford et al., 1994). This hiatus indicates a widely emergent craton over which late Middle and Late Ordovician transgressions deposited marine sediments. The basal deposits of these transgressions incorporated large amounts of mature quartz sand that had accumulated on the craton while it was land during much of Precambrian to mid-Ordovician time. Earlier, within Blackhillsian time, rivers had transported similar sand (now known as the Monkman and Tipperary quartzites) into the platformal areas of the Rocky Mountains.

There were two distinct transgressions during Caradoc time. The earlier is documented by the Mount Wilson Formation in the southern Rocky Mountains and by the Winnipeg Sandstone in the Williston Basin and reflected by the disconformity below the Advance Formation in the northern Rocky Mountains. Uplift followed in many parts of the craton and much of the sedimentary package of this transgressive cycle was removed by erosion prior to the later transgression at the onset of deposition of the Beaverfoot Formation. In the southern Rocky Mountains, the Beaverfoot overstepped the Mount Wilson Quartzite in late Caradoc time to rest unconformably on older Ordovician rocks. In the northern Rocky Mountains, the Advance Formation is the only relic of the earlier Caradoc sedimentary package.

Most of the craton was above sea level at the beginning of the Silurian. McCusker and Nonda carbonate deposits followed a late Rhuddanian transgression, with periodic influxes of quartz sand and silt from still emergent parts of the Fort Nelson High and the Peace River Arch (Fig. 1). Unconformities above the Kenny and Pesika formations document unsettled conditions in parts of the transitional facies and of the eastern part of the basin facies. The margin of the MacDonald platform was steep and was the site of slumping and debris flows (see Plate 2, figure 1 in Norford et al., 1967). Uplift in Wenlock time allowed erosion of platform sediments while quartz silt was transported across the platform to be incorporated within the Kwadacha Formation that appears to range in age from Wenlock to Devonian. A late Silurian or early Devonian transgression following deposition of the Nonda Formation deposited the Muncho-McConnell Formation, which contains significant amounts of quartz silt similar to that within the Kwadacha Formation.

Ma	EPOCH	SERIES	STAGES	BASIN	TRANSITION	PLATFORM				
417	SILURIAN	Upper	Pridoli	KWADACHA FORMATION	?	MUNCHO-McCONNELL FORMATION				
419			Ludlow		Ludfordian	?	?			
					Gorstian					
423			Wentlock		Homerian					
					Sheinwoodian					
428		Lower	Llandovery		Telychian	?	LAURIER FORMATION	NONDA FORMATION		
433					Aeronian	PESIKA FM	KENNY FORMATION	McCUSKER FORMATION		
438					Rhuddanian					
443					Upper	Cincinnati	Ashgill		ROBB FORMATION	BEAVERFOOT FORMATION
							Richmondian			
	Maysvillian									
	Middle	Mohawkian	Caradoc	OSPIKA FORMATION						
			Shermanian							
			Kirkfieldian							
			Rocklandian							
		Blackriveran				ADVANCE FORMATION				
	Lower	Whiterockian	Darriwilian			SKOKI FORMATION	SKOKI FORMATION			
			"Chazyan"							
			Rangerian							
			"Arenig"		Blackhillsian					
			Tulean							
4957	ORDOVICIAN	Ibexian	Stairsian	KECHIKA FORMATION	KECHIKA FORMATION	KECHIKA FORMATION				
			Tremadoc	Skullrockian						

Figure 4. Formations, ages and hiatuses.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

M.J. Copeland, D.E. Jackson, A.D. McCracken, D.J. McLaren, A.W. Norris, G.S. Nowlan, R.L. Parsely, R. Thorsteinsson, and T.T. Uyeno kindly studied some of the paleontological collections for the author; the rest of the identifications were his responsibility. M.P. Cecile participated in the study of several of the stratigraphic sections. Sylvia Leong provided exemplary assistance in the compilation of the plots of the stratigraphic sections and in the drafting of the figures.

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Appendix A: Stratigraphic sections

SEDIMENTARY FEATURES

<i>Calcareous</i>	
<i>Dolomitic</i>	
<i>Sandy</i>	
<i>Silty</i>	
<i>Shaly</i>	
<i>Chert nodules</i>	
<i>Dolostone lithoclasts</i>	
<i>Phosphatic</i>	
<i>Porous</i>	
<i>Breccia</i>	
<i>Stromatolites</i>	
<i>Fault</i>	
<i>Burrow mottled</i>	
<i>Churned (intensely bioturbated)</i>	
<i>Cross-laminae</i>	
<i>Cross-laminae (small-scale, current)</i>	
<i>Cross-stratification (hummocky)</i>	
<i>Horizontal laminae</i>	
<i>Mud cracks</i>	
<i>Slumping (convoluted beds and laminae)</i>	
<i>Stylolites</i>	
<i>Wispy argillaceous laminae</i>	
<i>Vugs</i>	
<i>Nodules</i>	

FAUNA, FLORA, AND MISCELLANEOUS

<i>Brachiopods</i>	
<i>Brachiopods (inarticulate)</i>	
<i>Bryozoans</i>	
<i>Cephalopods</i>	
<i>Corals (rugose, tabulate)</i>	
<i>Corals</i>	
<i>Crinoids</i>	
<i>Fish</i>	
<i>Fossil Collection</i>	
<i>Gastropods</i>	
<i>Graptolites</i>	
<i>Oncolites</i>	
<i>Ostracodes</i>	
<i>Pelecypods</i>	
<i>Stromatoporoids</i>	
<i>Trilobites</i>	
<i>Sponges</i>	

LITHOLOGY

	<i>Limestone</i>
	<i>Dolostone</i>
	<i>Calcilutite</i>
	<i>Sandstone</i>
	<i>Siltstone</i>
	<i>Shale</i>
	<i>Mudstone</i>
	<i>Chert</i>
	<i>Conglomerate</i>
	<i>Breccia</i>
	<i>Igneous</i>
	<i>Covered interval</i>

Figure A1. Caribou Range (Norford et al., 1967, p. 508). This figure also includes a legend for symbols used in the columnar sections illustrated in Figures A1 to A37 inclusive.

CARIBOU RANGE SECTION

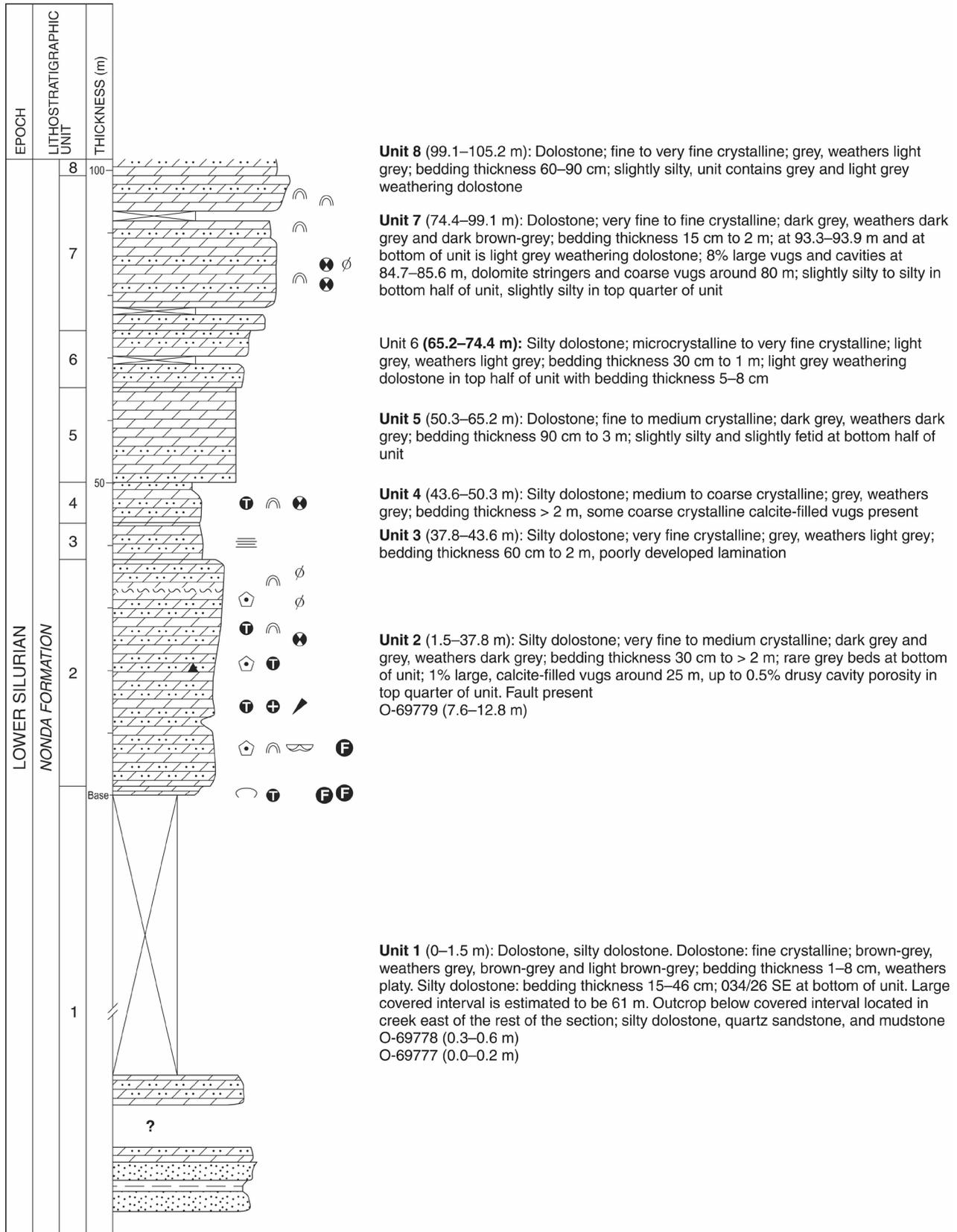


Figure A1. Caribou Range (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

CARIBOU RANGE SECTION, page 2 of 2

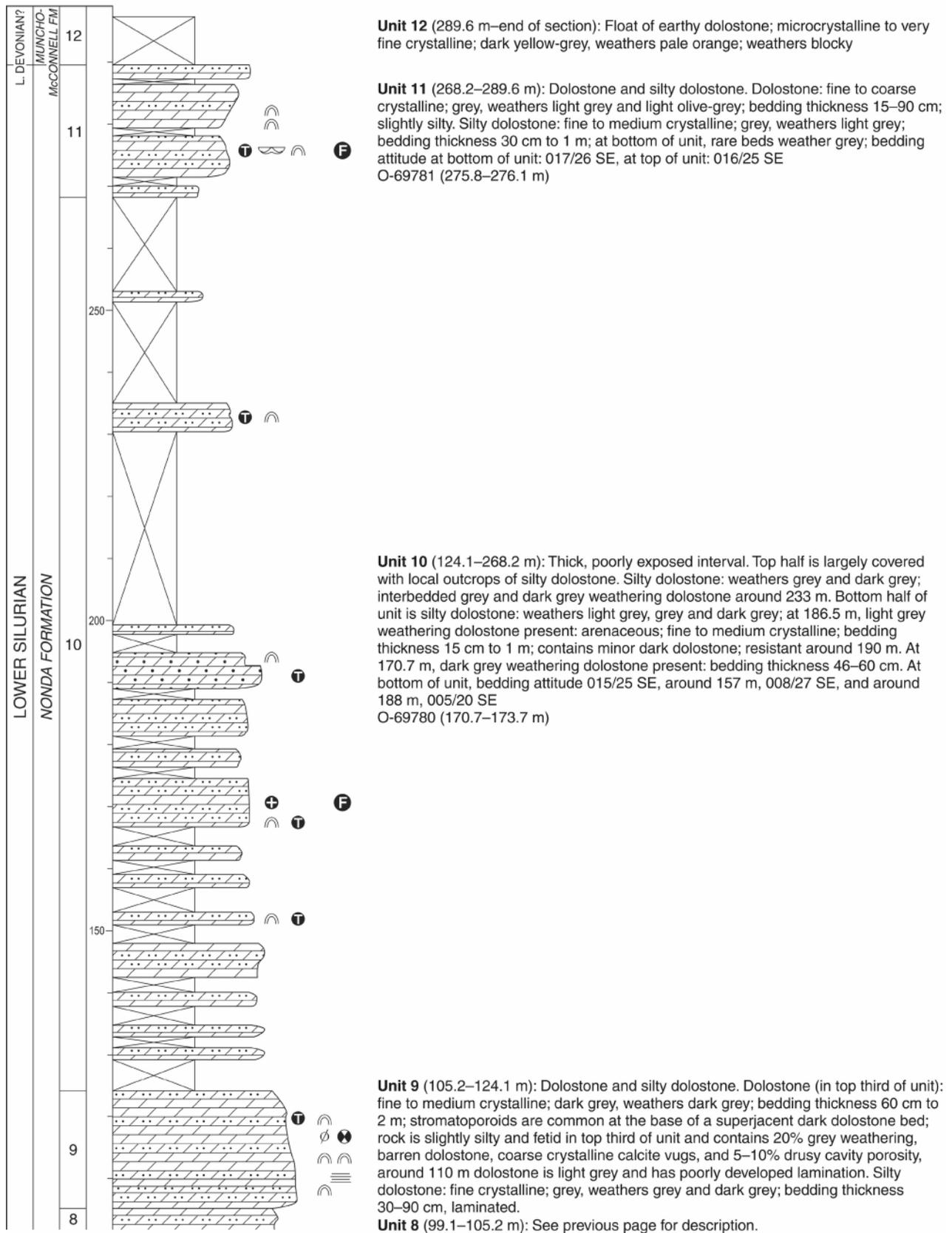


Figure A1. (Cont.) Caribou Range (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

TROUT RIVER SECTION

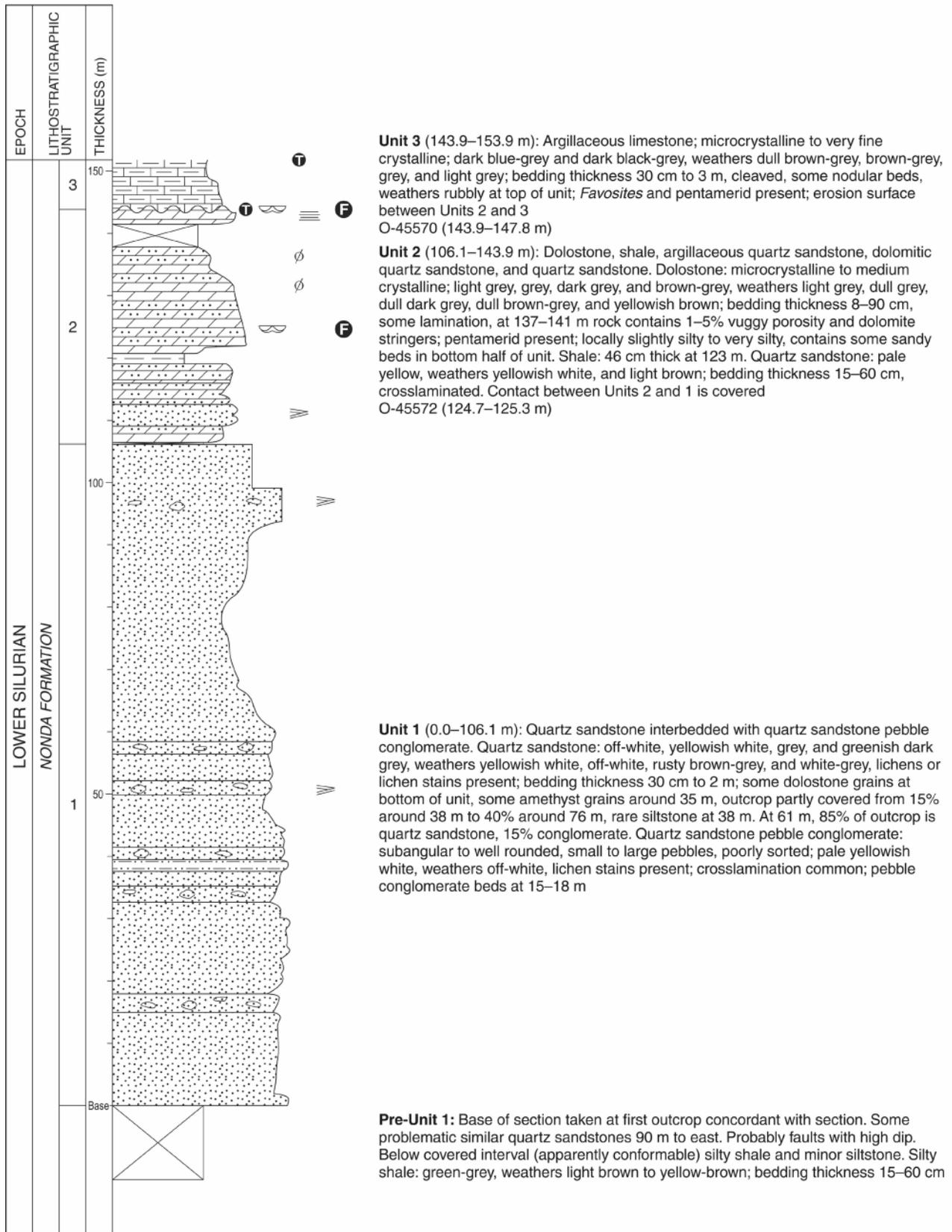


Figure A2. Trout River, type section of the Muncho-McConnell Formation.

TROUT RIVER SECTION, page 2 of 6

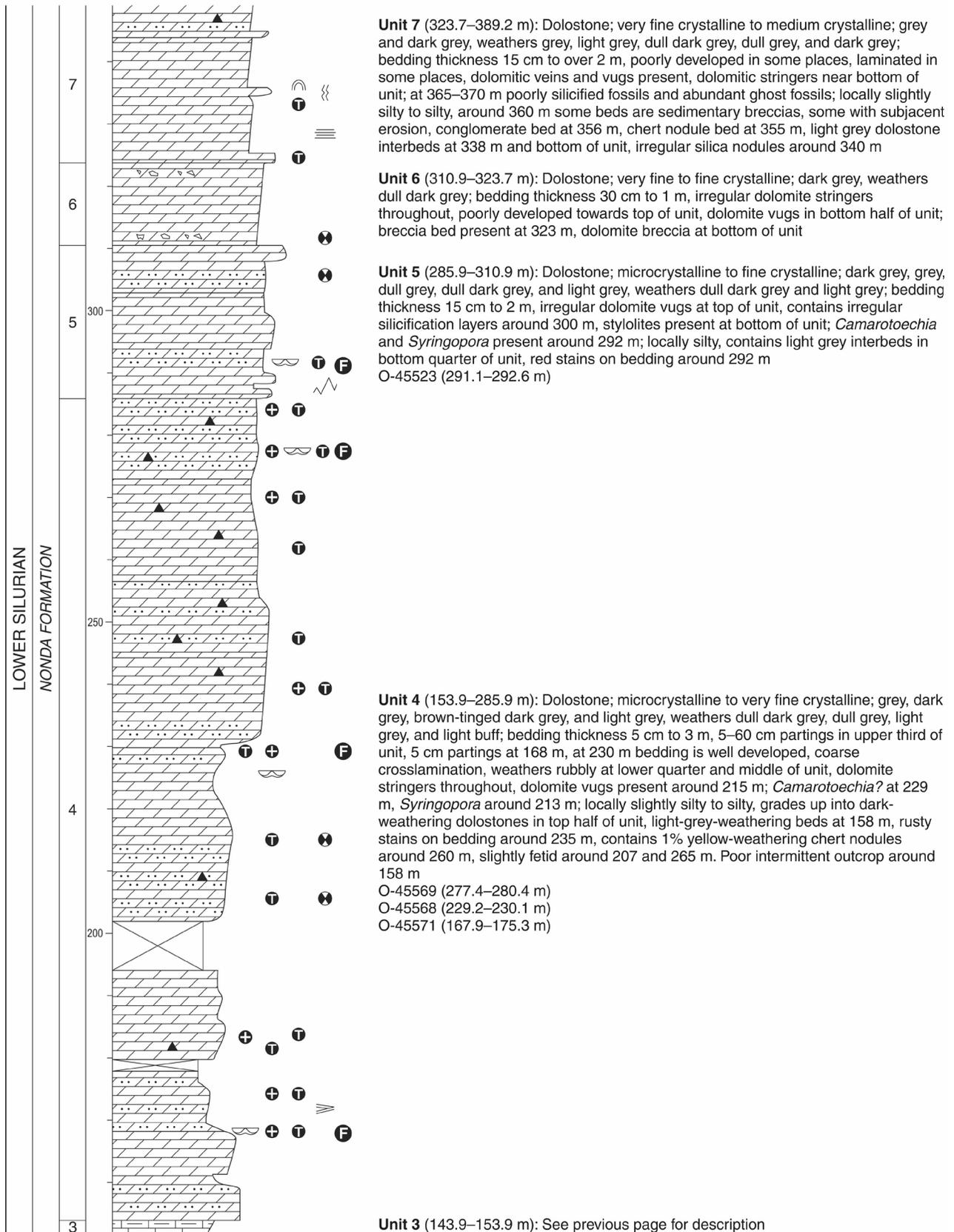


Figure A2. (Cont.) Trout River, type section of the Muncho-McConnell Formation.

TROUT RIVER SECTION, page 3 of 6

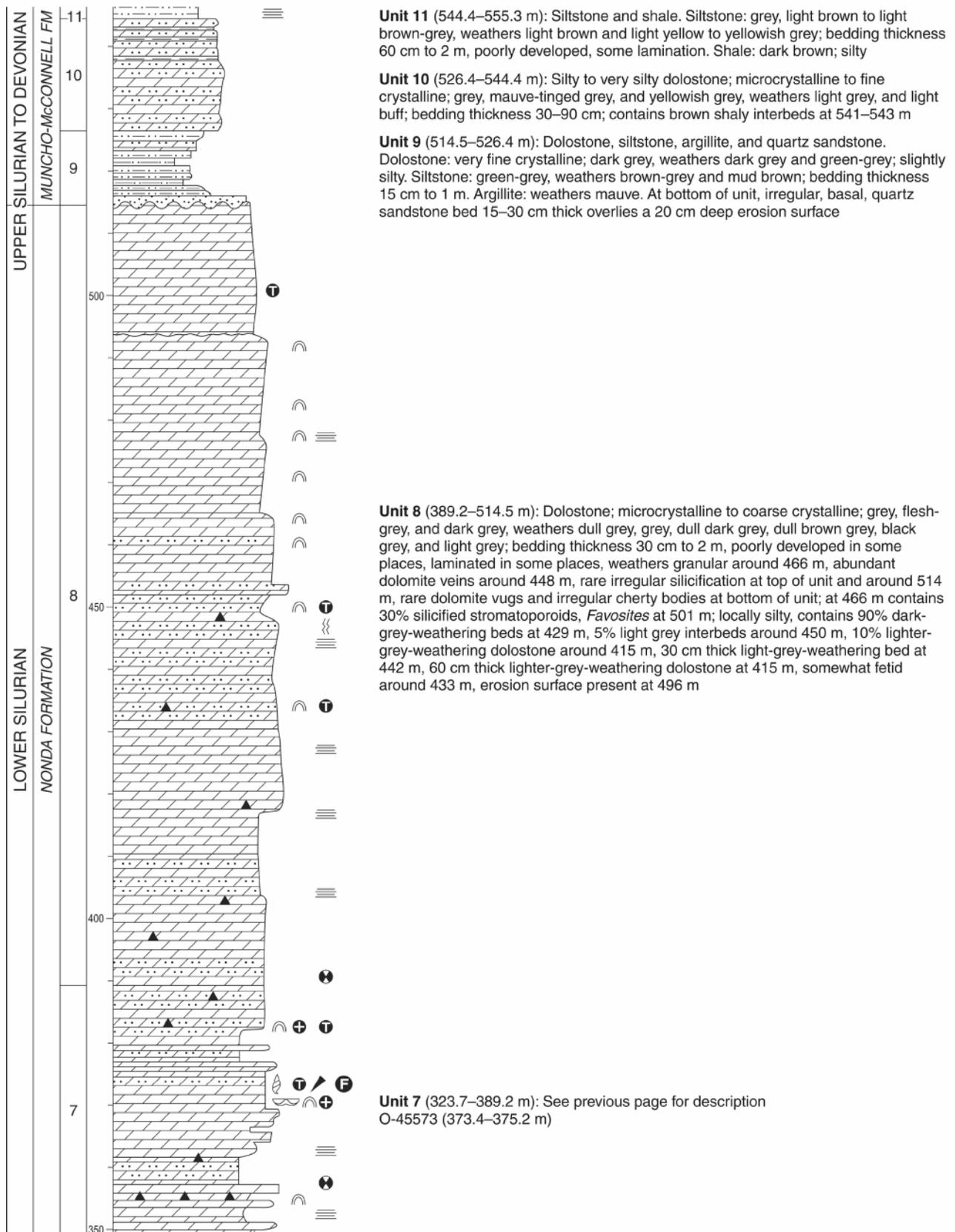


Figure A2. (Cont.) Trout River, type section of the Muncho-McConnell Formation.

TROUT RIVER SECTION, page 4 of 6

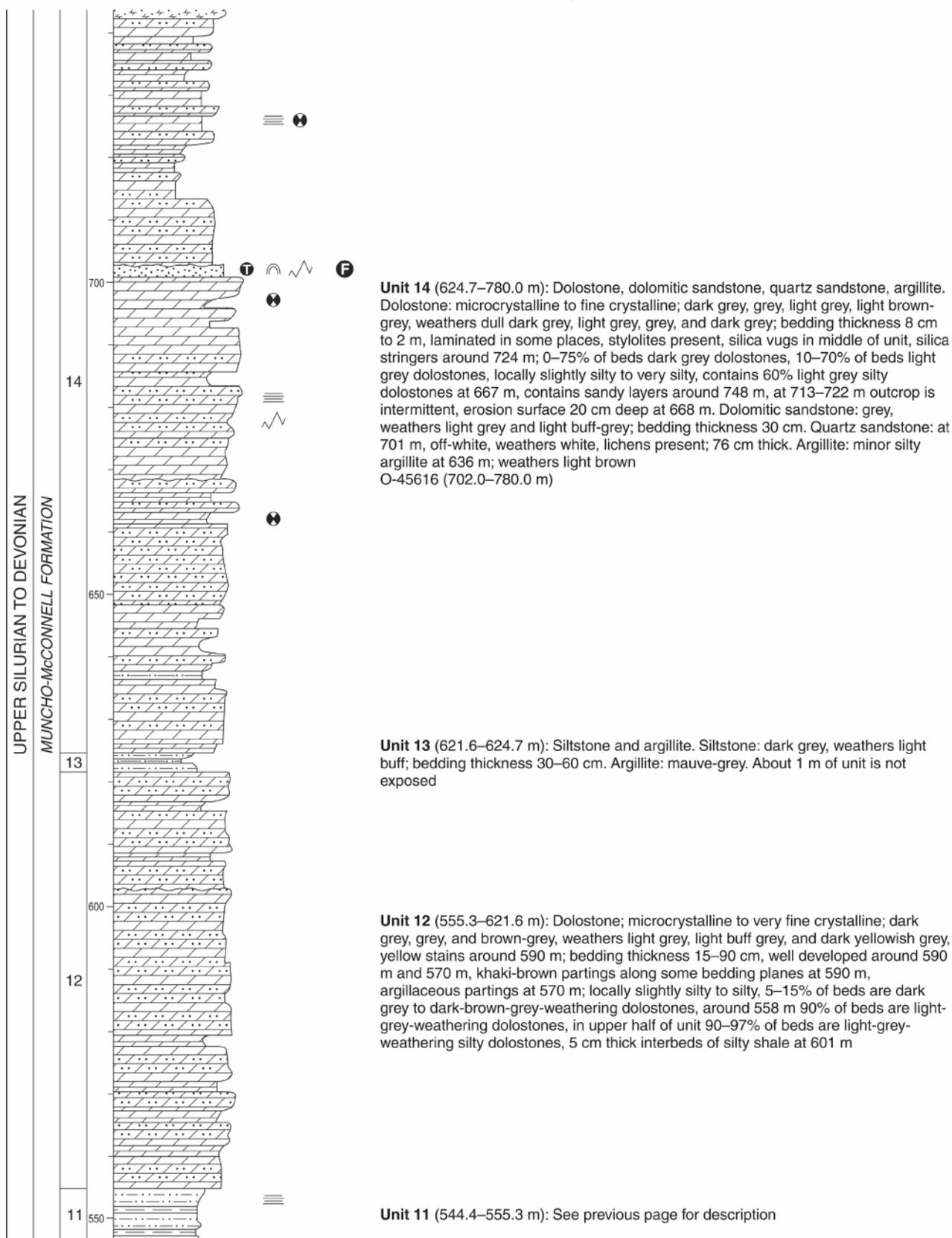


Figure A2. (Cont.) Trout River, type section of the Muncho-McConnell Formation.

TROUT RIVER SECTION, page 5 of 6

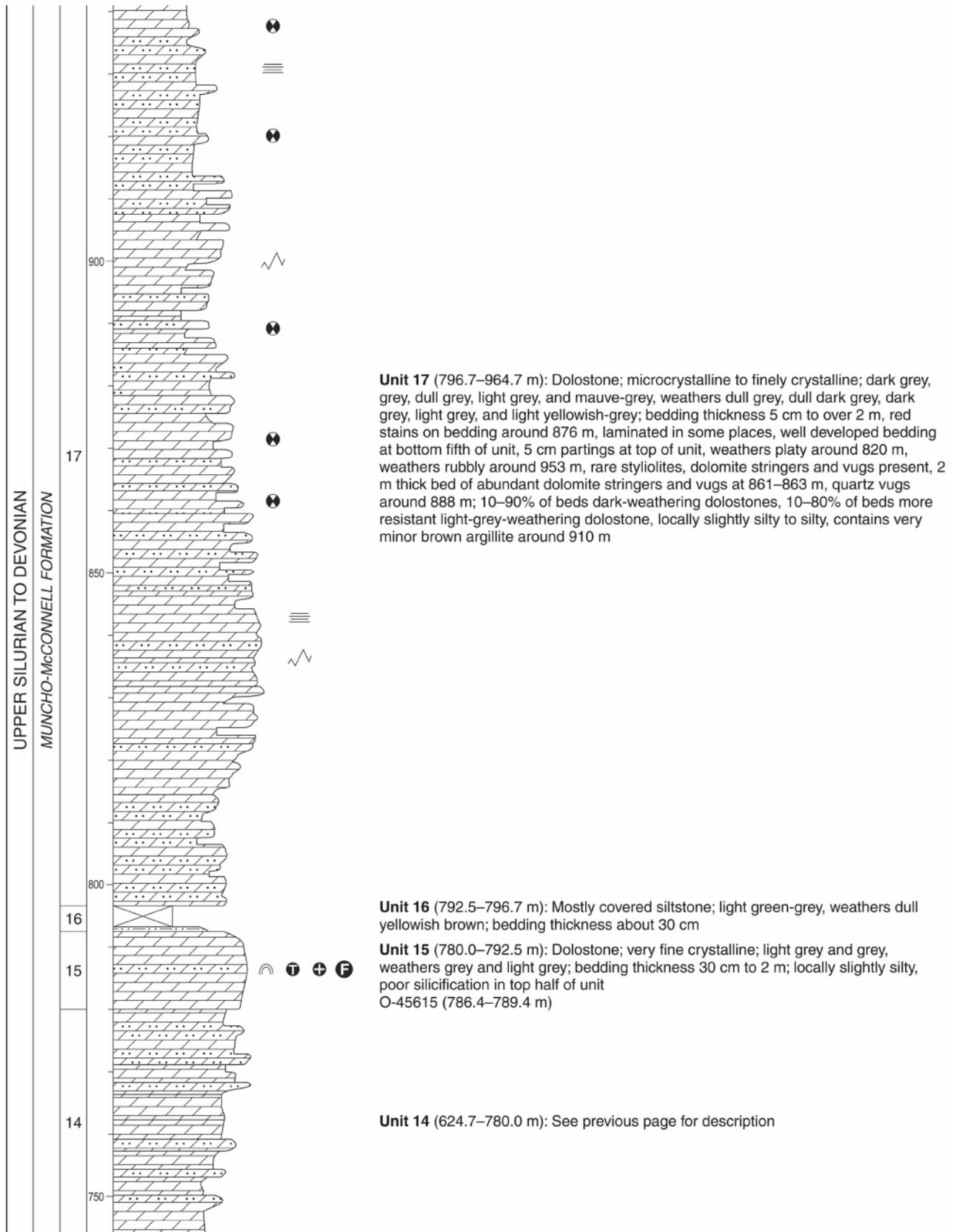


Figure A2. (Cont.) Trout River, type section of the Muncho-McConnell Formation.

TROUT RIVER SECTION, page 6 of 6

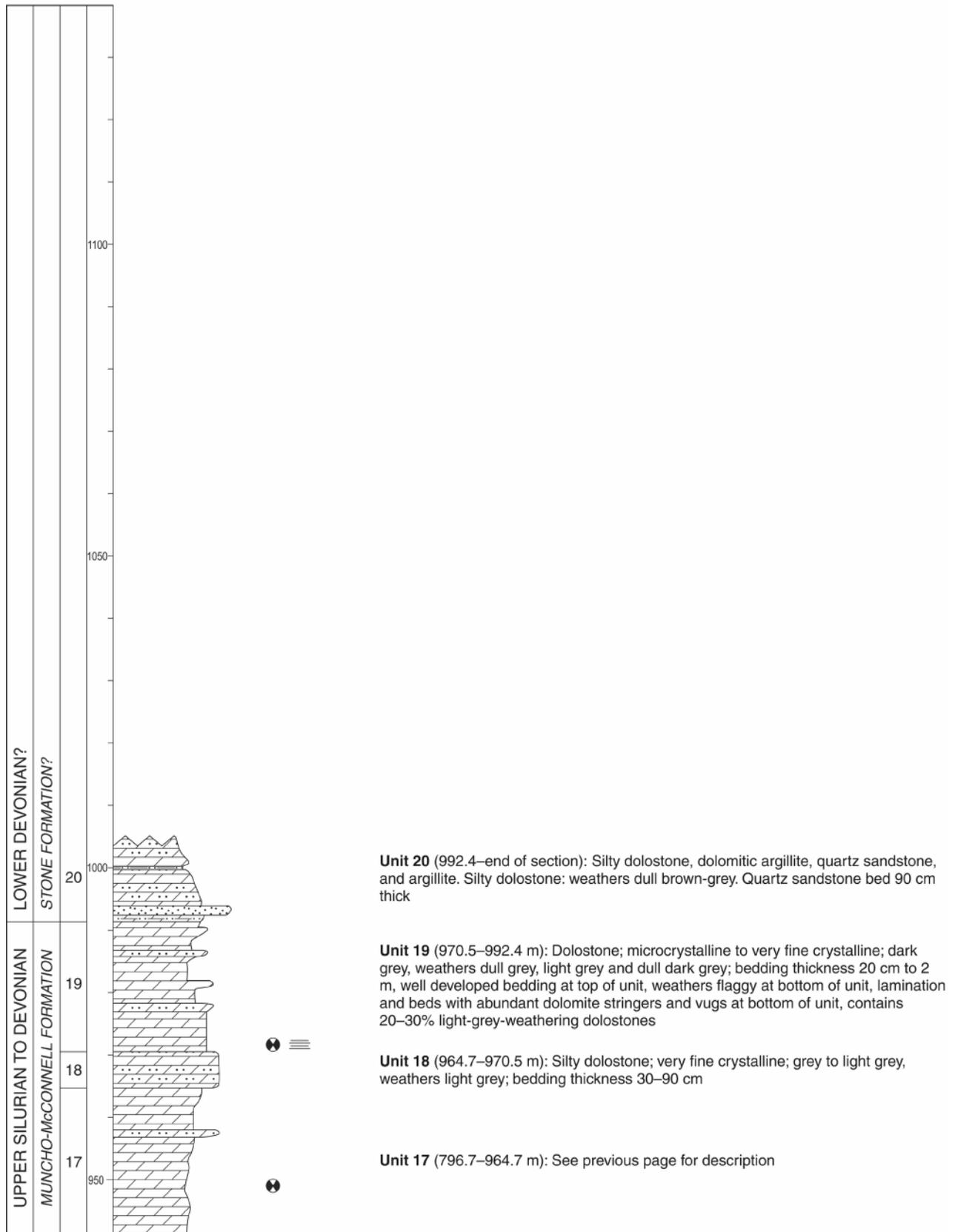


Figure A2. (Cont.) Trout River, type section of the Muncho-McConnell Formation.

TOAD RIVER BRIDGE SECTION

Type section of the Nonda Formation;
description given in more detail in Norford,
Gabrielse and Taylor, 1967, p. 507, 515-519

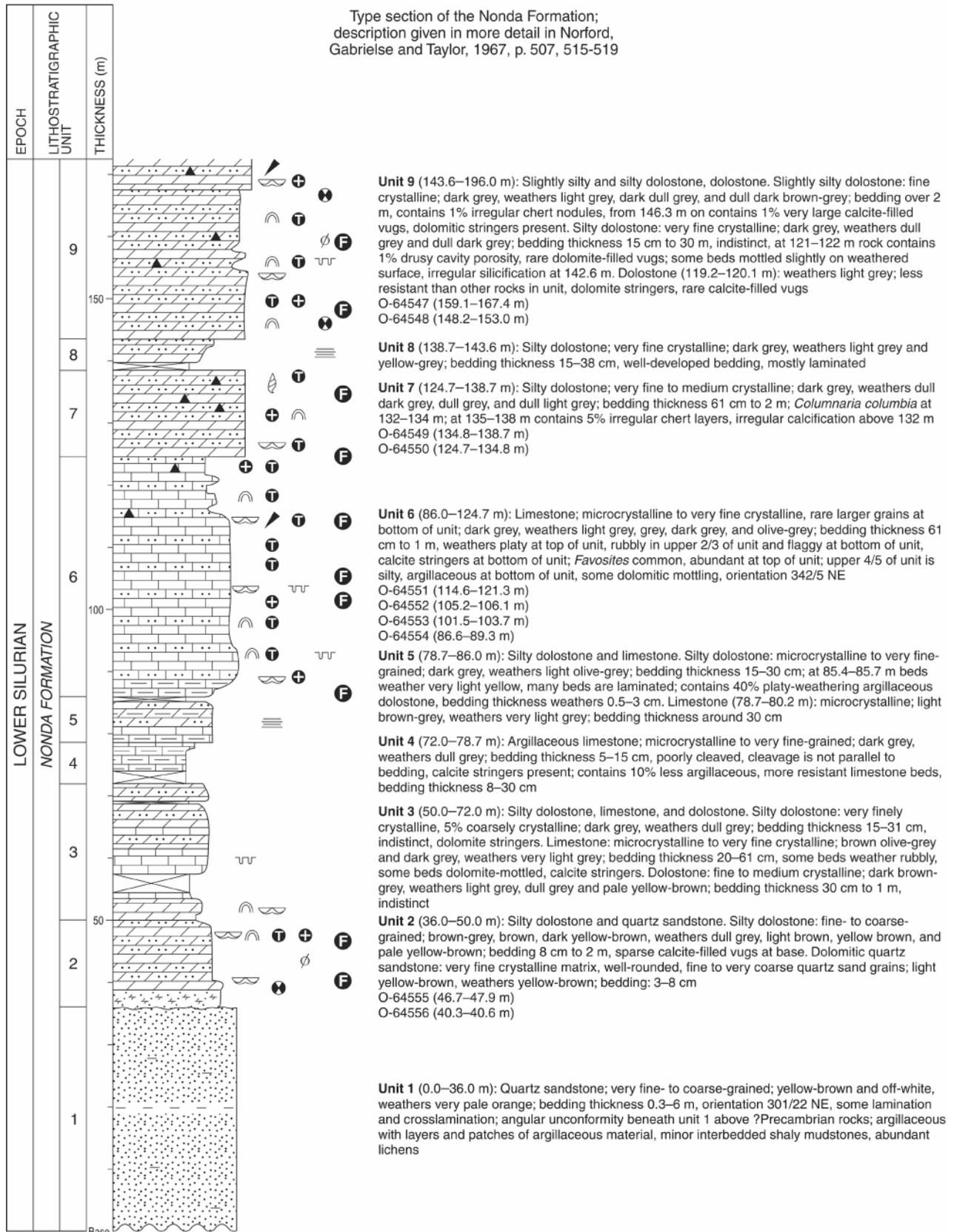


Figure A3. Toad River Bridge, type section of the Nonda Formation (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 507, 508; Jin and Norford, 1992, p. 779).

TOAD RIVER BRIDGE SECTION, page 2 of 2

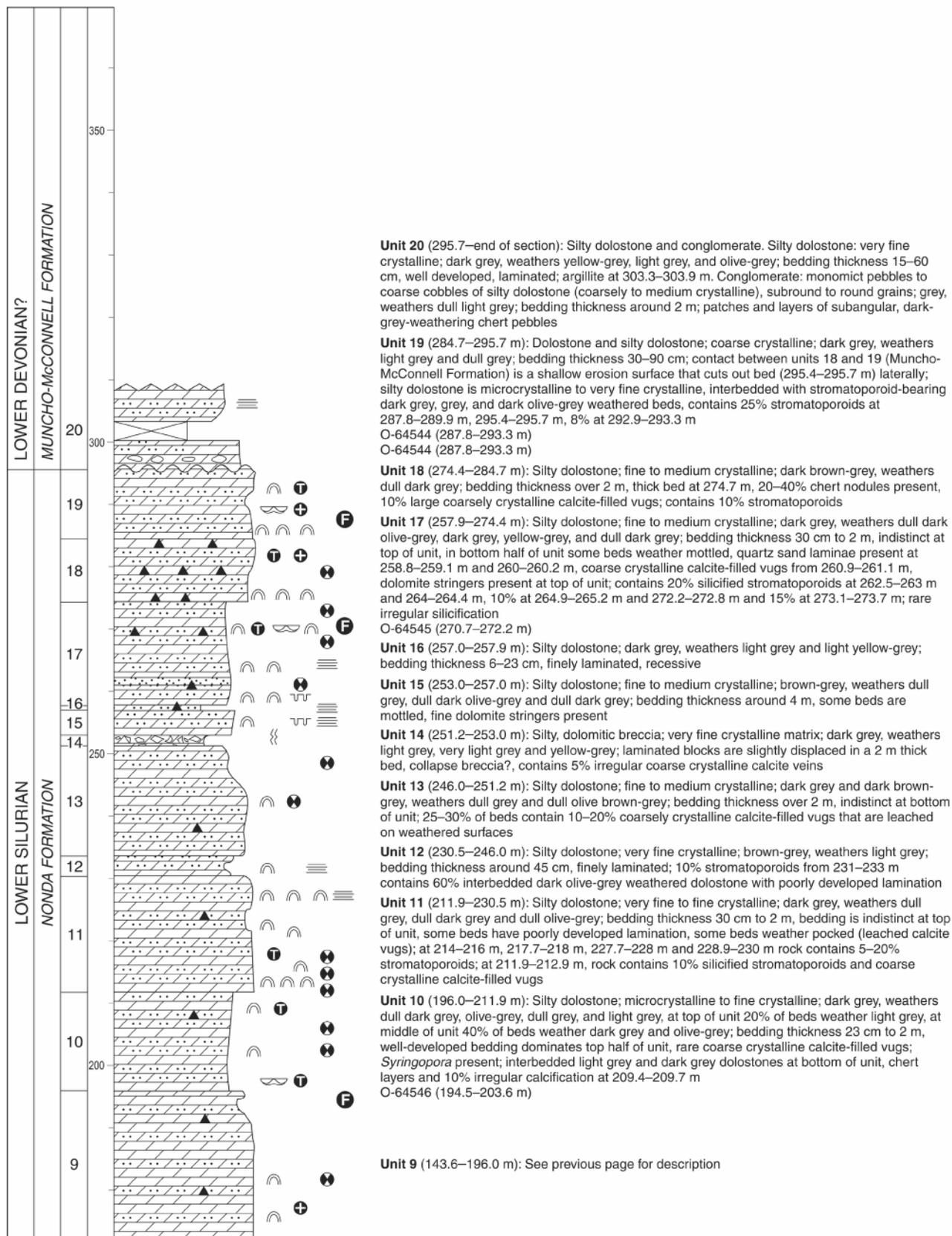


Figure A3. (Cont.) Toad River Bridge, type section of the Nonda Formation (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 507, 508; Jin and Norford, 1992, p. 779).

CLEARWATER SECTION

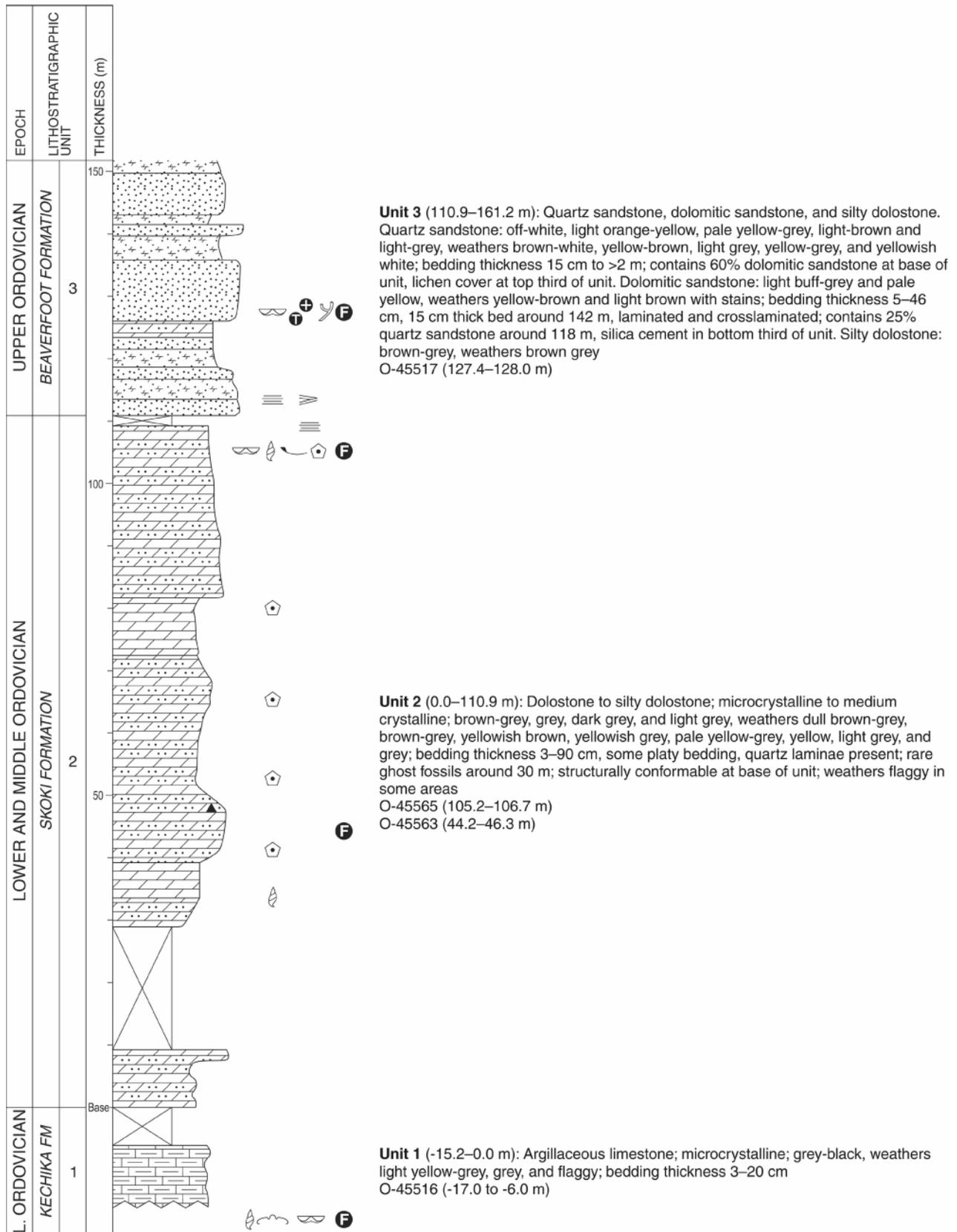


Figure A4. Clearwater (note Norford, 1965, p. 46, 47).

CLEARWATER SECTION, page 2 of 6

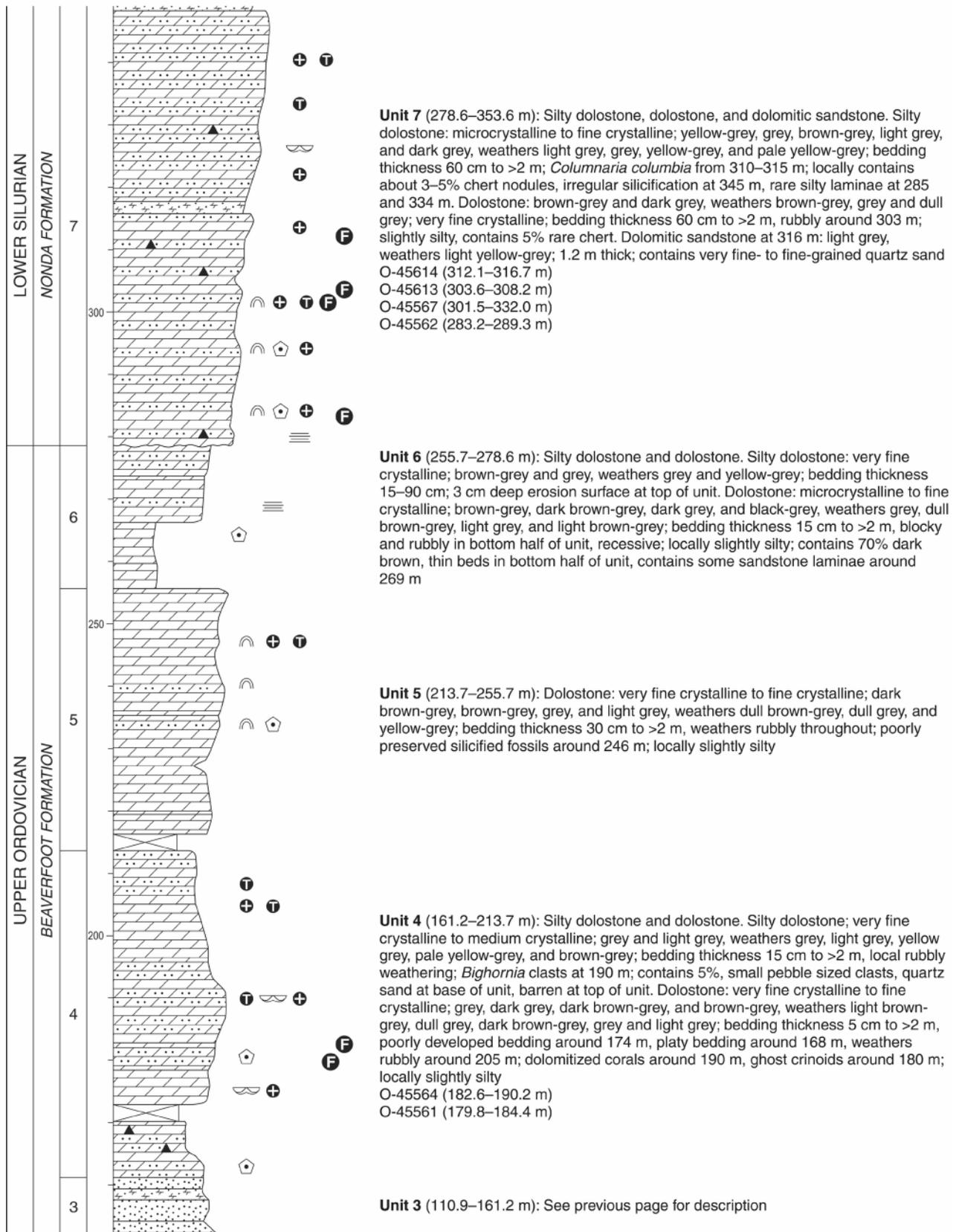


Figure A4. (Cont.) Clearwater (note Norford, 1965, p. 46, 47).

CLEARWATER SECTION, page 3 of 6

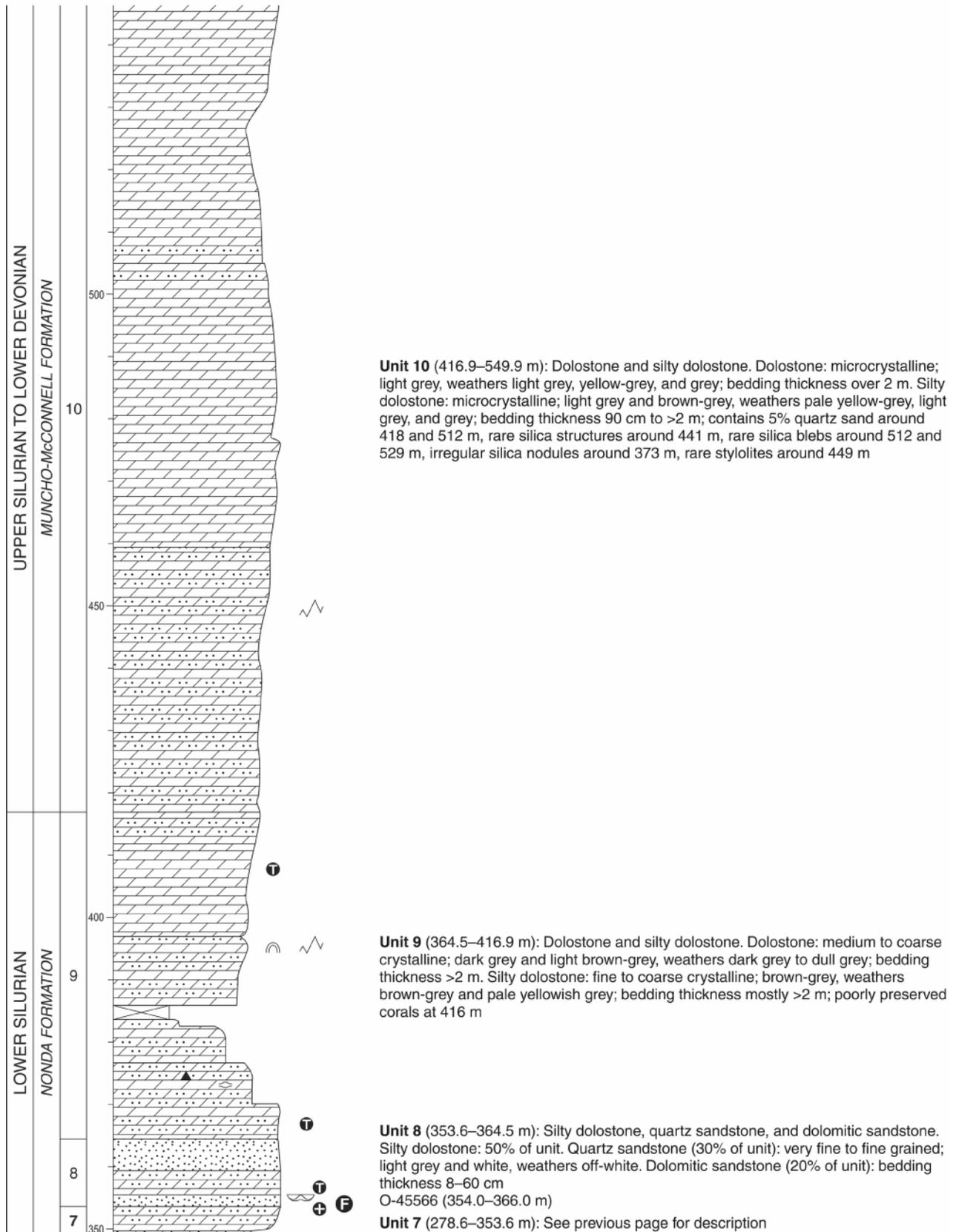


Figure A4. (Cont.) Clearwater (note Norford, 1965, p. 46, 47).

CLEARWATER SECTION, page 4 of 6

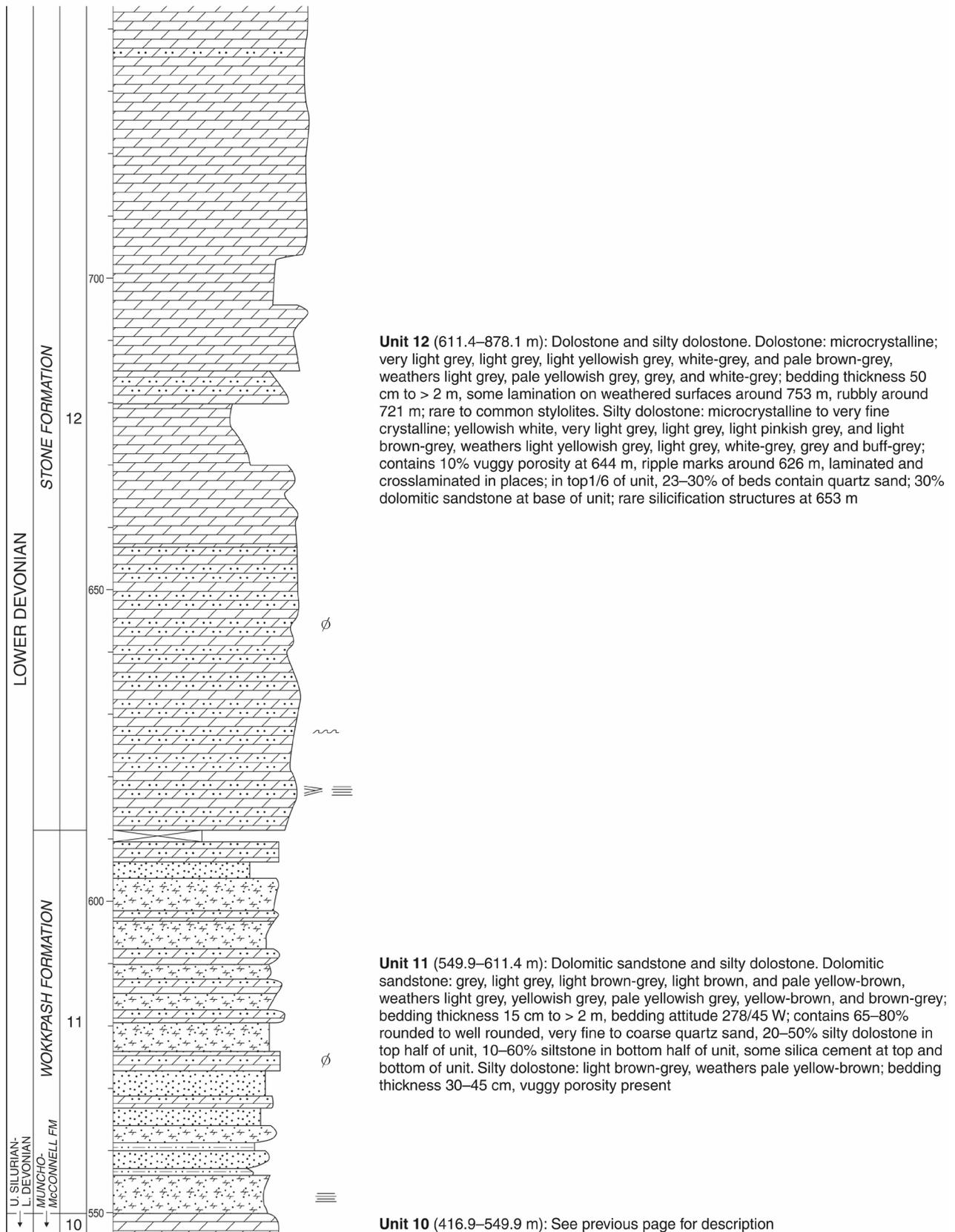


Figure A4. (Cont.) Clearwater (note Norford, 1965, p. 46, 47).

CLEARWATER SECTION, page 5 of 6

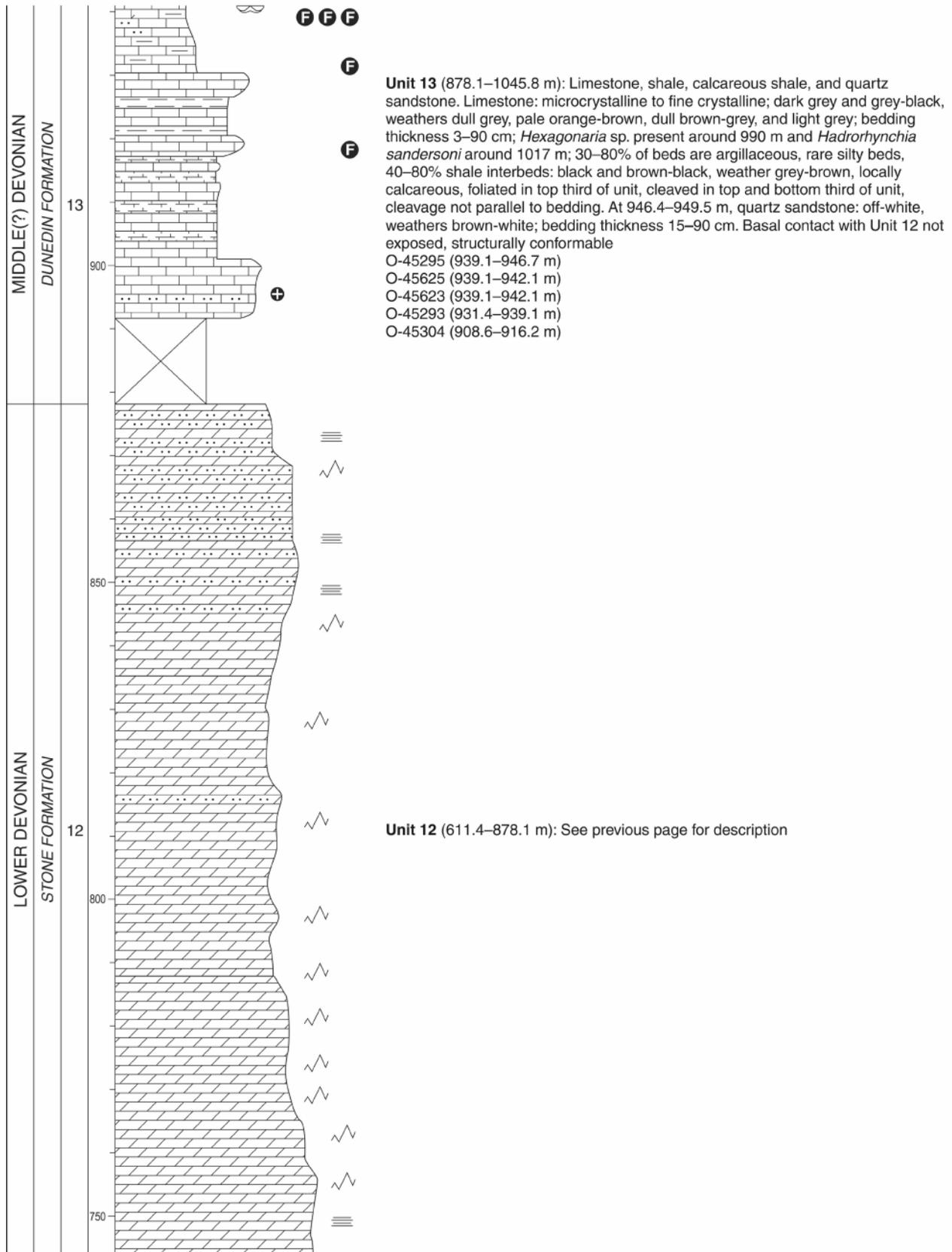


Figure A4. (Cont.) Clearwater (note Norford, 1965, p. 46, 47).

CLEARWATER SECTION, page 6 of 6

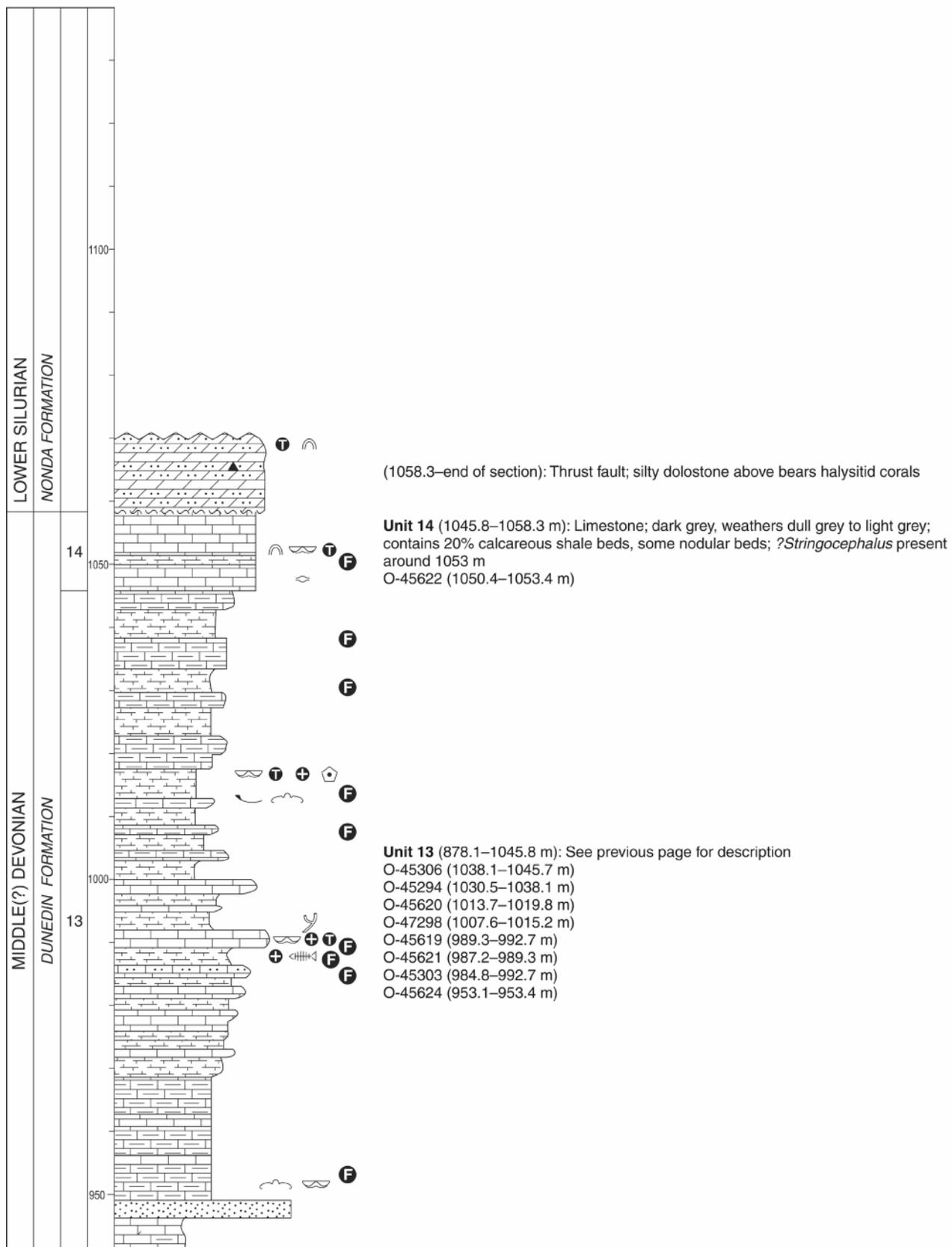


Figure A4. (Cont.) Clearwater (note Norford, 1965, p. 46, 47).

ADVANCE MOUNTAIN SECTION

Includes type section of the Advance Formation;
description given in more detail in Norford,
1996, p. 14, figures 2-4.

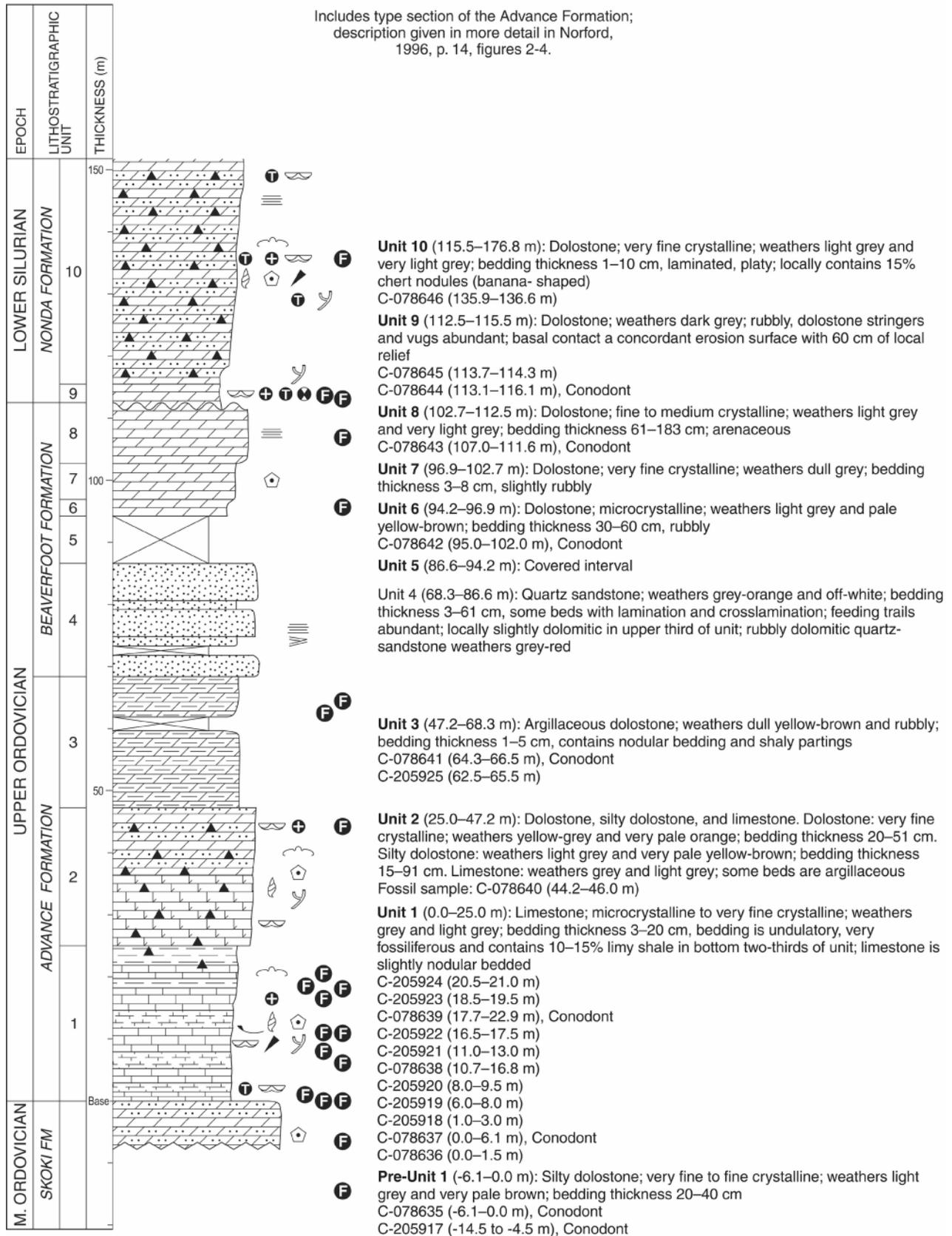


Figure A5. Advance Mountain (note Norford, 1991, p. 51–52; 1996, p. 7, 14, 17–19).

ADVANCE MOUNTAIN SECTION, page 2 of 4

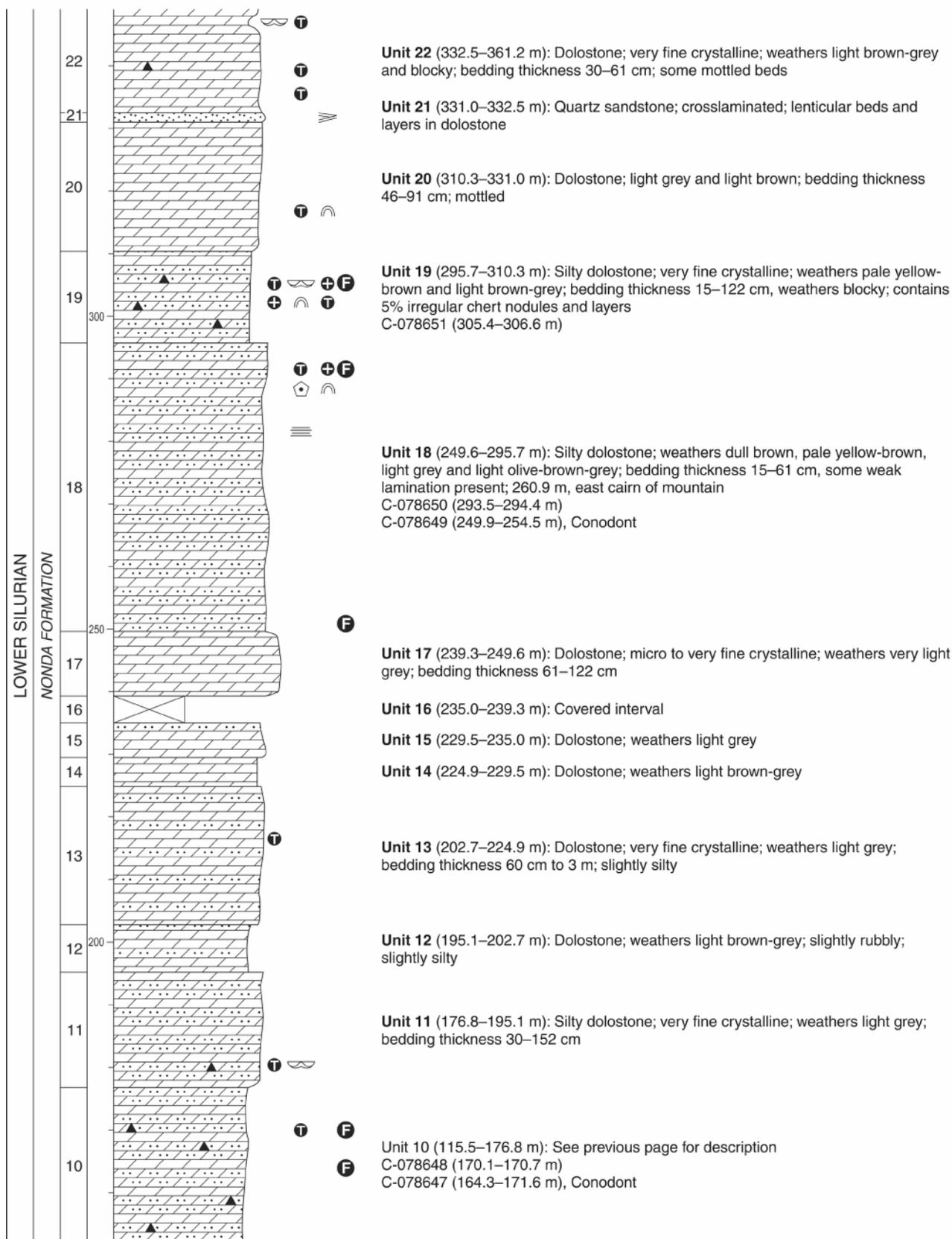


Figure A5. (Cont.) Advance Mountain (note Norford, 1991, p. 51–52; 1996, p. 7, 14, 17–19).

ADVANCE MOUNTAIN SECTION, page 3 of 4

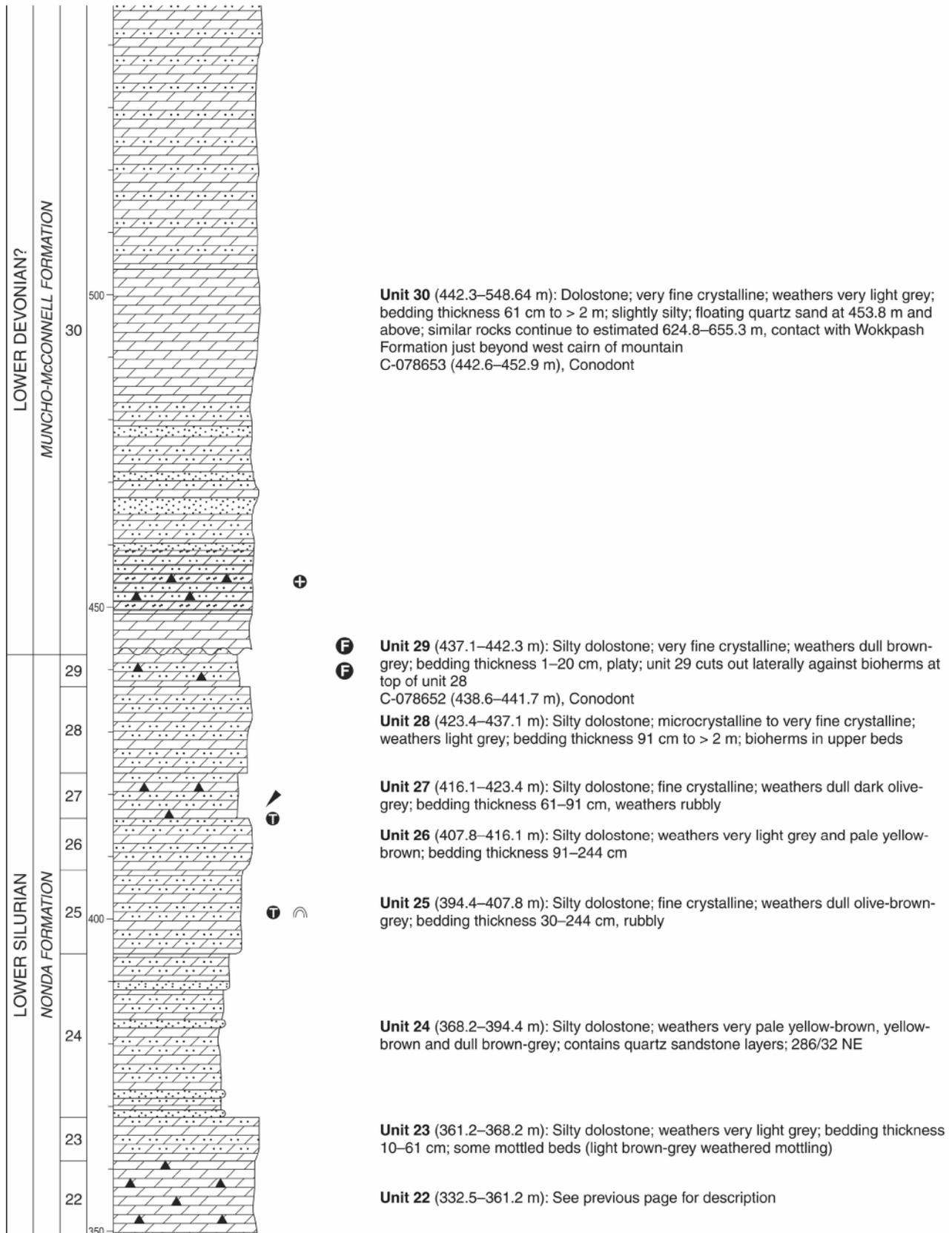
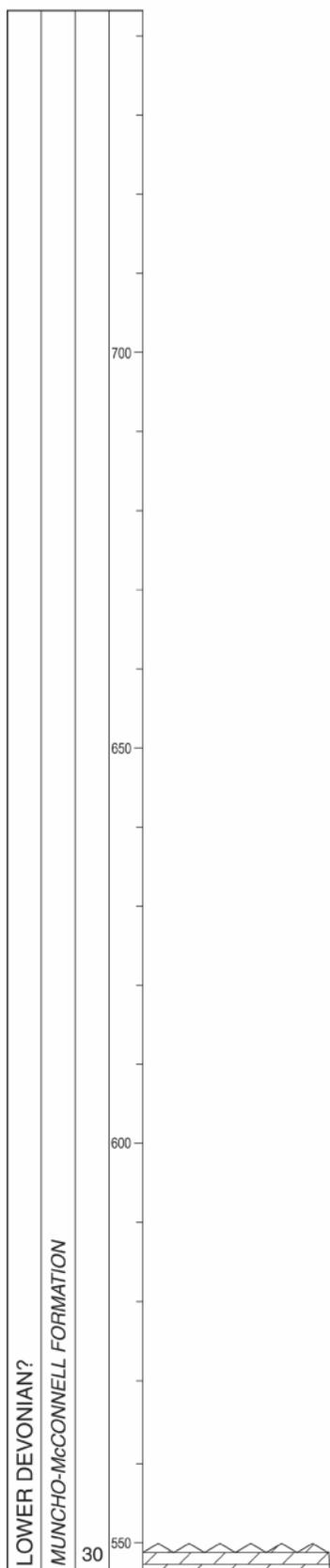


Figure A5. (Cont.) Advance Mountain (note Norford, 1991, p. 51–52; 1996, p. 7, 14, 17–19).

ADVANCE MOUNTAIN SECTION, page 4 of 4



Unit 30 (442.3–548.64 m): See previous page for description

Figure A5. (Cont.) Advance Mountain (note Norford, 1991, p. 51–52; 1996, p. 7, 14, 17–19).

GUILBAULT CREEK SECTION

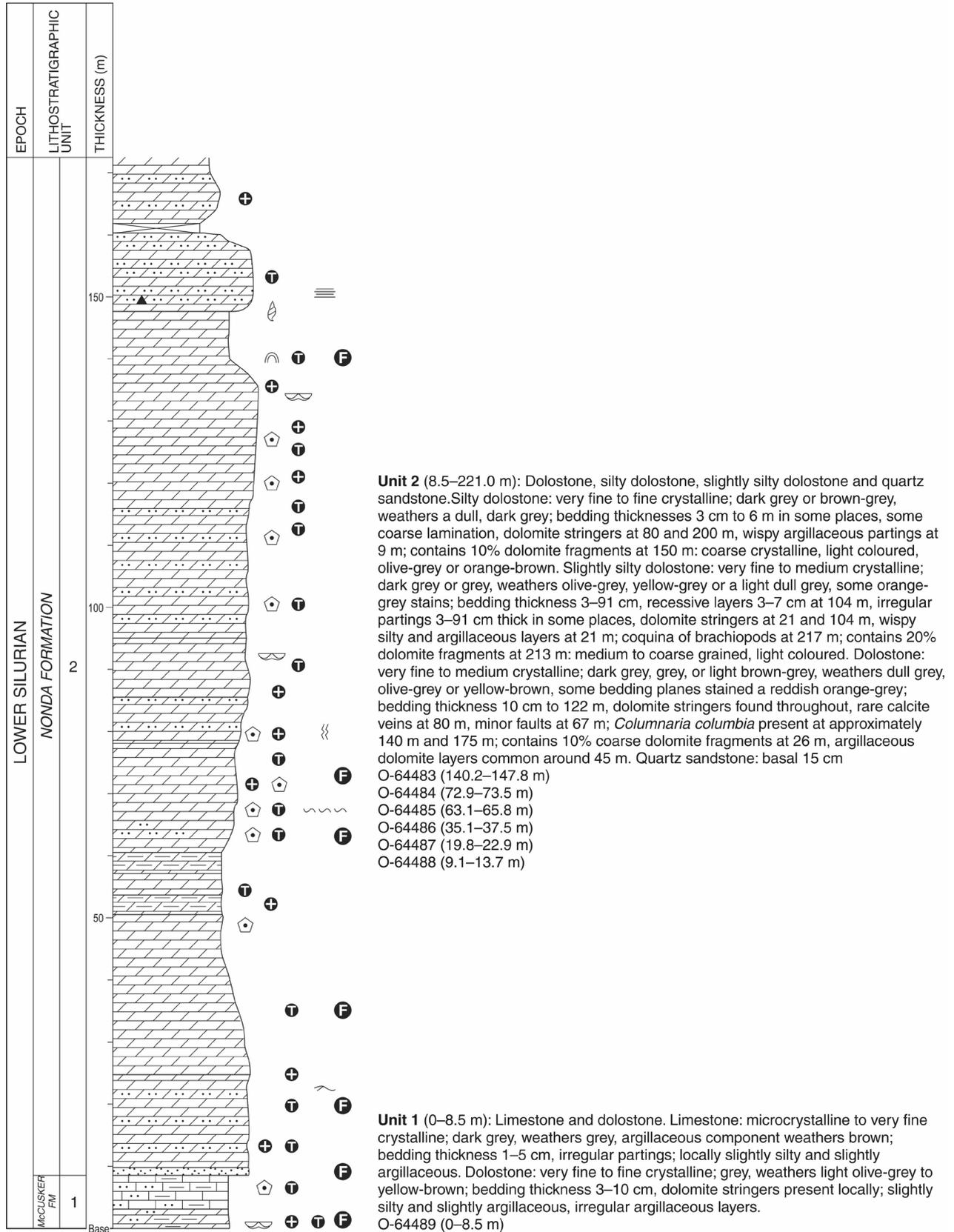


Figure A6. Guilbault Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

GUILBAULT CREEK SECTION, page 2 of 4

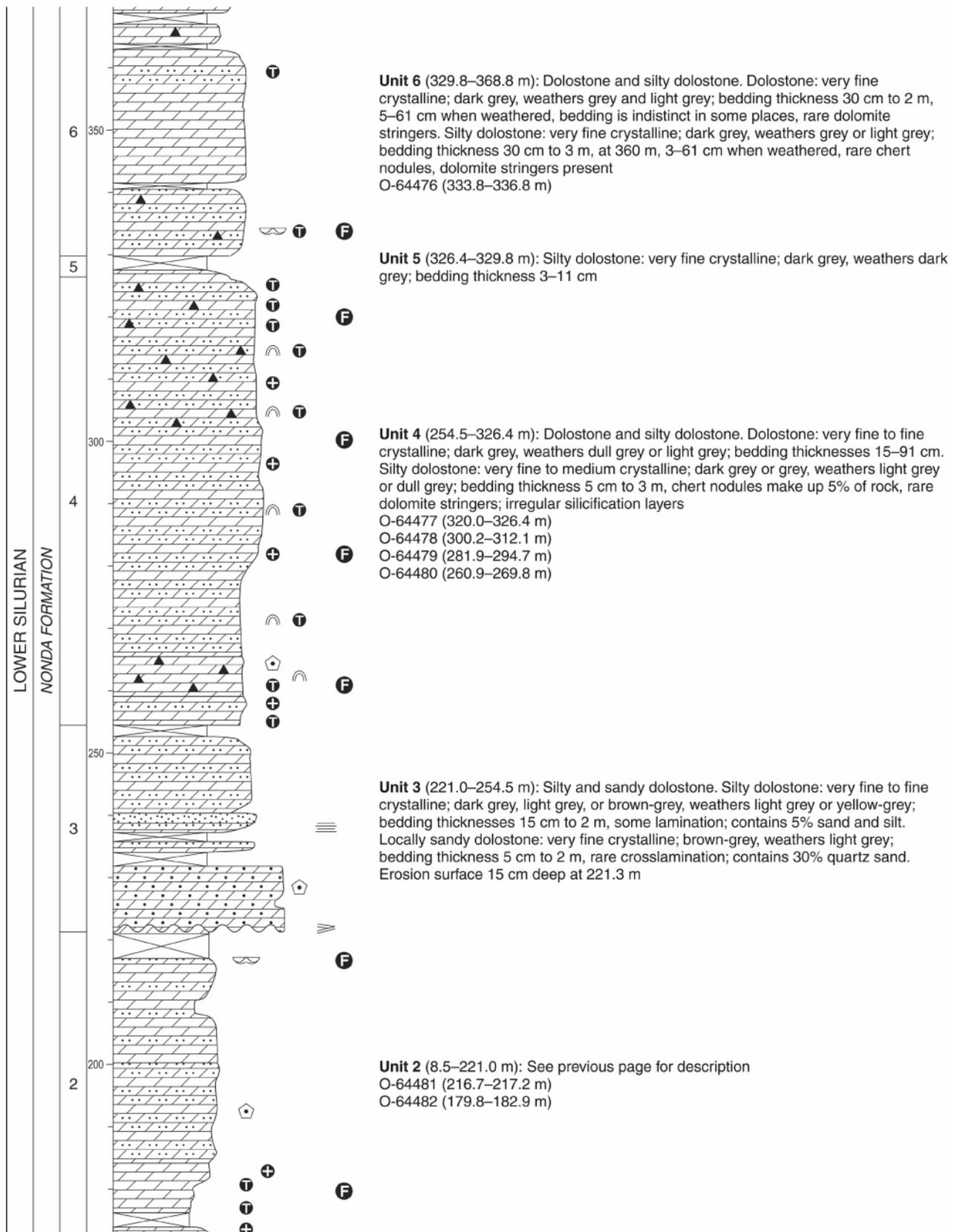


Figure A6. (Cont.) Guilbault Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

GUILBAULT CREEK SECTION, page 3 of 4

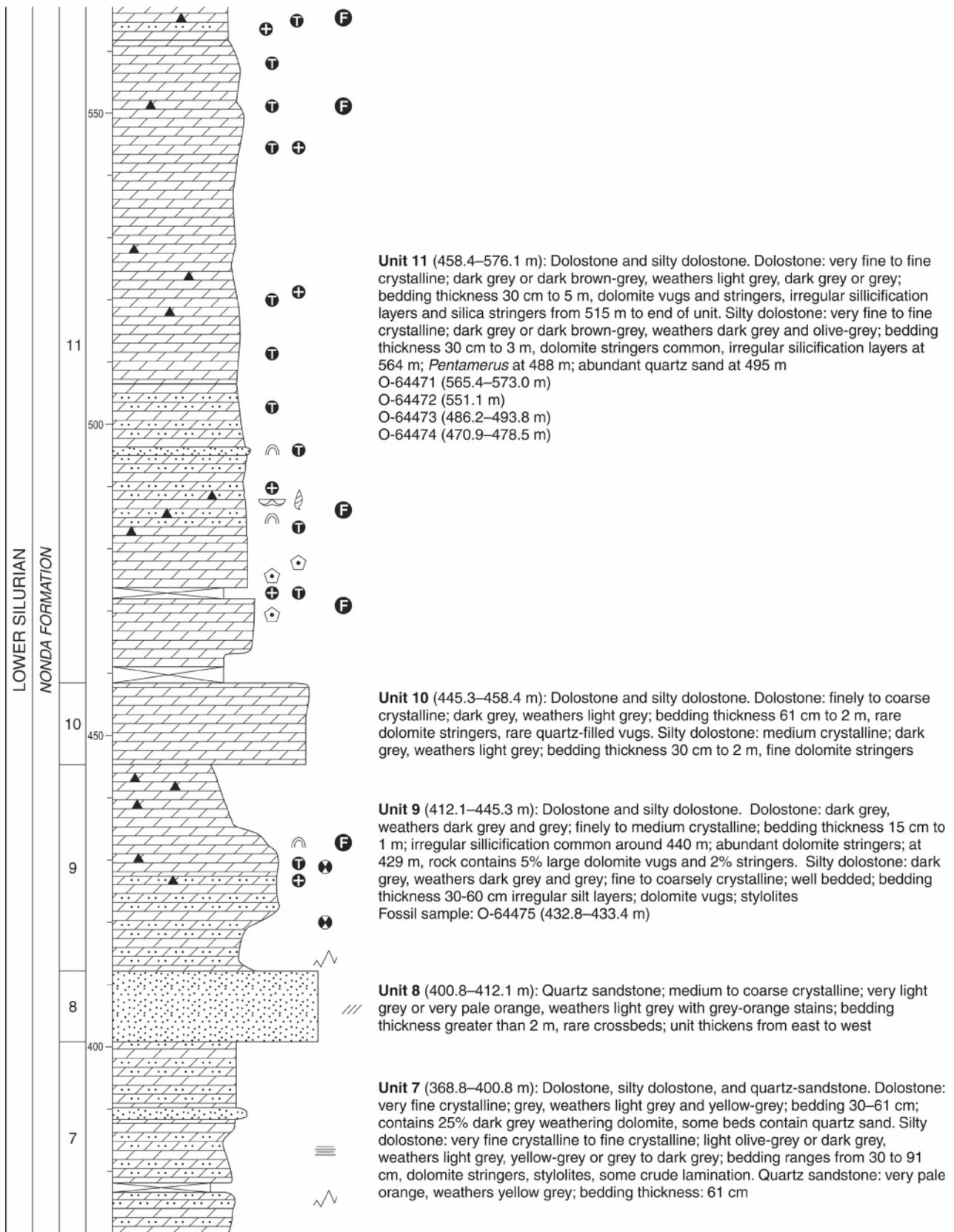


Figure A6. (Cont.) Guilbault Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

GUILBAULT CREEK SECTION, page 4 of 4

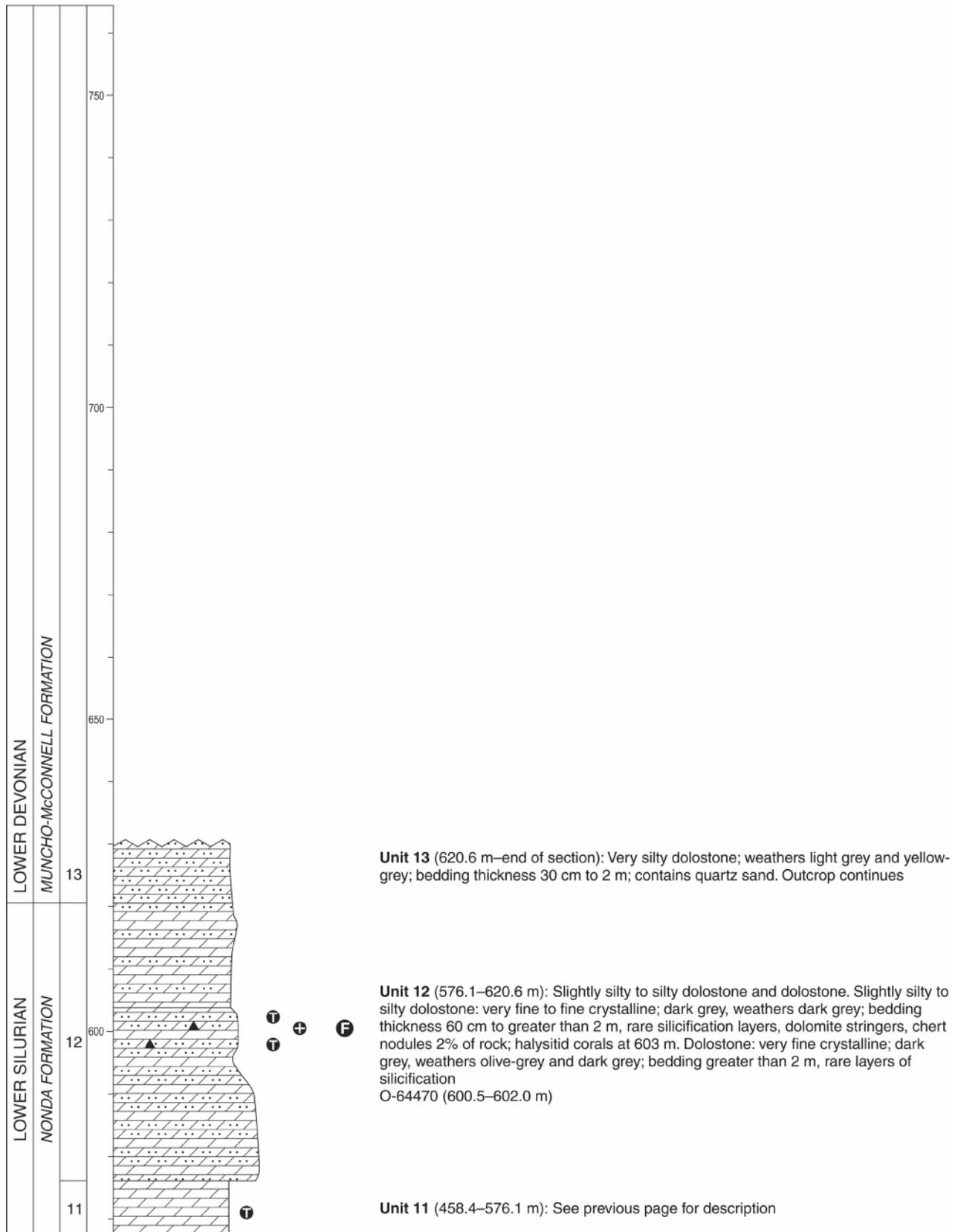


Figure A6. (Cont.) Guilbault Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

MOUNT McCUSKER SECTION

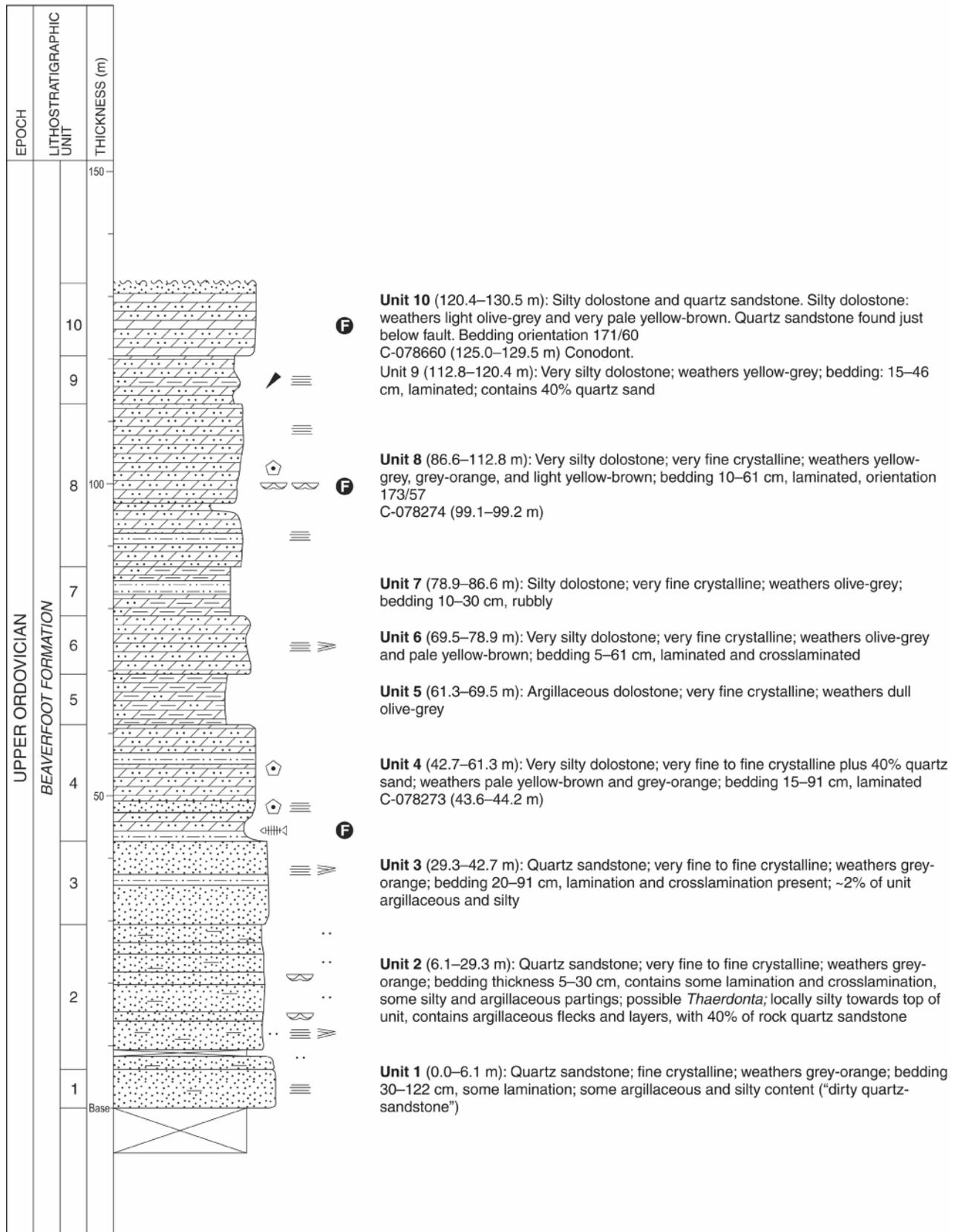


Figure A7. Mount McCusker.

NORTHERN SHOULDER OF MOUNT McCUSKER

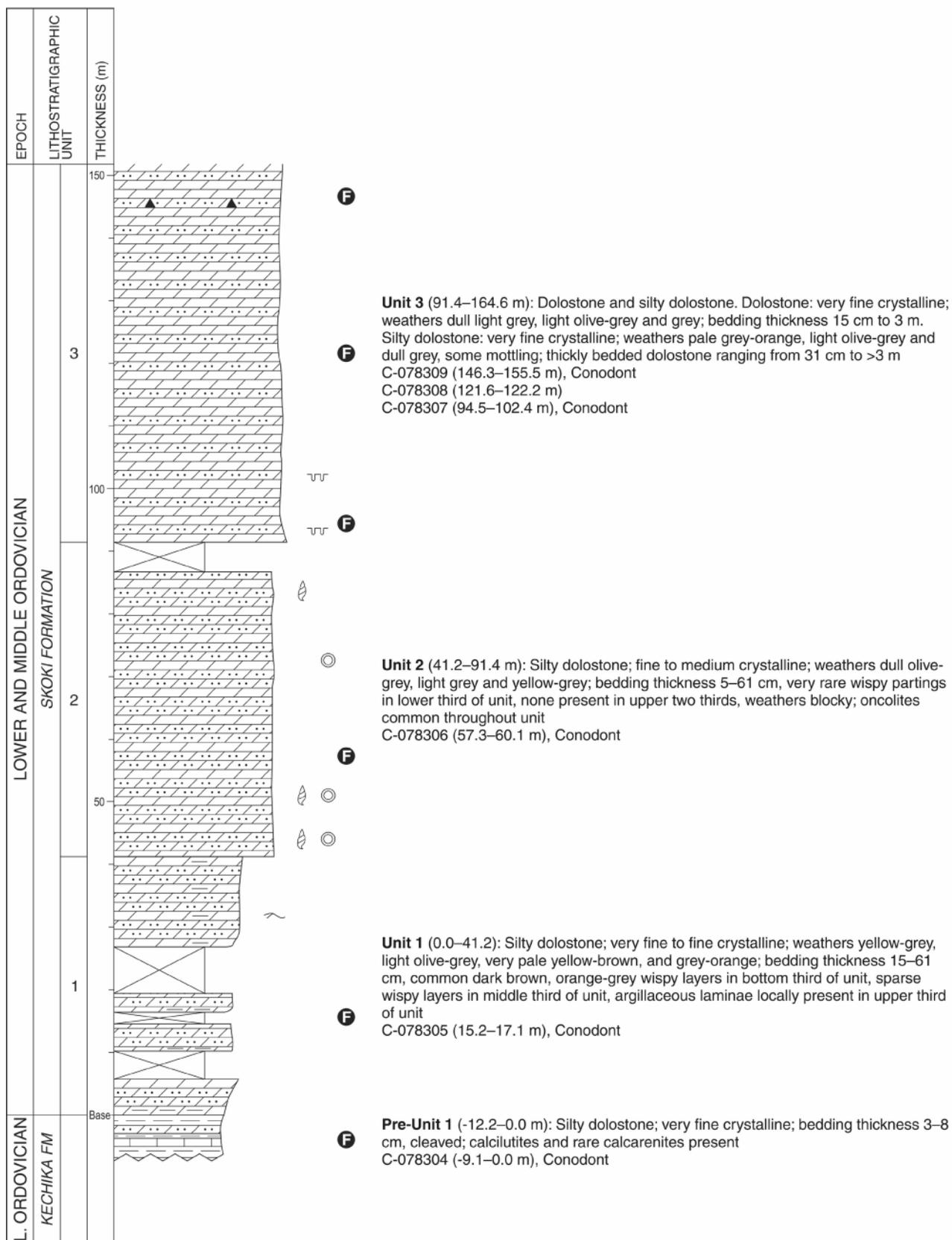


Figure A8. Mount McCusker, northern shoulder.

NORTHERN SHOULDER OF MOUNT McCUSKER, page 2 of 3

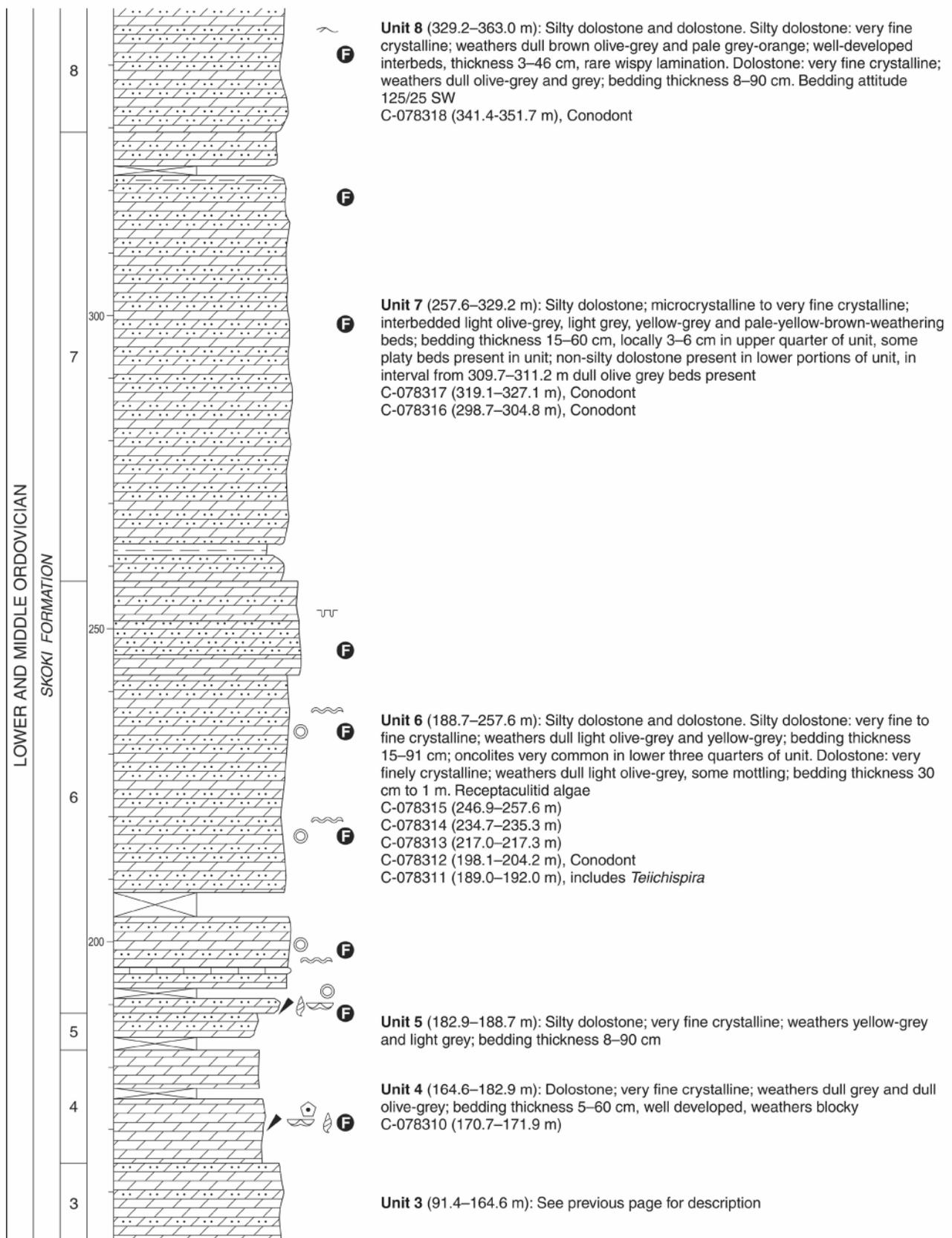


Figure A8. (Cont.) Mount McCusker, northern shoulder.

NORTHERN SHOULDER OF MOUNT McCUSKER, page 3 of 3

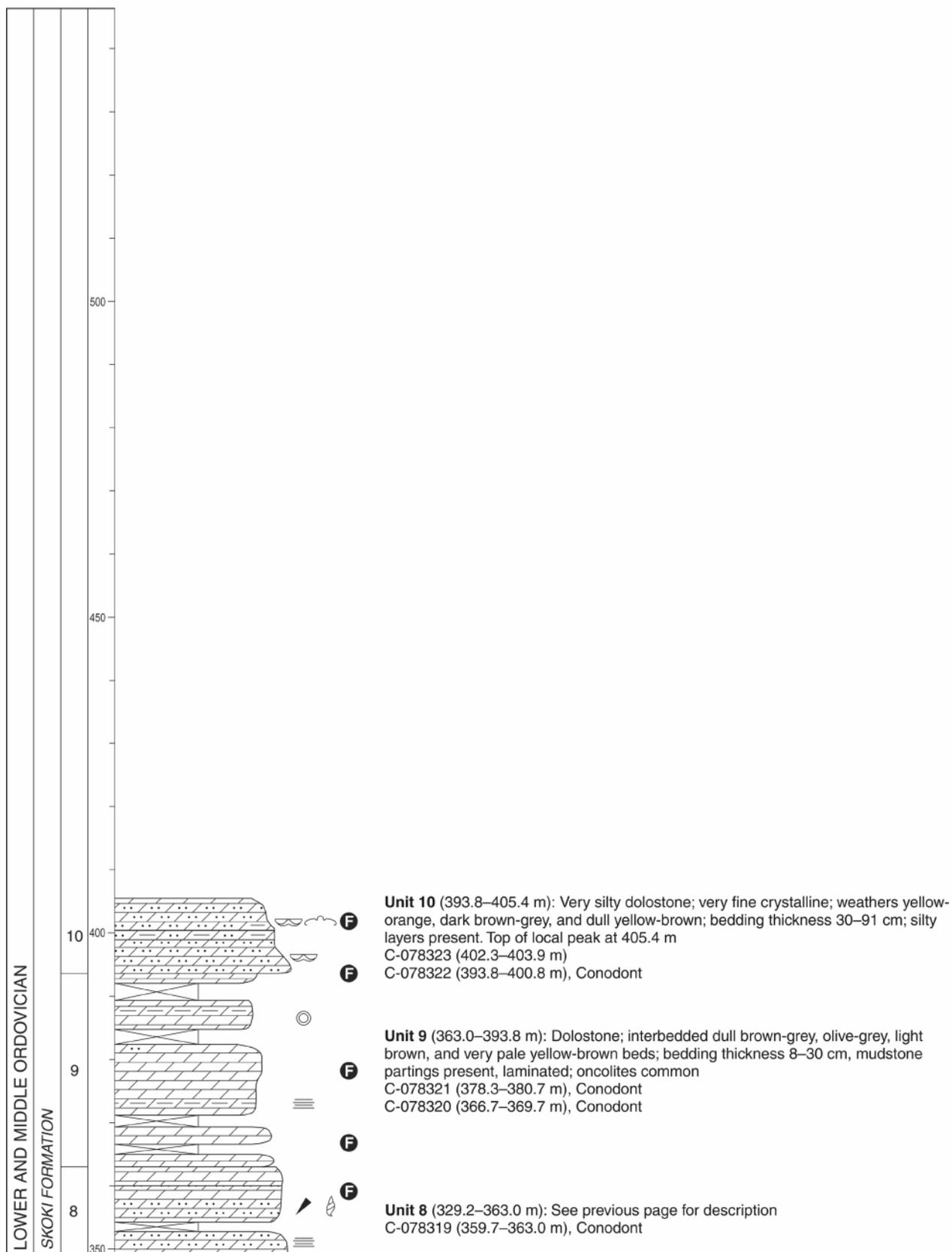


Figure A8. (Cont.) Mount McCusker, northern shoulder.

MOUNT McCUSKER SOUTH SECTION

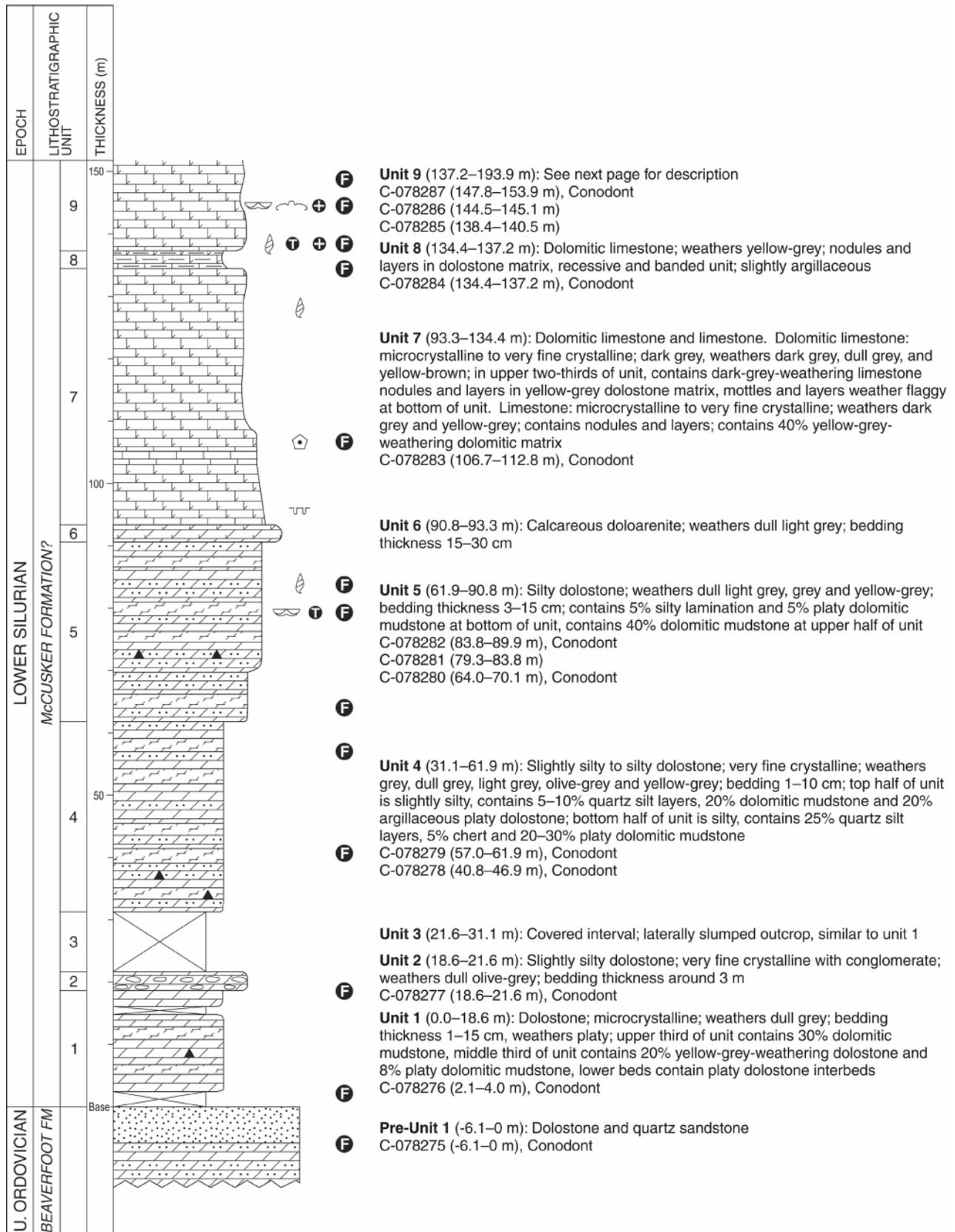


Figure A9. Mount McCusker, south.

MOUNT McCUSKER SOUTH SECTION, page 2 of 2

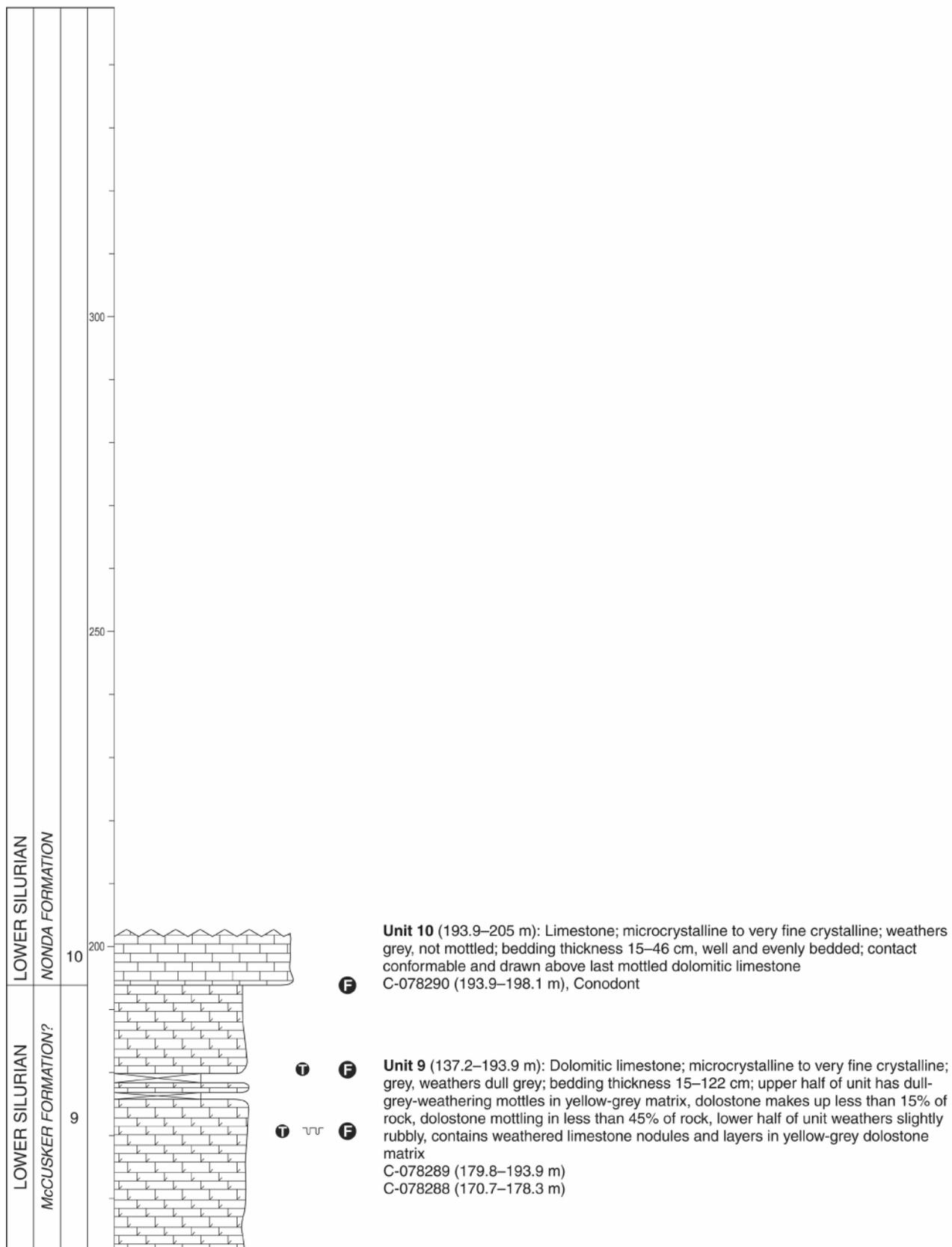


Figure A9. (Cont.) Mount McCusker, south.

SOUTHEAST OF MOUNT McCUSKER SECTION

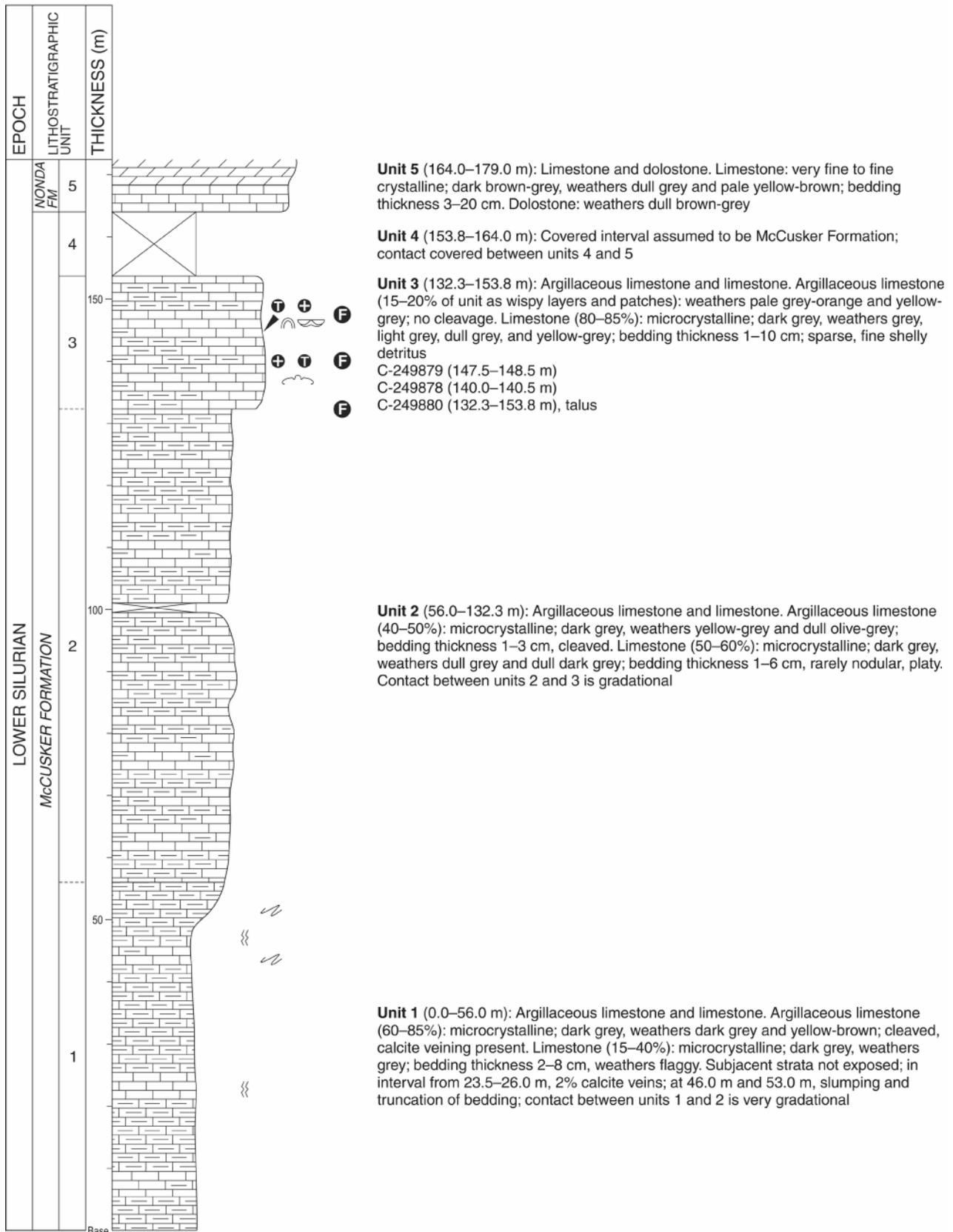


Figure A10. Mount McCusker, southeast of.

MOUNT KENNY NORTH SECTION

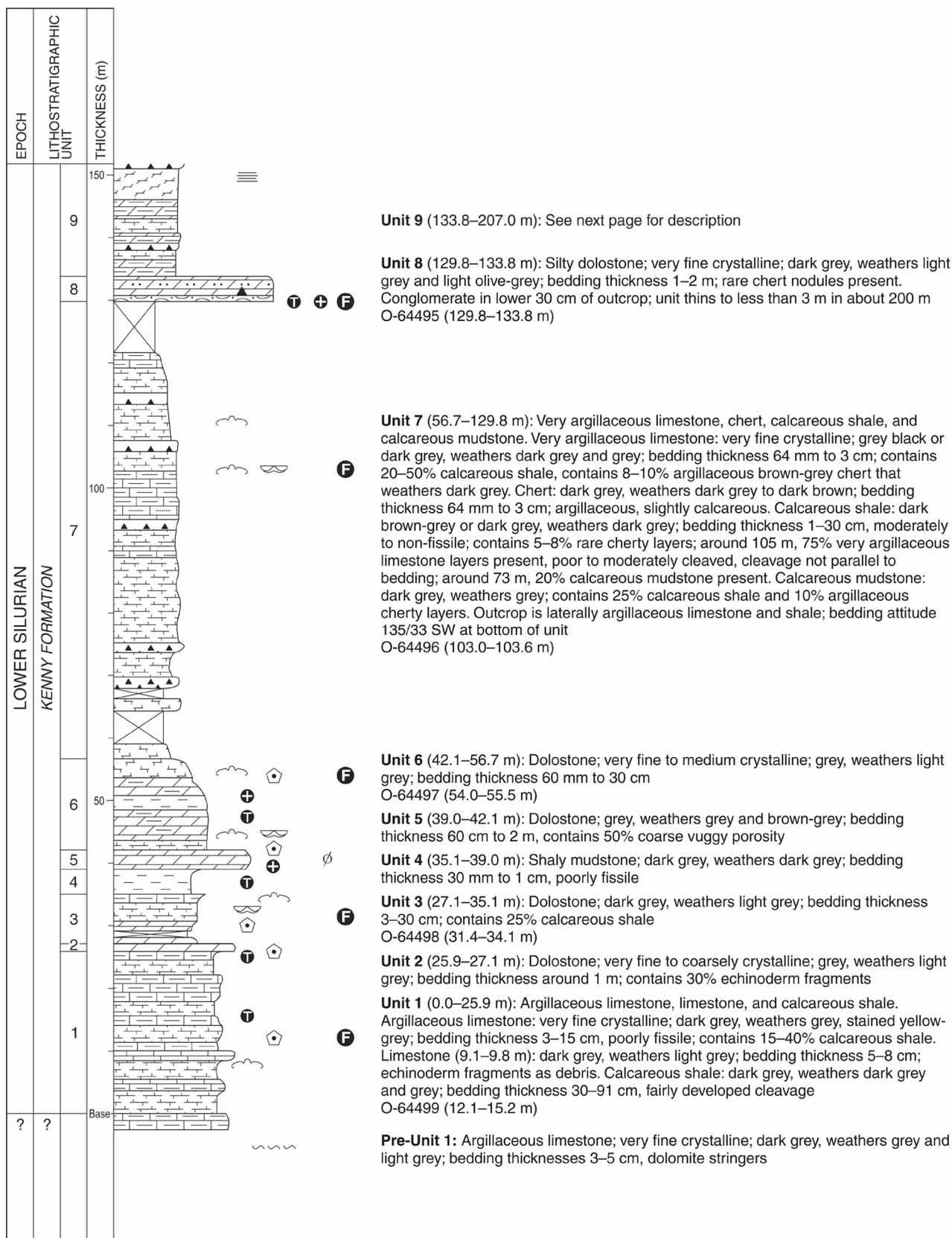


Figure A11. Mount Kenny North (note Norford, 1991, p. 51).

MOUNT KENNY NORTH SECTION, page 2 of 3

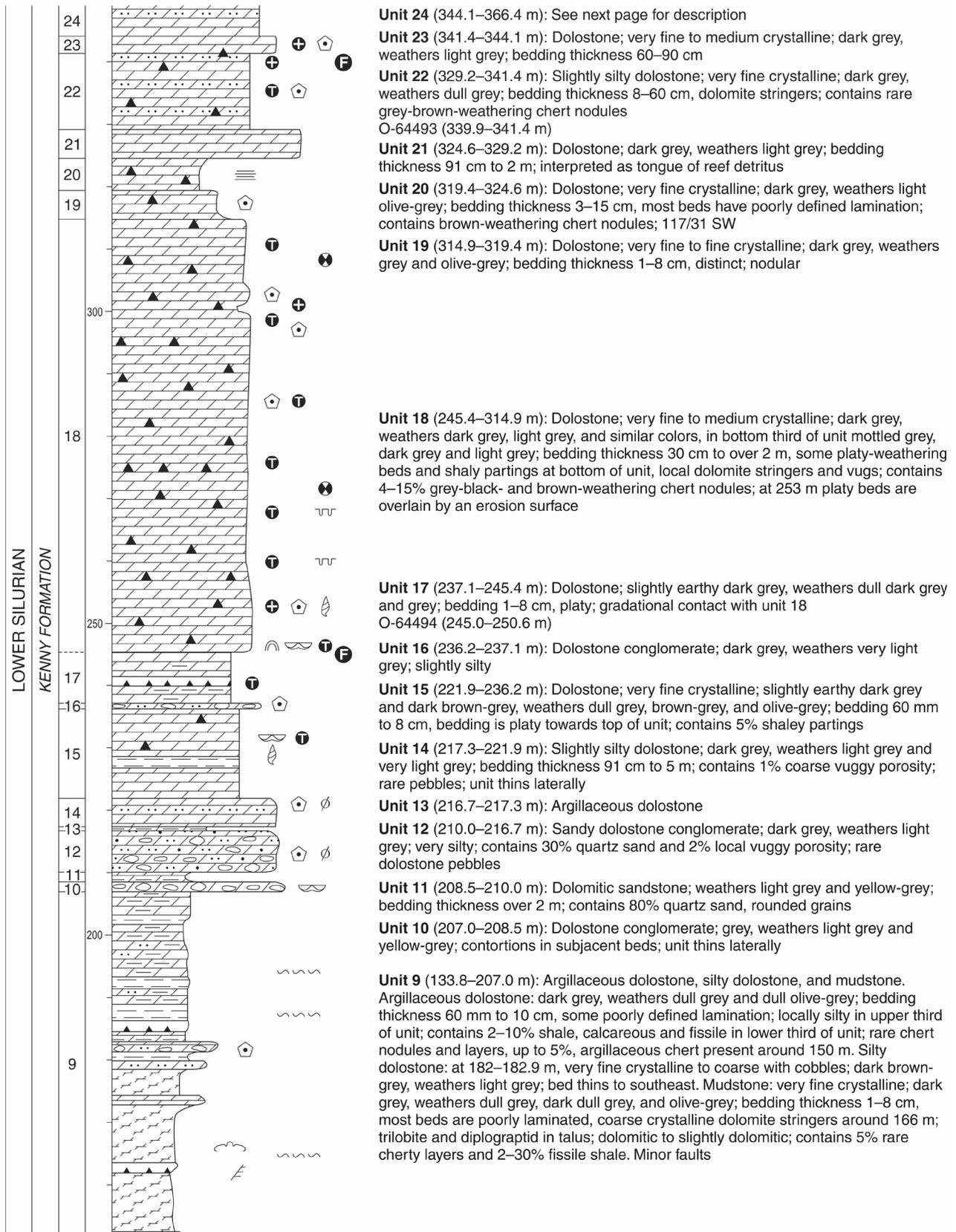


Figure A11. (Cont.) Mount Kenny North (note Norford, 1991, p. 51).

MOUNT KENNY NORTH SECTION, page 3 of 3

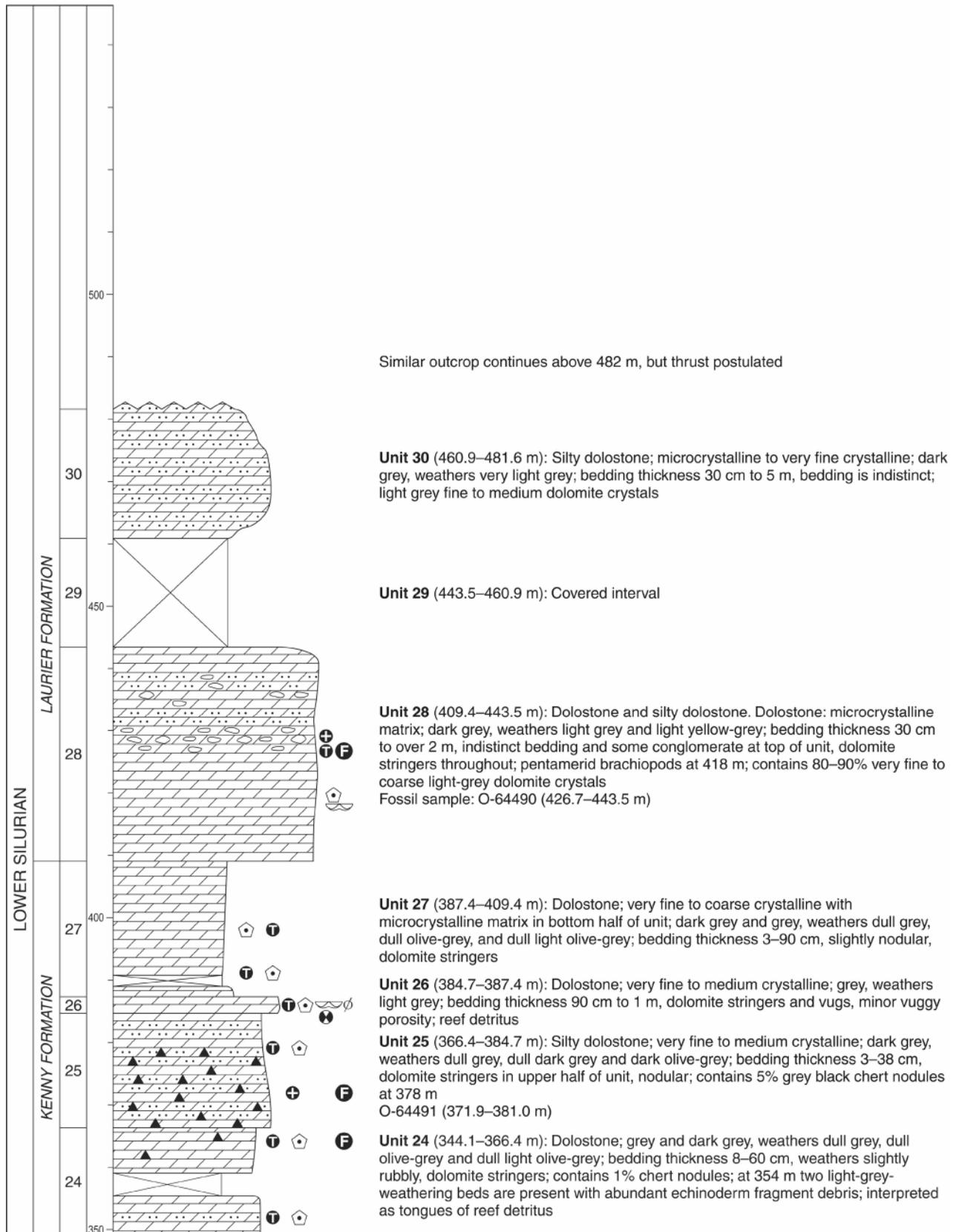


Figure A11. (Cont.) Mount Kenny North (note Norford, 1991, p. 51).

AKIE RIVER HEADWATERS SECTION

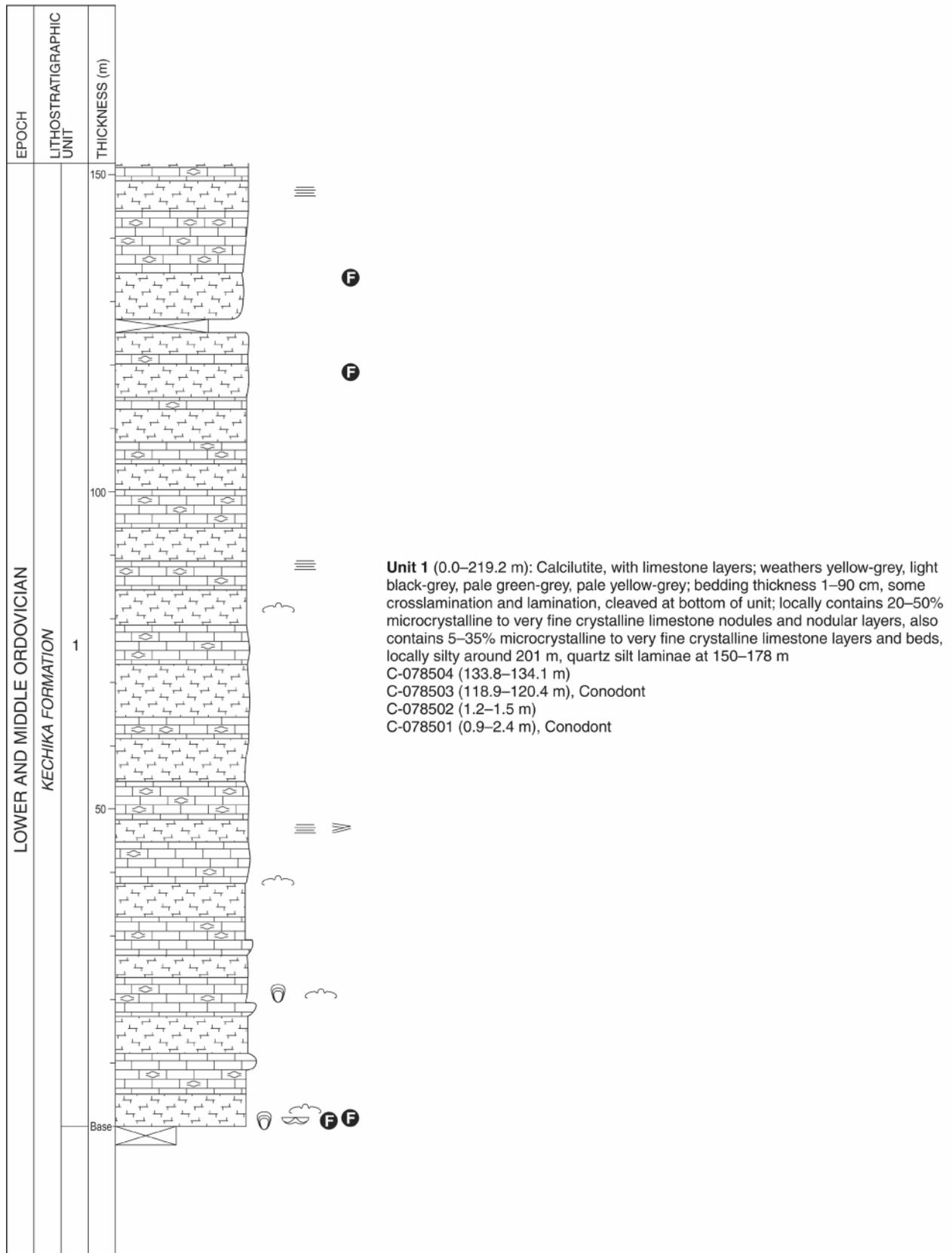


Figure A12. Akie River Headwaters.

AKIE RIVER HEADWATERS SECTION, page 2 of 5

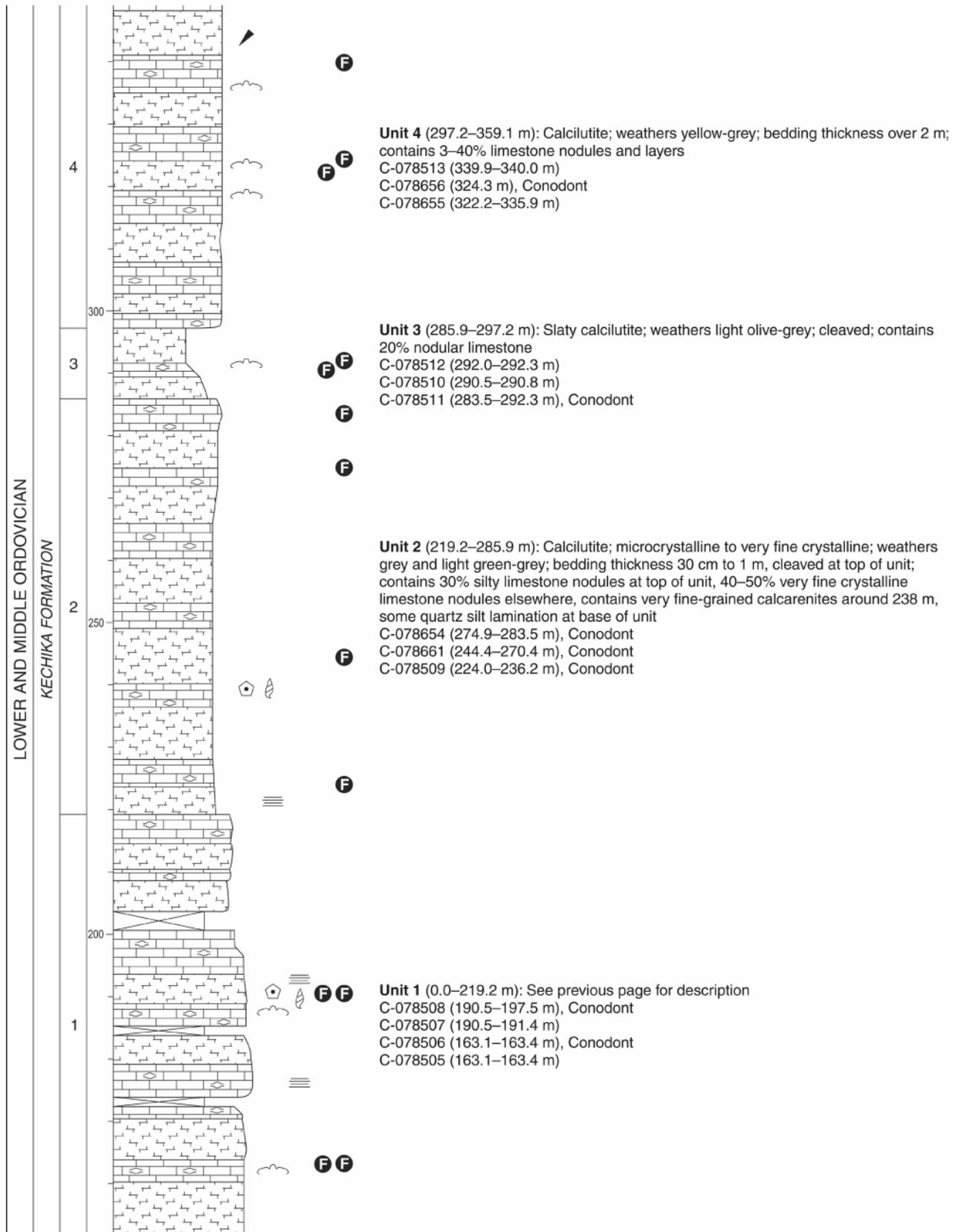


Figure A12. (Cont.) Akie River Headwaters.

AKIE RIVER HEADWATERS SECTION, page 3 of 5

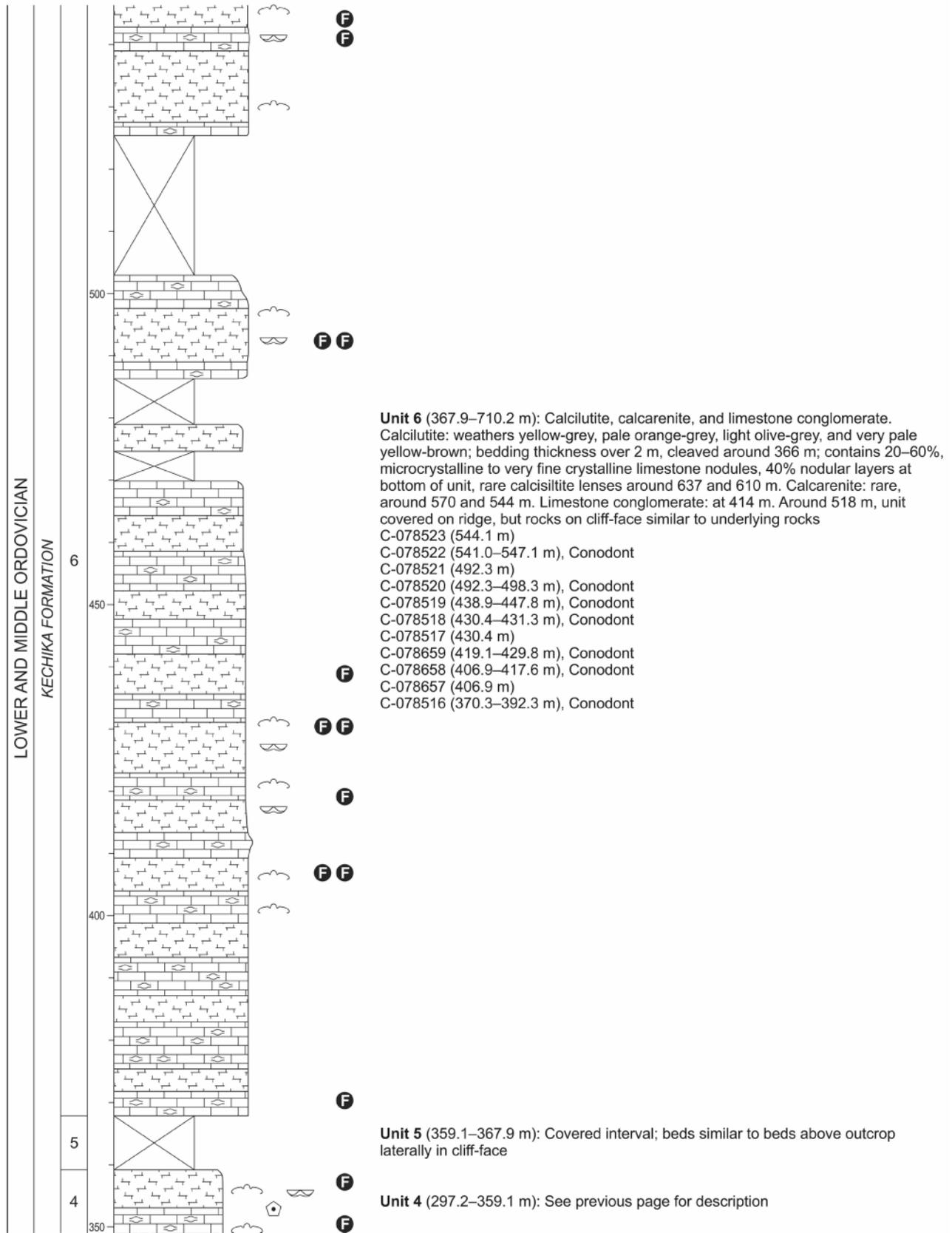


Figure A12. (Cont.) Akie River Headwaters.

AKIE RIVER HEADWATERS SECTION, page 4 of 5

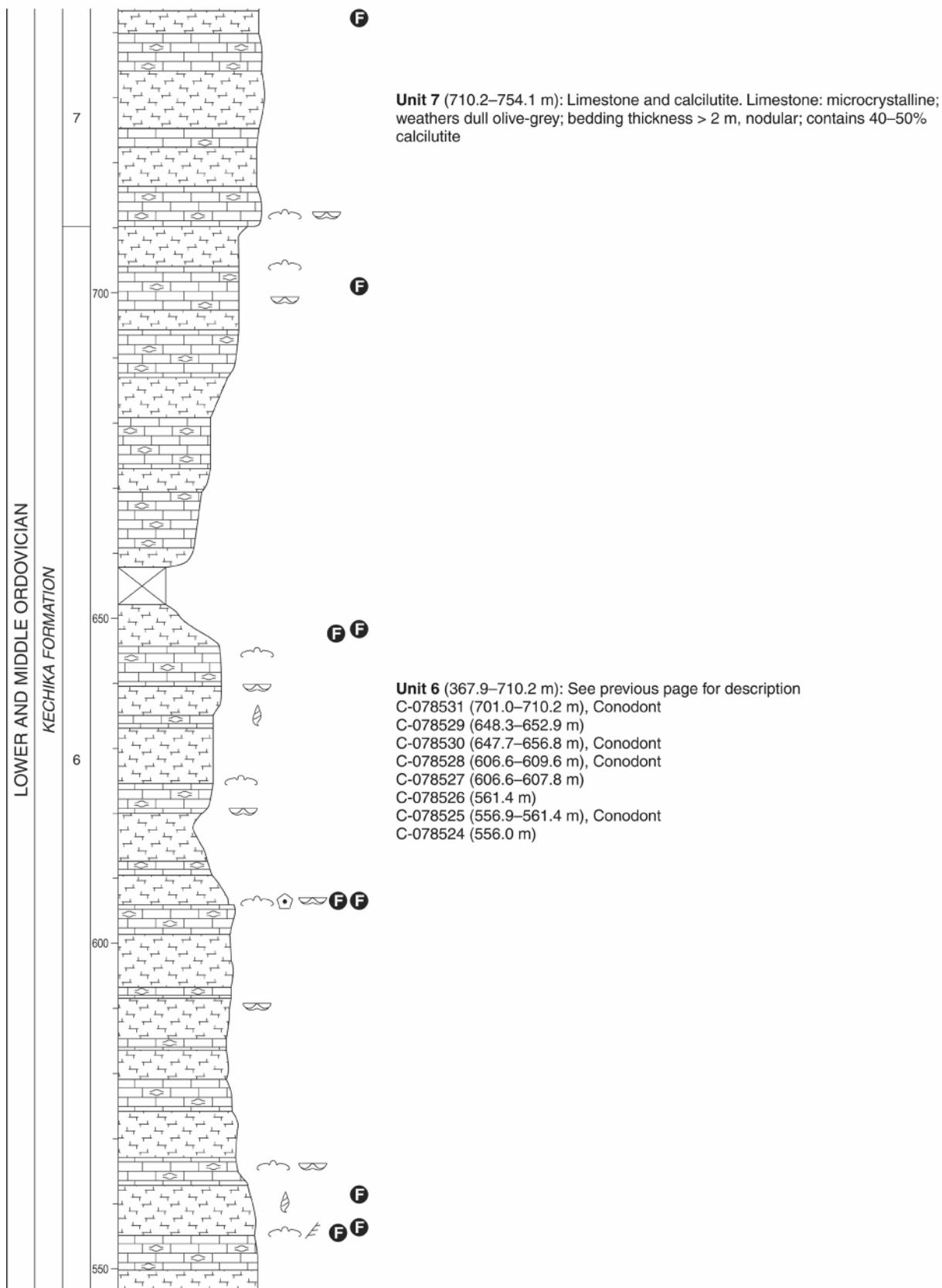


Figure A12. (Cont.) Akie River Headwaters.

AKIE RIVER HEADWATERS SECTION, page 5 of 5

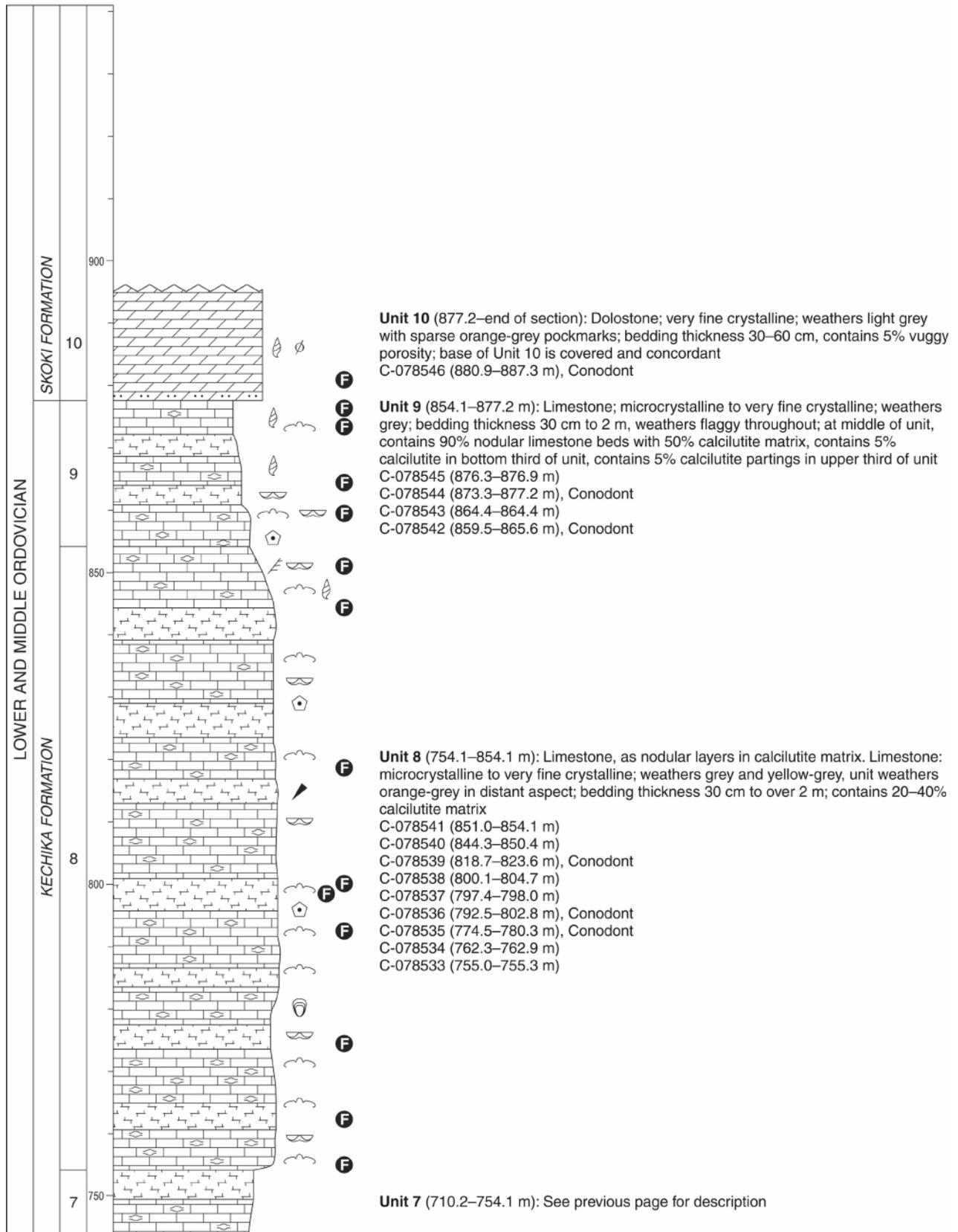


Figure A12. (Cont.) Akie River Headwaters.

GREY PEAK SECTION

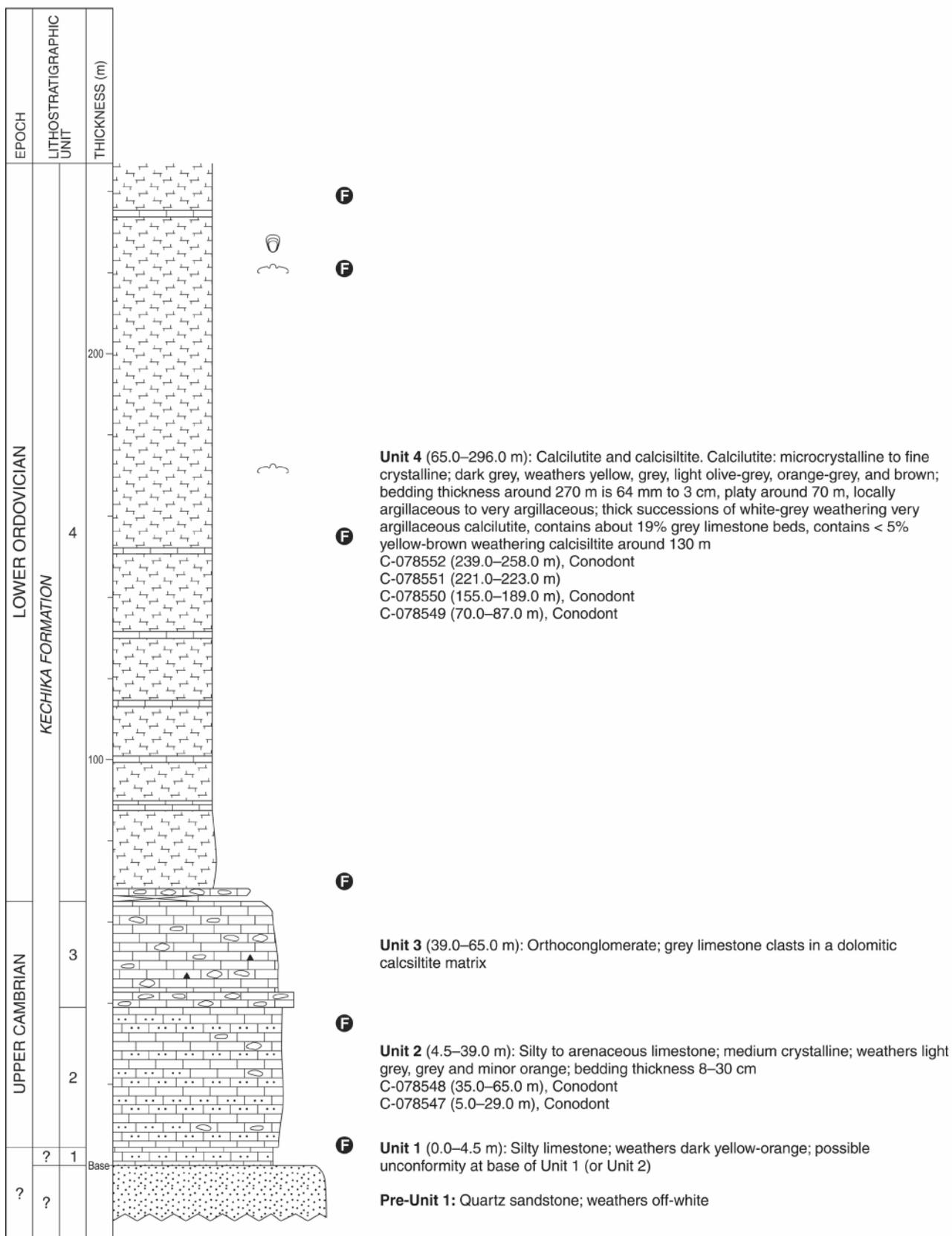


Figure A13. Grey Peak (note Lenz and Jackson, 1986, p. 29; Norford, 1991, p. 51; Pyle and Barnes, 2002a, p. 140–145).

GREY PEAK SECTION, page 2 of 7

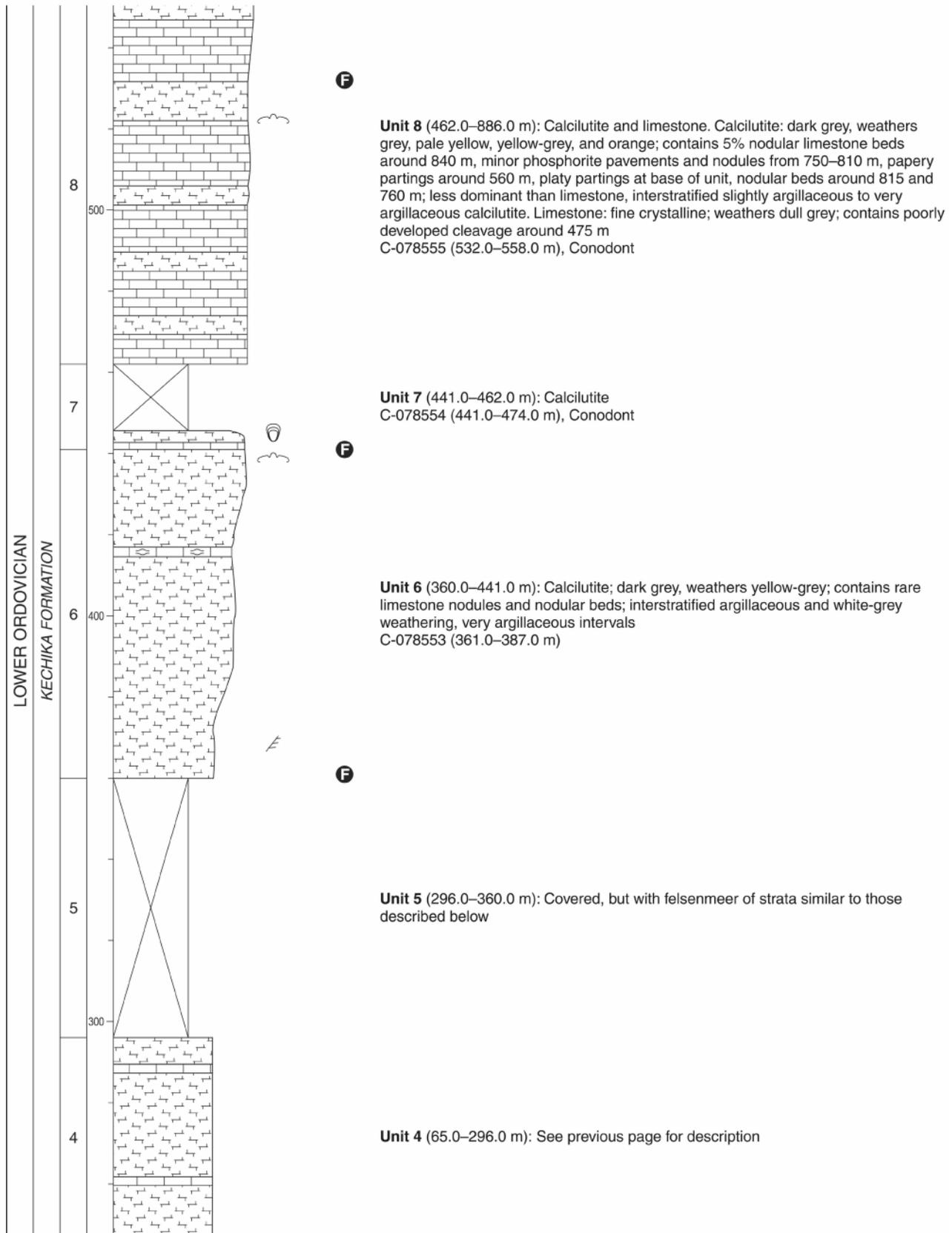


Figure A13. (Cont.) Grey Peak (note Lenz and Jackson, 1986, p. 29; Norford, 1991, p. 51; Pyle and Barnes, 2002a, p. 140–145).

GREY PEAK SECTION, page 3 of 7

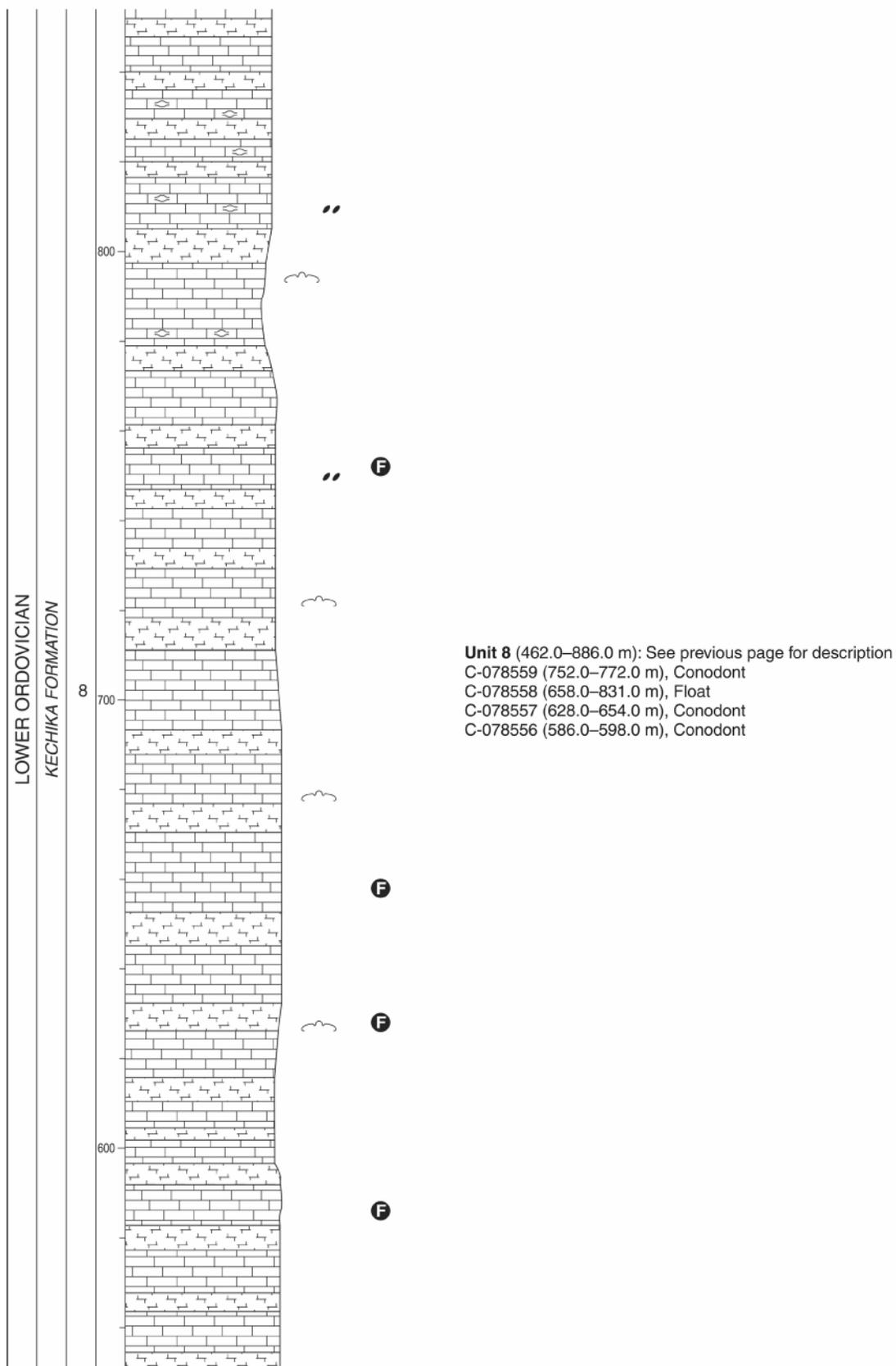


Figure A13. (Cont.) Grey Peak (note Lenz and Jackson, 1986, p. 29; Norford, 1991, p. 51; Pyle and Barnes, 2002a, p. 140–145).

GREY PEAK SECTION, page 4 of 7

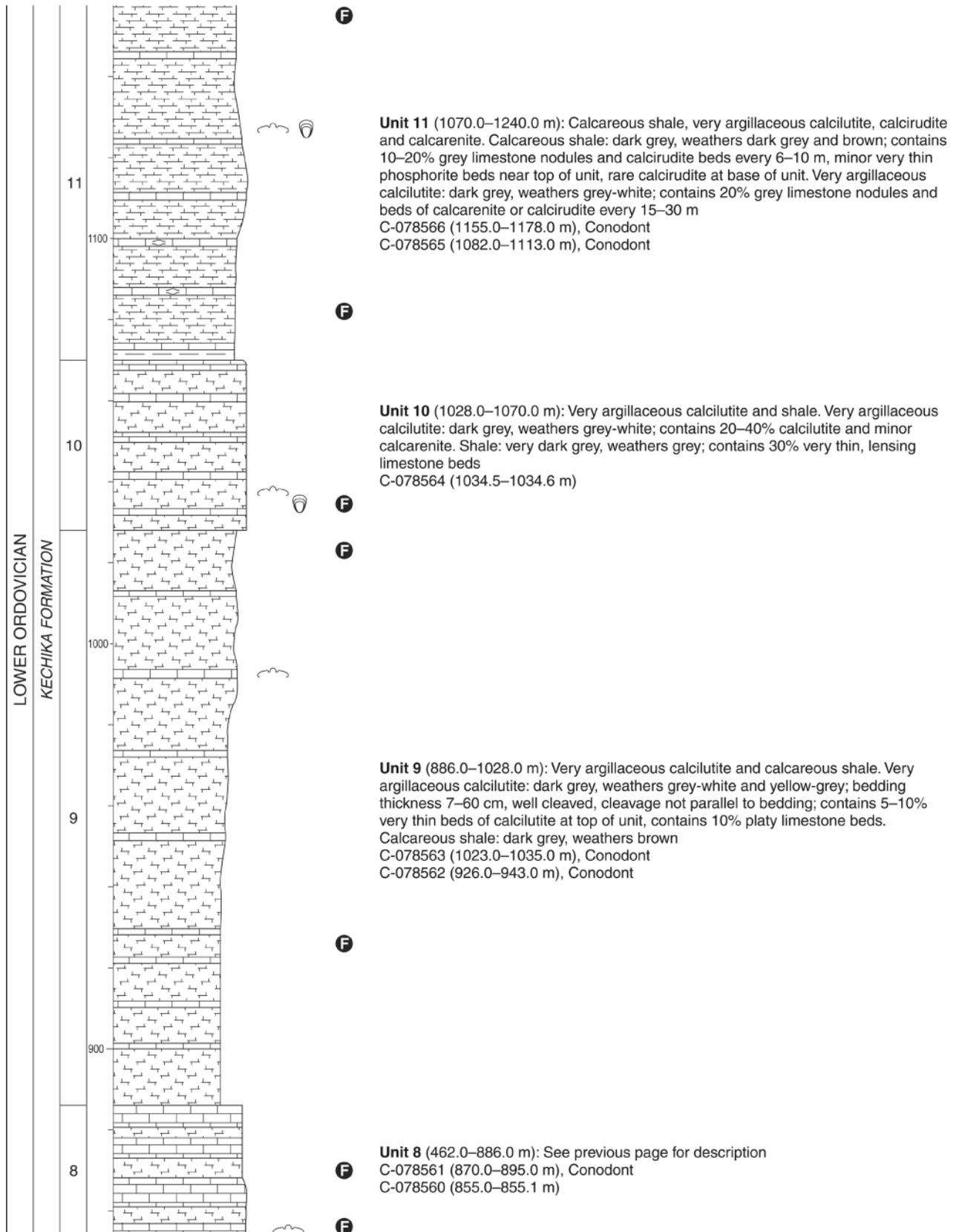


Figure A13. (Cont.) Grey Peak (note Lenz and Jackson, 1986, p. 29; Norford, 1991, p. 51; Pyle and Barnes, 2002a, p. 140–145).

GREY SECTION, page 5 of 7

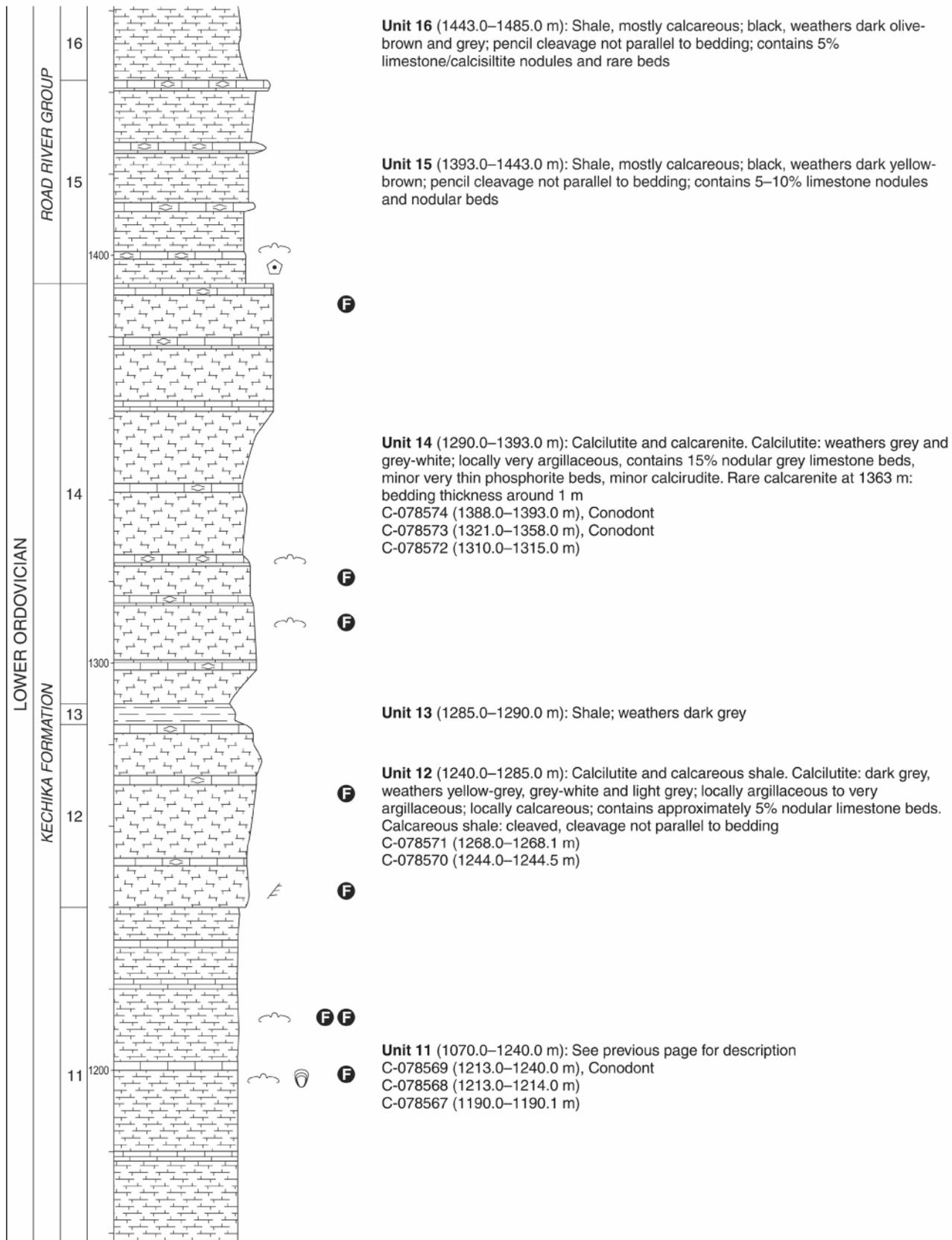


Figure A13. (Cont.) Grey Peak (note Lenz and Jackson, 1986, p. 29; Norford, 1991, p. 51; Pyle and Barnes, 2002a, p. 140–145).

GREY PEAK SECTION, page 6 of 7

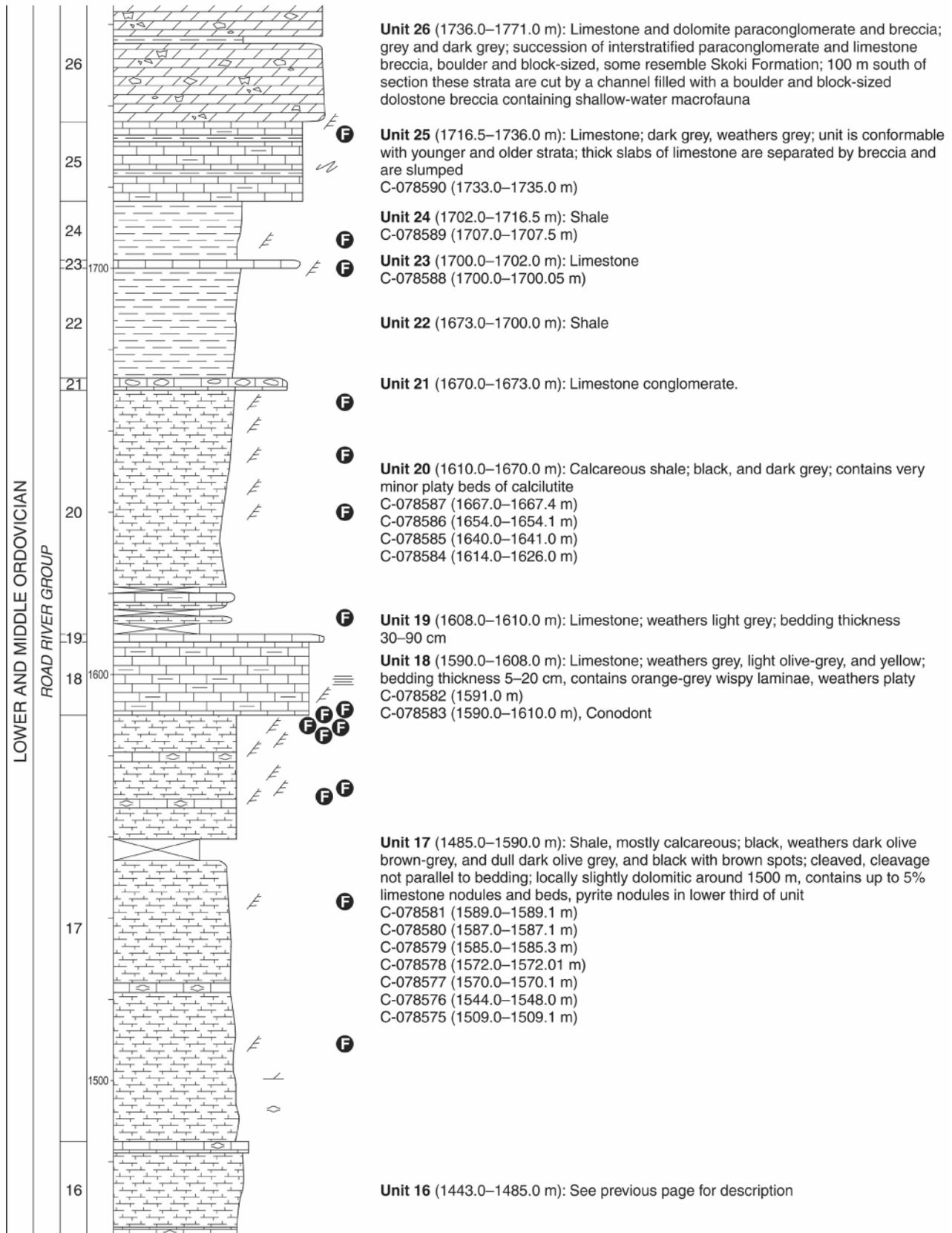


Figure A13. (Cont.) Grey Peak (note Lenz and Jackson, 1986, p. 29; Norford, 1991, p. 51; Pyle and Barnes, 2002a, p. 140–145).

GREY PEAK SECTION, page 7 of 7

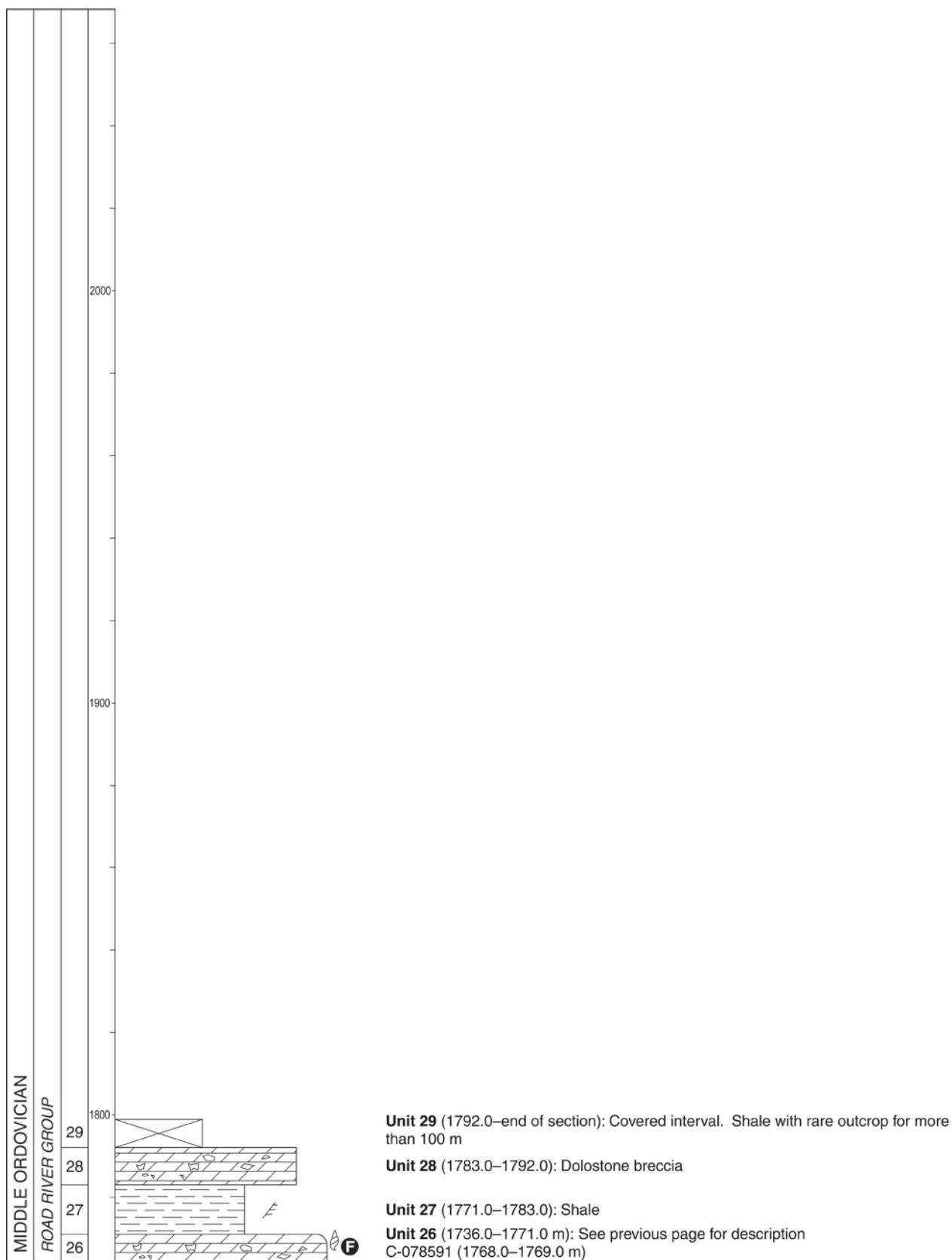


Figure A13. (Cont.) Grey Peak (note Lenz and Jackson, 1986, p. 29; Norford, 1991, p. 51; Pyle and Barnes, 2002a, p. 140–145).

HEADWATERS OF JOE POOLE CREEK SECTION

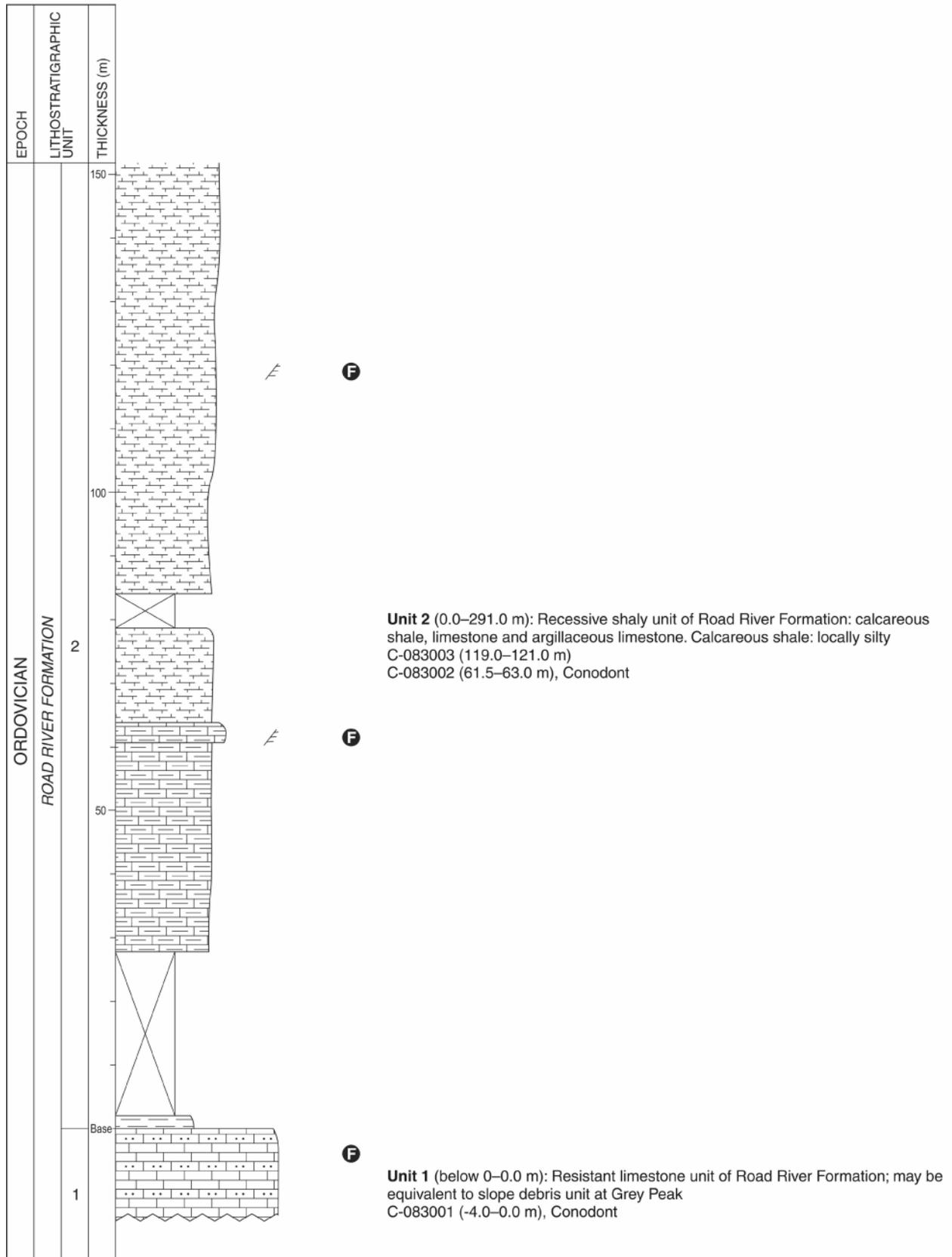


Figure A14. Headwaters of Joe Poole Creek.

HEADWATERS OF JOE POOLE CREEK SECTION, page 2 of 3

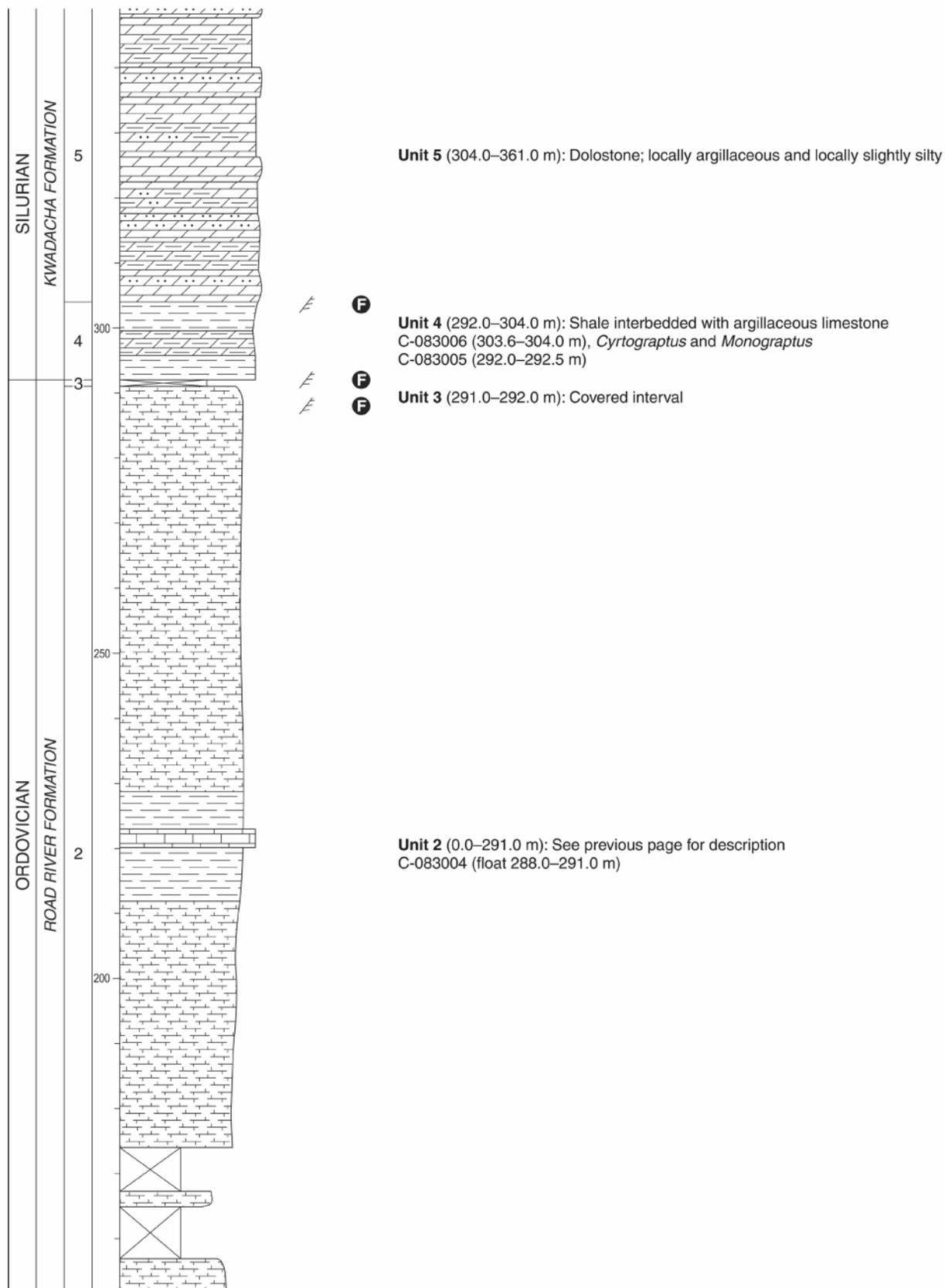


Figure A14. (Cont.) Headwaters of Joe Poole Creek.

HEADWATERS OF JOE POOLE CREEK SECTION, page 3 of 3

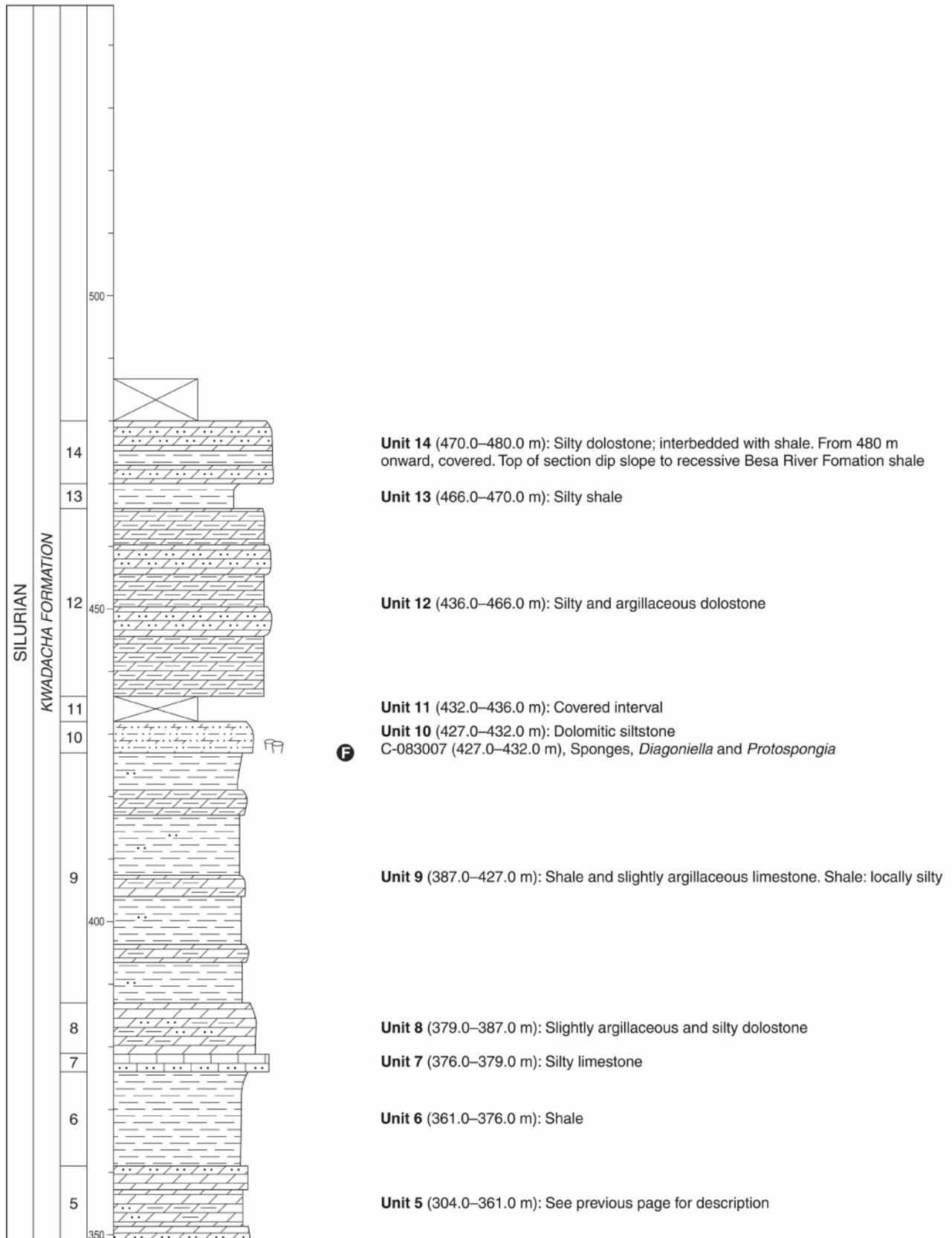


Figure A14. (Cont.) Headwaters of Joe Poole Creek.

SANDPILE CREEK SECTION

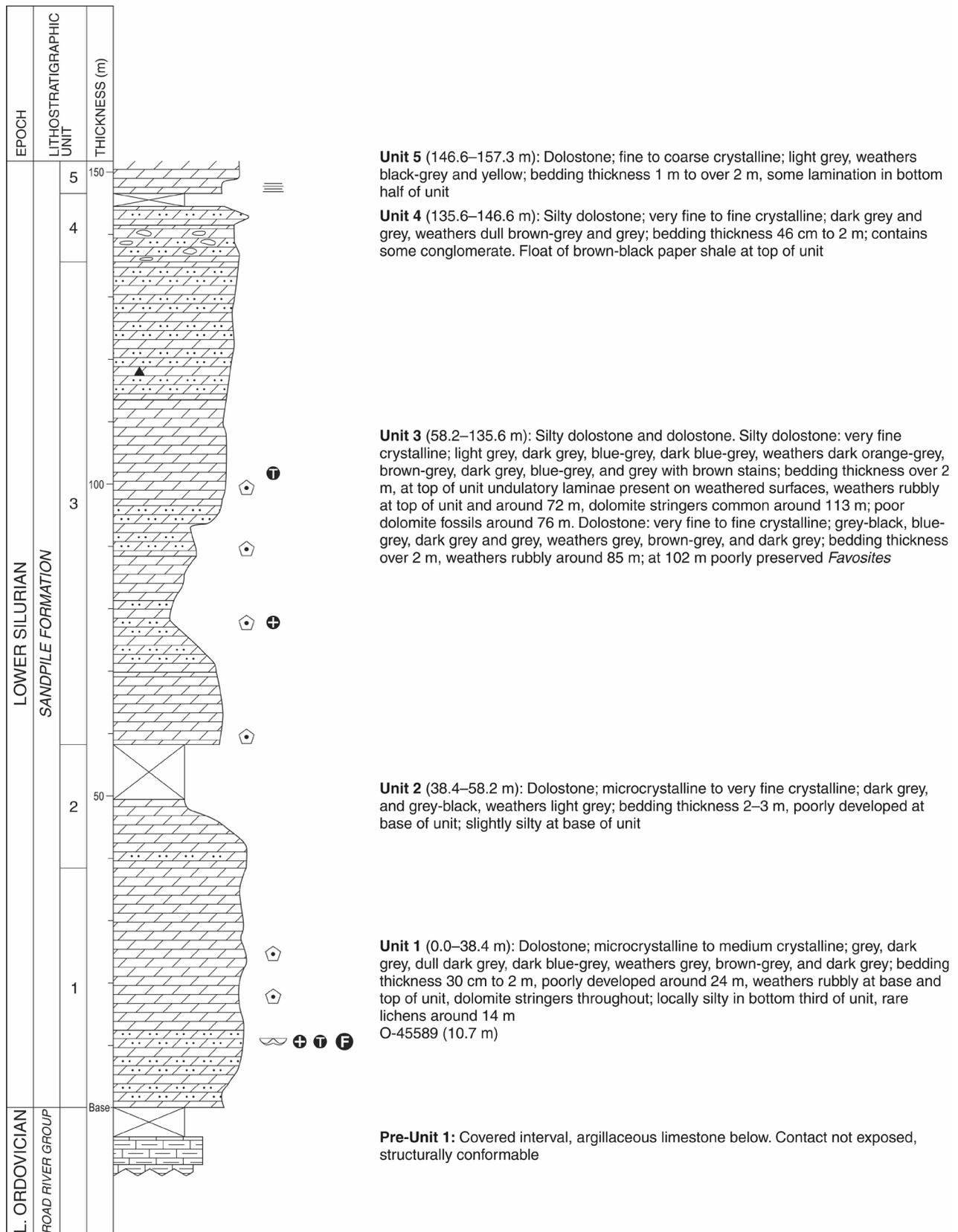


Figure A15. Sandpile Creek (note Norford, 1962, p. 4; 1965, p. 46, 47).

SANDPILE CREEK SECTION page 2 of 3

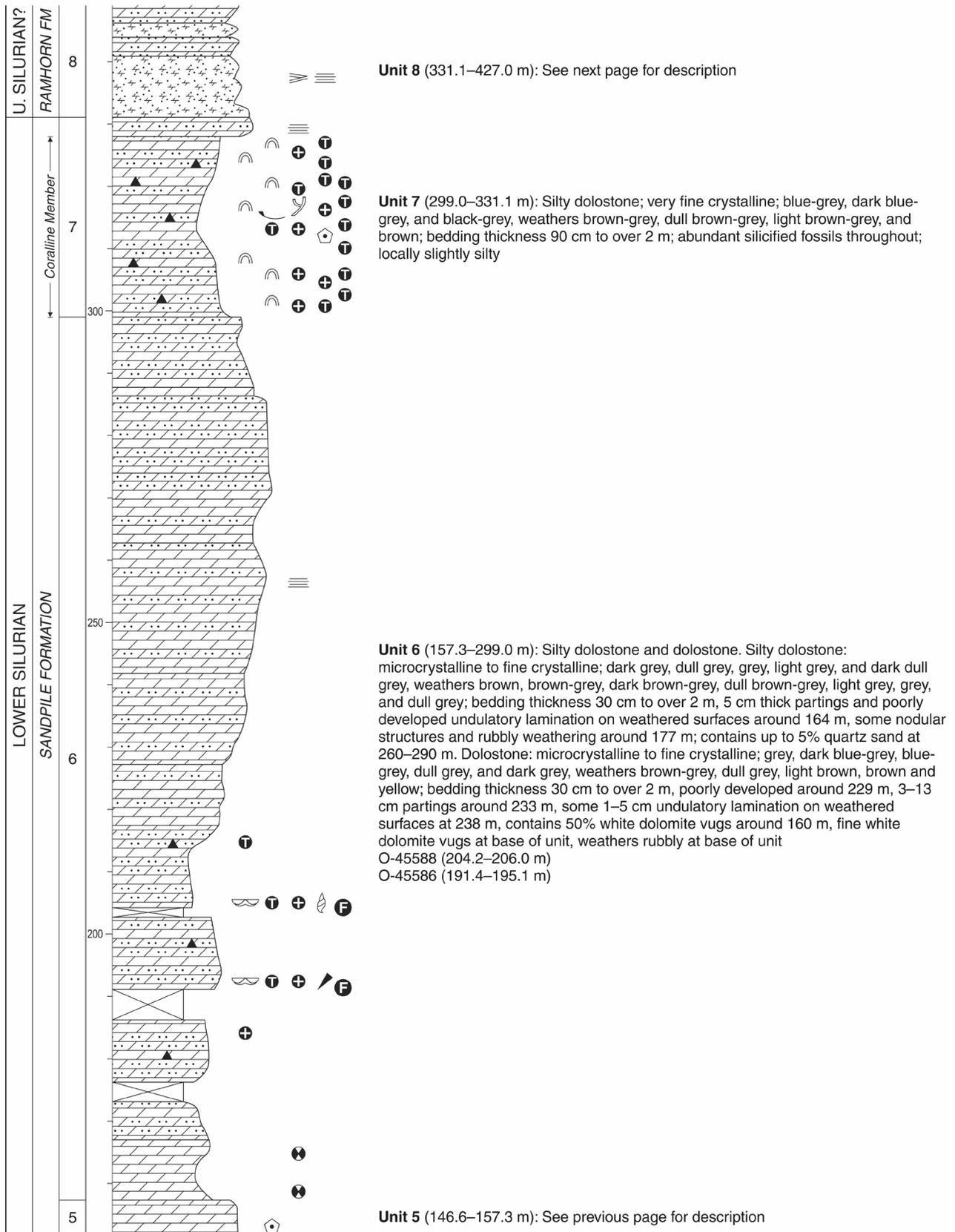


Figure A15. (Cont.) Sandpile Creek (note Norford, 1962, p. 4; 1965, p. 46, 47).

SANDPILE CREEK SECTION, page 3 of 3

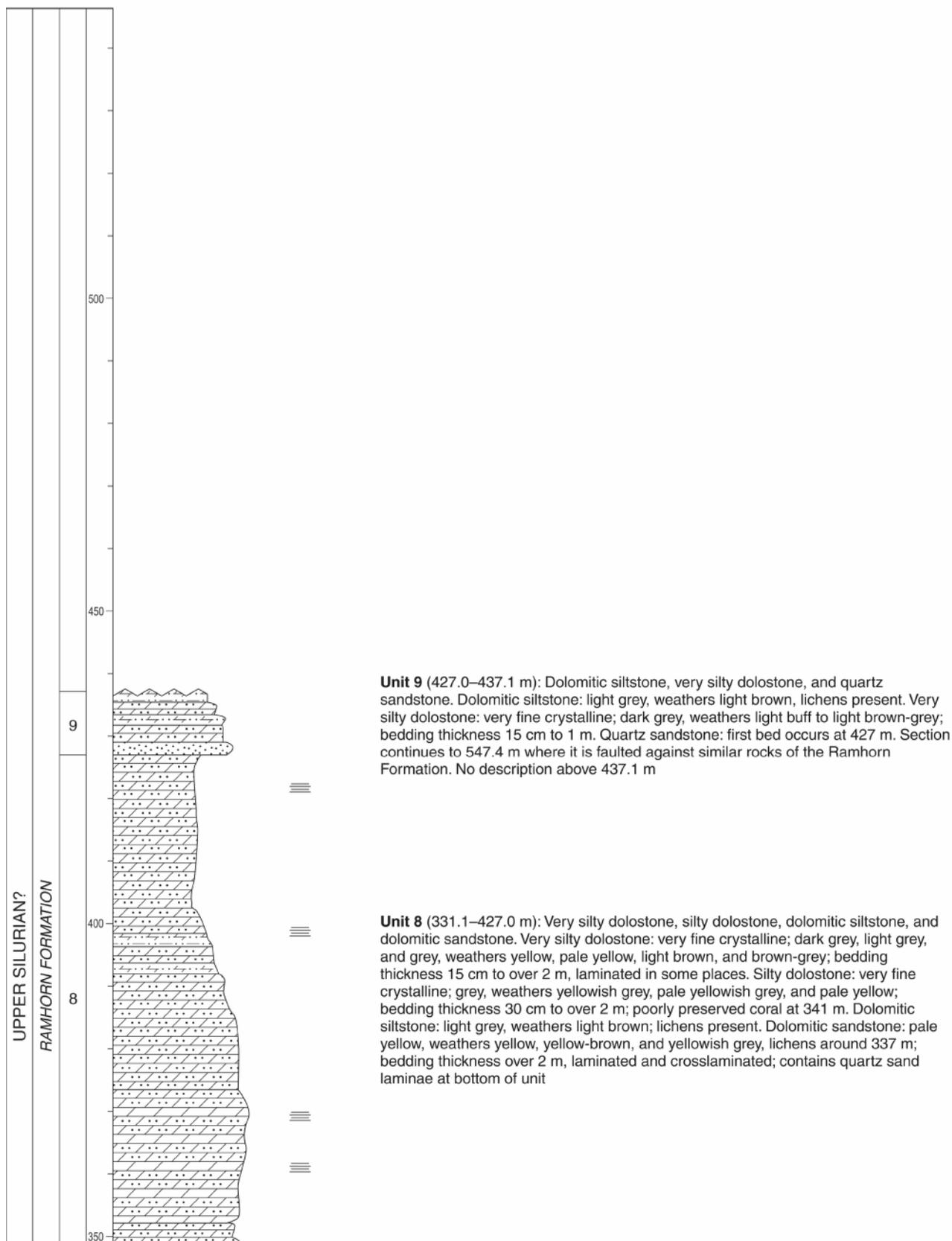


Figure A15. (Cont.) Sandpile Creek (note Norford, 1962, p. 4; 1965, p. 46, 47).

TURNAGAIN RIVER ROOF-PENDANT SECTION

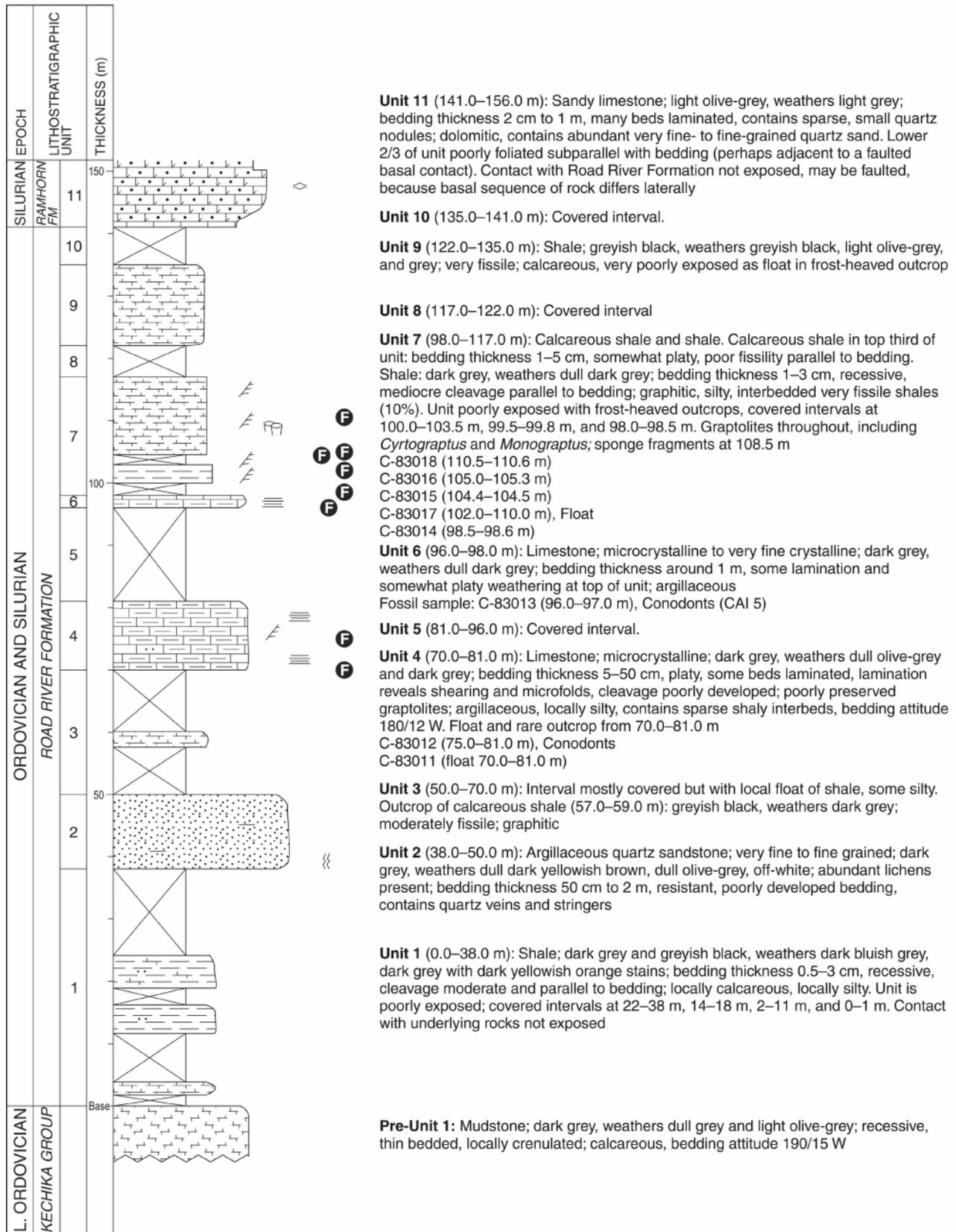


Figure A16. Turnagain River Roof-Pendant (note Gabrielse, 1998, p. 121, 133, 134).

TURNAGAIN RIVER ROOF-PENDANT SECTION, page 2 of 2

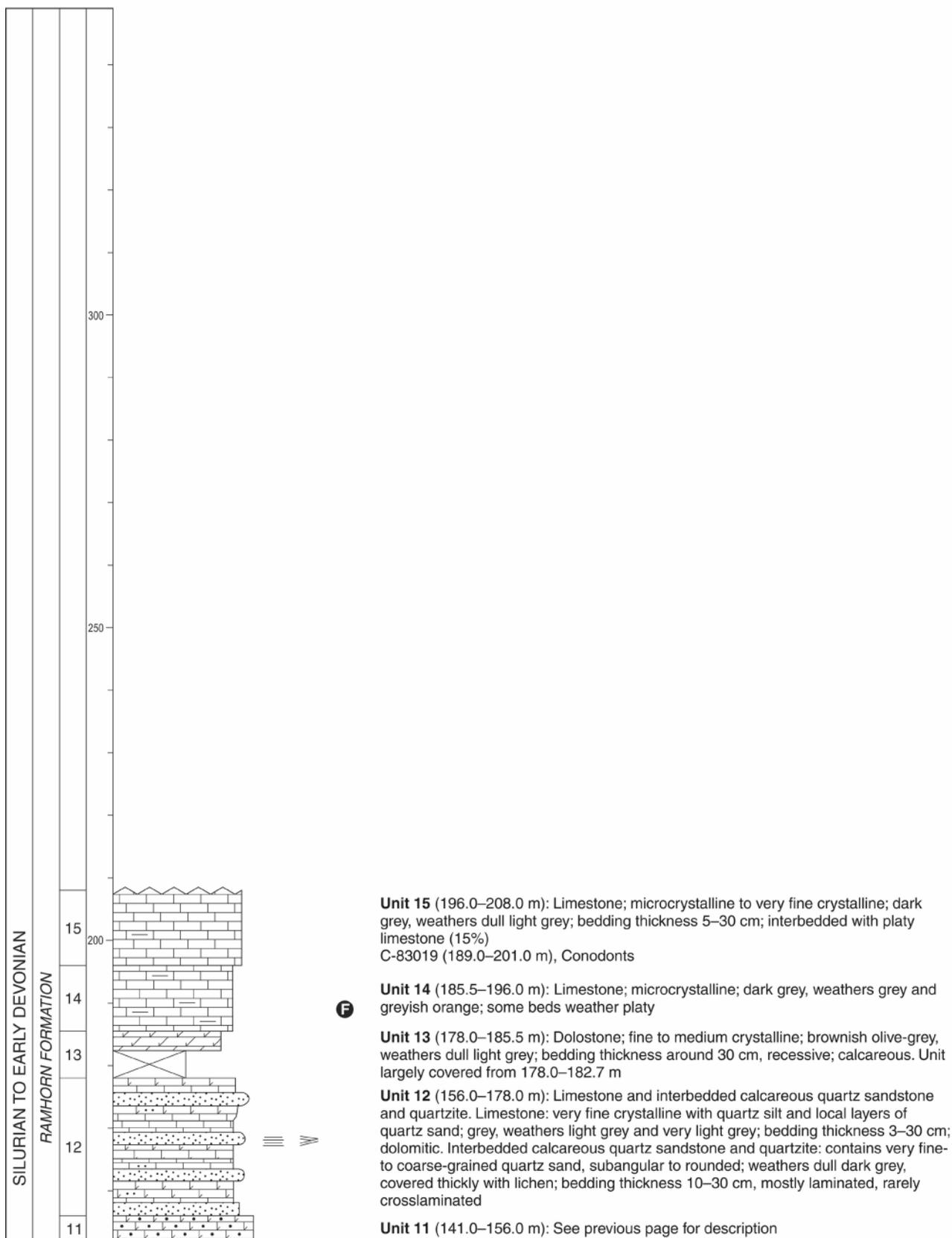


Figure A16. (Cont.) Turnagain River Roof-Pendant (note Gabrielse, 1998, p. 121, 133, 134).

SHEEP CREEK NORTH SECTION

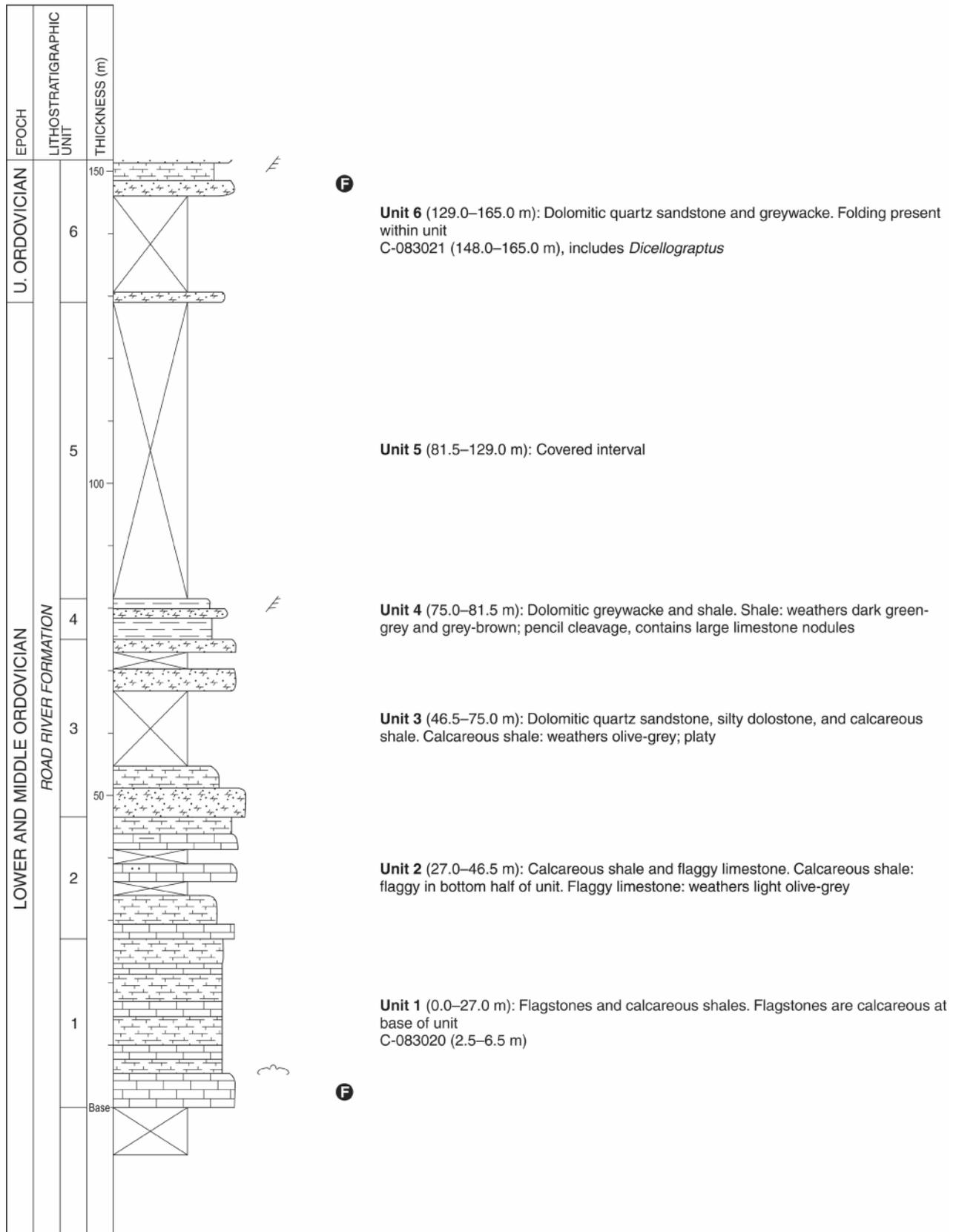


Figure A17. Sheep Creek North.

SHEEP CREEK NORTH SECTION, page 2 of 2

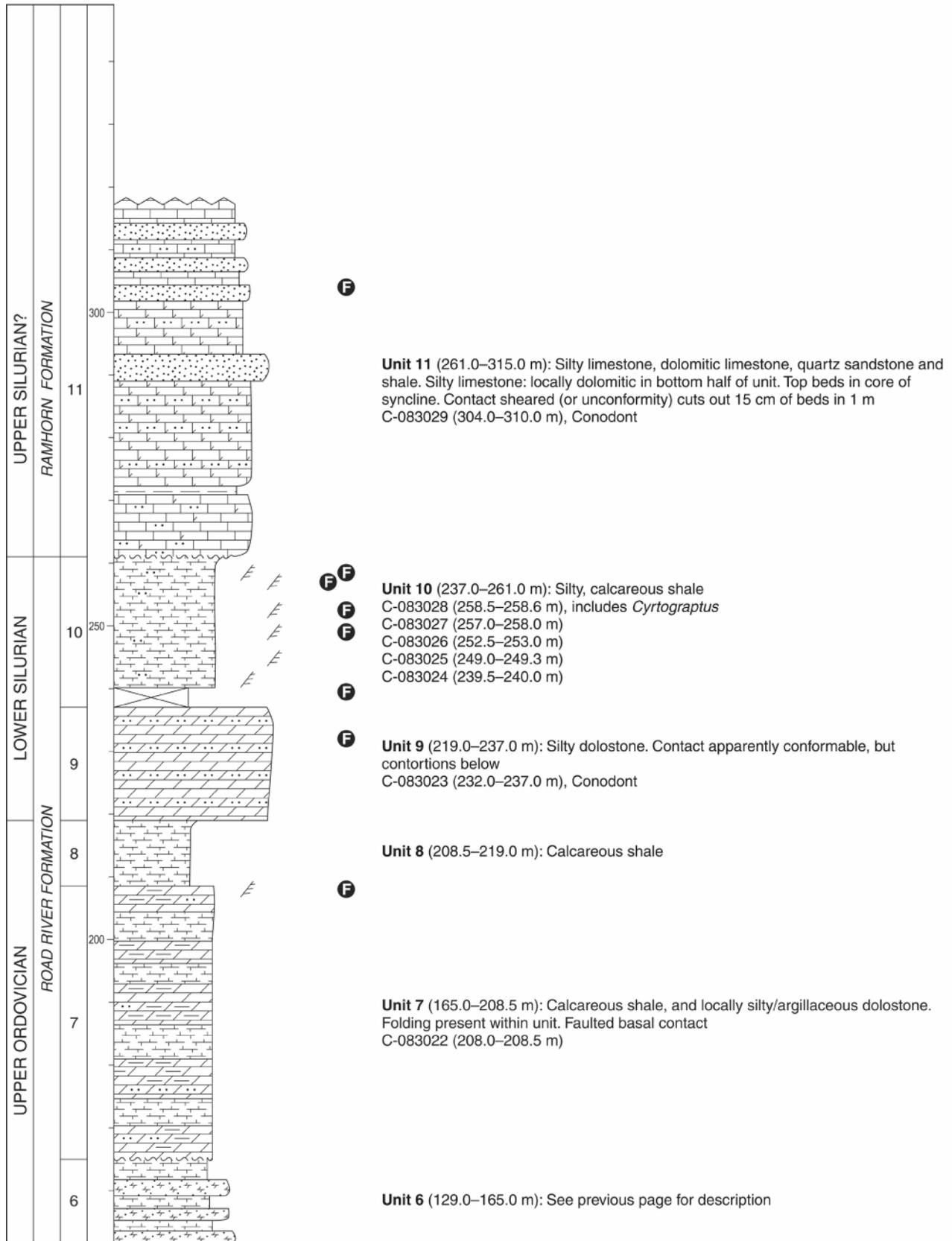


Figure A17. (Cont.) Sheep Creek North.

HOOLE CREEK SECTION

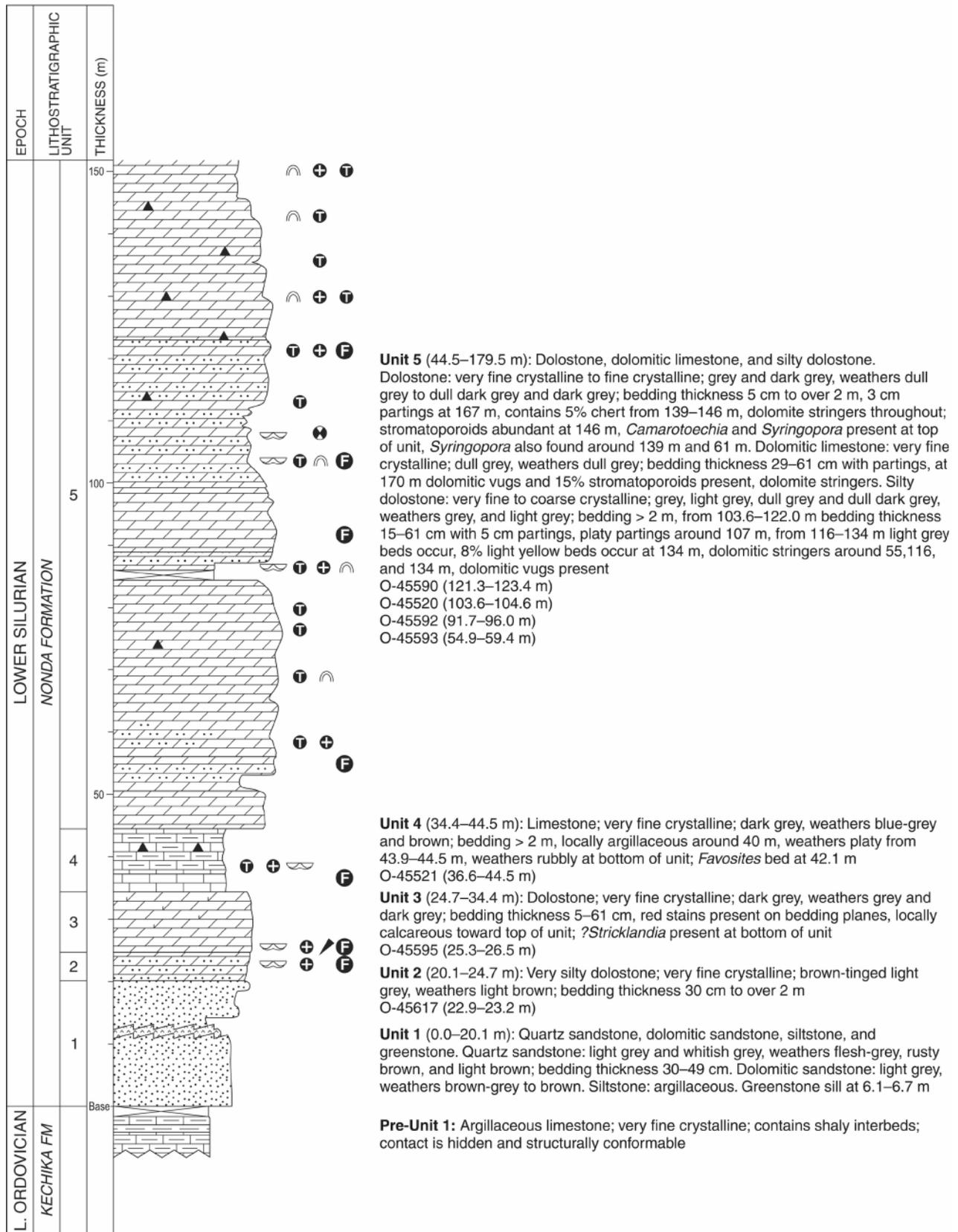


Figure A18. Hoole Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

HOOLE CREEK SECTION, page 2 of 4

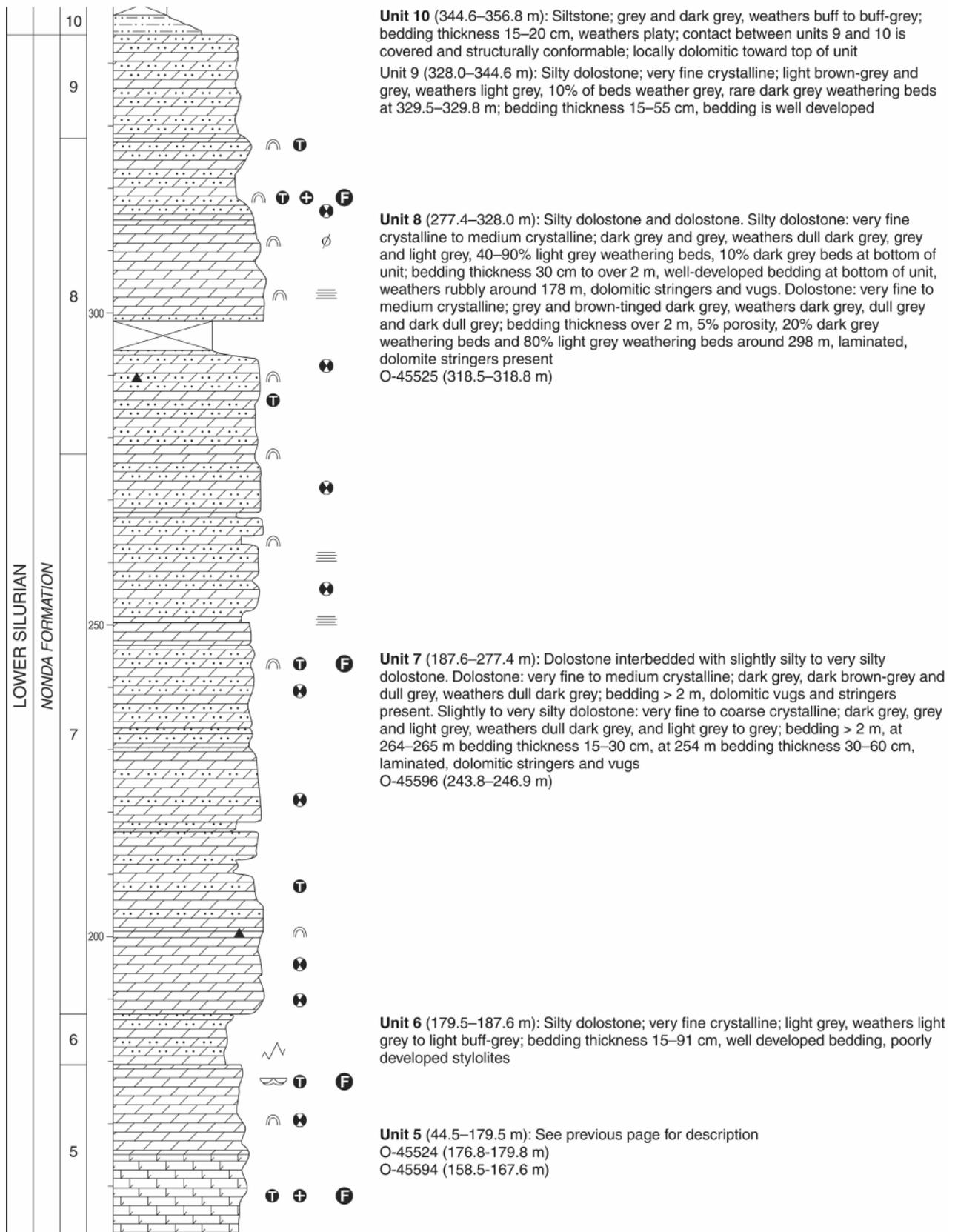


Figure A18. (Cont.) Hoole Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

HOOLE CREEK SECTION, page 3 of 4

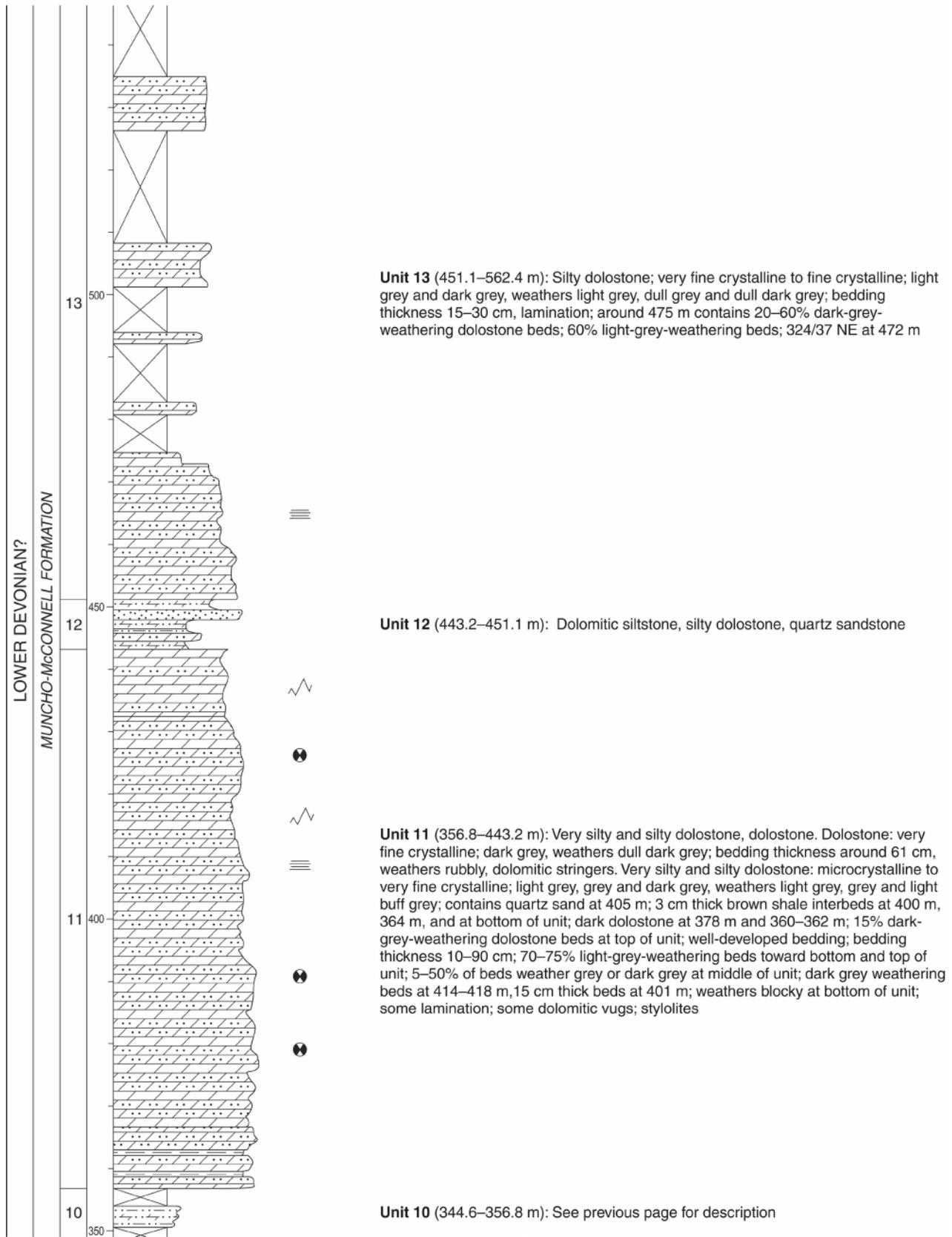


Figure A18. (Cont.) Hoole Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

HOOLE CREEK SECTION, page 4 of 4

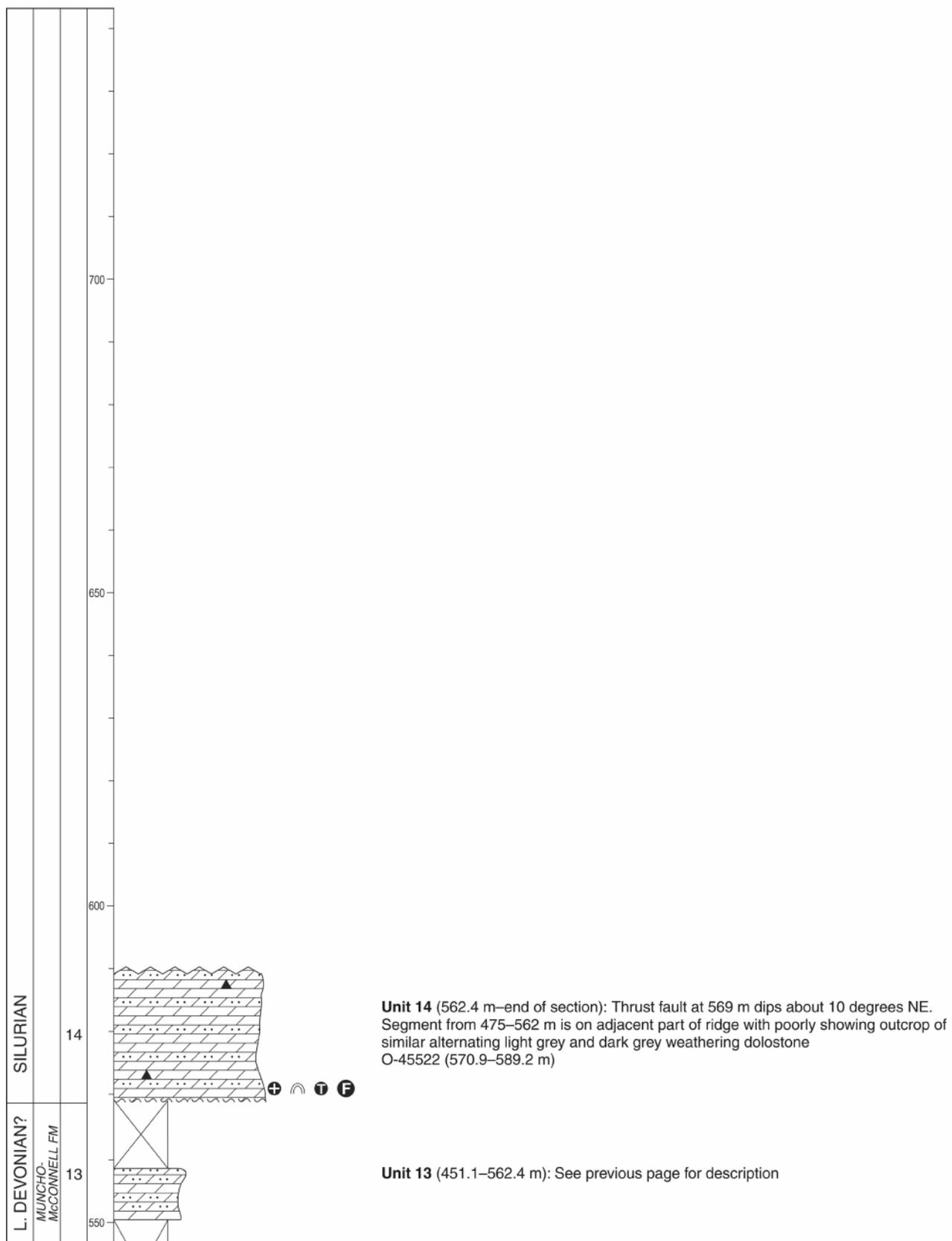


Figure A18. (Cont.) Hoole Creek (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

SIKANNI CHIEF RIVER SECTION

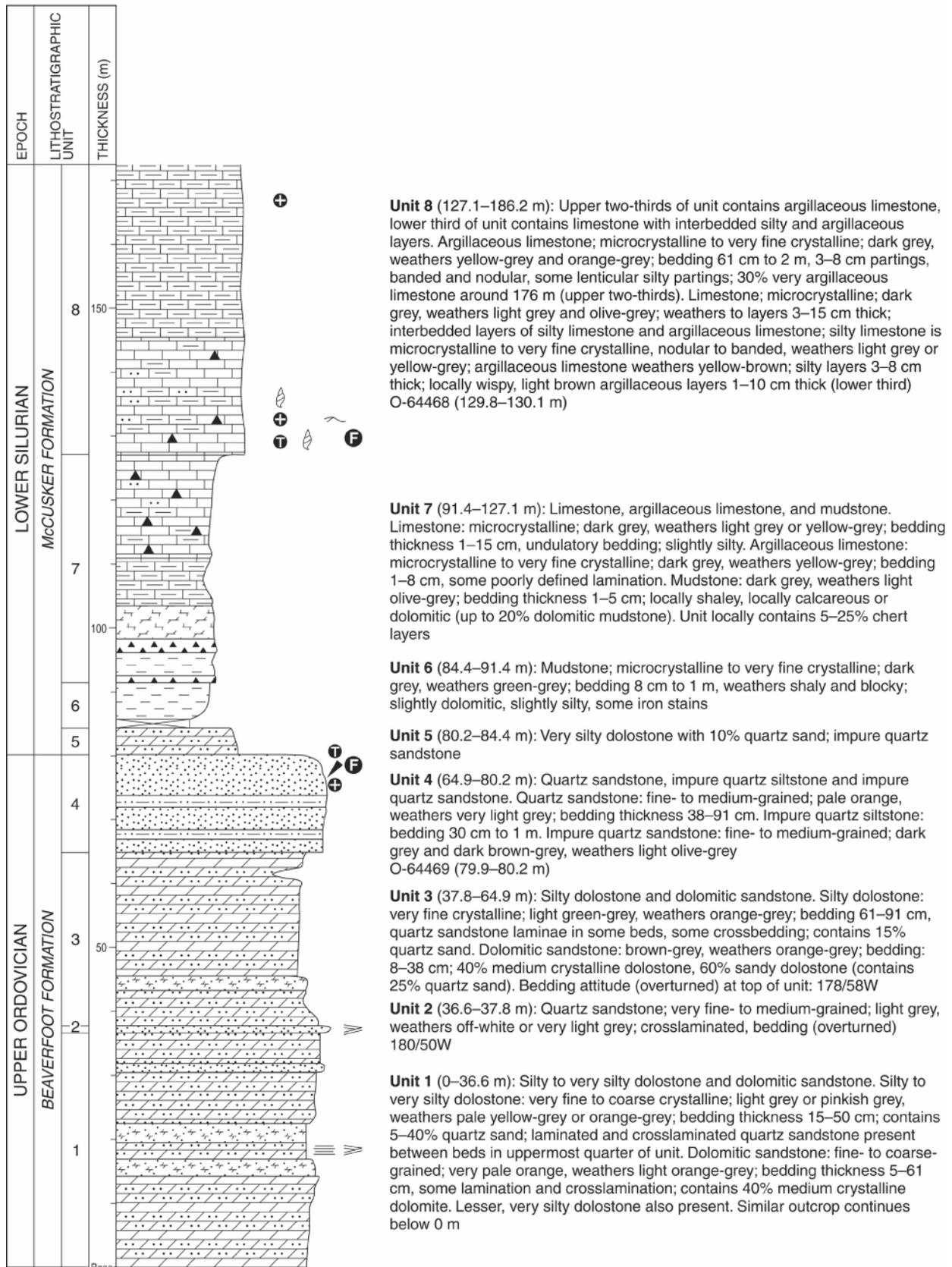


Figure A19. Sikanni Chief River (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

SIKANNI CHIEF RIVER SECTION, page 2 of 4

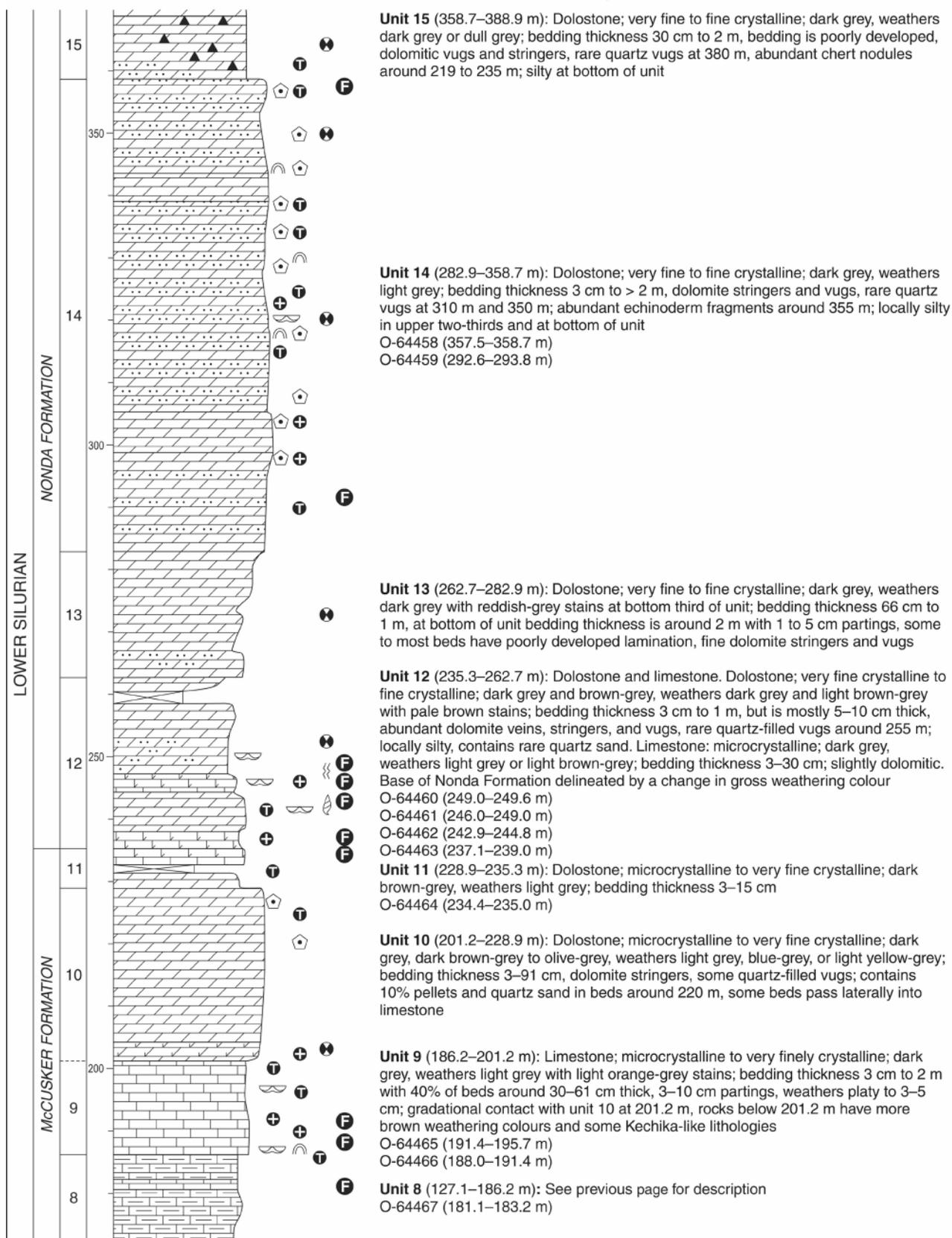


Figure A19. (Cont.) Sikanni Chief River (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

SIKANNI CHIEF RIVER SECTION, page 3 of 4

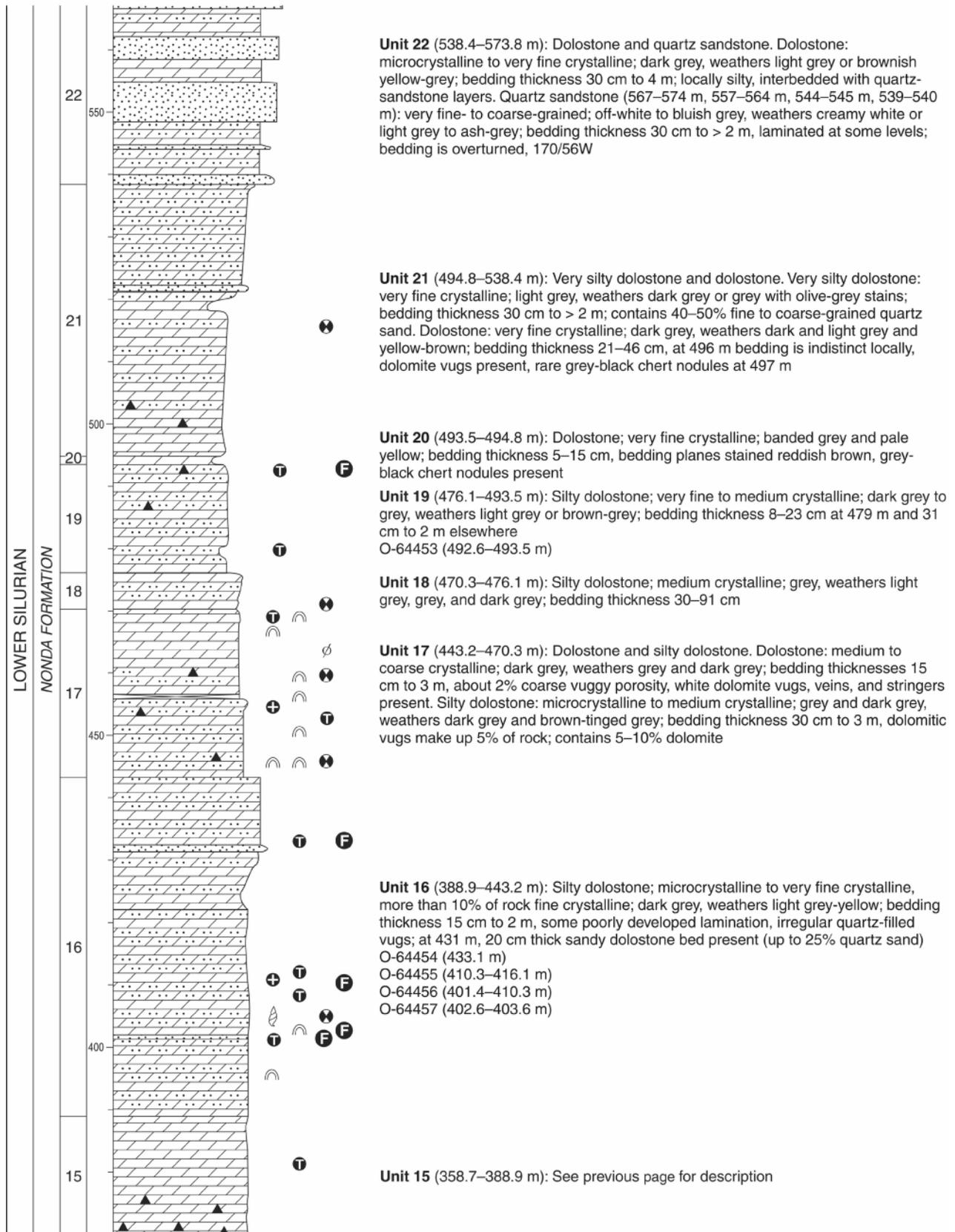


Figure A19. (Cont.) Sikanni Chief River (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

SIKANNI CHIEF RIVER SECTION, page 4 of 4



Figure A19. (Cont.) Sikanni Chief River (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

SOUTH OF SIKANNI CHIEF RIVER SECTION

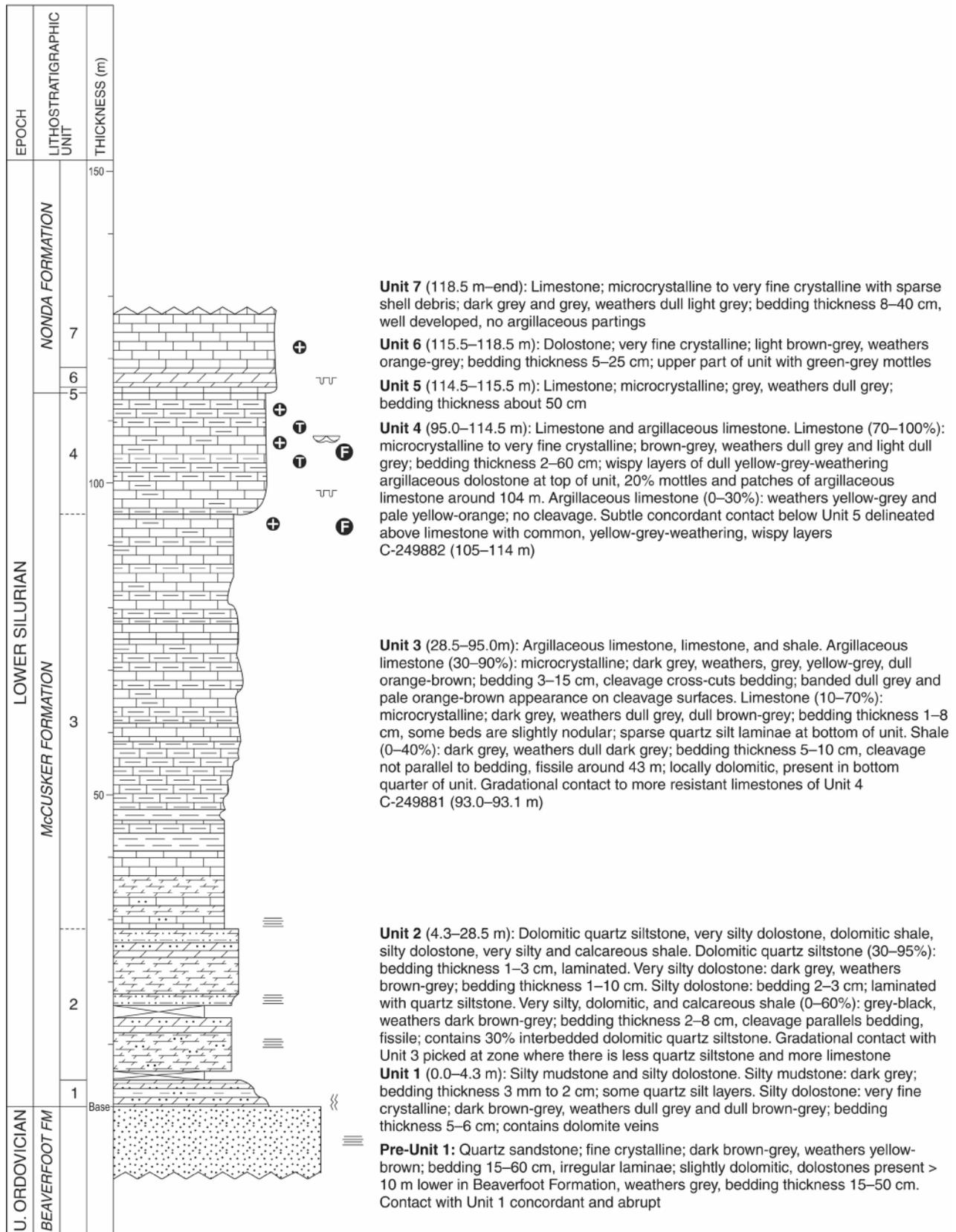


Figure A20. Sikanni Chief River, south of.

REDFERN MOUNTAIN SECTION

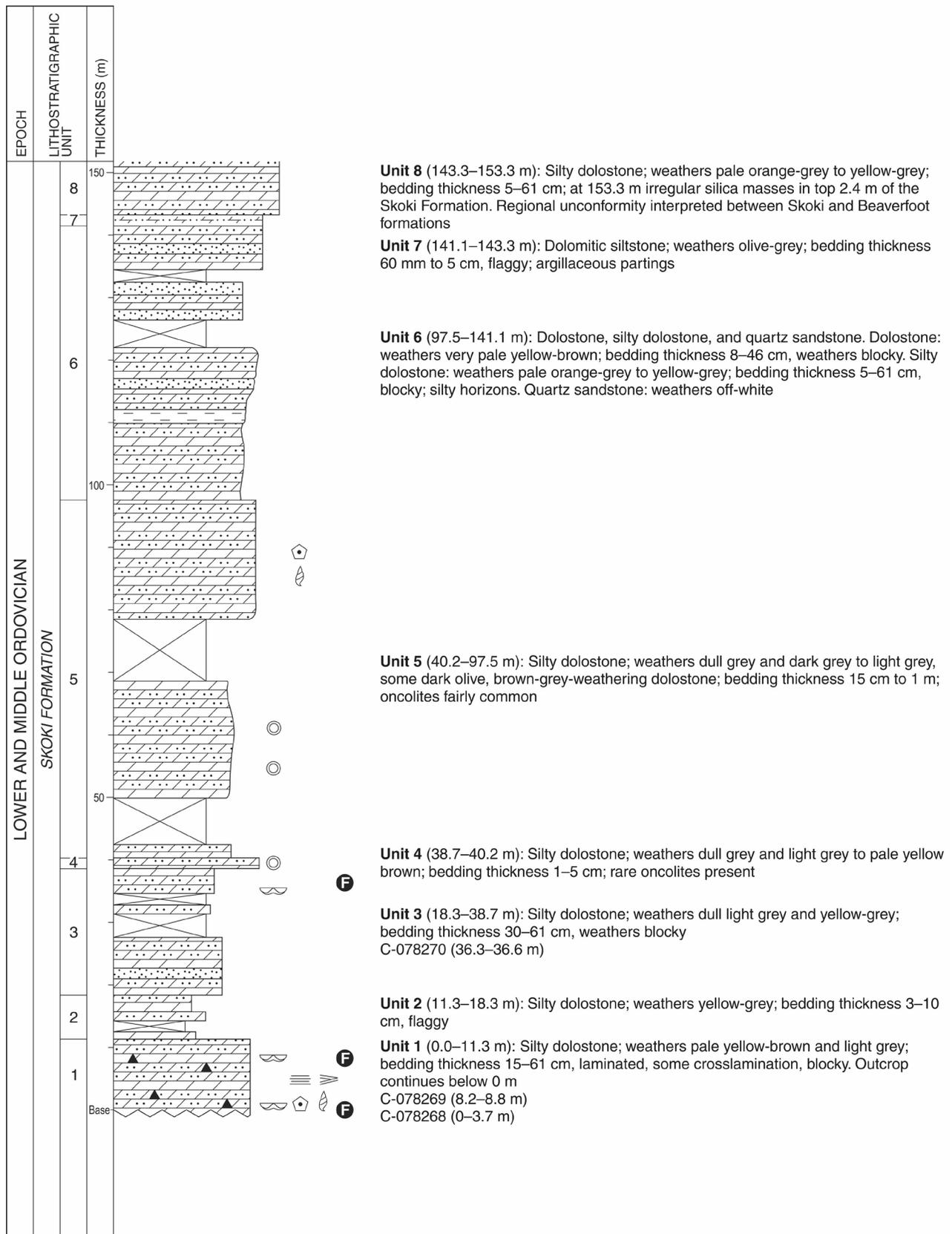


Figure A21. Redfern Mountain.

REDFERN MOUNTAIN SECTION, page 2 of 2

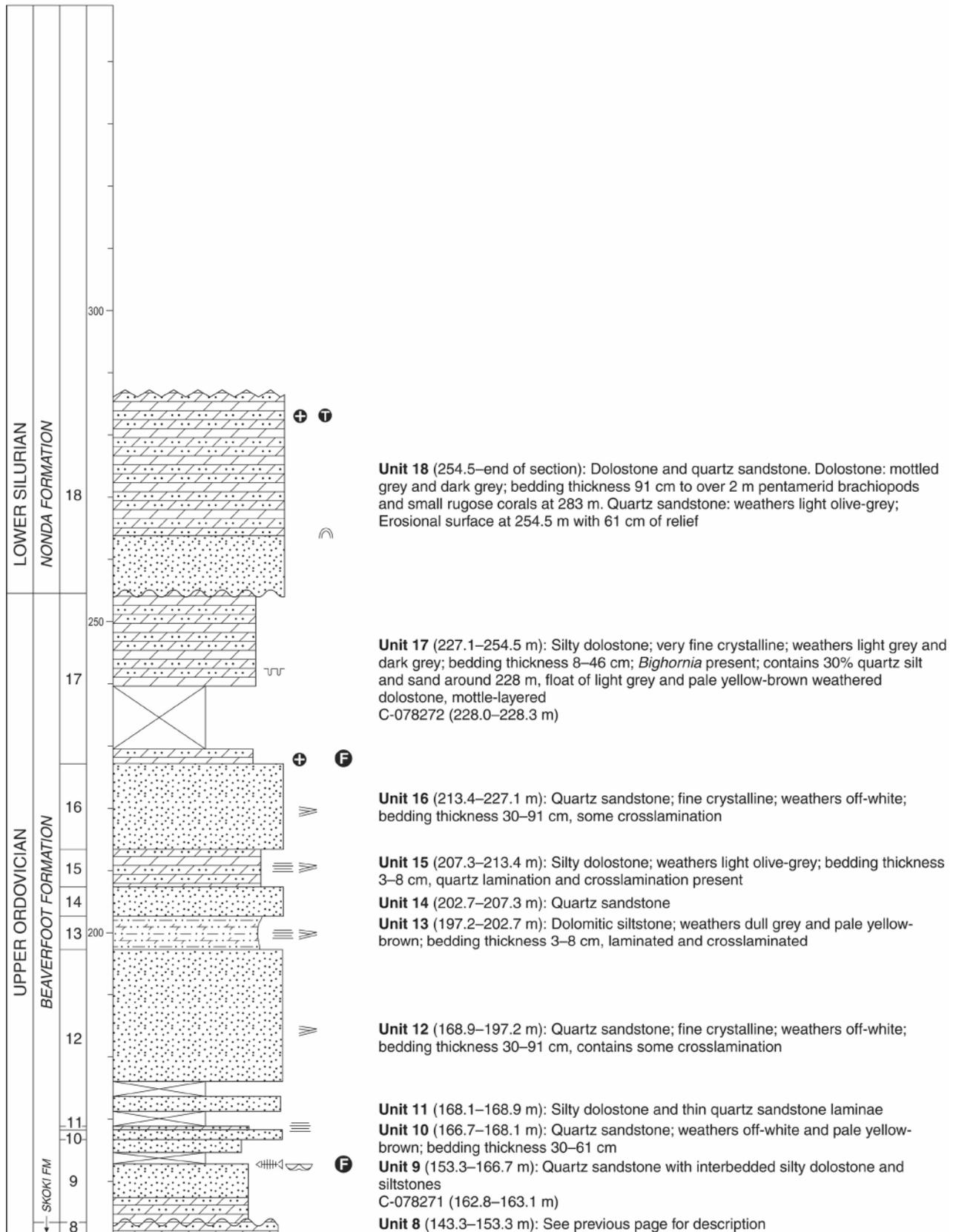


Figure A21. (Cont.) Redfern Mountain.

KEILY CREEK SECTION A

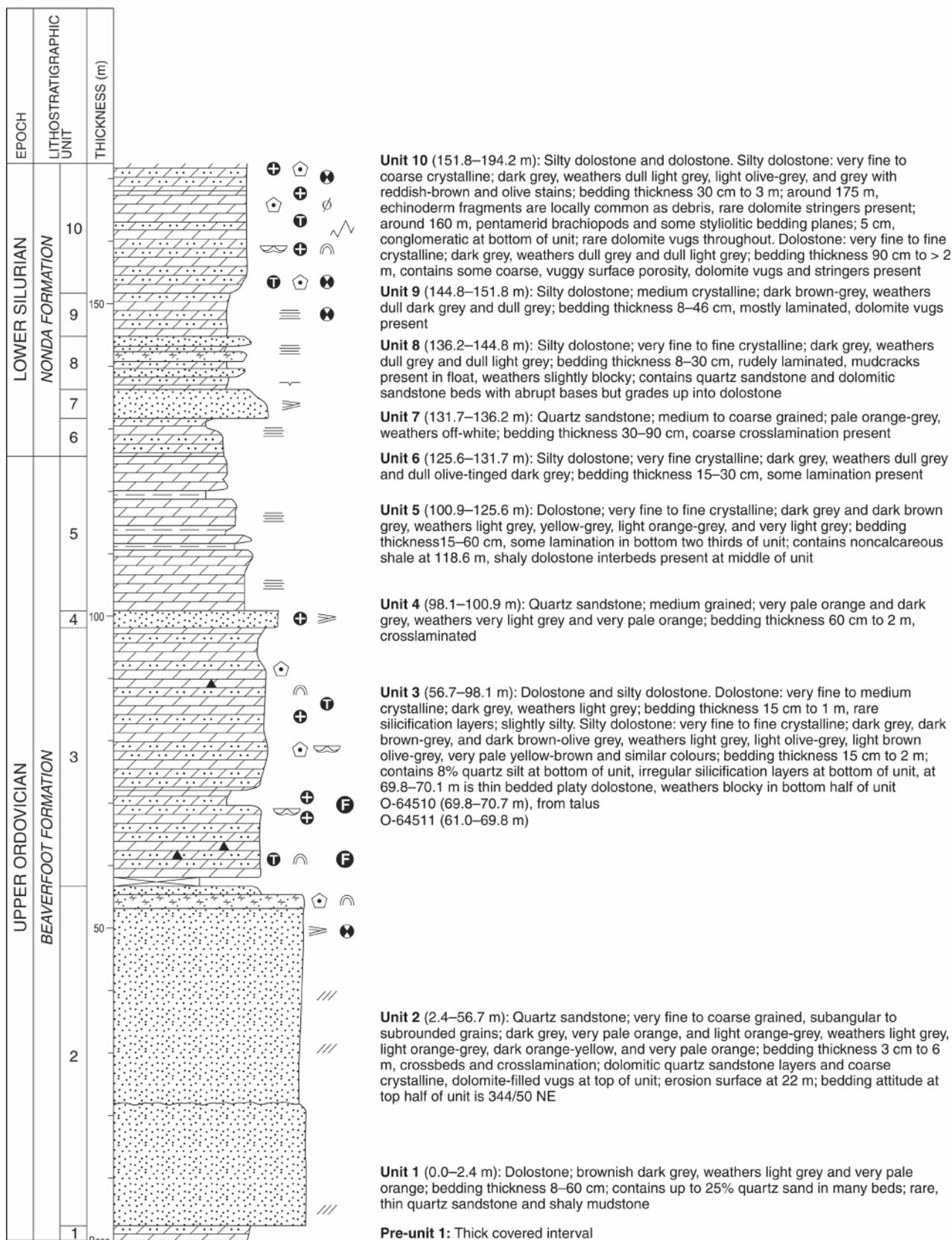


Figure A22. Keily Creek A (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

KEILY CREEK SECTION A, page 2 of 3

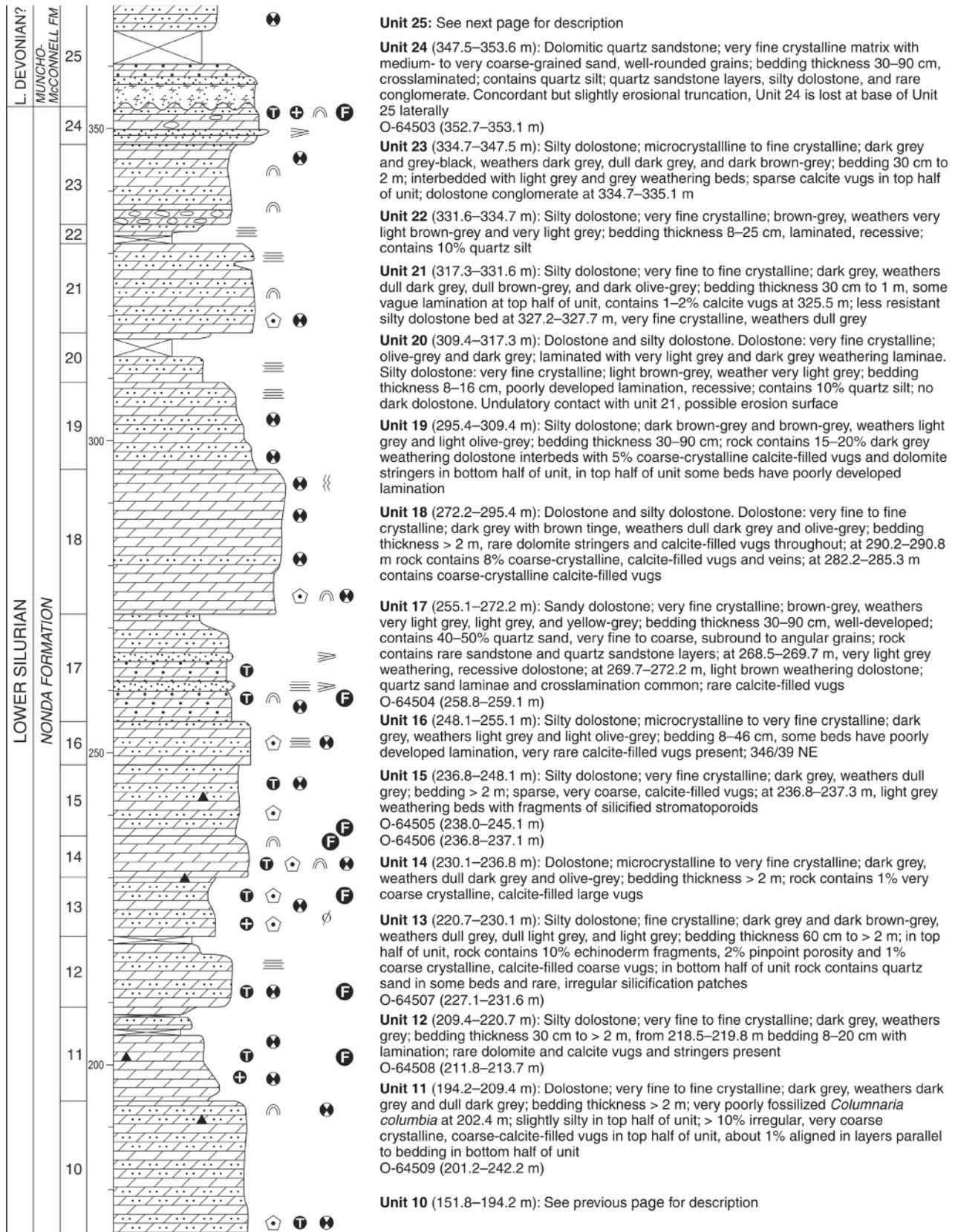


Figure A22. (Cont.) Keily Creek A (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

KEILY CREEK SECTION A, page 3 of 3

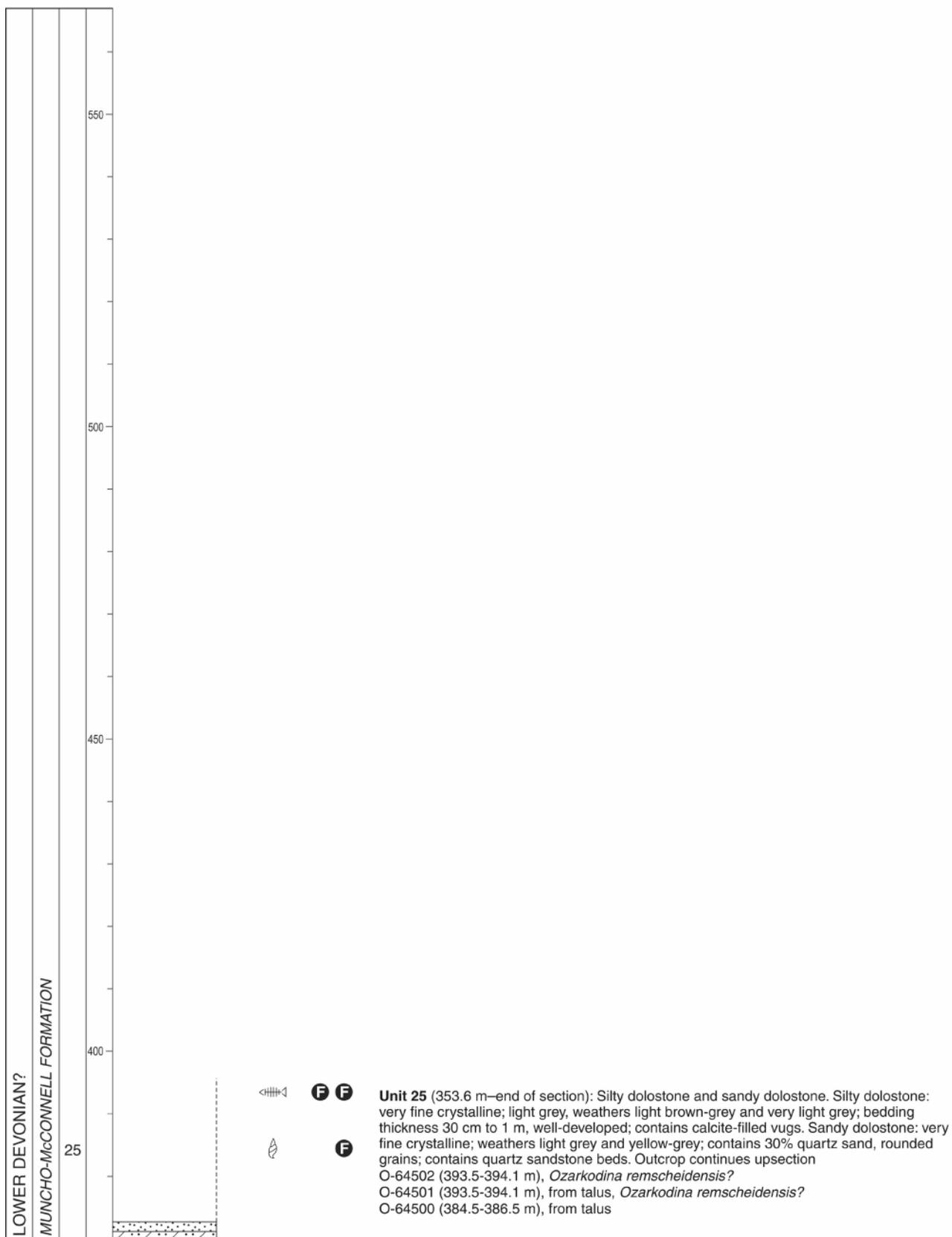


Figure A22. (Cont.) Keily Creek A (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

KEILY CREEK SECTION B

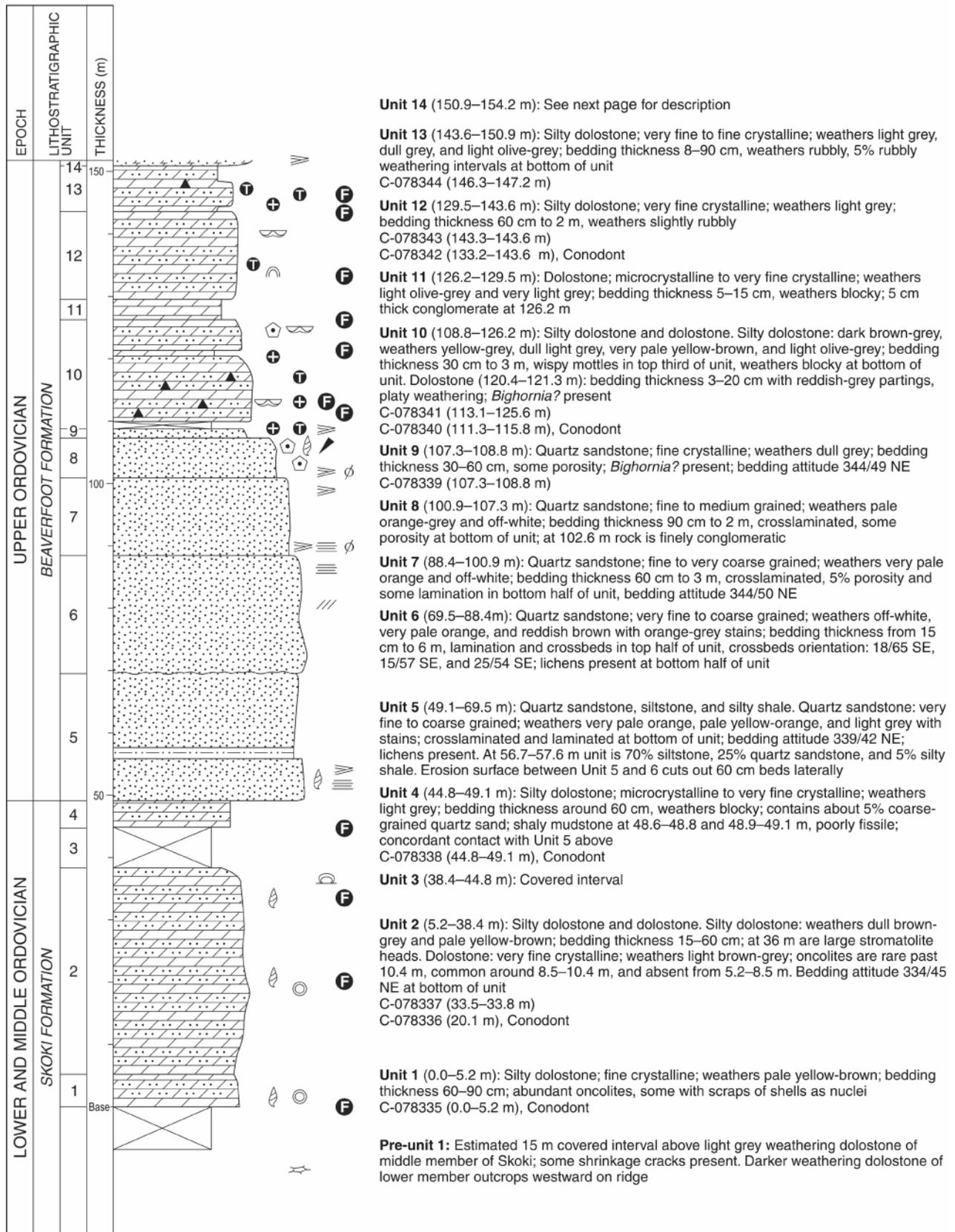


Figure A23. Keily Creek B.

KEILY CREEK SECTION B, page 2 of 2

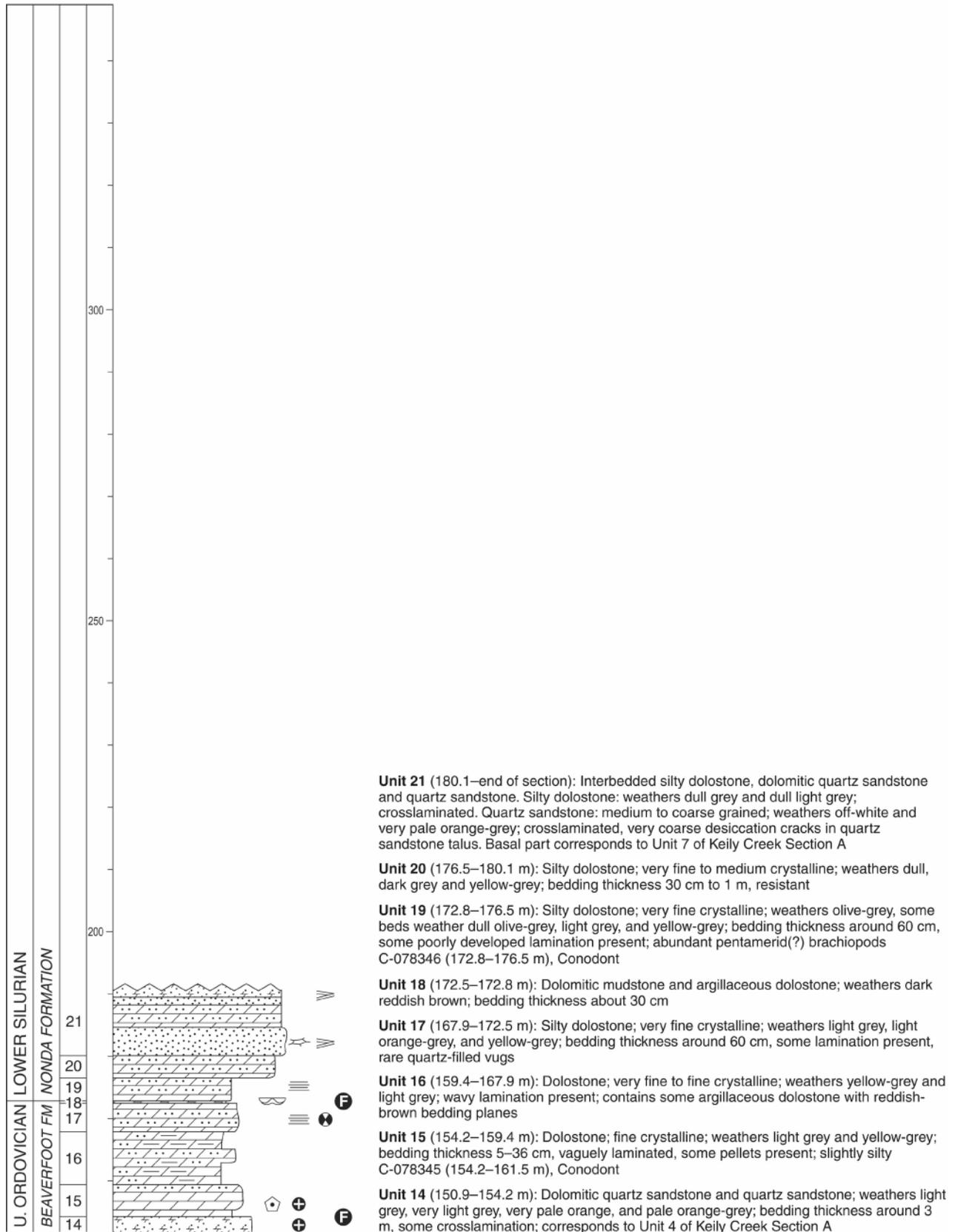


Figure A23. (Cont.) Keily Creek B.

RICHARDS CREEK SECTION

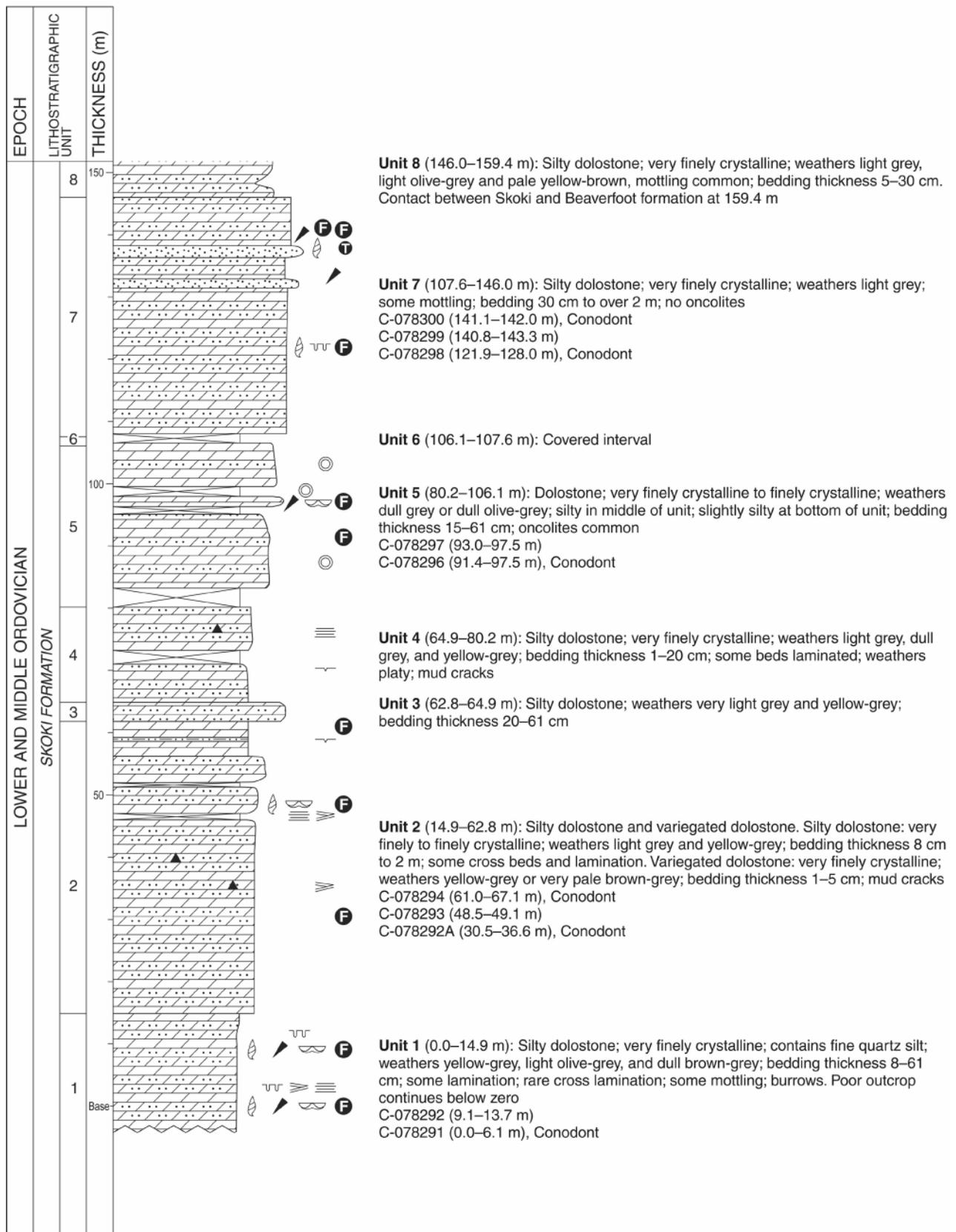


Figure A24. Richards Creek.

RICHARDS CREEK SECTION, page 2 of 2

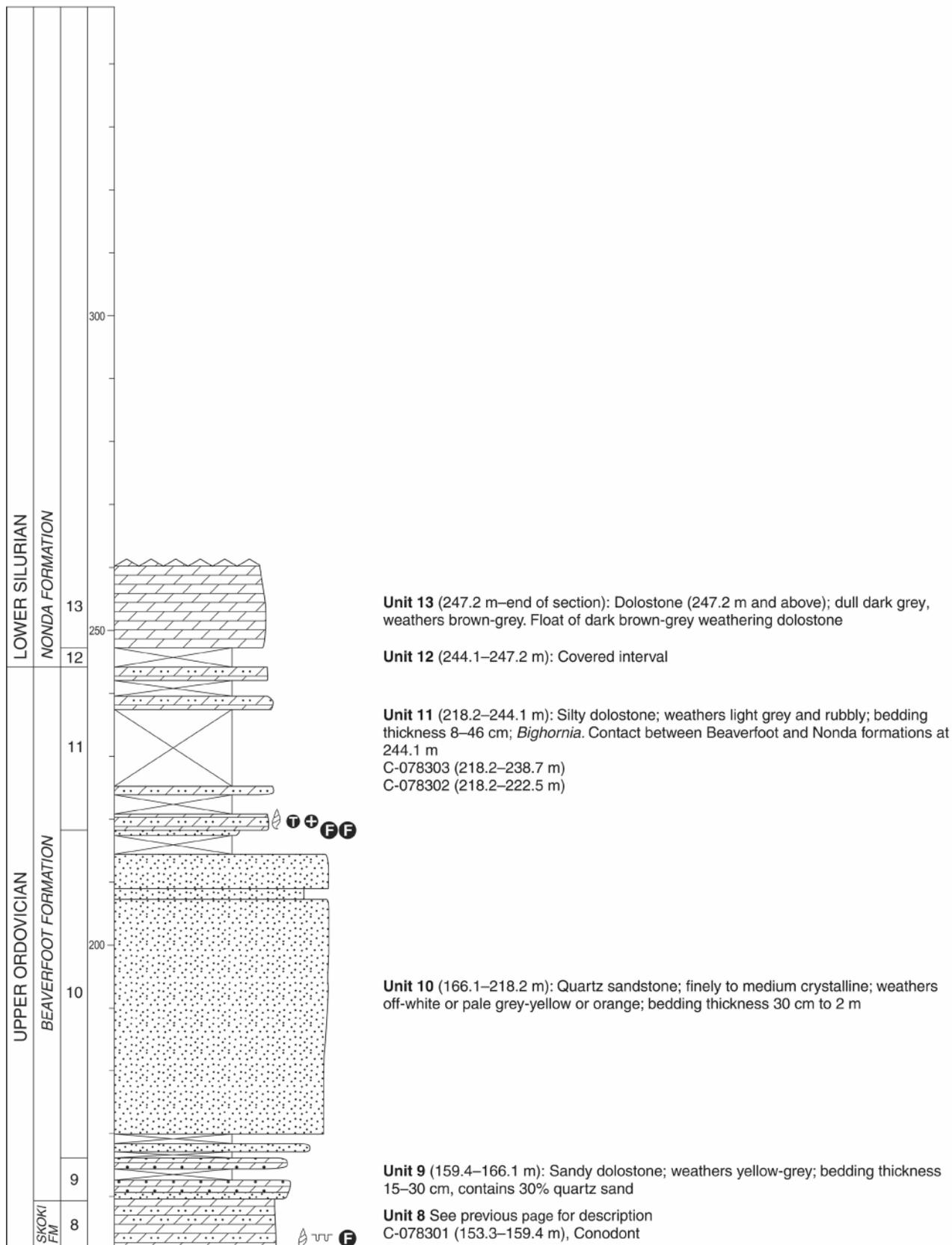


Figure A24. (Cont.) Richards Creek.

PROPHET RIVER SECTION

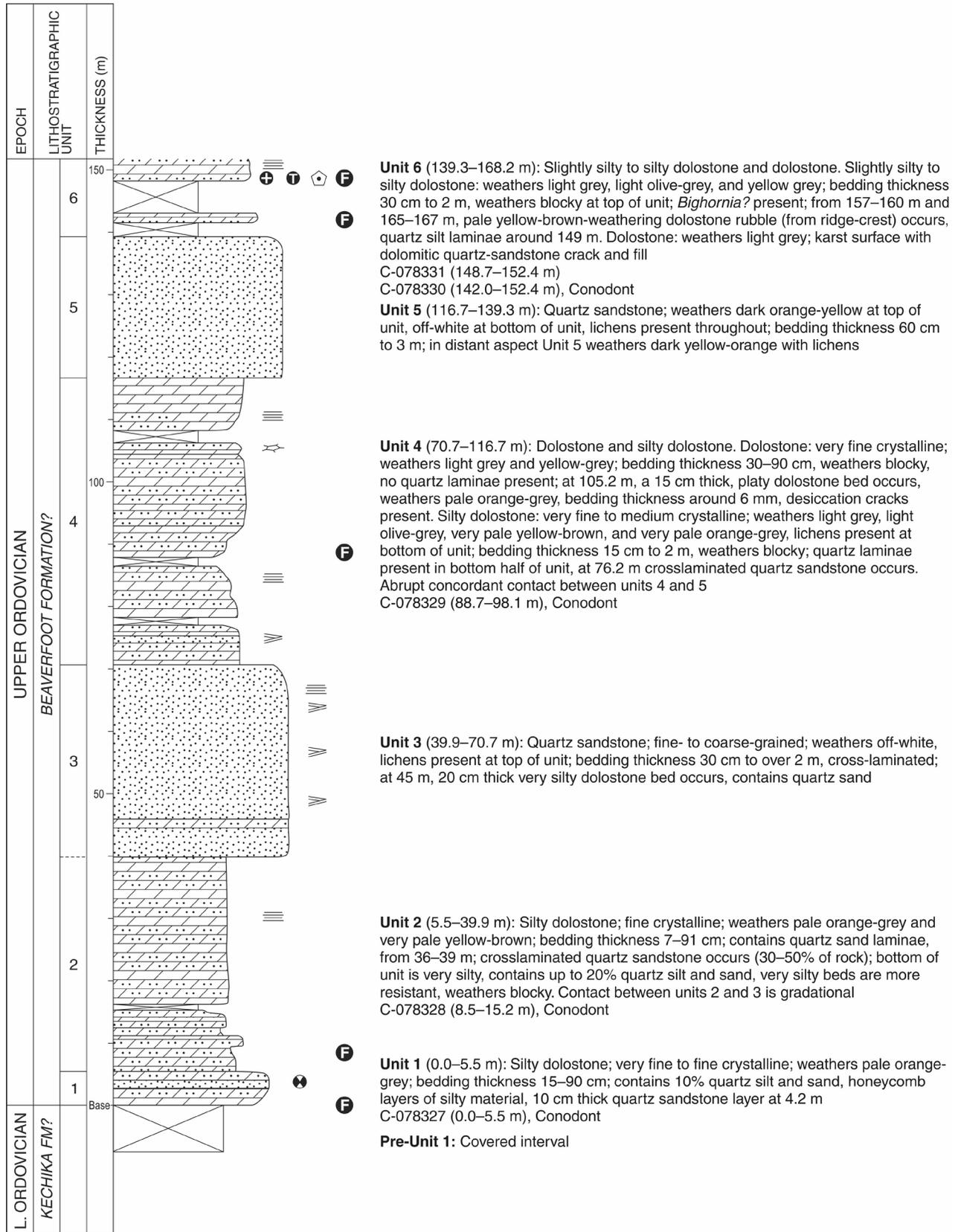


Figure A25. Prophet River (note Section 5 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

PROPHET RIVER SECTION, page 2 of 3

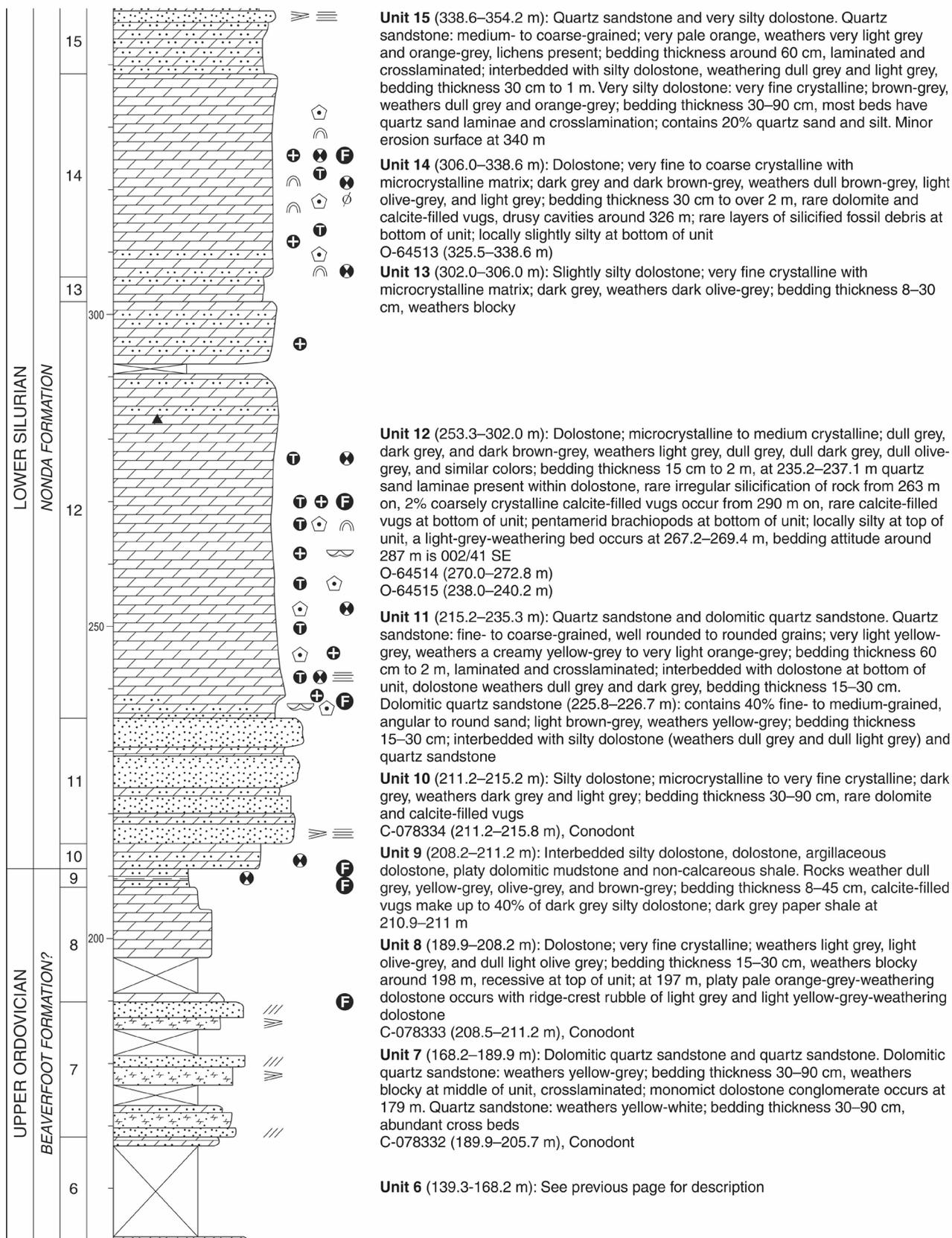


Figure A25. (Cont.) Prophet River (note Section 5 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

PROPHET RIVER SECTION, page 3 of 3

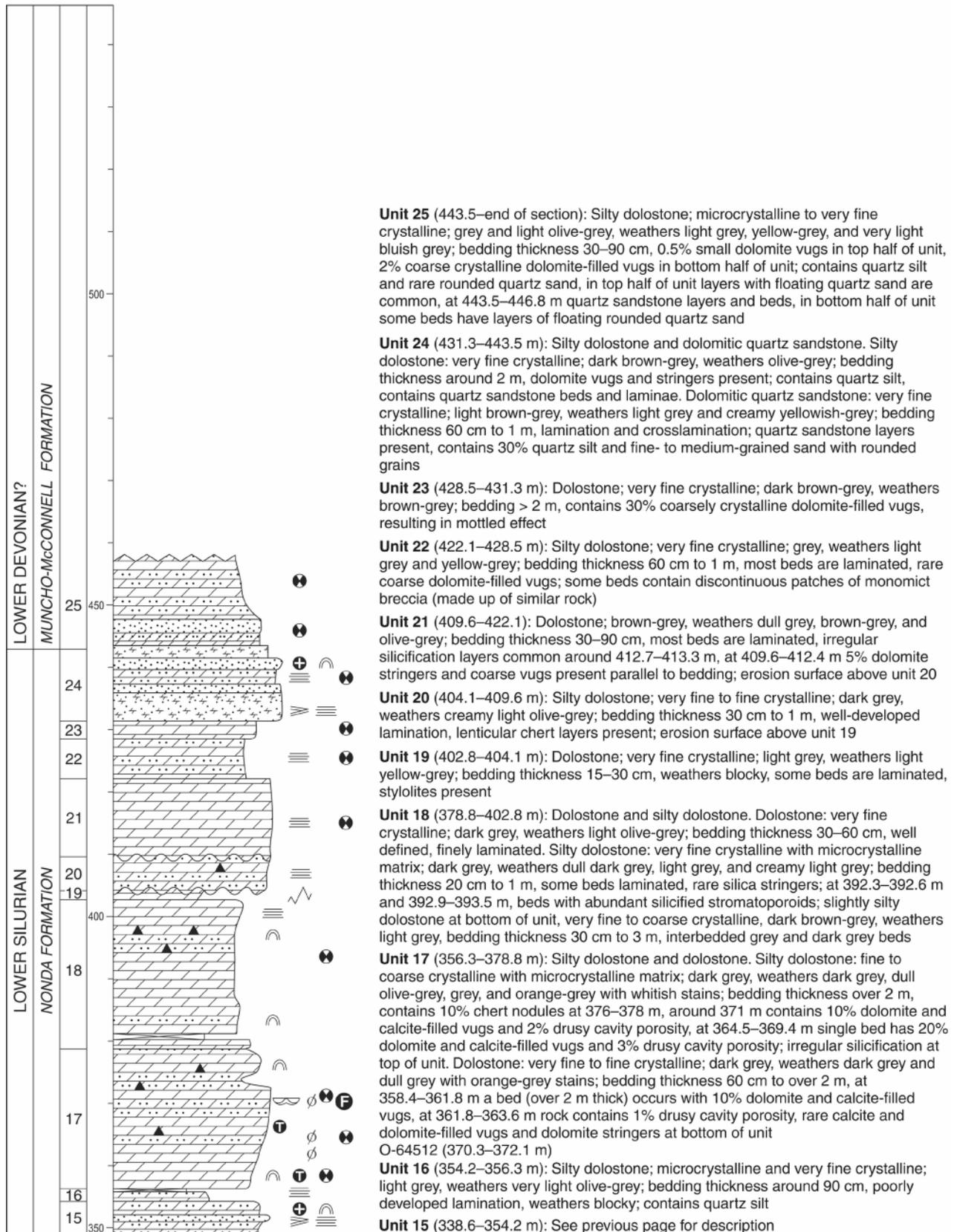


Figure A25. (Cont.) Prophet River (note Section 5 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

78-CJA-04

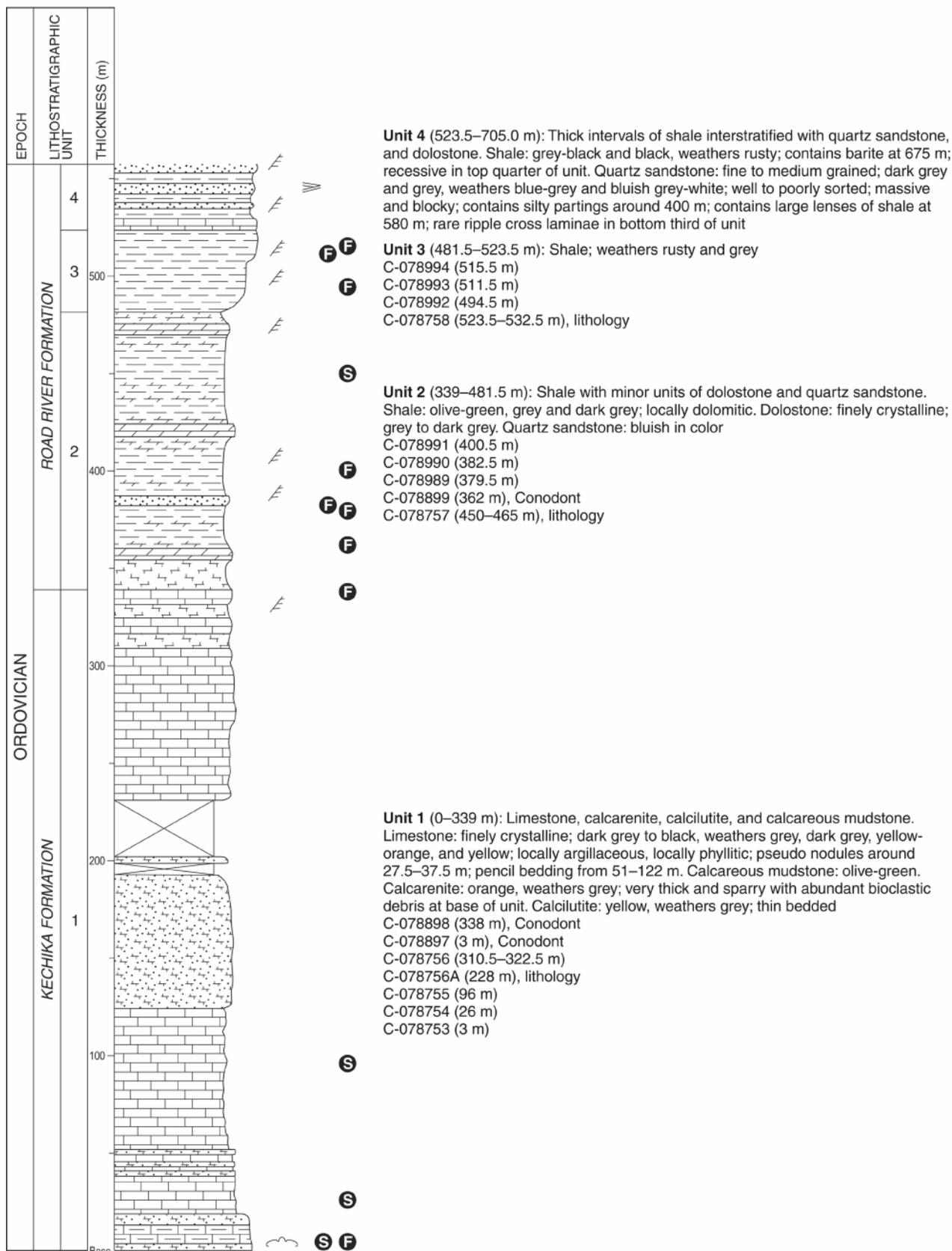


Figure A26. 78-CJA-04 (note Section 4 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 51).

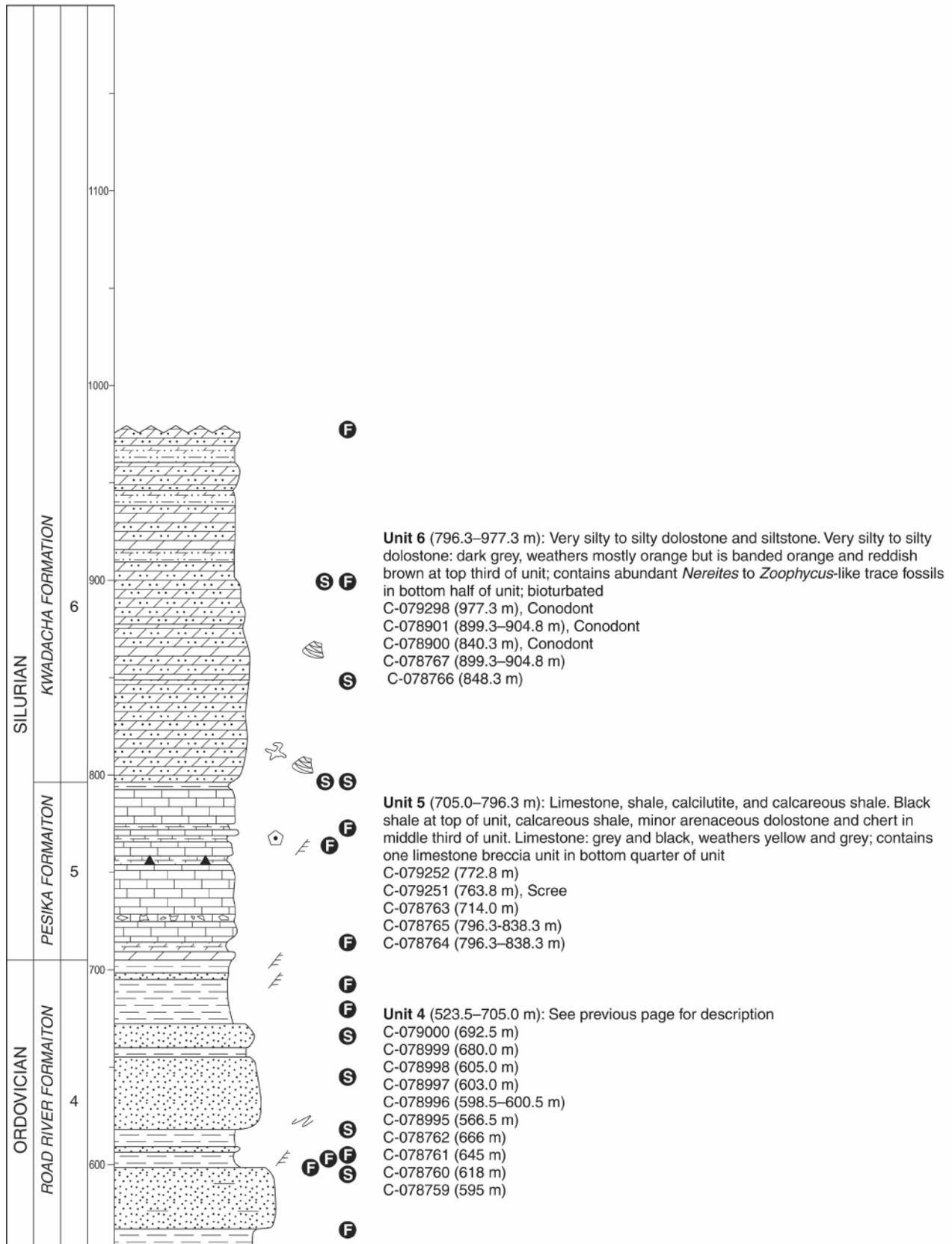


Figure A26. (Cont.) 78-CJA-04 (note Section 4 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 51).

MUSKWA RIVER SECTION

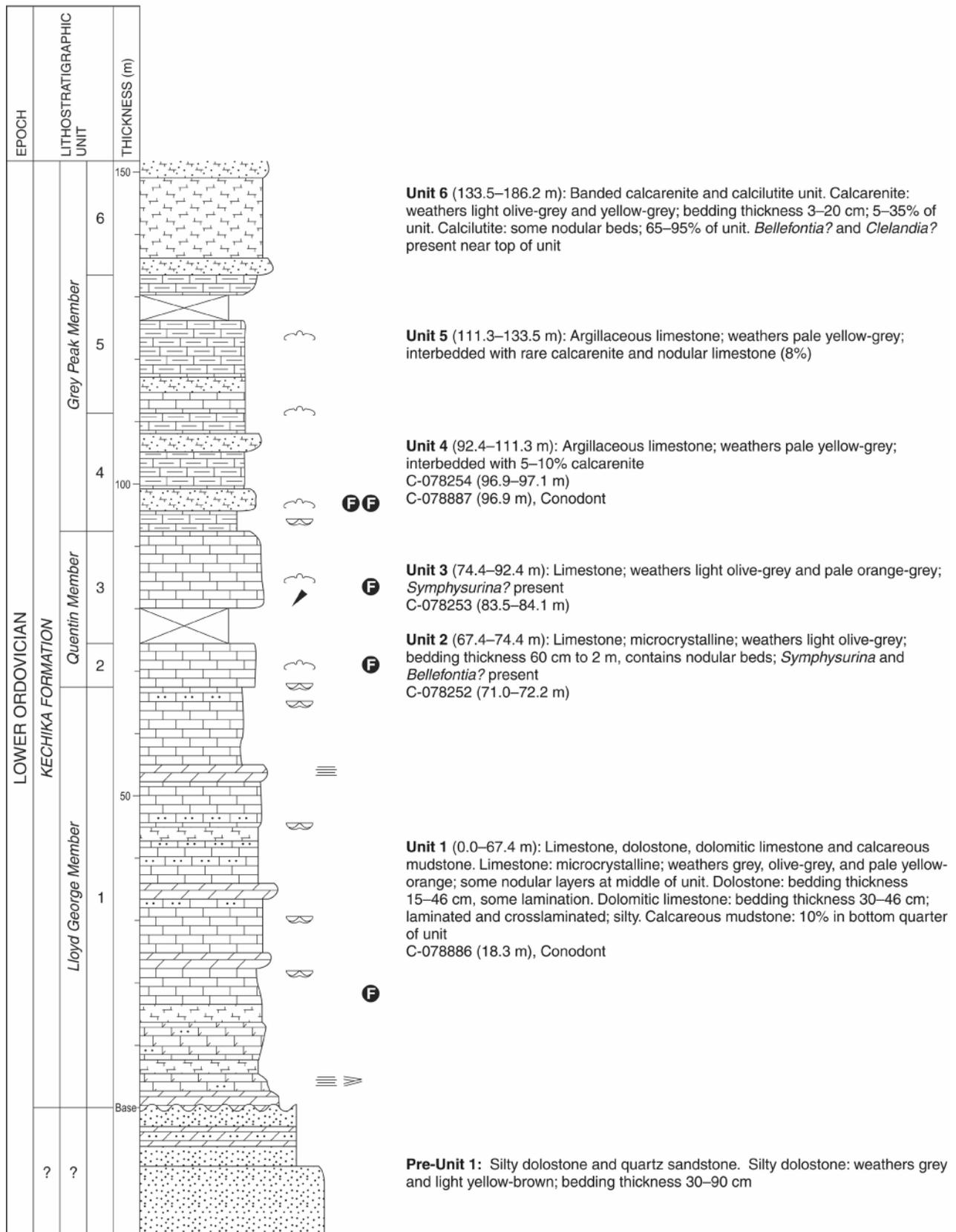


Figure A27. Muskwa River (note Section 1 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

MUSKWA RIVER SECTION, page 2 of 5

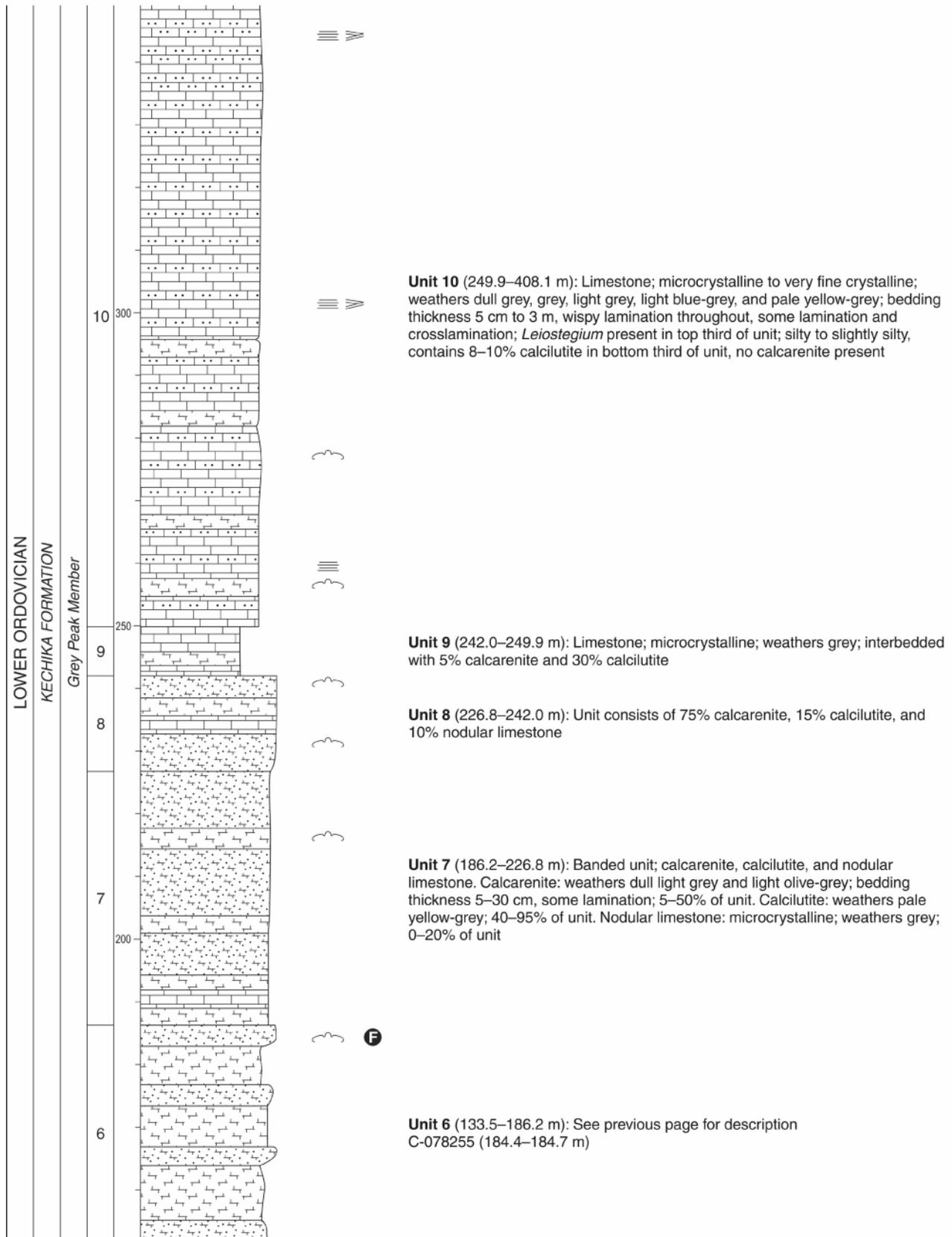


Figure A27. (Cont.) Muskwa River (note Section 1 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

MUSKWA RIVER SECTION, page 3 of 5

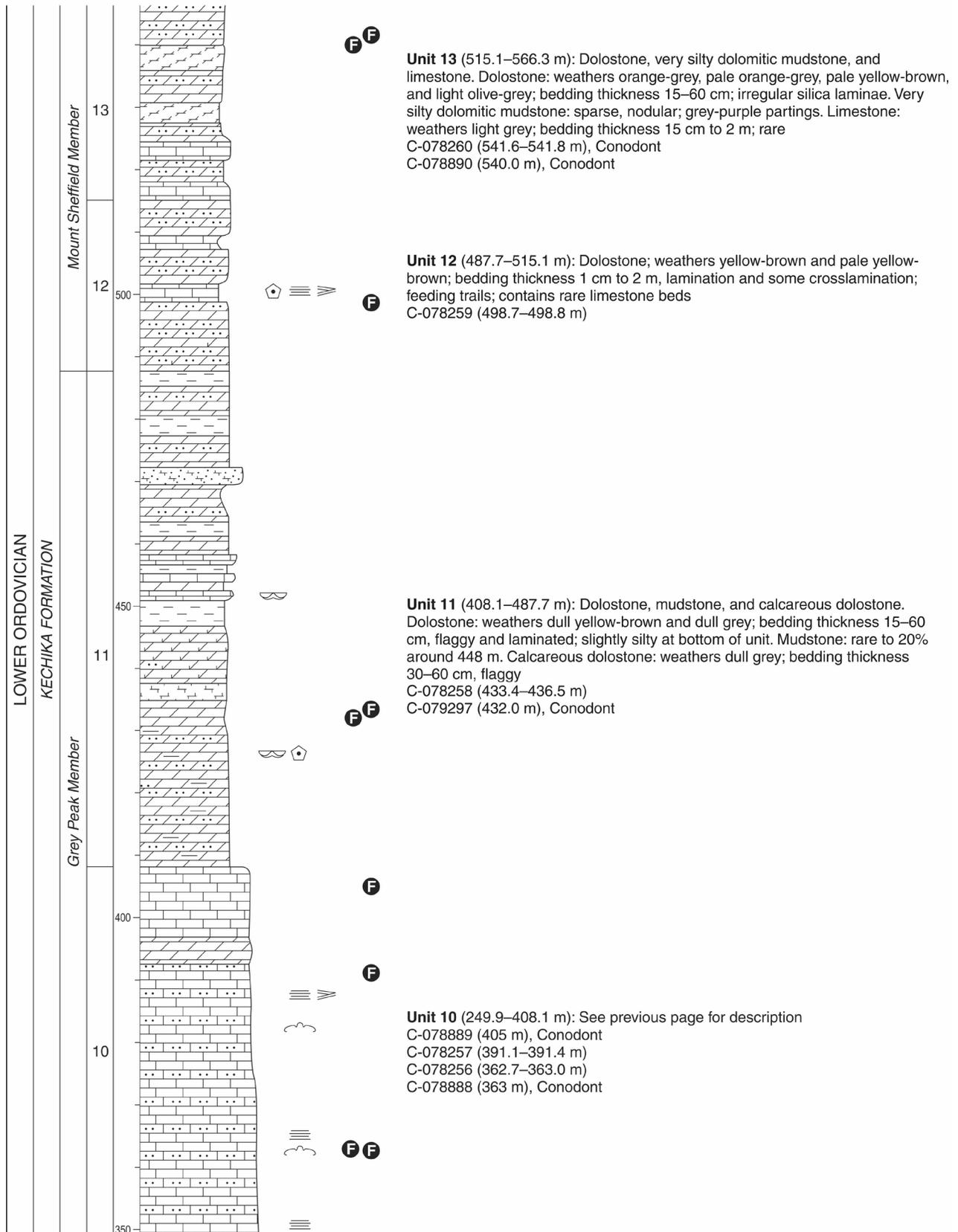


Figure A27. (Cont.) Muskwa River (note Section 1 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

MUSKWA RIVER SECTION, page 4 of 5

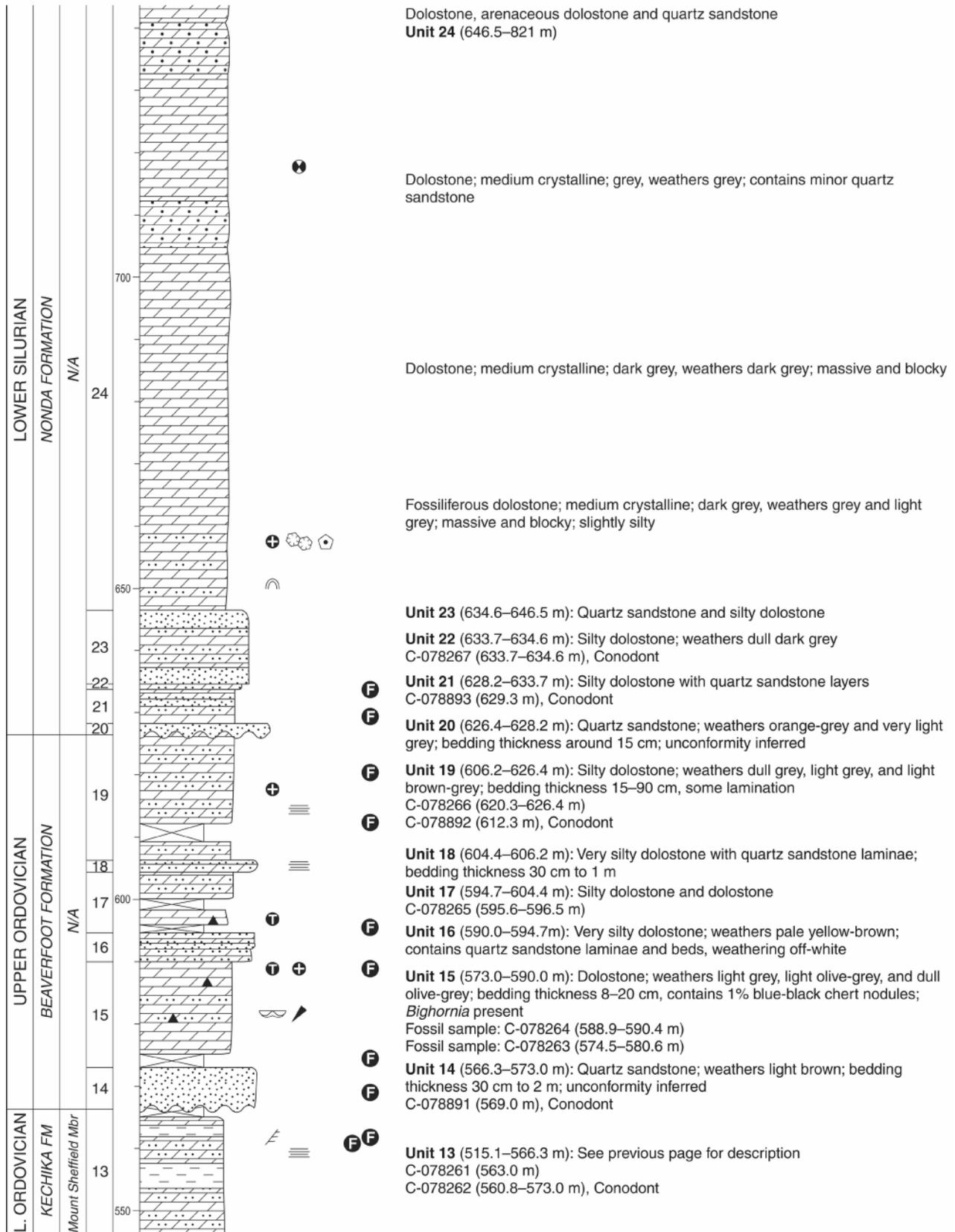


Figure A27. (Cont.) Muskwa River (note Section 1 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

MUSKWA RIVER SECTION, page 5 of 5

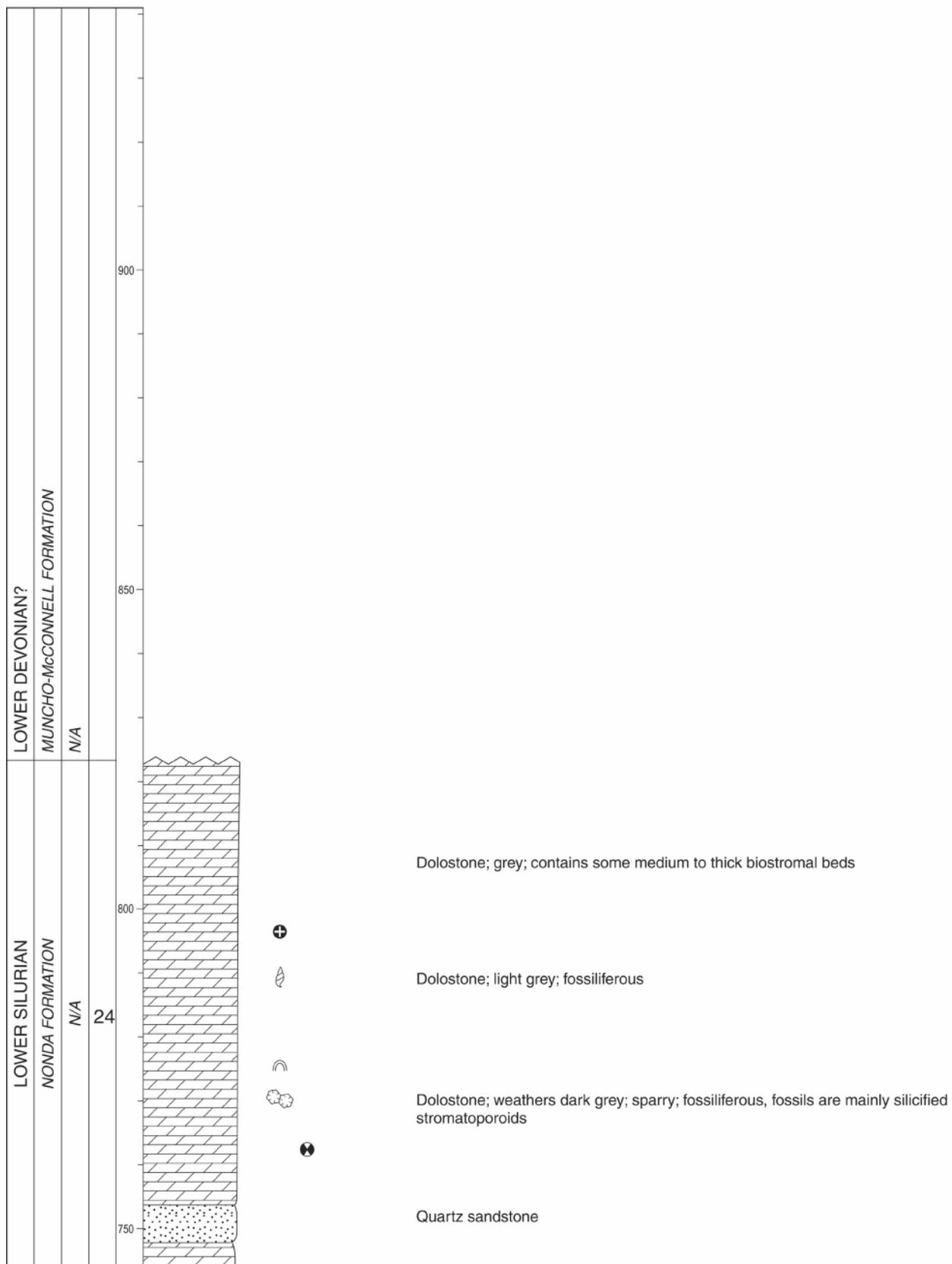


Figure A27. (Cont.) Muskwa River (note Section 1 of Cecile and Norford, 1979, p. 221; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

LITTLE LAKE SECTION

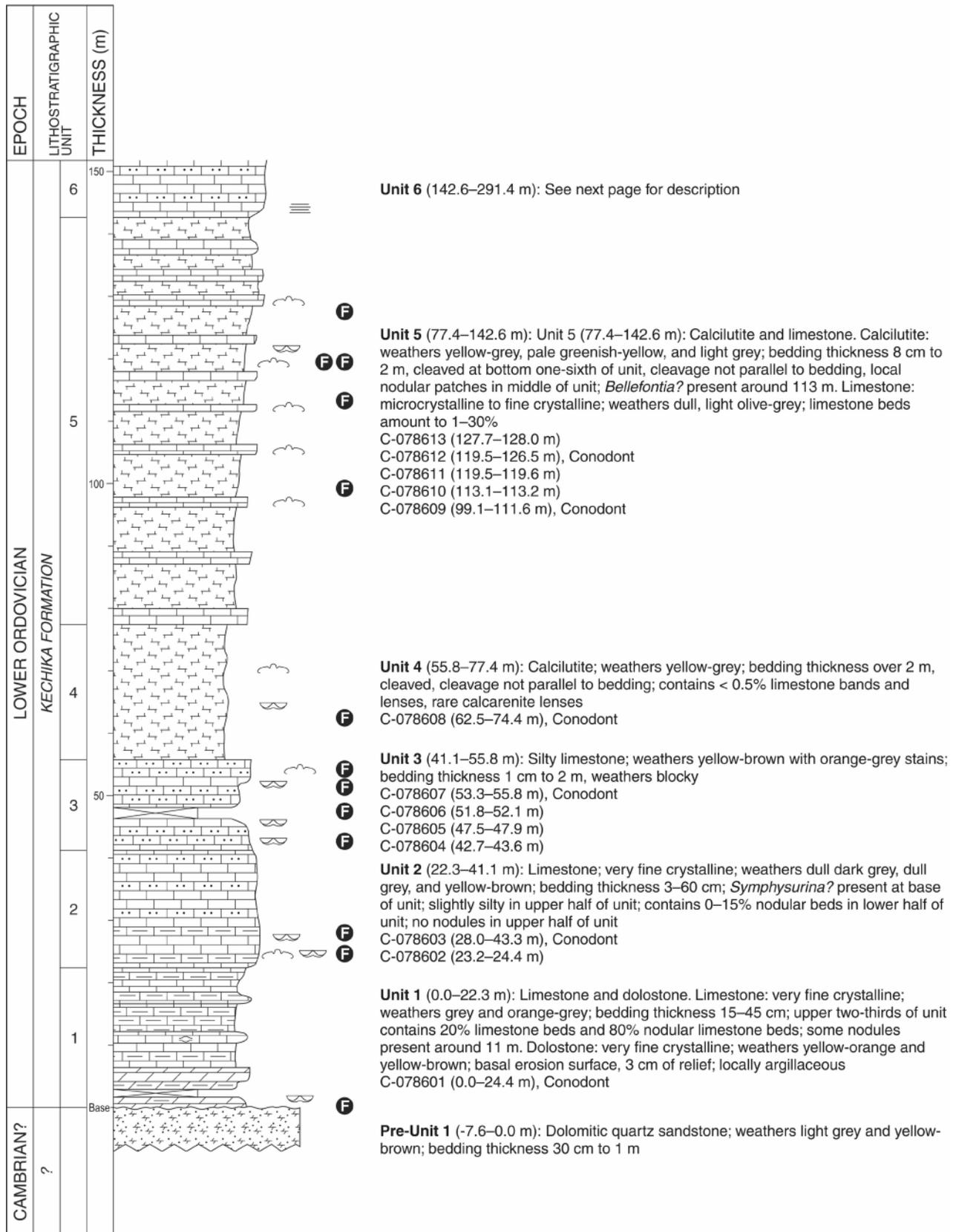


Figure A28. Little Lake.

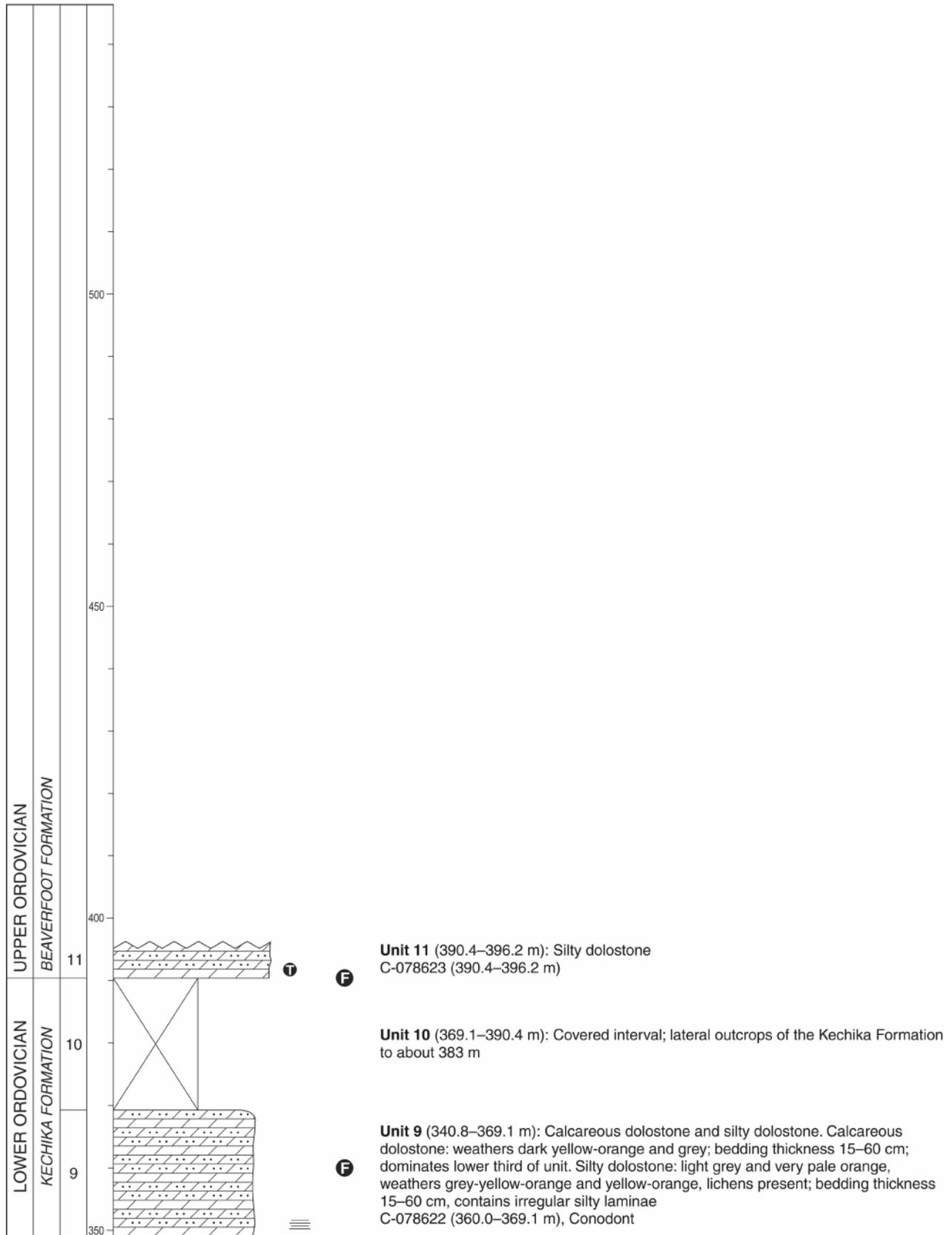


Figure A28. (Cont.) Little Lake.

GATHTO CREEK SOUTH SECTION

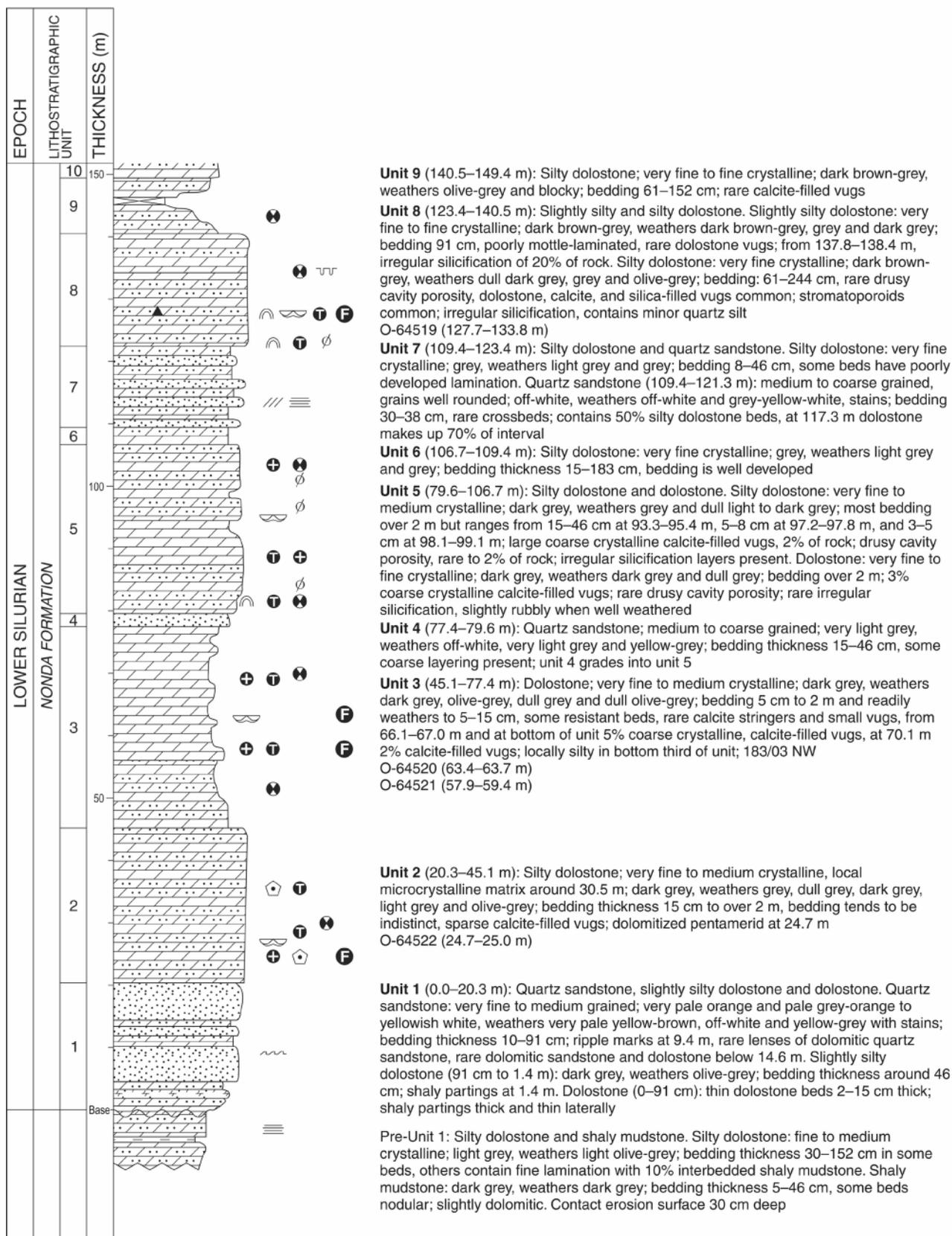


Figure A29. Gathto Creek South (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

GATHTO CREEK SOUTH SECTION, page 2 of 2

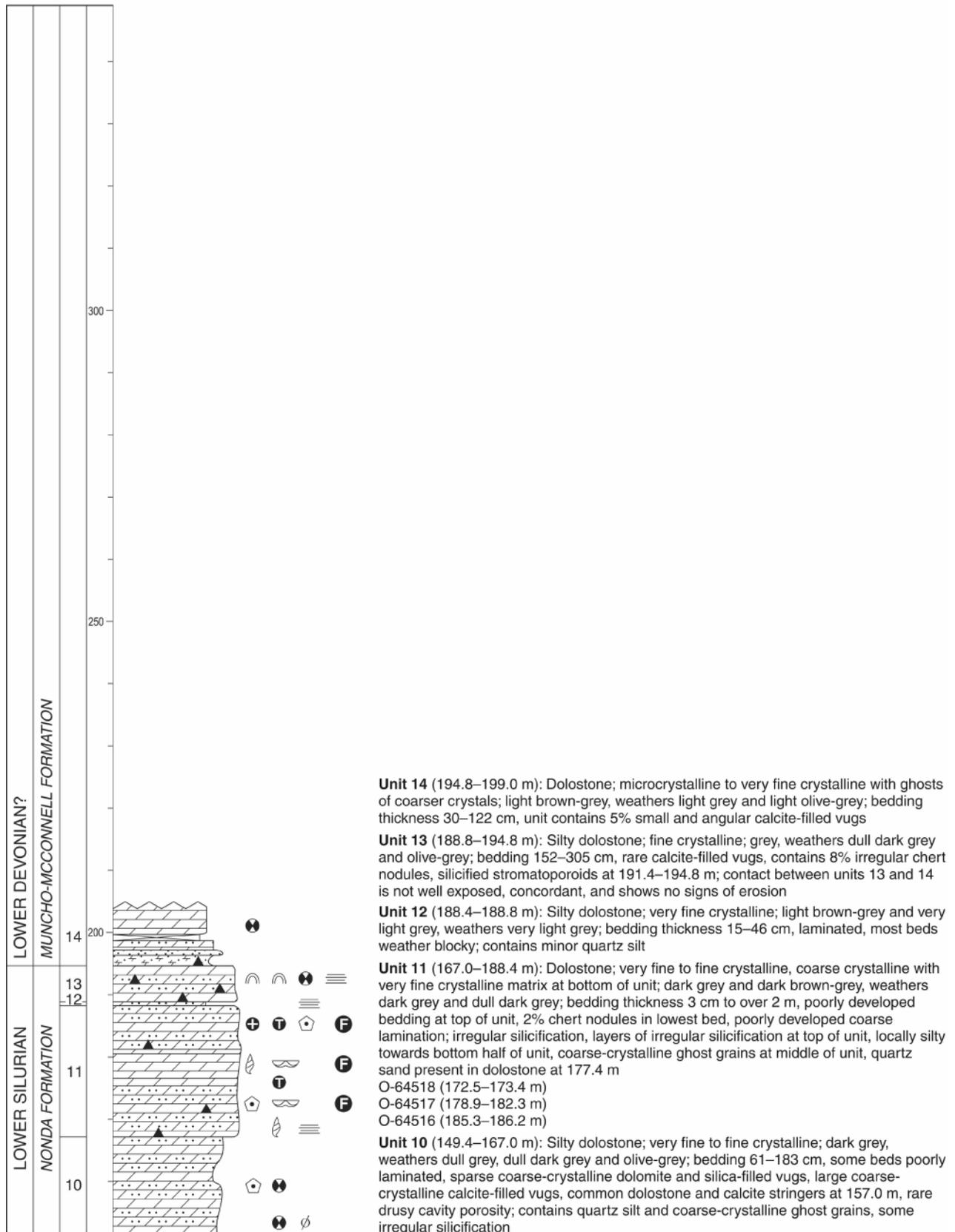


Figure A29. (Cont.) Gathto Creek South (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

TUCHODI RIVER SECTION

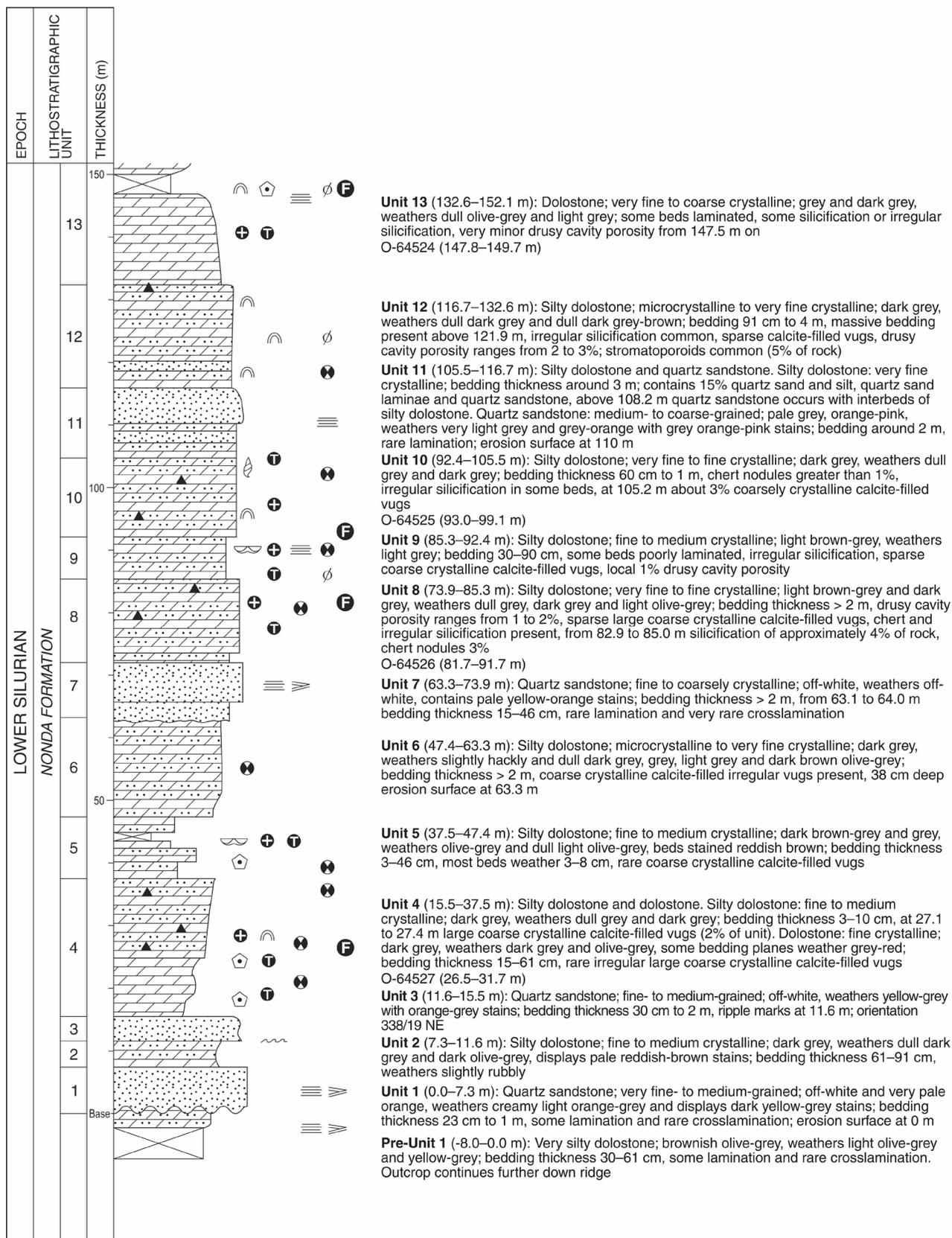


Figure A30. Tuchodi River (note Norford, 1991, p. 52).

TUCHODI RIVER SECTION, page 2 of 2

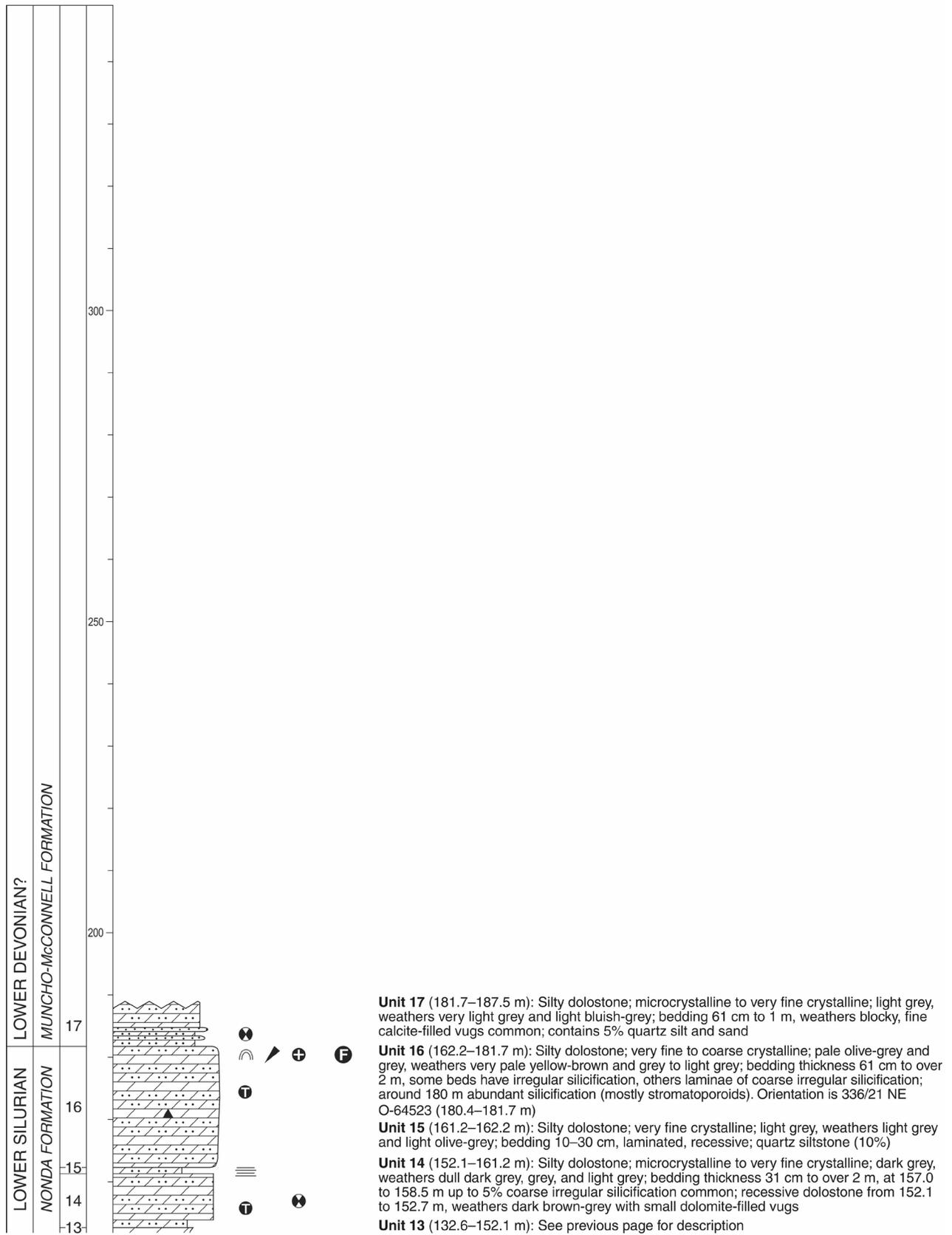


Figure A30. (Cont.) Tuchodi River (note Norford, 1991, p. 52).

DEVEREUX PEAK SECTION

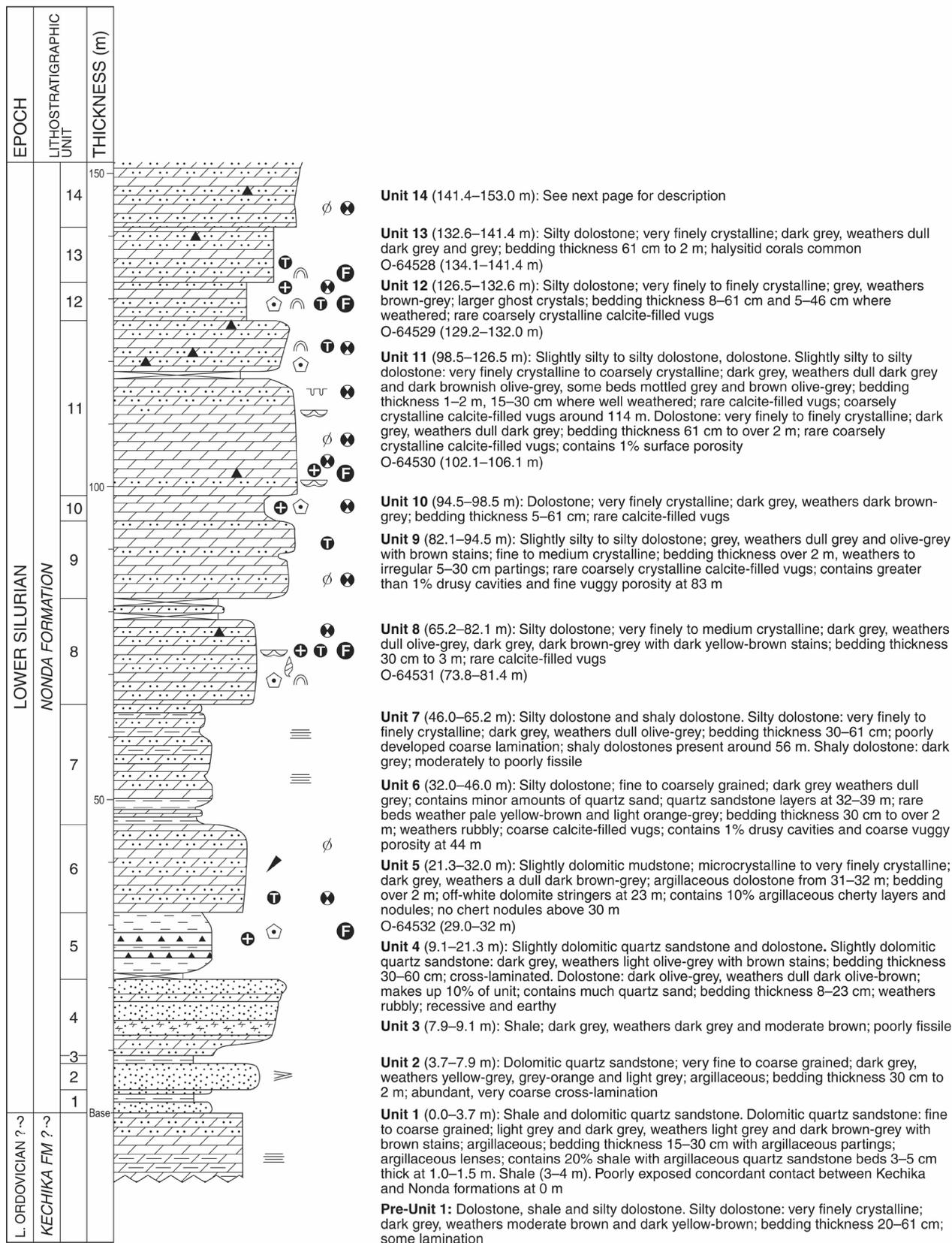


Figure A31. Devereux Peak (renamed, previously was Mount Stalin North, note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford 1991, p. 52).

DEVEREUX PEAK SECTION, page 2 of 2

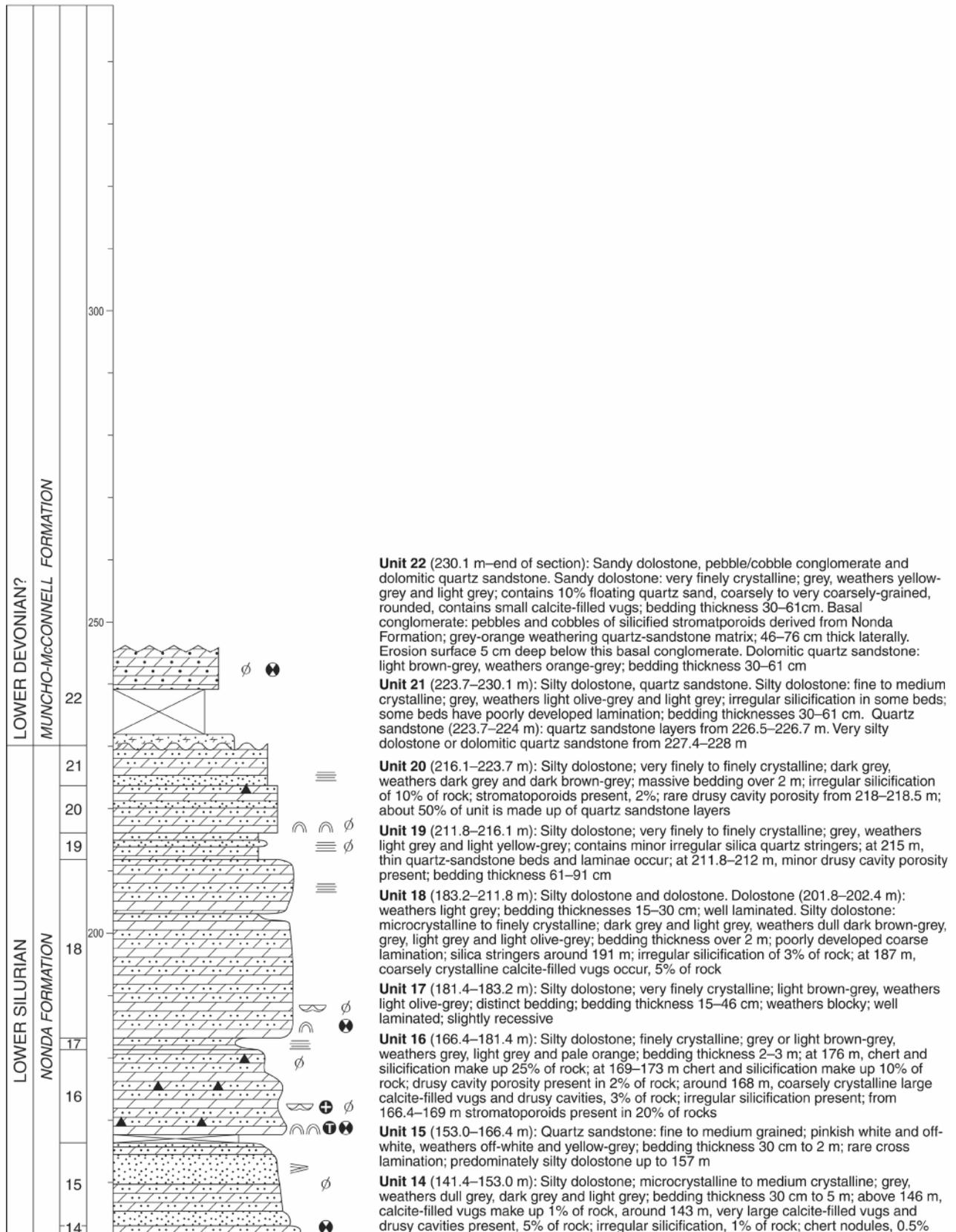


Figure A31. (Cont.) Devereux Peak (renamed, previously was Mount Stalin North, note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford 1991, p. 52).

MOUNT MARY HENRY SECTION

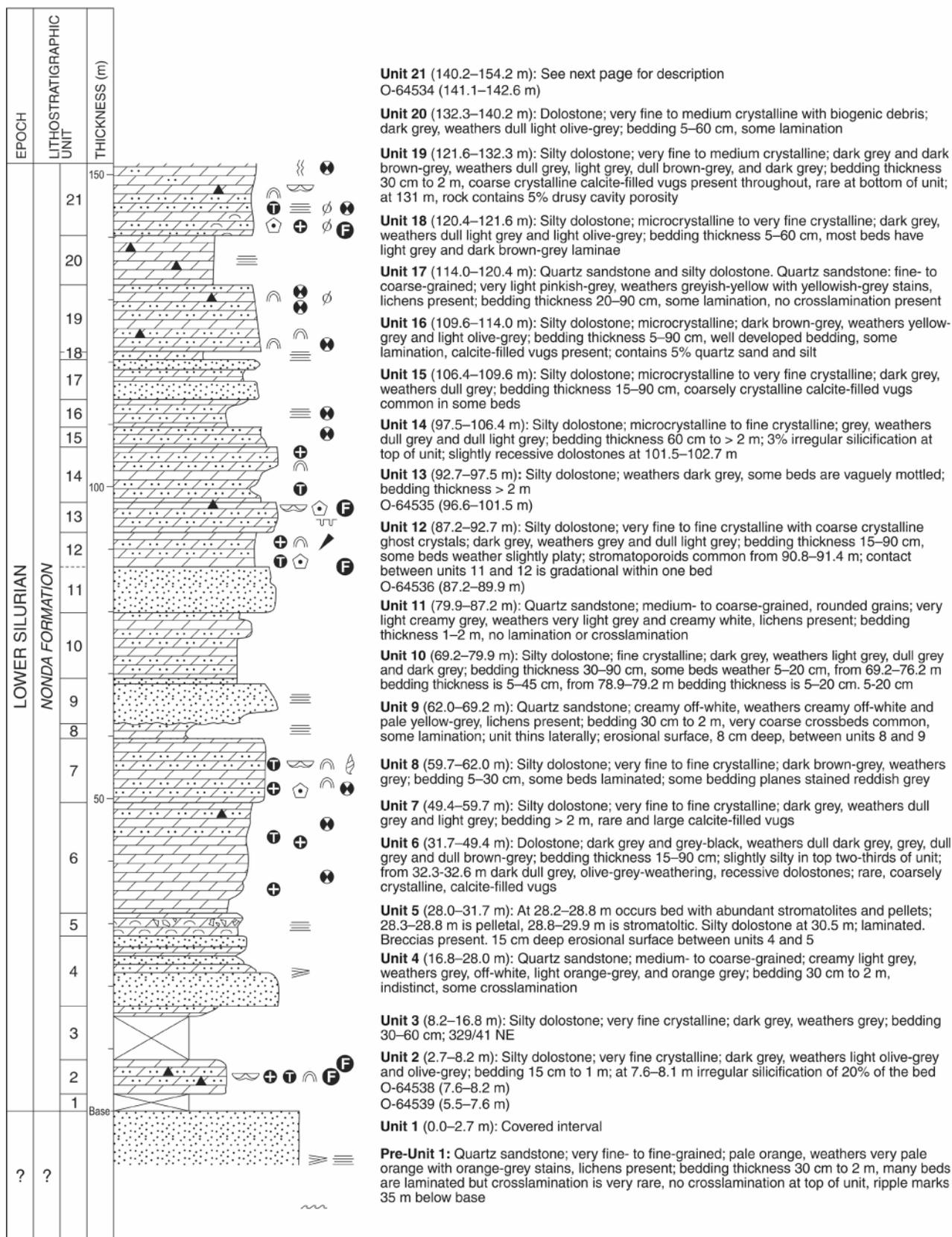


Figure A32. Mount Mary Henry (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508; Norford, 1991, p. 52).

MOUNT ST. GEORGE SECTION

Section was measured in two segments that are about 1 kilometre apart, these two segments are matched here at the top of Unit 7.

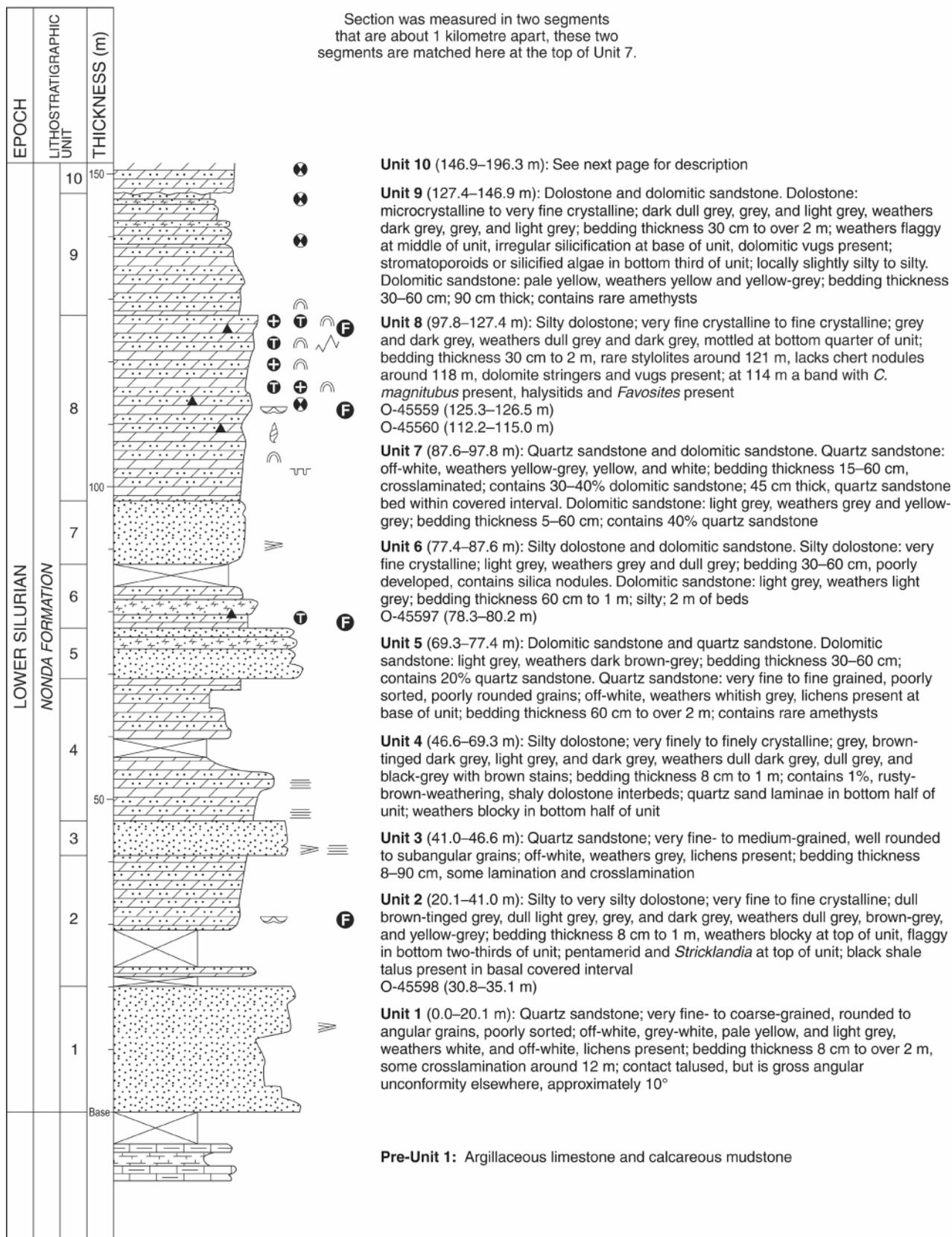


Figure A33. Mount St. George (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

MOUNT ST. GEORGE SECTION, page 2 of 2

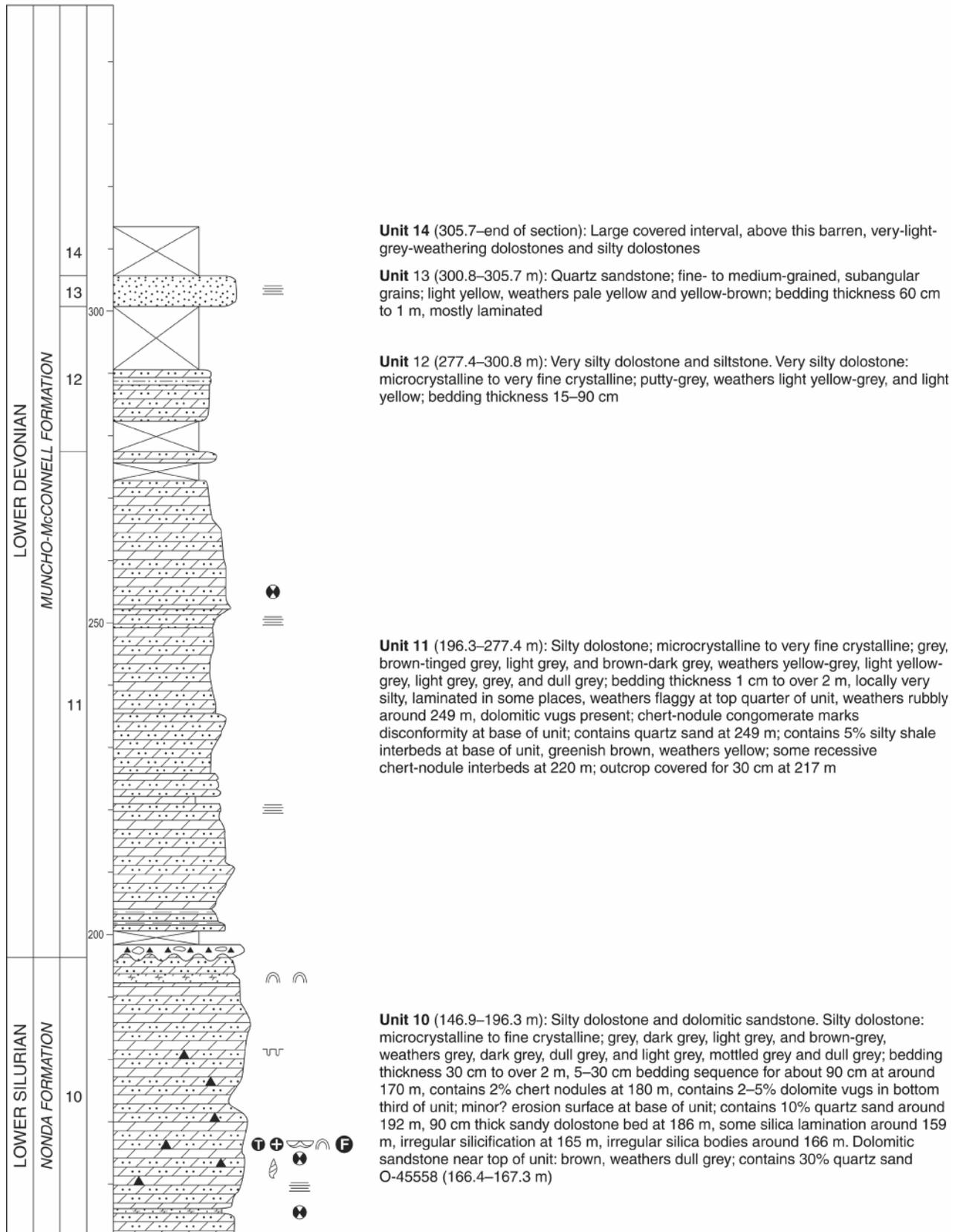


Figure A33. (Cont.) Mount St. George (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

RACING RIVER SECTION

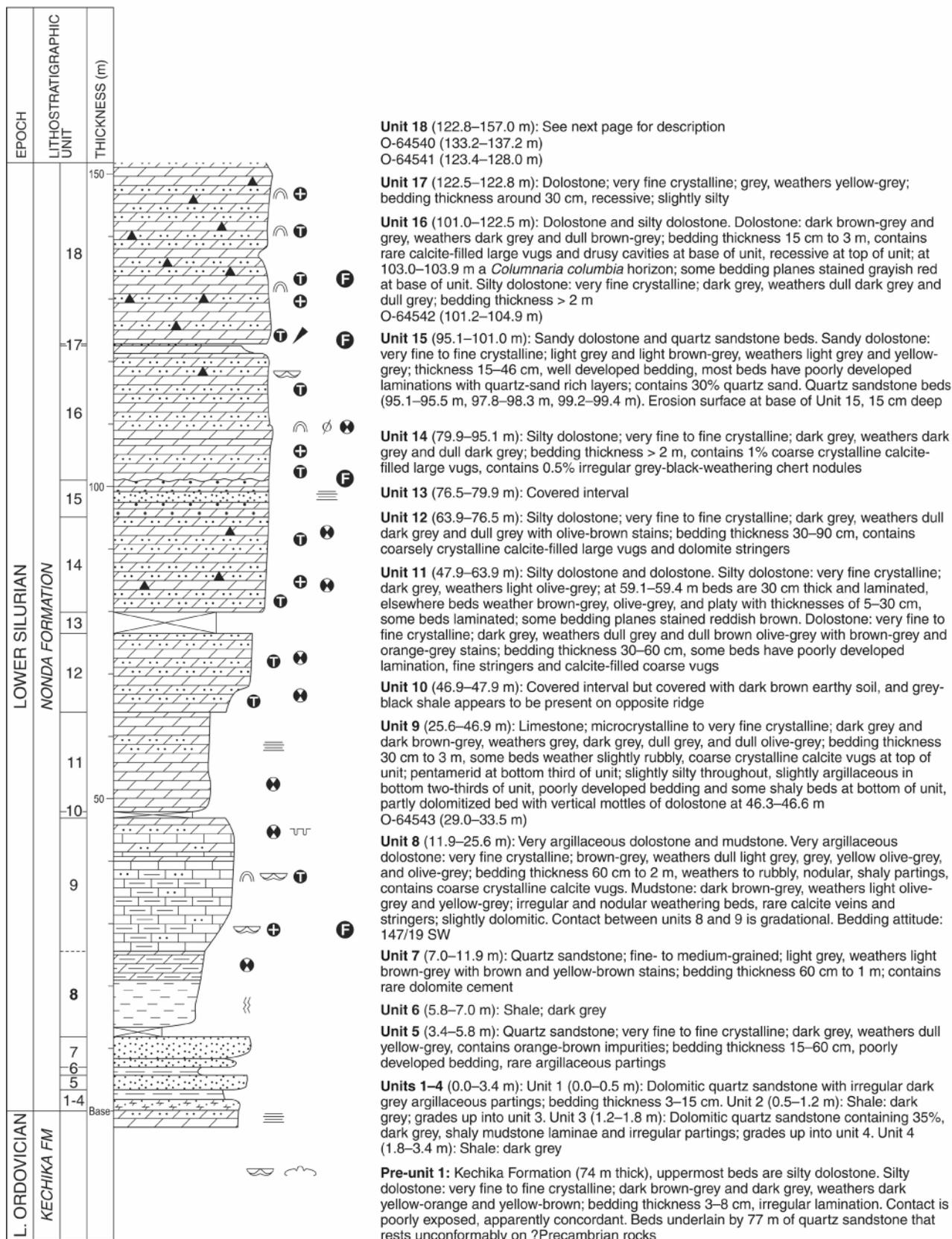


Figure A34. Racing River (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

RACING RIVER SECTION, page 2 of 2

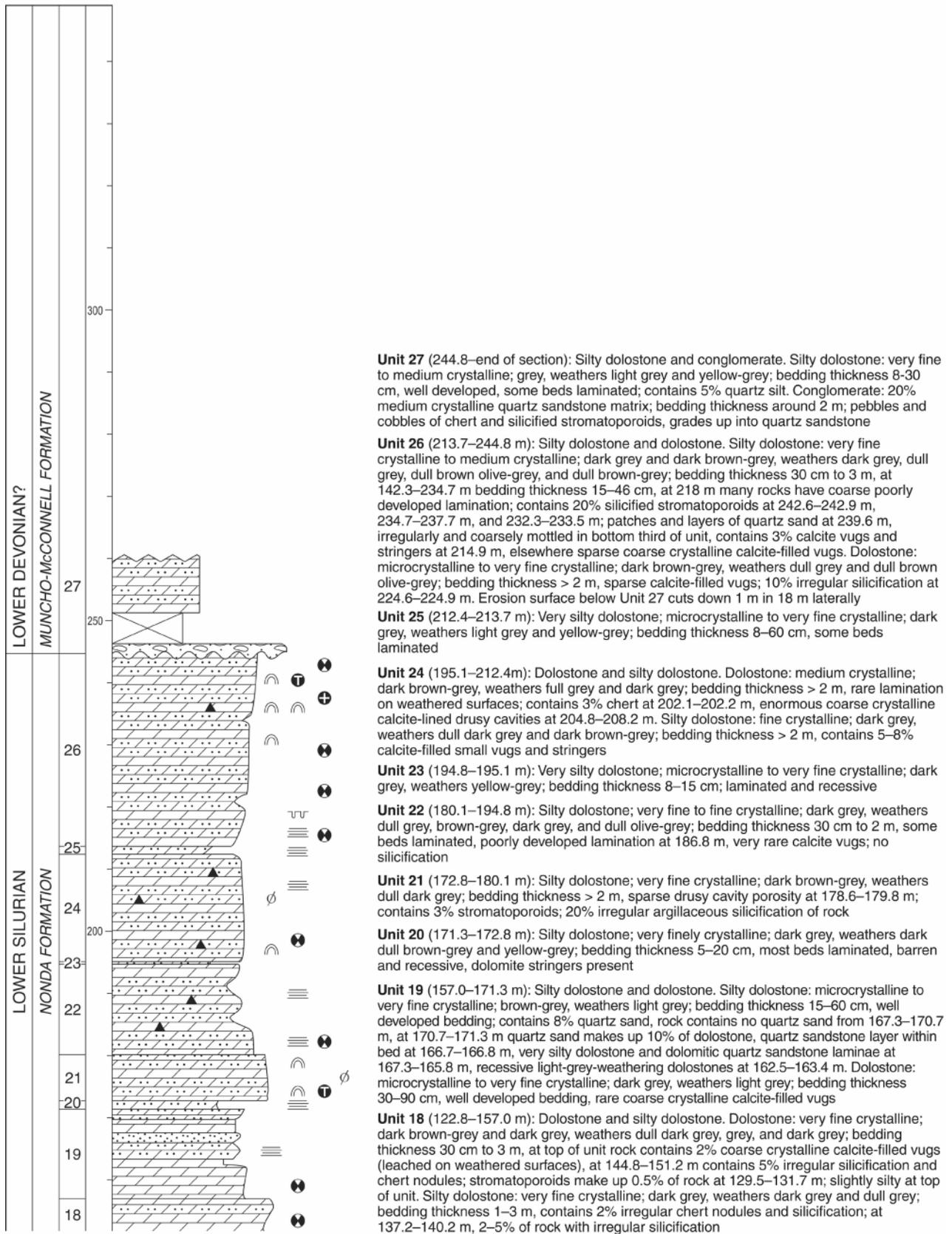


Figure A34. (Cont.) Racing River (note Norford et al., 1967, p. 508).

LUE CREEK SECTION, SECTION #123

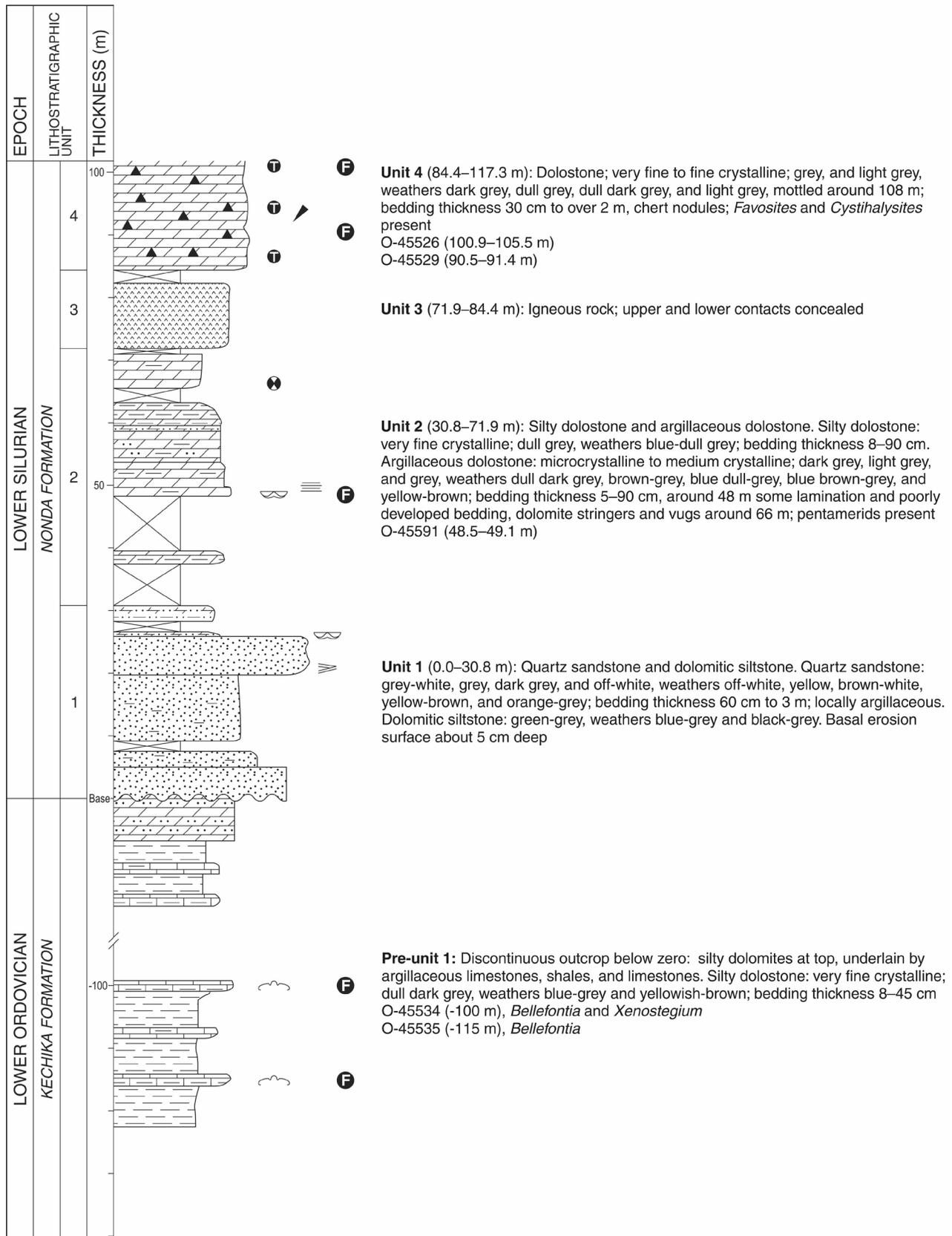


Figure A35. Lue Creek.

LUE CREEK SECTION, page 2 of 2

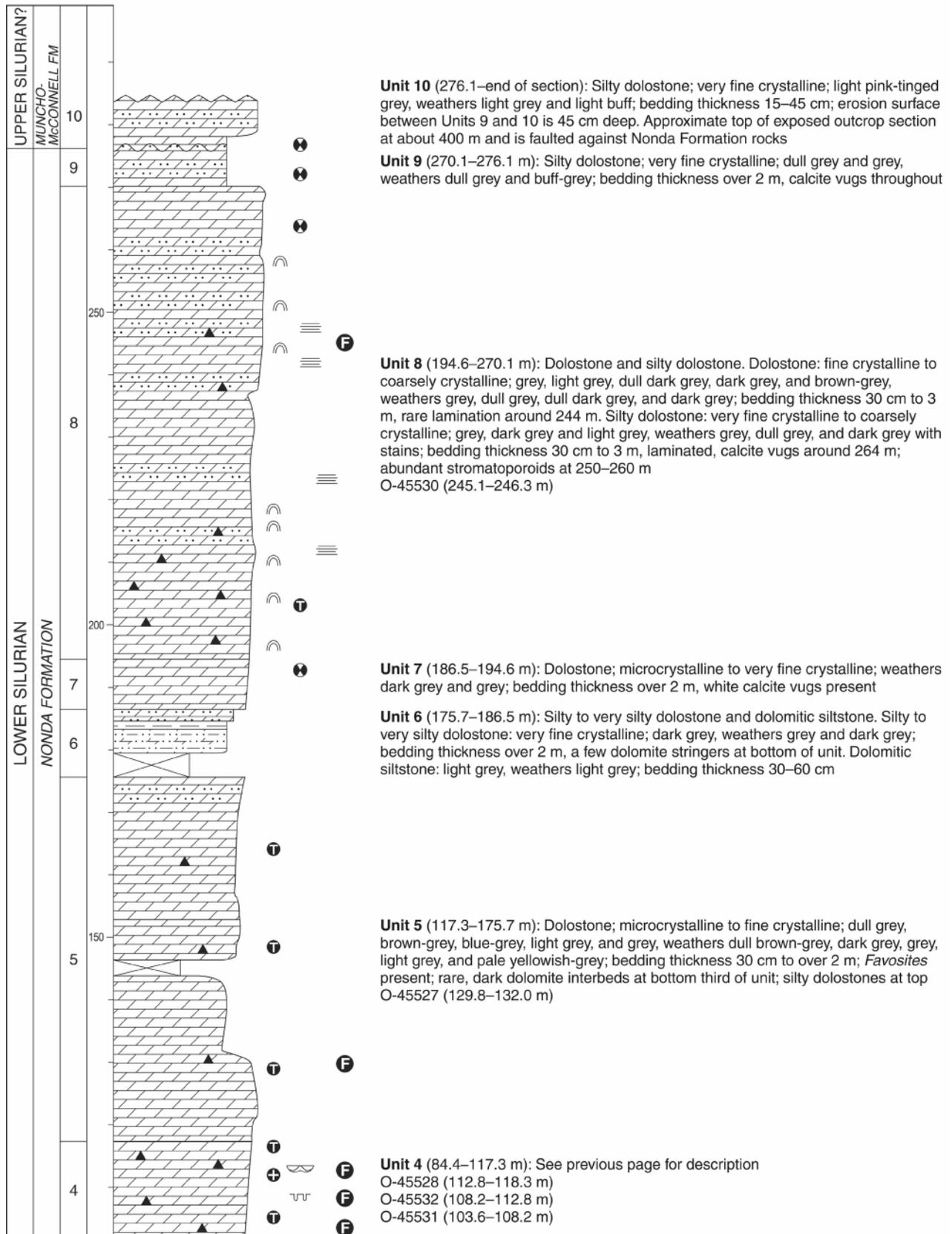


Figure A35. (Cont.) Lue Creek.

MOUNT BURDEN SECTION

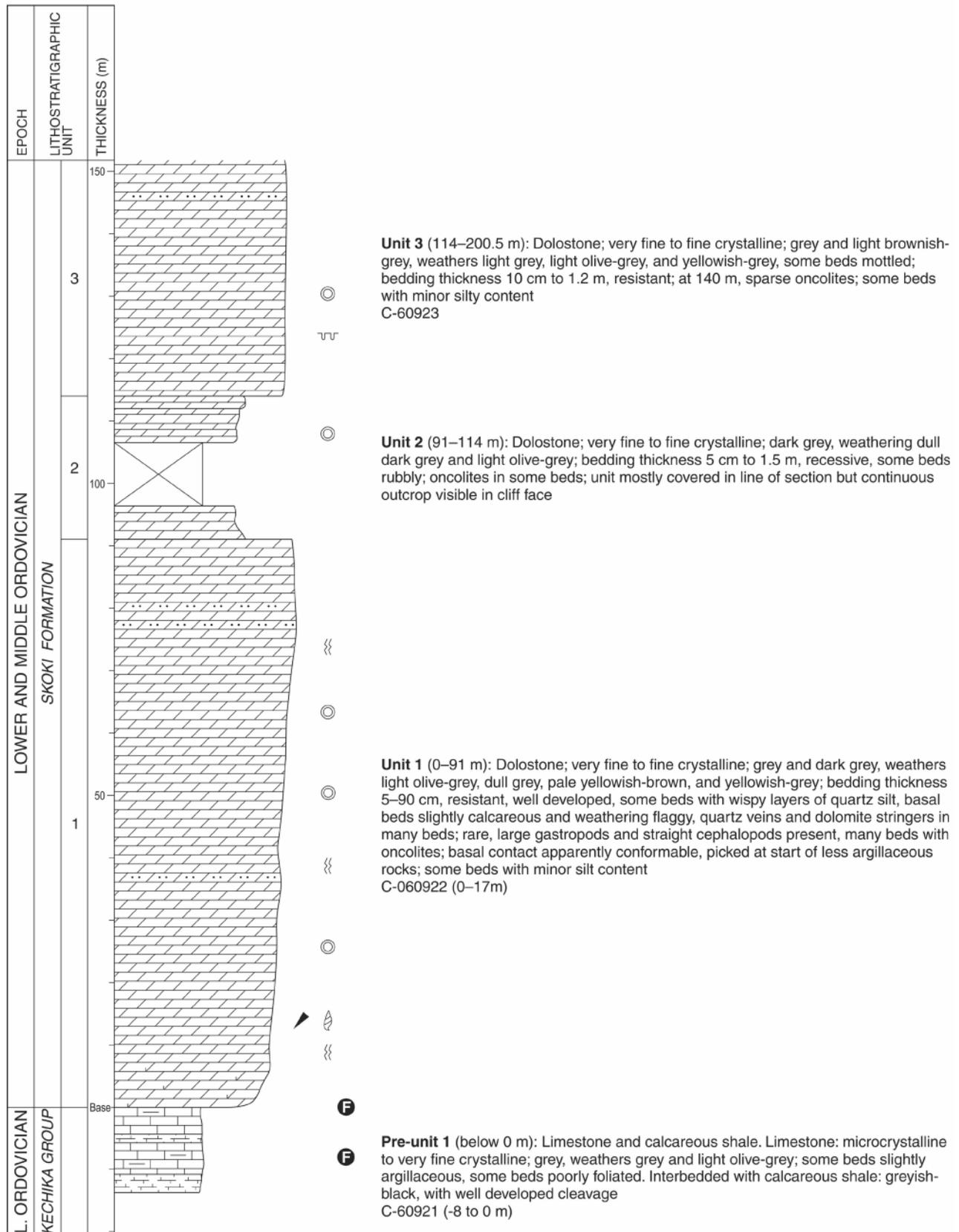


Figure A36. Mount Burden (note Norford, 1991, p. 51–52; 1996, p. 7, 15–17).

MOUNT BURDEN SECTION, page 2 of 2

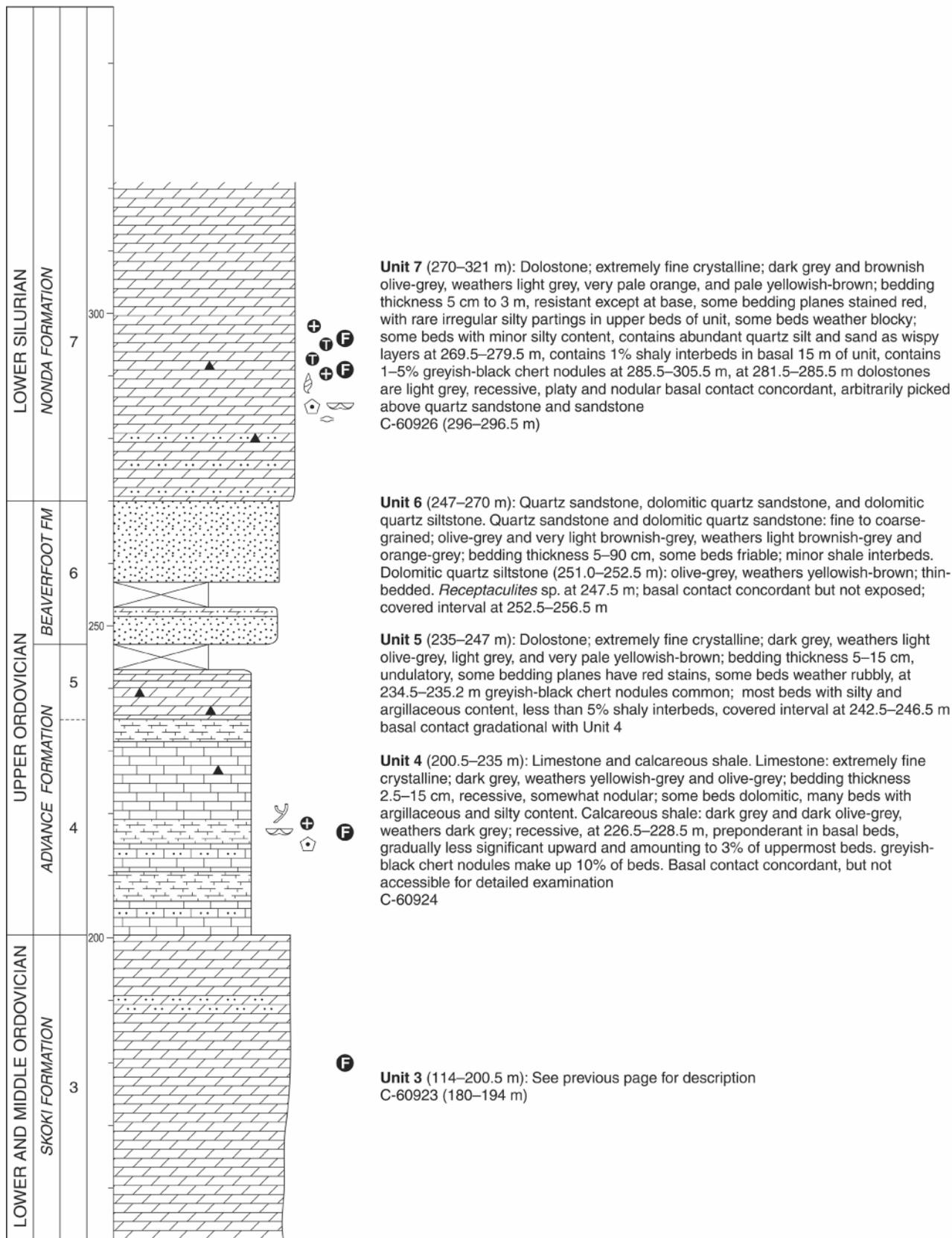


Figure A36. (Cont.) Mount Burden (note Norford, 1991, p. 51–52; 1996, p. 7, 15–17).

MOUNT HUNTER SECTION

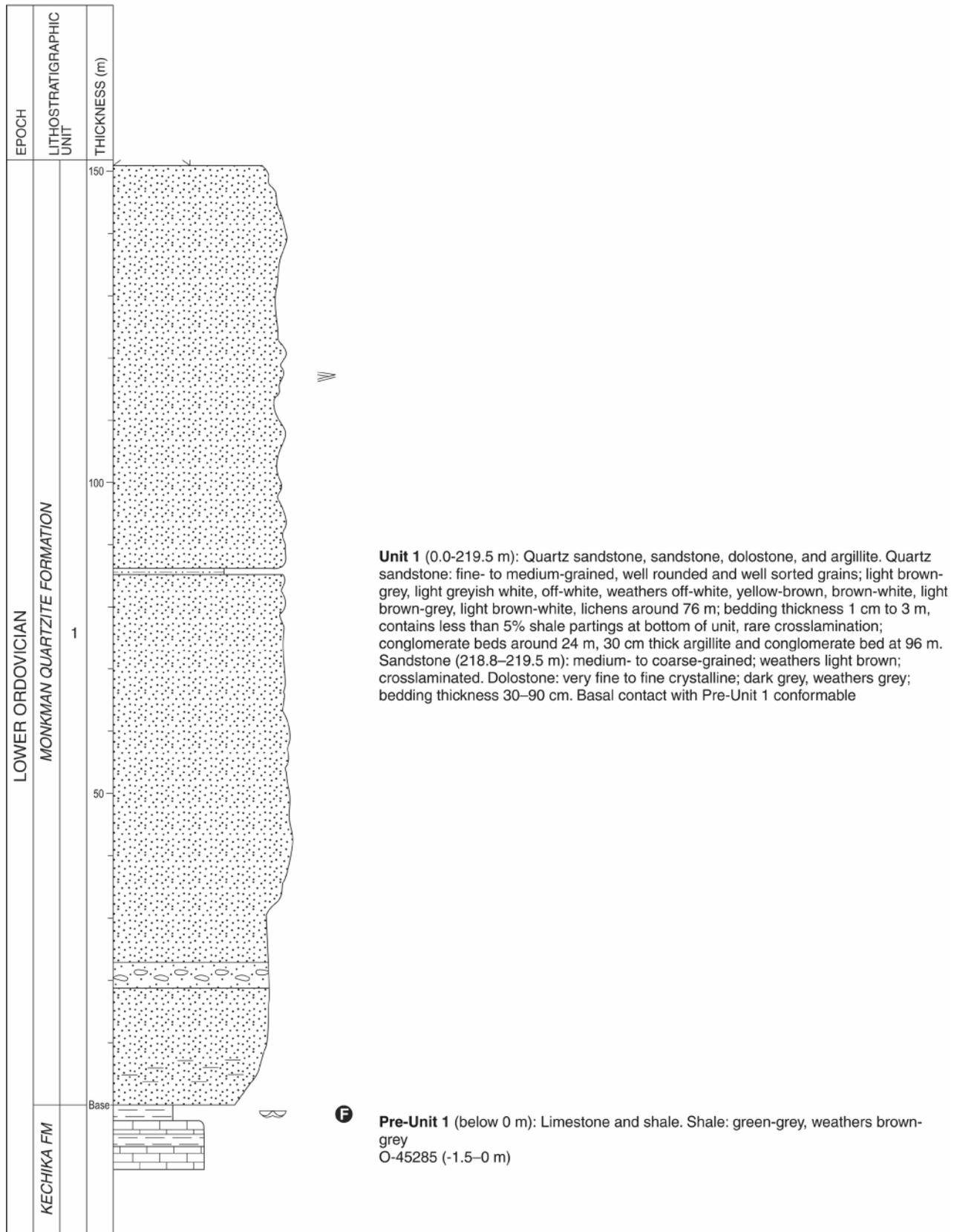


Figure A37. Mount Hunter (note Norford 1965, p. 46, 47).

MOUNT HUNTER SECTION, page 2 of 7

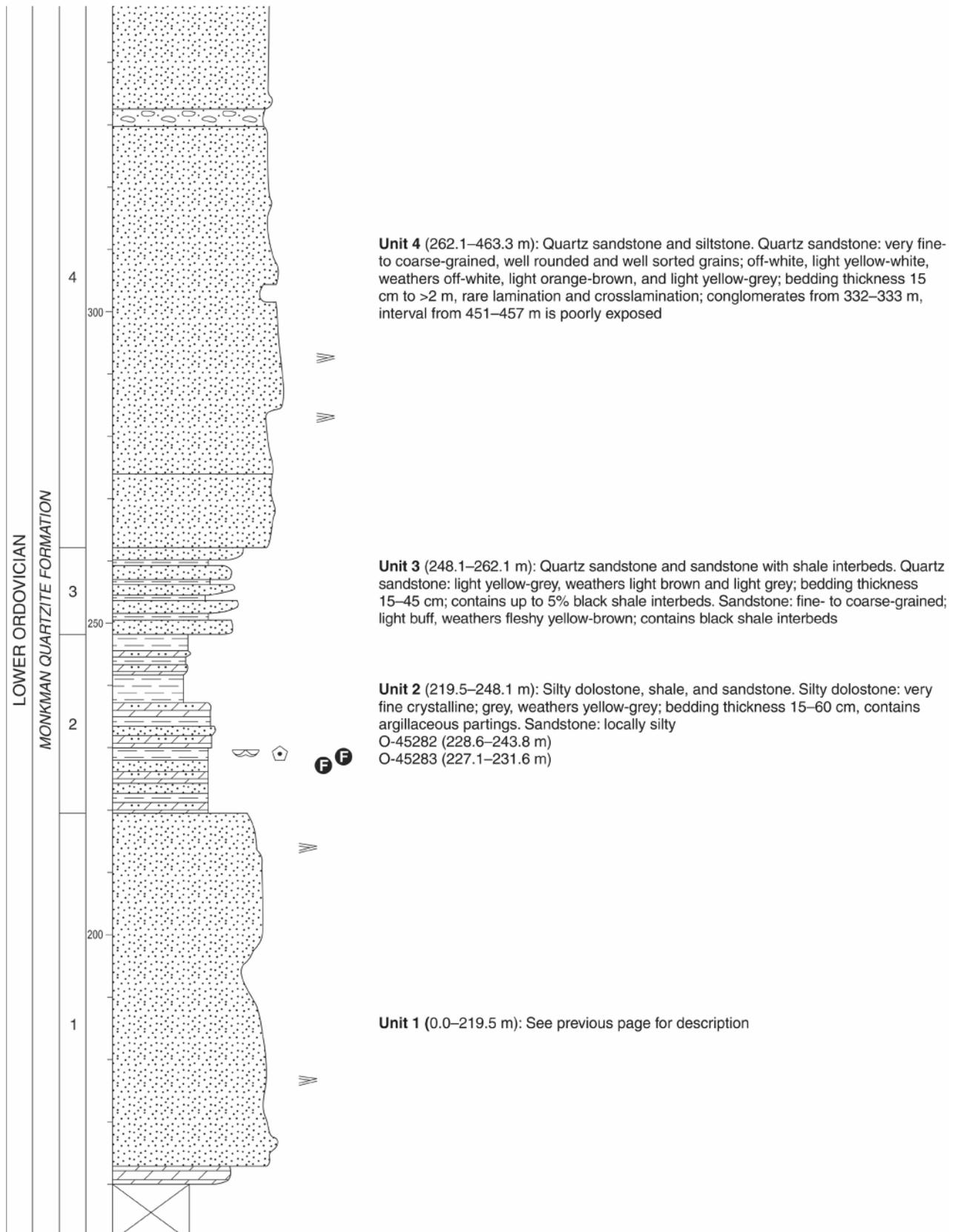
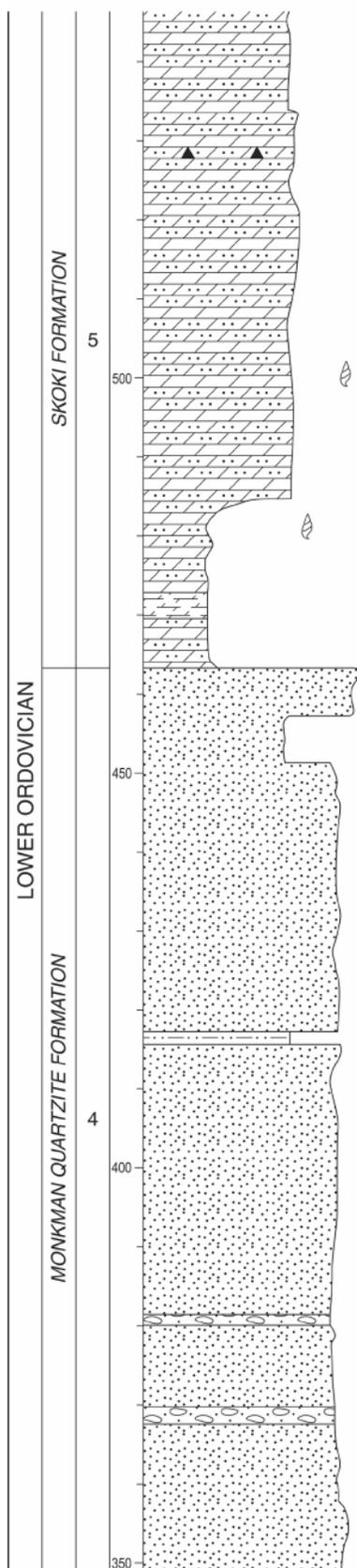


Figure A37. (Cont.) Mount Hunter (note Norford 1965, p. 46, 47).

MOUNT HUNTER SECTION, page 3 of 7



Unit 5 (463.3–609.6 m): Silty dolostone, siltstone, and dolomitic shale. Silty dolostone: microcrystalline to fine crystalline; dark grey, grey, light grey, and dull grey, weathers yellow-grey, dull grey, dark yellow-grey, and black-grey; bedding thickness 3 cm to 2 m, locally argillaceous, contains some sand grains around 564 m; weathers rubbly from 521–570 m, bedding attitude 123/52W; ghost gastropods at 497 and 512 m, borings immediately beneath erosion surface at top of unit; siltstone: 20% of rock is dolomitic and argillaceous

Unit 4 (262.1–463.3 m): See previous page for description

Figure A37. (Cont.) Mount Hunter (note Norford 1965, p. 46, 47).

MOUNT HUNTER SECTION, page 4 of 7

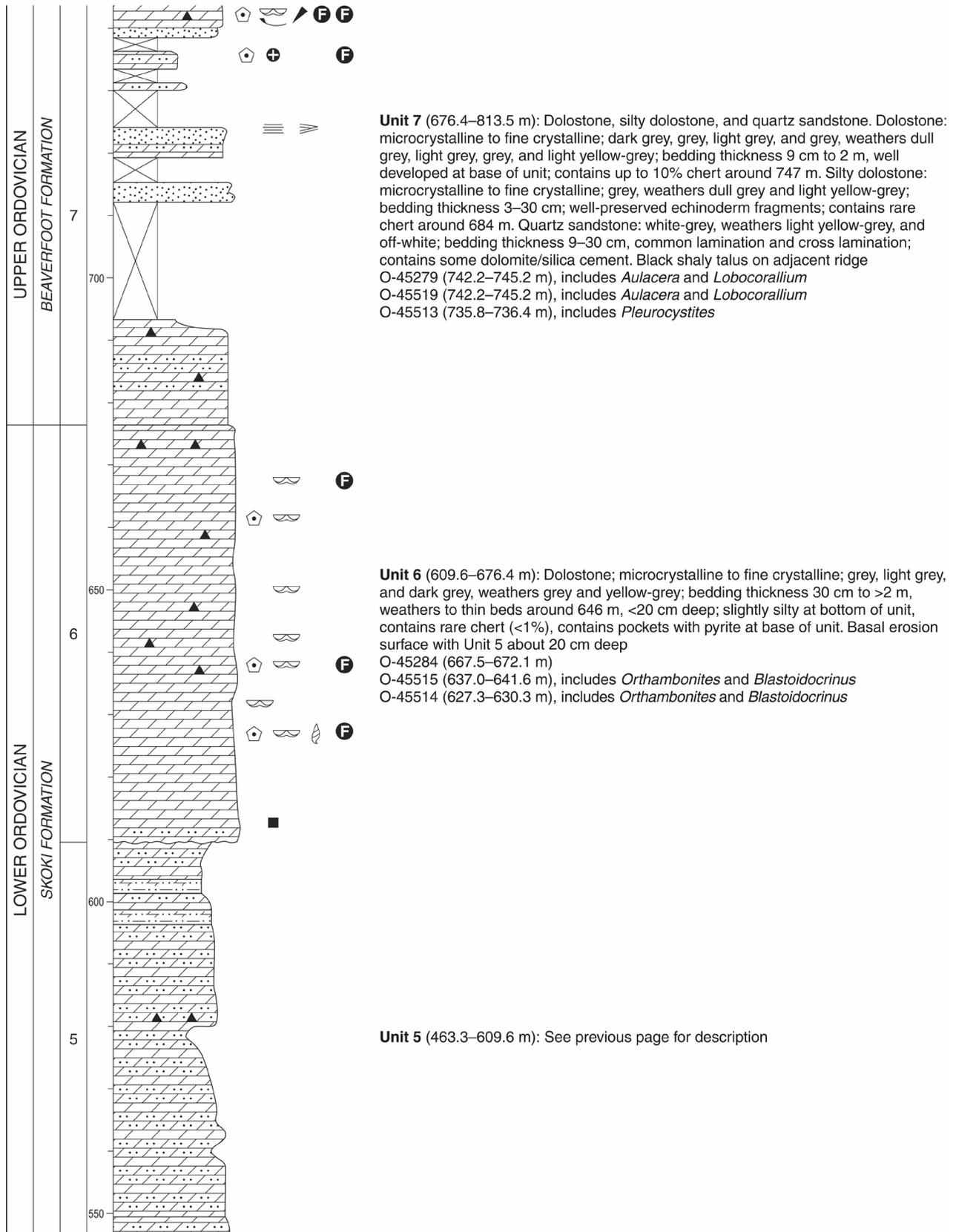
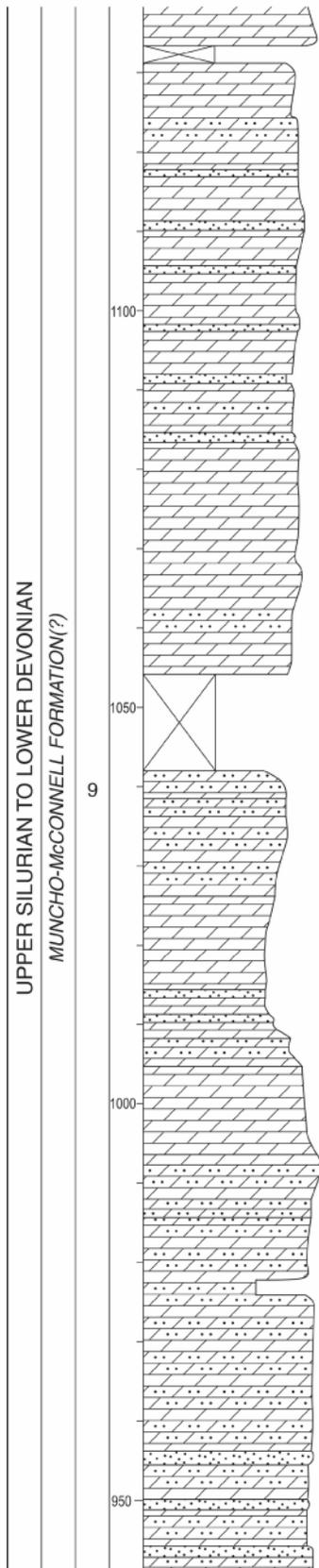


Figure A37. (Cont.) Mount Hunter (note Norford 1965, p. 46, 47).

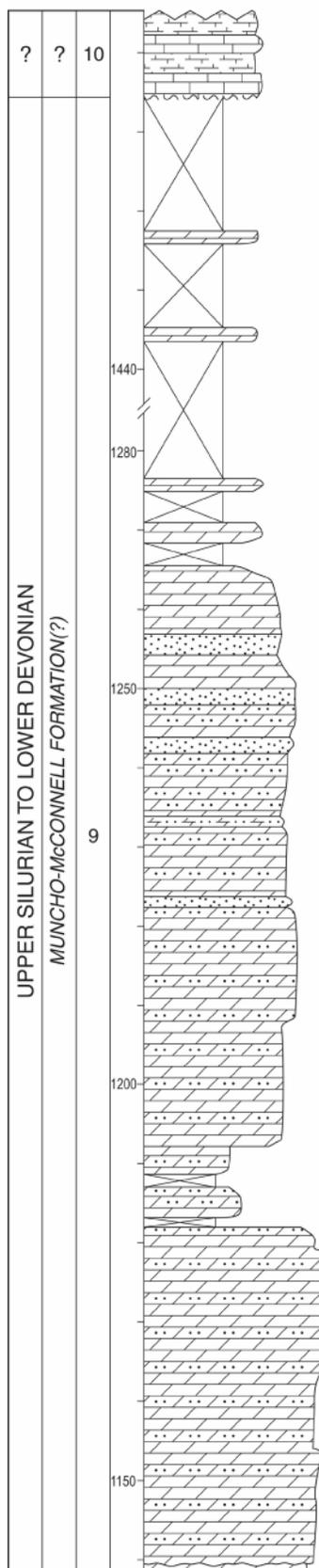
MOUNT HUNTER SECTION, page 6 of 7



Unit 9 (906.0–1474.6 m): Silty dolostone, dolostone, and dolomitic siltstone. Silty dolostone: microcrystalline to fine crystalline; light grey, grey, dark grey, weathers light grey, light yellow-grey, white-grey, yellow-grey, and yellow-brown; bedding thickness 15 cm to >2 m; contains 2–40% sandstone beds, up to 5% dark grey dolostone beds around 1213 m. Dolostone: microcrystalline to fine crystalline; light grey, dark grey, grey, light brown-grey, weathers light grey, dull grey, yellow-grey, and white-grey; bedding thickness 8 cm to 3 m; contains 5–15% sandstone beds, very fine- to coarse-grained quartz sand makes up 70% of rock at 1087 m, at 1158 m rock contains up to 5% sand grains, 3 cm deep erosion surface at 1145 m. Dolomitic siltstone: light grey, weathers light yellow-grey; bedding thickness 9–30 cm. Large covered interval from 1276.5–1474.6 m, represented by outcrop for most of interval, in low ridge near valley floor

Figure A37. (Cont.) Mount Hunter (note Norford 1965, p. 46, 47).

MOUNT HUNTER SECTION, page 7 of 7



Unit 10 (1474.6 end of section): Calcareous shale, limestone, and phyllites. Thrust fault postulated at 1474.6 m

Unit 9 (906.0–1474.6 m): See previous page for description

Figure A37. (Cont.) Mount Hunter (note Norford 1965, p. 46, 47).

An unnamed Proterozoic map unit, Pool Creek map area (NTS 95-C/5), southeasternmost Yukon

R.B. MacNaughton¹

MacNaughton, R.B., 2017. An unnamed Proterozoic map unit, Pool Creek map area (NTS 95C/5), southeasternmost Yukon; in Central Foreland NATMAP Project: Proterozoic to Devonian stratigraphic sections in British Columbia and Yukon, (ed.) L.S. Lane and R.B. MacNaughton; Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin 603, p. 205–222. <https://doi.org/10.4095/299867>

Abstract: An unnamed map unit in central Pool Creek map area (NTS 95-C/5) is dominated by green-weathering argillite with lesser sandstone and breccia. The map unit rocks were hornfelsed during emplacement of the Pool Creek syenite at ca. 640 to 650 Ma and thus it is Neoproterozoic or older. A detailed measured section through part of the unit documented three facies associations (FAs). The ‘argillite FA’ is dominated by hornfelsed siltstone and shale, with minor sandstone. Volumetrically, it is the most significant of the three facies associations. The ‘argillite and sandstone FA’ contains the same rock types but a greater proportion of sandstone. Both facies associations were probably deposited mainly from turbidity currents, with lesser input from hemipelagic processes and sandy debris flows. In contrast, the ‘breccia FA’ consists of intraformational to basalt-clast breccia. It records deposition from debris flows. Soft-sediment deformation, including large-scale slump folding, is prevalent throughout the measured interval. The map unit was deposited on a deep-marine slope.

Résumé : Dans la partie centrale de la région cartographique de Pool Creek (feuille 95-C/5 du SNRC), une unité cartographique non dénommée est composée principalement d’argilite à patine d’altération de couleur verte et d’une quantité moindre de grès et de brèche. Les roches de l’unité cartographique ont été transformées en cornéennes lors de la mise en place de la syénite de Pool Creek vers 650–640 Ma; cette unité date donc au moins du Néoprotérozoïque. Une coupe mesurée à l’échelle du détail qui recoupe une partie de l’unité rend compte de trois associations de faciès. L’« association de faciès à argilite » se compose surtout de siltstone et de shale ainsi que d’une faible quantité de grès transformés en cornéennes. D’un point de vue volumétrique, il s’agit de l’association de faciès la plus importante. L’« association de faciès à argilite et à grès » contient les mêmes types de roche, mais avec une plus grande proportion de grès. Le dépôt de ces deux associations de faciès s’est probablement effectué en grande partie par des courants de turbidité et, dans une moindre mesure, par des processus hémipélagiques et des coulées de débris sableuses. En revanche, l’« association de faciès à brèche » est constituée de roches fragmentaires allant d’une brèche intraformationnelle à une brèche à clastes de basalte. Le dépôt de ces roches se serait effectué par des coulées de débris. Dans tout l’intervalle mesuré, on constate l’existence généralisée d’une déformation de sédiments meubles, qui s’exprime notamment par des plis de glissement à grande échelle. L’unité cartographique s’est déposée sur un talus en milieu marin profond.

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INTRODUCTION

This contribution provides detailed log and photographic documentation of a measured section through part of an argillite-dominated succession in Pool Creek map area (NTS 95-C/5; Figure 1). Douglas and Norris (1959; *see also* Douglas, 1976) recognized a map unit dominated by green-weathering argillite (their map unit 1) that was tentatively interpreted to be of Proterozoic age, possibly Helikian. During 2000–2001, mapping carried out by L.C. Pigage and T.L. Allen of the Yukon Geology Program (now the Yukon Geological Survey) as part of the Central Foreland NATMAP Project, clarified the distribution of this unit (Fig. 2) and its stratigraphic context (Allen et al., 2001; Pigage and Allen, 2001; Fallas et al., 2004). The unit is unnamed; herein, it is referred to as the ‘argillite unit.’

The unit is best exposed along a ridge that lies above the treeline in the central part of Pool Creek map area (Fig. 3). As part of the mapping effort in this map area during 2000, the author spent two days measuring a detailed stratigraphic section (Fig. 4) through a reasonably well exposed part of the unit. A preliminary version of this stratigraphic section, without detailed notes, was published by Allen et al. (2001).

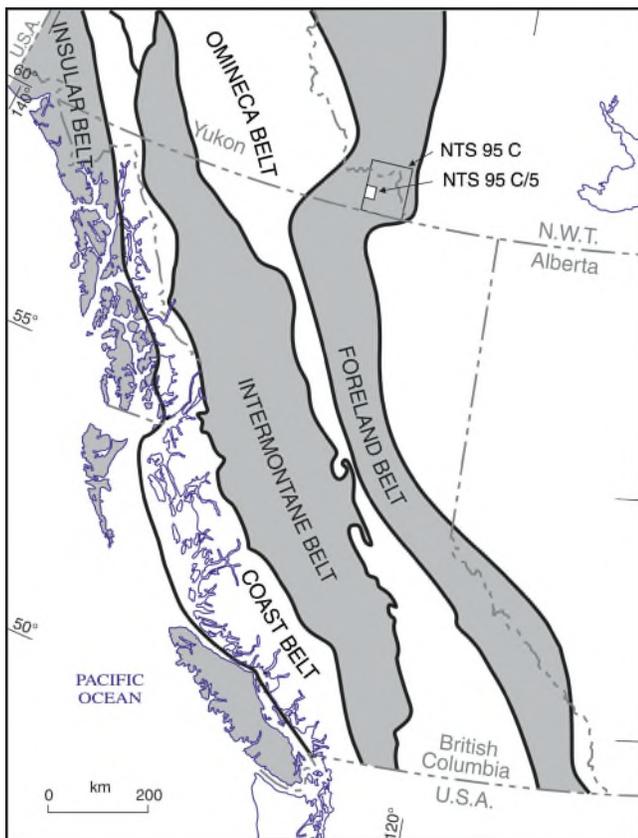


Figure 1. Position of study area within the Cordilleran foreland belt. La Biche River (NTS 95C) and Pool Creek (NTS 95C/5) map areas are labelled.

More recently, a detailed account of the sedimentology and regional significance of the argillite unit (MacNaughton et al., 2017) was based in large part on data from this section.

The base of the argillite unit has not been observed. The argillite unit is overlain by the Crow Formation (Pigage, 2009), a sandstone-dominated map unit that has yielded Tremadocian (Early Ordovician) to early Whiterockian (early Middle Ordovician) conodonts (GSC loc. C-417068; McCracken, 2003). Bedding in the argillite unit dips moderately to the northeast and southeast, defining a broad, open synform that plunges to the east-southeast (Fig. 2), whereas bedding in the overlying map unit dips roughly eastward (Fallas et al., 2004). Thus, the upper contact of the argillite unit is apparently an angular unconformity.

AGE OF THE ARGILLITE UNIT

The Proterozoic age tentatively assigned to this unit by Douglas and Norris (1959) was based on lithological similarity between the unit and Proterozoic formations in Alberta, particularly the Appekuni Formation (Willis, 1902). Subsequent work has provided a more robust basis for dating the succession. An intrusion of unfoliated, coarsely crystalline nepheline syenite, known informally as the Pool Creek syenite (Harrison, 1982), crops out immediately north of the argillite unit (Fig. 2). Zircons from the Pool Creek syenite have yielded isotopic U/Pb dates that cluster around 640 to 650 Ma (Pigage and Mortensen, 2004). Both the argillite unit and an adjacent unit of Proterozoic sandstone and siltstone (Fig. 2; Fallas et al., 2004; Pigage 2009) have been hornfelsed. In addition, xenoliths of laminated argillite, which may have been derived from the argillite unit, have been observed within the Pool Creek syenite (D.W. Morrow, pers. comm., 2004). The nearby emplacement of an Eocene syenite seems not to have caused hornfelsing, because adjacent ?Cambrian–Ordovician and younger map units are unaffected. Thus the argillite unit is older than the Pool Creek syenite and must be of Neoproterozoic age or older. Detrital zircon data and lithostratigraphic considerations suggest that the argillite unit is correlative with the lower Windermere Supergroup (Pigage, 2009), possibly with non-glacial units of the Hay Creek Group (MacNaughton et al., 2017).

LOCATION AND METHODOLOGY

The section (section MWB-00-21; Fig. 4, 5) was measured by Jacob’s staff and was subdivided into units based on gross-scale variations in lithology. The base of the section is at co-ordinates 345620 E, 6695764 N (all co-ordinates given in this report are in UTM NAD 83). From its base, the section followed an irregular track to the southeast along the ridge, ending at co-ordinates 345903 E, 6695412 N. The quality of the outcrop was highly variable along the ridge and the section contained numerous covered or poorly exposed

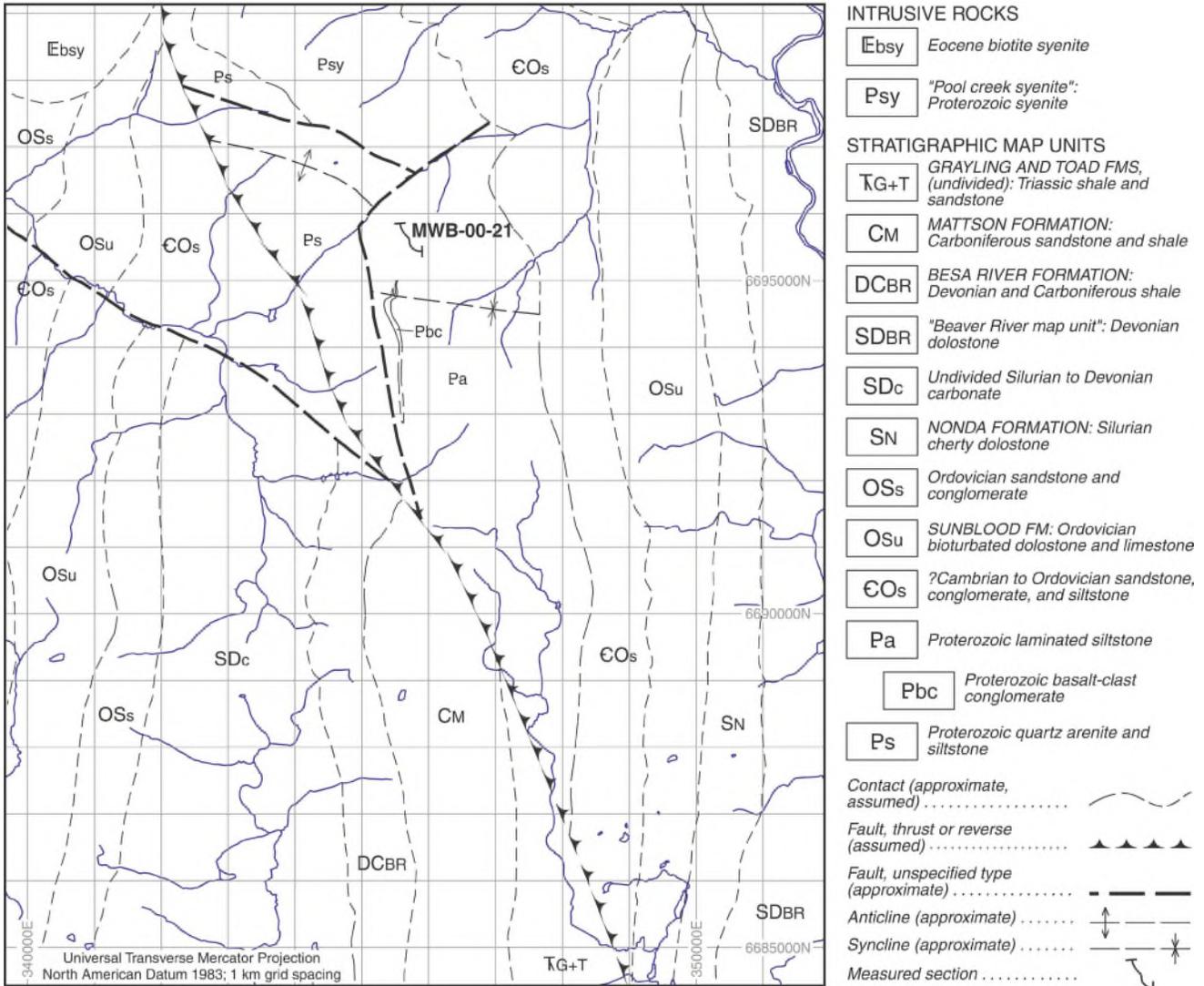


Figure 2. Simplified geological map of part of central Pool Creek map area; trace of section MWB-00-21 is labelled. The argillite unit is labelled as map unit Pa. Map unit Pbc is a locally mappable, red-weathering, basalt-clast conglomerate, possibly a submarine channel fill, which occurs within the argillite unit but was not encountered along the track of the measured section. Map modified after Pigage and Allen (2001) and Fallas et al. (2004).



Figure 3. Photograph of ridge along which section was measured. Oblique aerial view, looking westward. 2010-071

SECTION MWB-00-21A

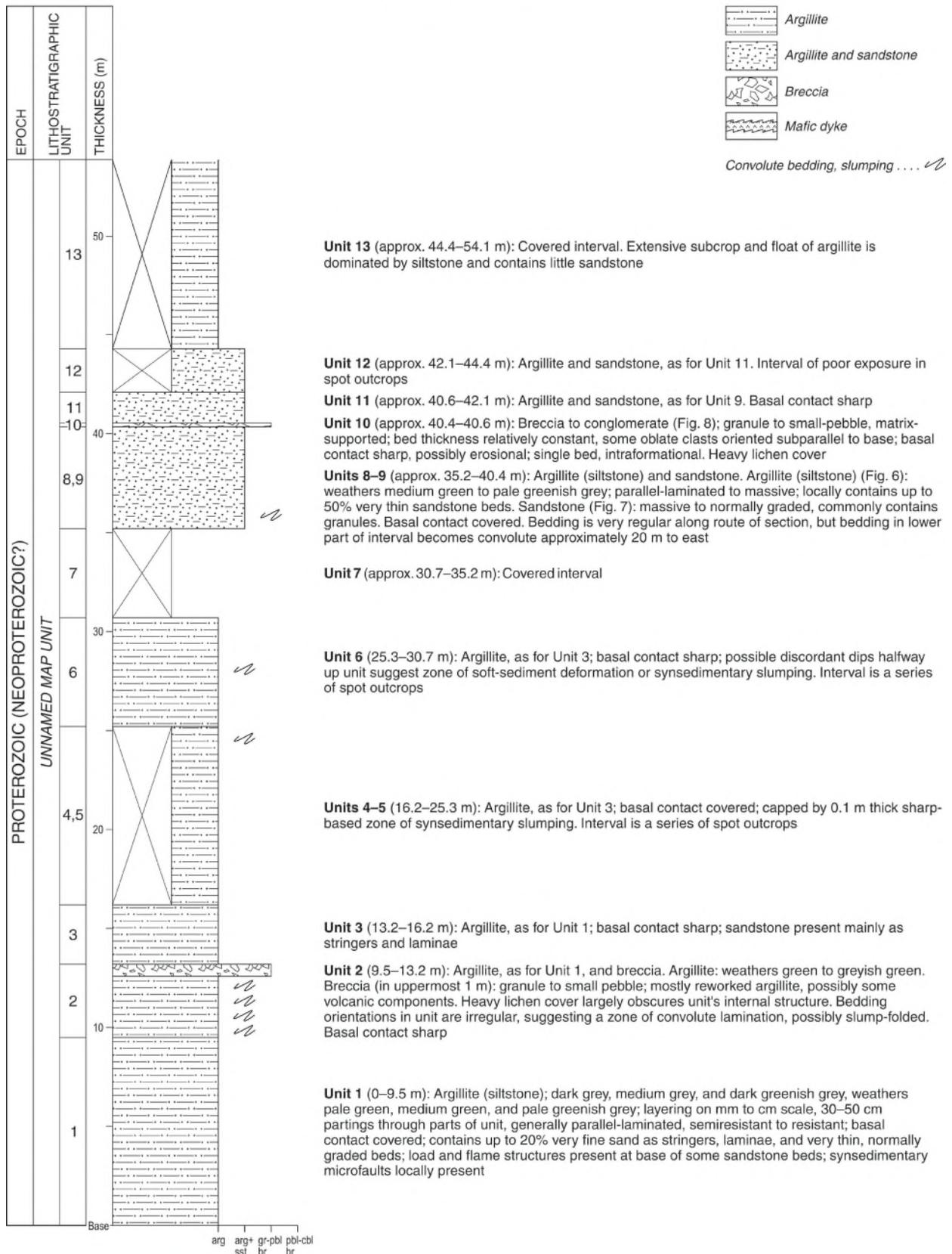


Figure 4a. Measured section (MWB-00-21A) through lower part of exposure of the argillite unit. Thicknesses for units 1 to 6 are considered accurate; those for units 7 to 30 should be considered approximate.

SECTION MWB-00-21A, continued

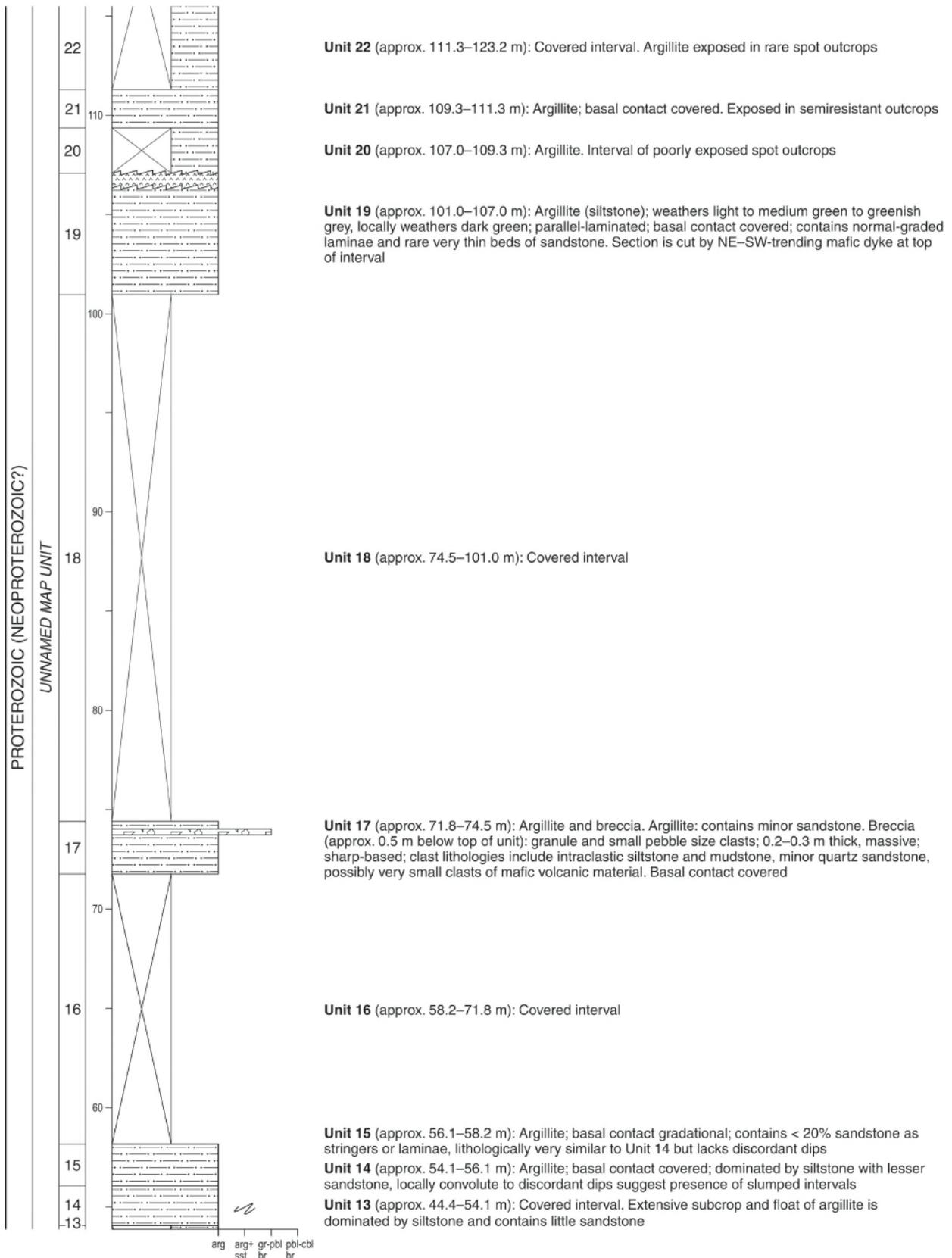


Figure 4b. Measured section (MWB-00–21A) through lower part of exposure of the argillite unit. Thicknesses of numbered units should be considered approximate.

SECTION MWB-00-21A, continued

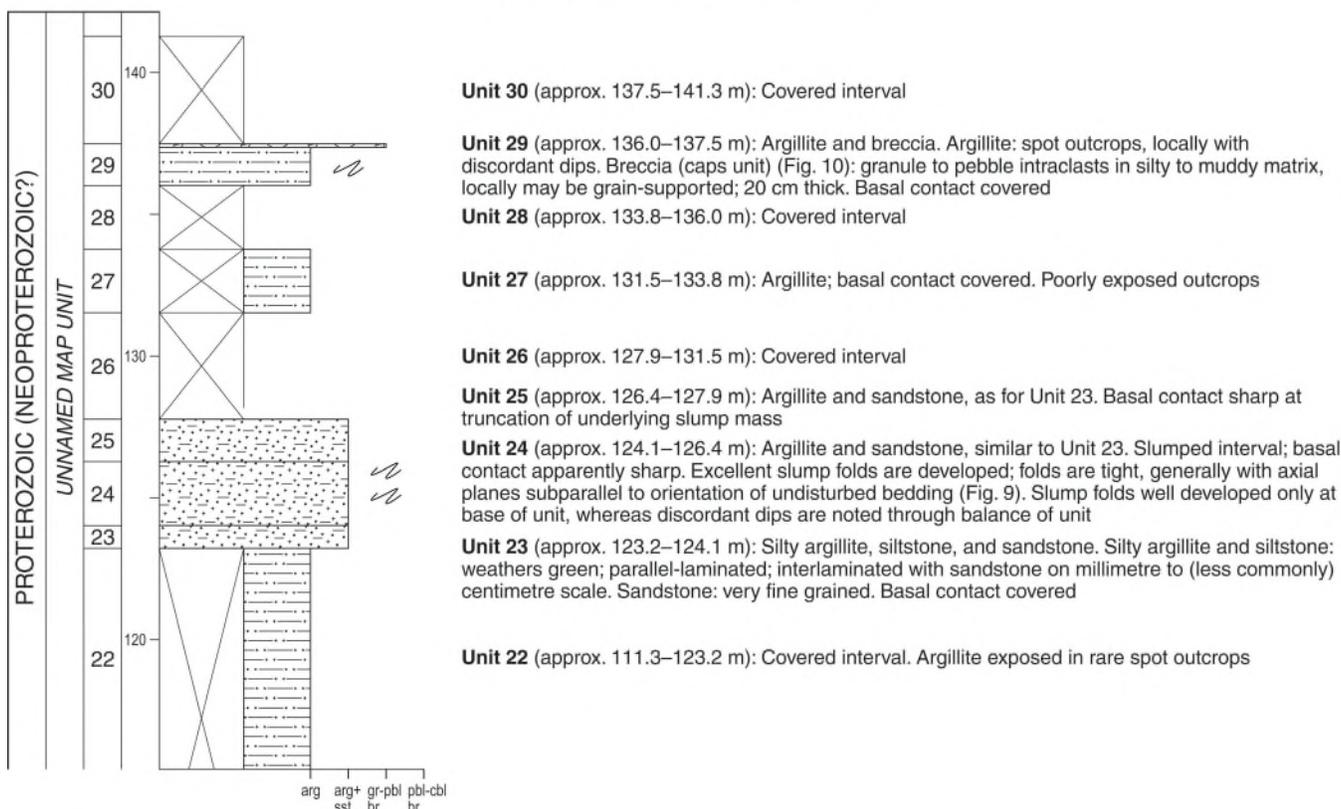


Figure 4c. Measured section (MWB-00-21A) through lower part of exposure of the argillite unit, continued. Thicknesses of numbered units should be considered approximate.

intervals. Additionally, even intervals of continuous outcrop were affected by very heavy lichen cover. It was necessary to offset the section track slightly several times, either by tracing bedding surfaces or by means of compass bearings. None of these offsets were sufficiently large to necessitate breaking the section into segments. Only two days were available to measure the section, necessitating rapid work. As a result, some unit descriptions are brief. Where intervals were better exposed, more detailed descriptions were recorded.

As a result of problems with the measurement of unit thicknesses in the lower part of MWB-00-21, the section is presented as two segments. The lower segment (MWB-00-21A) represents approximately 141.7 m of strata and is of reconnaissance quality. Thicknesses in the basal interval of the section (units 1–6; 30.7 m) are considered reliable. However, unit thicknesses through the balance of this segment are approximate. This part of the section should be used only as a guide to lithological composition and succession. The upper segment, MWB-00-21B, is 122.8 m thick. This thickness value is considered reliable within expected variation for a measured section. There is no unmeasured interval or offset of the section track associated with the break between the two segments. Unit numbers continue

in series from MWB-00-21A into MWB-00-21B but, for accuracy, the running tally of unit thicknesses has been reset to 0 m at base of MWB-00-21B.

DESCRIPTION OF SECTION

The detailed section from the argillite unit is presented in Figure 4 and 5. Figures 6 to 21 provide photographs of outcrops and polished slabs; references to these figures are found in Figures 4 and 5. The section comprises three facies associations (FAs), i.e. groupings of facies that are genetically related and that have some environmental significance (Collinson, 1969). The first, referred to in Figure 4 and 5 as the ‘argillite FA,’ is dominated by interlaminated to interbedded shale and siltstone that weather medium to dark green (shale) and pale green to greenish grey (siltstone). These lithofacies are massive, normal graded, or faintly parallel laminated. Laminae and very thin beds of very fine-grained sandstone are a minor component. The argillite FA corresponds to ‘Facies association 1 (argillite)’ in the sedimentological study of MacNaughton et al. (2017). (Note that those authors also subdivided their facies associations into several component lithofacies of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone.)

SECTION MWB-00-21B

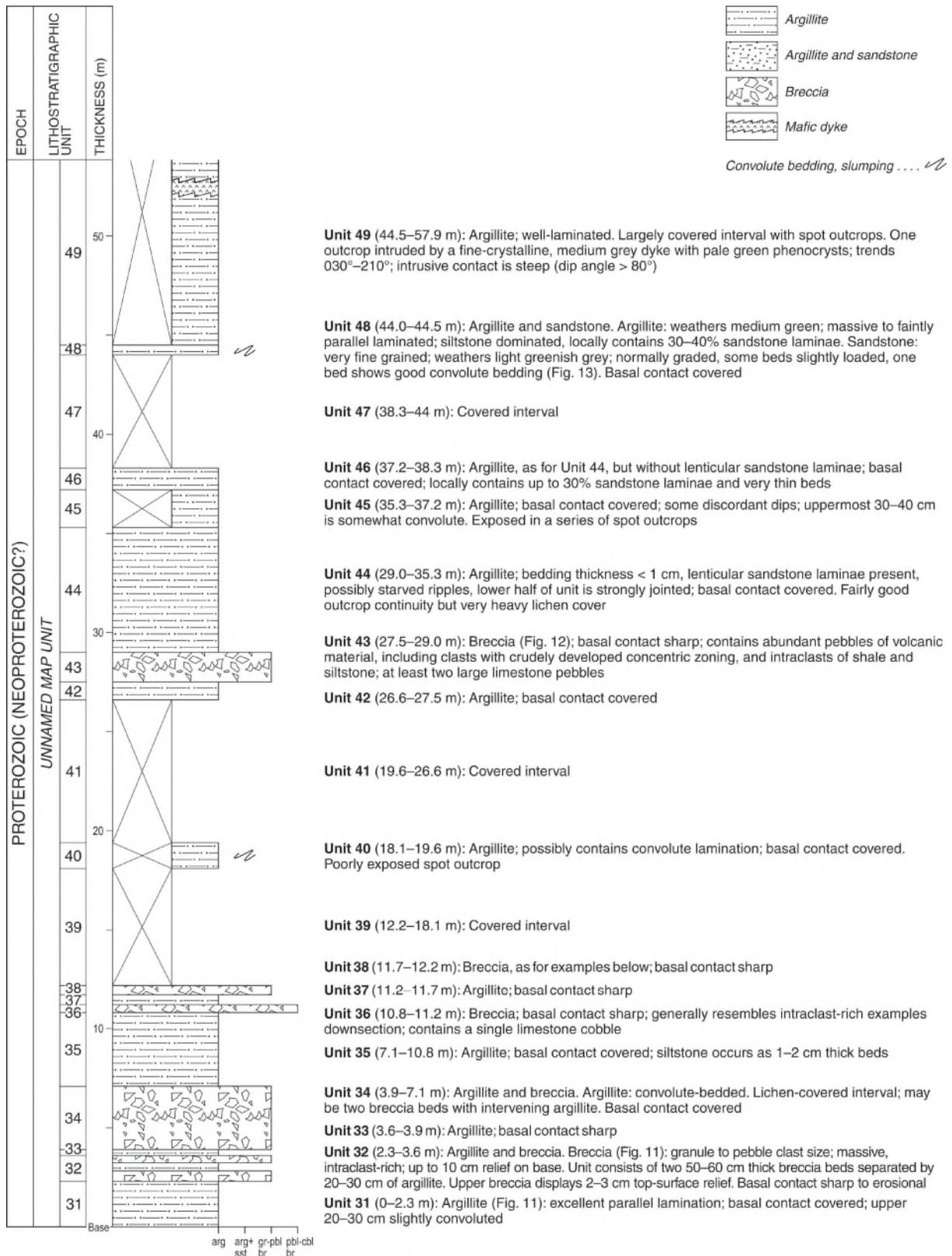


Figure 5a. Measured section (MWB-00-21B) through upper part of exposure of the argillite unit. Segment MWB-00-21B continues upsection without interruption or change in unit numbering from the top of MWB-00-21A. Running tally of unit thicknesses has been reset to 0 m at base of MWB-00-21B.

SECTION MWB-00-21B, continued

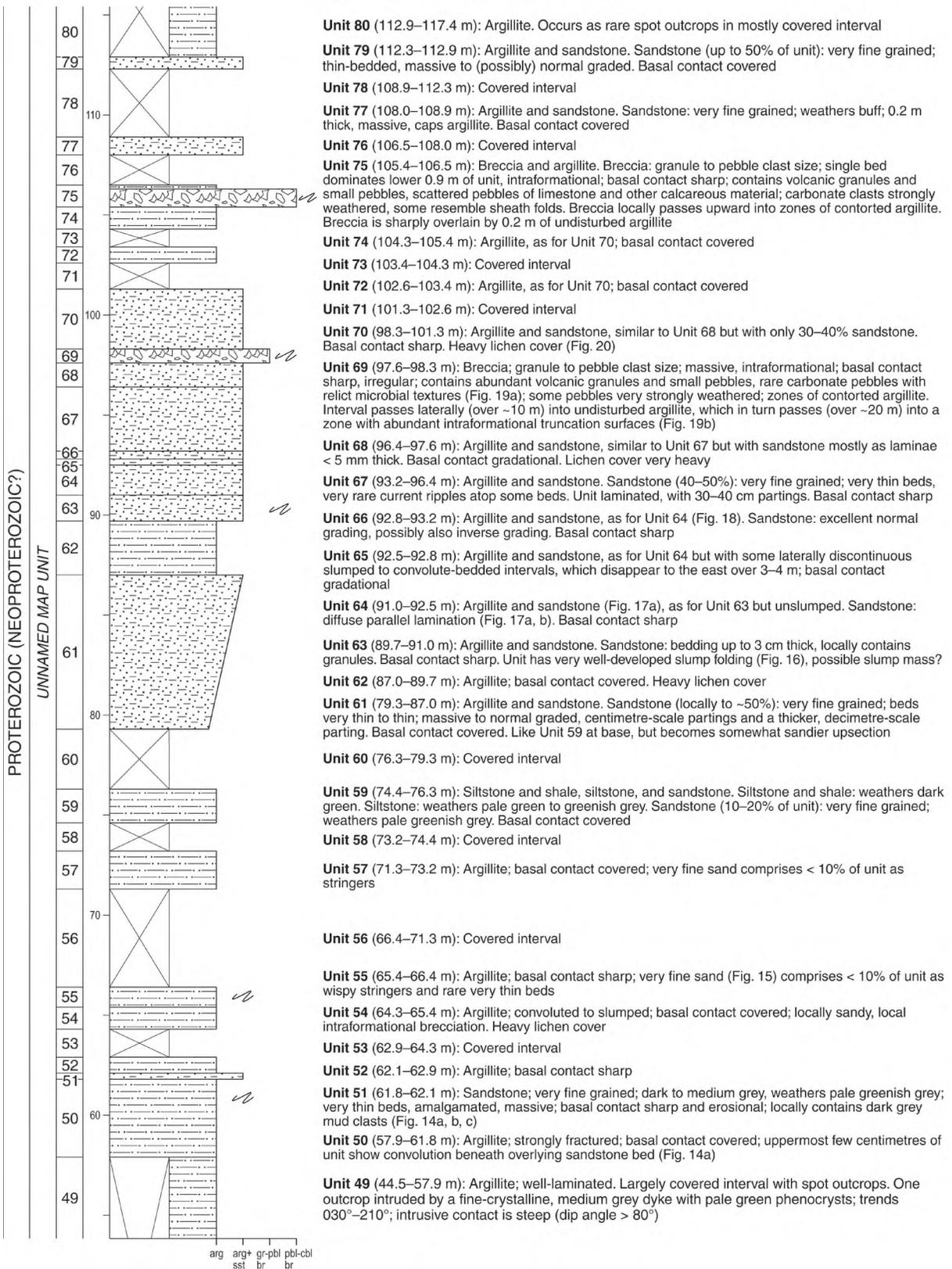


Figure 5b. Measured section (MWB-00–21B) through upper part of exposure of the argillite unit, continued. Segment MWB-00–21B continues upsection without interruption or change in unit numbering from the top of MWB-00–21A. Running tally of unit thicknesses has been reset to 0 m at base of MWB-00–21B.

SECTION MWB-00-21B, continued

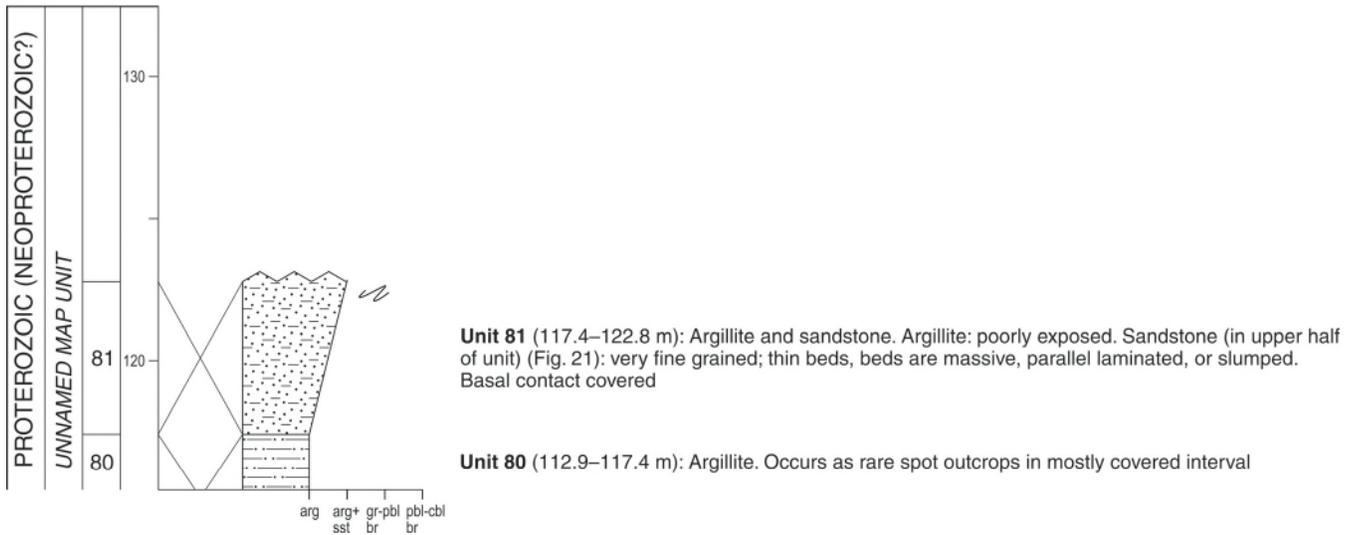


Figure 5c. Measured section (MWB-00-21B) through upper part of exposure of the argillite unit, continued. Segment MWB-00-21B continues upsection without interruption or change in unit numbering from the top of MWB-00-21A. Running tally of unit thicknesses has been reset to 0 m at base of MWB-00-21B

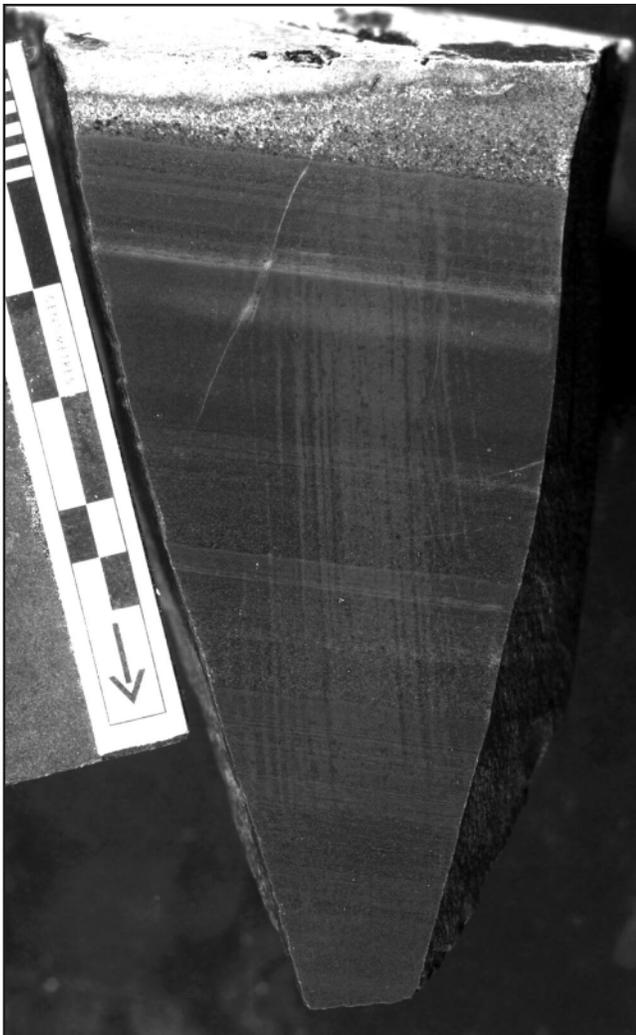


Figure 6. Unit MWB-00-21A-8: Normal-graded siltstone and mudstone with an overlying, sharp-based bed of sandstone. Centimetre scale bar. In Figures 6 to 21, beds young to top of all photographs, unless otherwise indicated. 2010-072



Figure 7. Unit MWB-00-21A-8: Block of local float showing normal-graded beds of very fine-grained sandstone, with interbeds of siltstone and shale. Hammer for scale. 2010-073

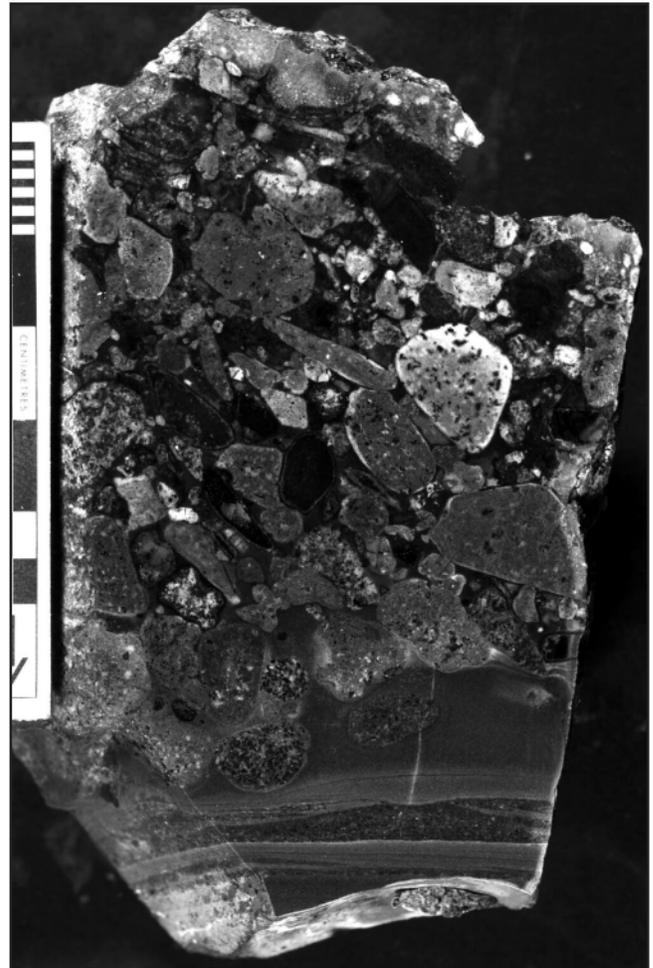


Figure 8. Unit MWB-00-21A-10: Polished slab of conglomerate rich in volcanic clasts. Specimen preserves contact between conglomerate and underlying siltstone and mudstone. Centimetre scale bar. 2010-074



Figure 9. Well developed, tight to isoclinal slump folds in argillite FA at base of unit MWB-00-21A-24. Hammer for scale. 2010-075

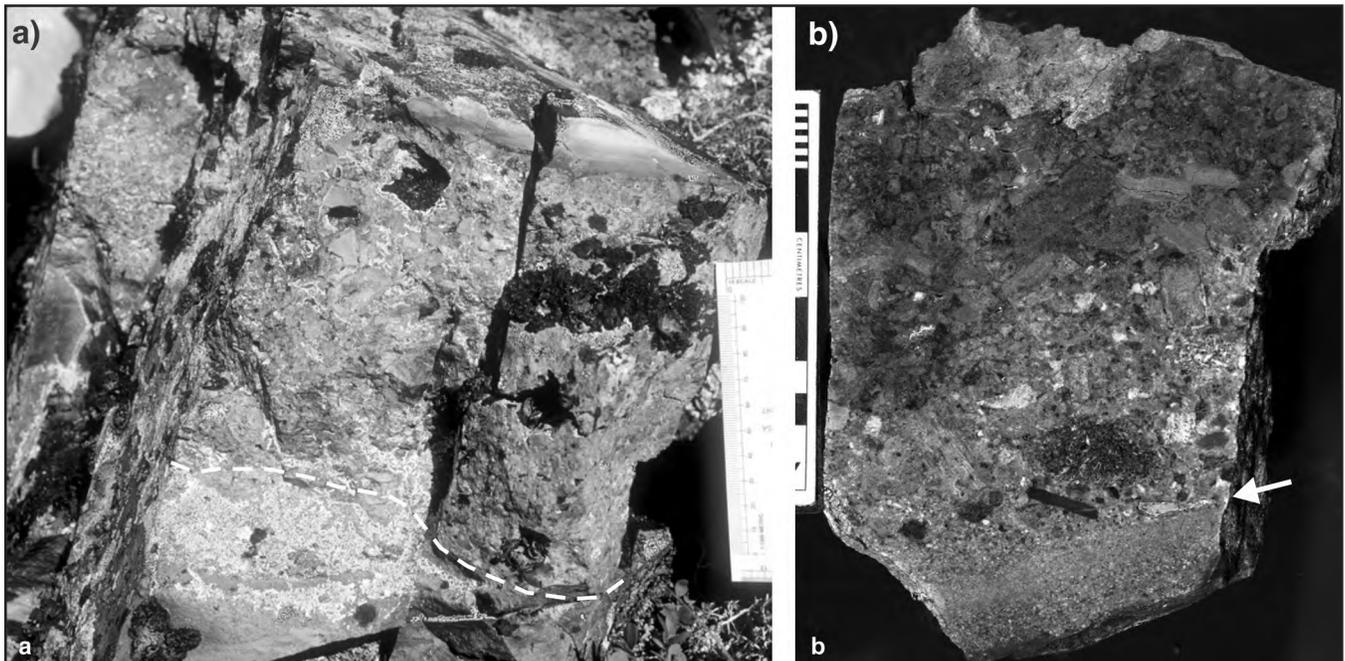


Figure 10. Unit MWB-00-21A-29: Breccia FA in erosional contact with underlying argillite FA. **a)** Outcrop photograph of contact (dashed line). Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-076A **b)** Polished slab that contains contact (arrow). Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-076B



Figure 11. Units MWB-00B-31, 32: Argillite FA with well developed, regular bedding, overlain by breccia FA in which bedding is much less regular. Hammer (circled) is placed at base of first breccia bed. Jacob's staff is 1.5 m long. 2010-077



Figure 12. Polished slab of a specimen of volcanic-clast-rich breccia FA from unit MWB-00-21B-43. Note unusual concentric zoning of clast along top edge of specimen. Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-078

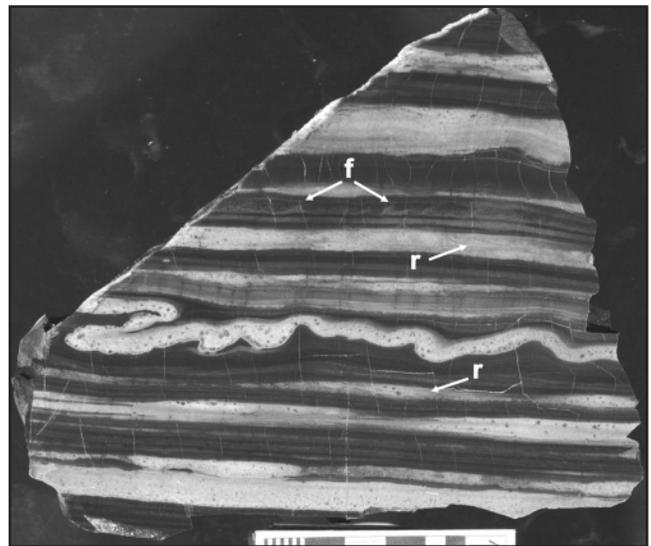


Figure 13. Unit MWB-00-21B-48: Polished slab of interlaminated shale, siltstone, and sandstone. Note prominent convolute bedding, also faintly preserved ripple crosslamination (r) and flame structures (f). Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-079

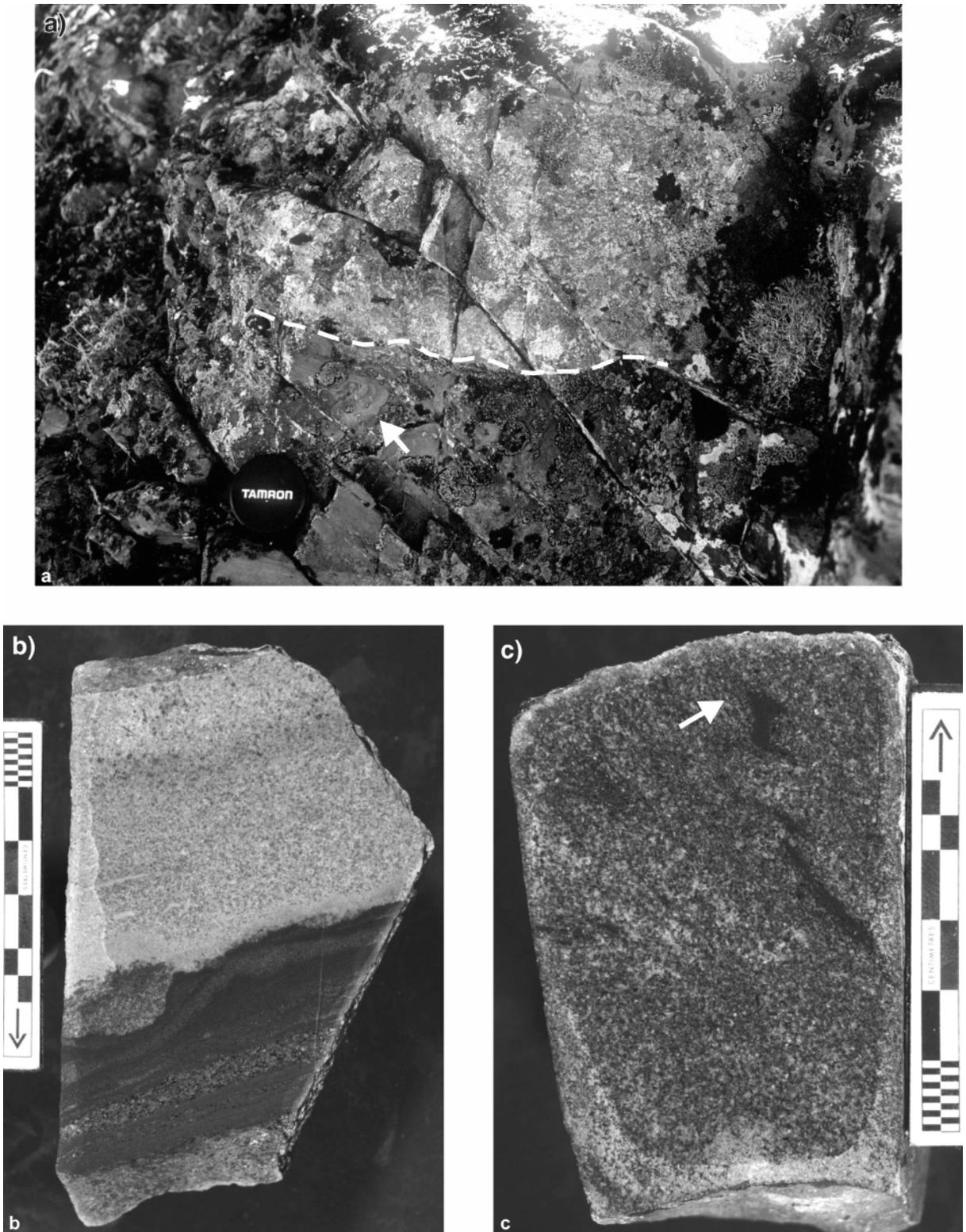


Figure 14. Units MWB-00-21B-50, 51. **a)** Field photograph of unit 51 (fine-grained sandstone) in erosional contact (dashed line) with underlying, convolute-bedded argillite facies (unit 50). Arrow points to convolute bedding. Lens cap for scale. 2010-080A **b)** Polished slab of specimen displaying contact between unit 50 (shale, siltstone, and sandstone) and unit 51 (massive sandstone). Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-080B **c)** Close-up view of polished slab of sandstone from within unit 51. White arrow points in younging direction. Note deformed shale chips. Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-080C

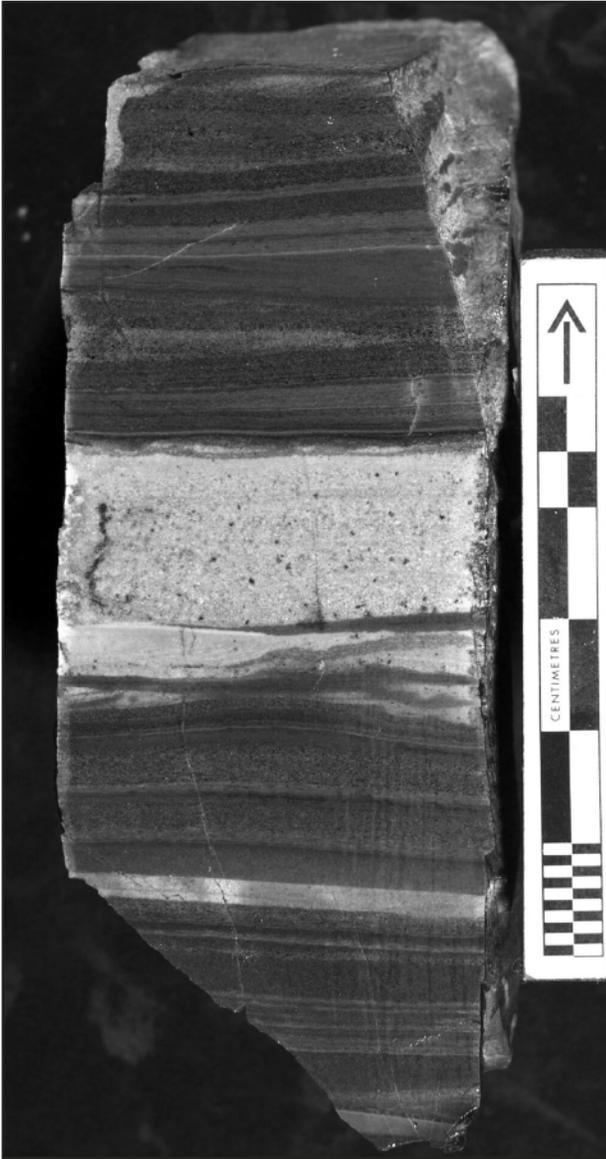


Figure 15. Unit MWB-00-21B-55: Normal-graded packets of siltstone and shale, with minor sandstone. Sandstone bed crossing middle of specimen is sharp based, with a massive lower division and an upper division displaying diffuse parallel lamination; it may be a thin turbidite. Note ripple crosslamination in sandstone immediately beneath this bed. Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-081

Figure 16. Unit MWB-00-21B-63: Slump folding (outlined by dashed line) developed in argillite FA. Hammer for scale. 2010-082

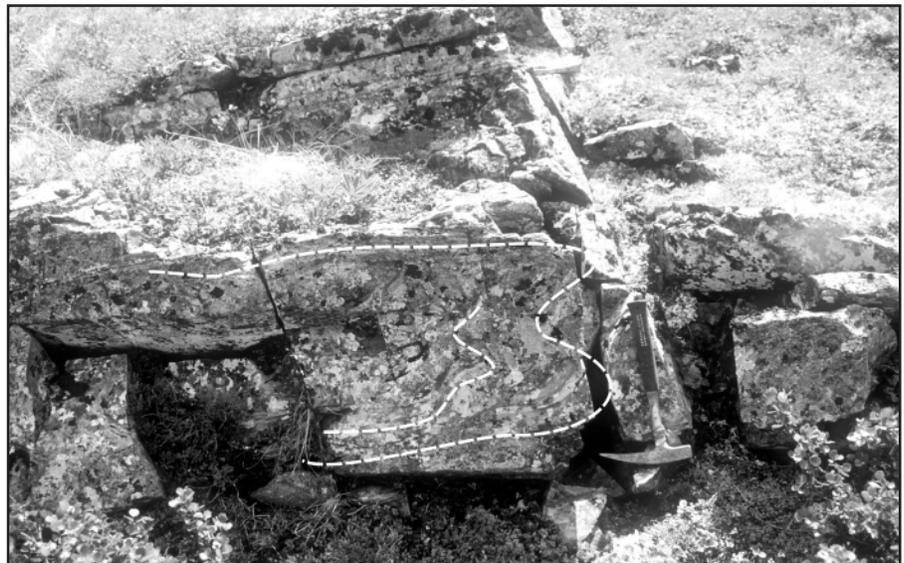


Figure 17. Unit MWB-00-21B-64. 2010-083A **a)** Outcrop photograph of well bedded sandstone with parallel lamination. Lens cap for scale. **b)** Polished slab of sandstone illustrating subtly developed parallel lamination. Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-083B

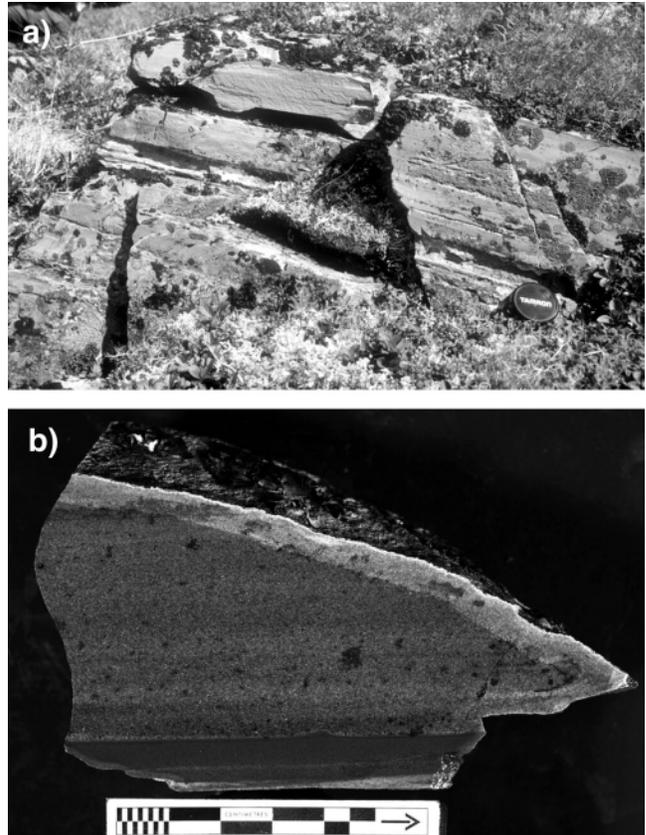


Figure 18. Interlayered shale, siltstone, and normally graded sandstone in unit MWB-00-21B-66. Lens cap for scale. 2010-084

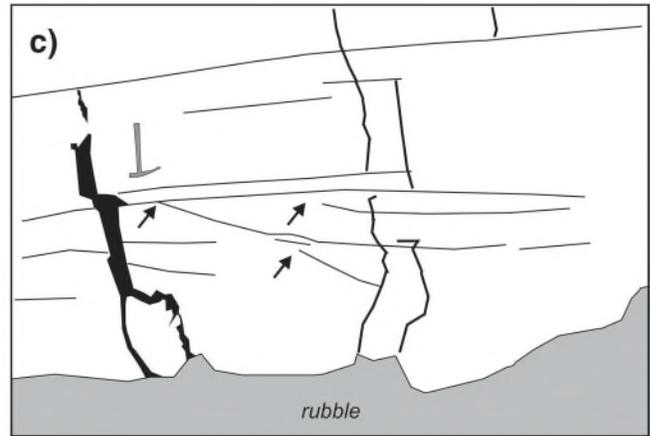
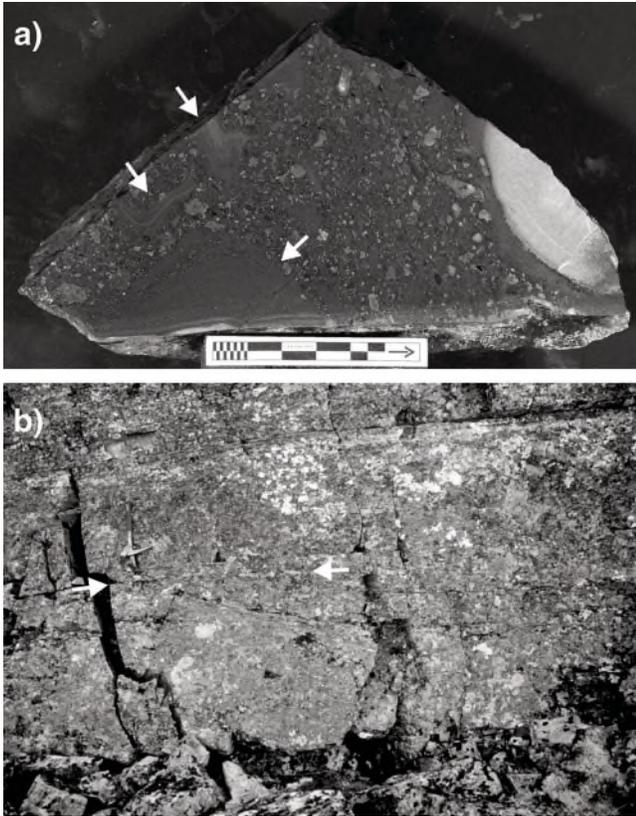


Figure 19. Unit MWB-00-21B-69. **a)** Polished specimen of breccia FA. Note plastically deformed intraclasts (indicated by white arrows). Many of the small clasts are volcanic material. Large, pale-coloured clast to right is dolostone with relict microbial lamination. Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-085A **b)** Intraformational truncation surface (indicated by arrows) occurring in argillite FA along strike from breccia illustrated in Fig 19a. Surface truncates inclined, underlying strata. Hammer for scale. **c)** Interpretive sketch of outcrop shown in Fig. 19b. Fine lines indicate bedding surfaces. Note well developed truncation of inclined beds (arrowed). 2010-085B



Figure 20. Unit MWB-00-21B-70: Argillite and sandstone FA. Darker layers are shale and siltstone; paler layers are very fine-grained sandstone. Lens cap for scale. 2010-086

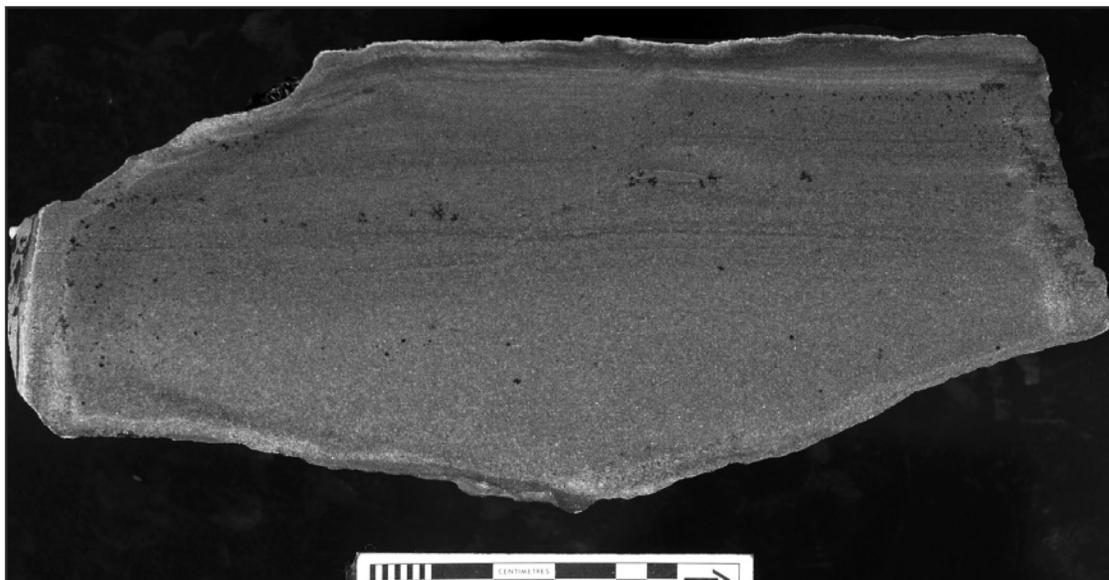


Figure 21. Unit MWB-00–21B-81: Polished slab of sandstone, displaying massive lower division and parallel-laminated upper division. Slight disruptions of laminae near top of specimen may be dewatering-related dish structures. Centimetre-scale bar. 2010-087

A second facies association, the ‘argillite and sandstone FA’ (Figures 4 and 5), contains the same lithofacies and displays similar colour variations, but sandstone accounts for up to 50 per cent of this facies association. Shale and siltstone are proportionally less abundant. The sandstone is very fine grained, locally with rare granule-bearing beds, and is very thin to thin bedded or, rarely, medium bedded. Sandstone beds in both facies associations show sharp or erosional bases and are commonly normally graded with rare parallel lamination or current-ripple crosslamination. The argillite and sandstone FA corresponds to ‘Facies association 2 (argillite and sandstone)’ in the sedimentological study of MacNaughton et al. (2017).

Slump-folded horizons, intraformational truncation surfaces, and convolute bedding are typical of the argillite FA and the argillite and sandstone FA. Beds preserving these features were treated by MacNaughton et al. (2017; see their Fig. 3) as their ‘Facies association 3 (chaotically bedded strata).’

The third facies association (‘breccia FA’; Figures 4 and 5) encompasses breccia beds consisting of granules, pebbles, and (less commonly) cobbles, in a sandy to muddy matrix. Clasts are angular to subrounded. Beds are commonly matrix-supported, though grain-supported examples were also observed. Upper-surface relief is locally present upon breccia beds. In some cases, oblate clasts are oriented subparallel to bedding, but the beds are otherwise massive. Clast composition is highly variable from bed to bed, with some beds apparently dominated by intraformational clasts of argillite and others containing abundant fragments of allochthonous volcanic material. Thin-section analyses and geochemical data indicate that the volcanic clasts are predominantly basaltic (Pigage and MacNaughton, 2004;

Pigage, 2009; MacNaughton et al., 2017). Rare dolostone clasts also occur; such clasts generally preserve microbial lamination. The breccia FA corresponds to ‘Facies C.1: matrix-rich conglomerate’ in the sedimentological study of MacNaughton et al. (2017).

The argillite FA is most significant volumetrically and is especially dominant in the lower segment of the section. Sandier intervals are common in the following intervals: units 8 to 12, 23 to 25, and 61 to 81. In addition, the argillite FA is itself somewhat sandier in the upper part of the section. Breccia beds occur sporadically throughout the section, but are particularly common in the interval from unit 29 to unit 43.

At two levels in the section (units 19 and 49), steeply dipping, finely crystalline to aphanitic, basaltic dykes were observed to cut the argillite strata. Both dykes trend approximately northeast-southwest. Similar dykes were reported from Pool Creek map area by Allen et al. (2001).

It should be noted that MacNaughton et al. (2017) documented additional lithofacies from the argillite unit that are not represented in the present measured section. These included clast-supported conglomerate preserved in a submarine channel (their Facies C.2), as well as poorly exposed carbonate lithofacies.

ORIGIN OF SUCCESSION

Only a brief summary of the sedimentology of the argillite unit will be presented here. Allen et al. (2001) presented a preliminary discussion, and a detailed account has recently been published (MacNaughton et al., 2017).

Allen et al. (2001) considered that sandstone beds in the argillite unit preserved characteristics that could be consistent with an origin either as thin-bedded turbidites or as distal tempestites, and on that basis suggested that the succession was deposited on the uppermost continental slope or at the slope-shelf transition. However, the more detailed study of MacNaughton et al. (2017) confirmed that all lithofacies in the argillite unit were consistent with deposition in a slope setting. Mudstone and siltstone beds were interpreted to record deposition from dilute turbidites, possibly with input from hemipelagic deposition. Sandstone beds preserve evidence for deposition by turbidity currents (indicated by recognizable Bouma sequences) and sand-rich debris flows (indicated by massive beds with a swirled depositional fabric). Breccia beds display characteristics indicating deposition from debris flows, including a massive, unsorted, commonly matrix-supported character, as well as the local presence of upper-surface relief. The prevalence of slump folding, intraformational truncation surfaces, and intraclast-rich debris flows provides strong evidence for a slope depositional setting, as does the presence of a mappable submarine channel (not documented in the measured section; but *see* MacNaughton et al., 2017).

CONCLUSIONS

A measured section through a hornfelsed, argillite-dominated map unit in Pool Creek map area (NTS 95C/5) can be subdivided into three facies associations. Two facies associations consist of shale, siltstone, and sandstone in varying proportions and were deposited primarily by turbidity currents, with lesser input from sandy debris flows and hemipelagic deposition. A breccia facies association is variably dominated by intraformational or volcanic clasts and records deposition from debris flows. Slump folding is a prevalent feature of the succession, indicating deposition in a slope setting. The map unit was hornfelsed during the emplacement of the 640–650 Ma Pool Creek syenite and thus is of Neoproterozoic age or older and probably correlative with the lower part of the Windermere Supergroup.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Staff of the Yukon Geology Program (Lee Pigage, Tammy Allen, and Anna Fonseca) kindly shared their camp during fieldwork. Pigage and Allen are thanked for their ongoing interest and shared observations. Jordin Barclay and Michael Hearn assisted with section measuring. Helicopter support was provided by Talon Helicopters. The following persons assisted with preparation of the line drawings: Sylvia Leong, Dave Sargent, Joanna Palmer, Karen Fallas, and Steven Hinds. Melissa Peterson and Chris Cecile prepared the polished slabs and Bryan Rutley photographed the resulting samples. Larry Lane and Darrel Long reviewed the manuscript. Copyediting was done by Jo Gray and Alison Weatherston.

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Lower and Middle Devonian outcrop stratigraphy of northeast British Columbia

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Nadjiwon, L.M., Morrow, D.W., McCracken, A.D., and Coniglio, M., 2017. Lower and Middle Devonian outcrop stratigraphy of northeast British Columbia; in Central Foreland NATMAP Project: Proterozoic to Devonian stratigraphic sections in British Columbia and Yukon, (ed.) L.S. Lane and R.B. MacNaughton; Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin 603, p. 223–292. <https://doi.org/10.4095/299868>

Abstract: Presqu'île Barrier reef strata are documented in six measured sections from southern Trutch and Halfway River map areas, Rocky Mountain Thrust Belt, northeastern British Columbia. They contain abundantly stromatoporoidal strata as young as mid-Givetian. Presqu'île Dolomite is commonly developed in large masses within thick 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided' limestone successions in outcrop. Less extensive, white, hydrothermal dolospar is developed within relatively thin Dunedin Formation strata, particularly in slope settings immediately basinward of the Presqu'île Barrier reef complex. Manetoe Dolomite occurs within Dunedin strata, even in northernmost sections. The Dunedin Formation's basal unconformity and its diachronous and gradational upper contact with the Besa River Formation are confirmed and documented. Lower to Middle Devonian siliciclastic units occur within the Laurier Embayment, a broad bypass channel through the Presqu'île Barrier reef complex. Extensive Presqu'île Dolomite occurs south of Laurier Embayment, similar to that in the nearby Clarke Lake gas field.

Résumé : Les strates du récif barrière de Presqu'île sont décrites à l'aide de six coupes mesurées situées dans les régions cartographiques de Trutch Sud et de Halfway River, au sein de la zone de chevauchement des Rocheuses, dans le nord-est de la Colombie-Britannique. Elles renferment une abondance de strates à stromatopores, dont certaines ne remontent qu'au Givétien moyen. En affleurement, la Dolomie de Presqu'île se manifeste généralement sous forme de grandes masses au sein d'épaissees successions de calcaire « de l'intervalle indivisé s'étendant de la partie supérieure de la Formation de Chinchaga à la Formation de Slave Point ». De la dolosparite hydrothermale de couleur blanche, moins répandue, s'est formée à l'intérieur de strates relativement minces de la Formation de Dunedin, surtout dans des milieux de talus juste au large du complexe de récif barrière de Presqu'île. La Dolomie de Manetoe est encaissée dans les strates de la Formation de Dunedin, et ce, même dans les coupes les plus au nord. La discordance formant la base de la Formation de Dunedin et le contact supérieur diachronique et progressif de celle-ci avec la Formation de Besa River sus-jacente ont été confirmés et documentés. Des unités silicoclastiques du Dévonien inférieur et moyen sont présentes dans le rentrant de Laurier, un large chenal de dérivation recoupant le complexe de récif barrière de Presqu'île. Au sud du rentrant de Laurier, la Dolomie de Presqu'île couvre une vaste étendue, de façon semblable à ce que l'on observe dans le champ gazier de Clarke Lake situé à proximité.

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INTRODUCTION

Devonian strata in northeast British Columbia comprise one of the most extensive and well exposed Devonian successions in the world and are the host to numerous economic deposits of oil, gas, lead, zinc, and sulphur (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). The Clarke Lake Gas Field, shown in Figure 1, is typical of many gas fields hosted in the Devonian succession of Keg River to Slave Point formational platform-edge carbonate deposits that form the Presqu'ile Barrier in northeastern British Columbia (Fig. 1; Meijer-Drees, 1993, 1994; Bebout and Maiklem, 1973; Morrow et al., 2002). The Presqu'ile Barrier reef complex across northeast British Columbia occupies the southeastern part of a broad paleogeographic or paleotectonic feature termed the MacDonald

Platform (Gabrielse, 1967; Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). The MacDonald Platform comprises the entire area of lower Paleozoic shallow-water carbonate shelf deposits across northeastern British Columbia north of the Peace River Arch (Cecile et al., 1997) or north of about 56° latitude (Fig. 1).

Devonian strata in the subsurface of northeastern British Columbia have been more intensively studied than correlative strata exposed in the mountain belt west of the prolific Devonian gas fields. The absence of detailed studies of surface stratigraphy can be attributed to the inaccessibility of surface exposures of Devonian strata, which can generally be reached only by helicopter. Recently, however, petroleum exploration has targeted subsurface Devonian strata in the mildly deformed foothills region of the Rocky Mountains Thrust Belt in northeast British Columbia. This has provided

- Section (summer 1998, summer 1999)..... 98-13 ■ 99-4 ■
- Well (penetrating Dunedin or Slave Point formations).....
- Northwestern limit, Keg River–Slave Point formations.....
- Northern limit, Muskeg Formation (Anhydrite).....
- Western limit, Muncho-McConnell–Stone formations.....

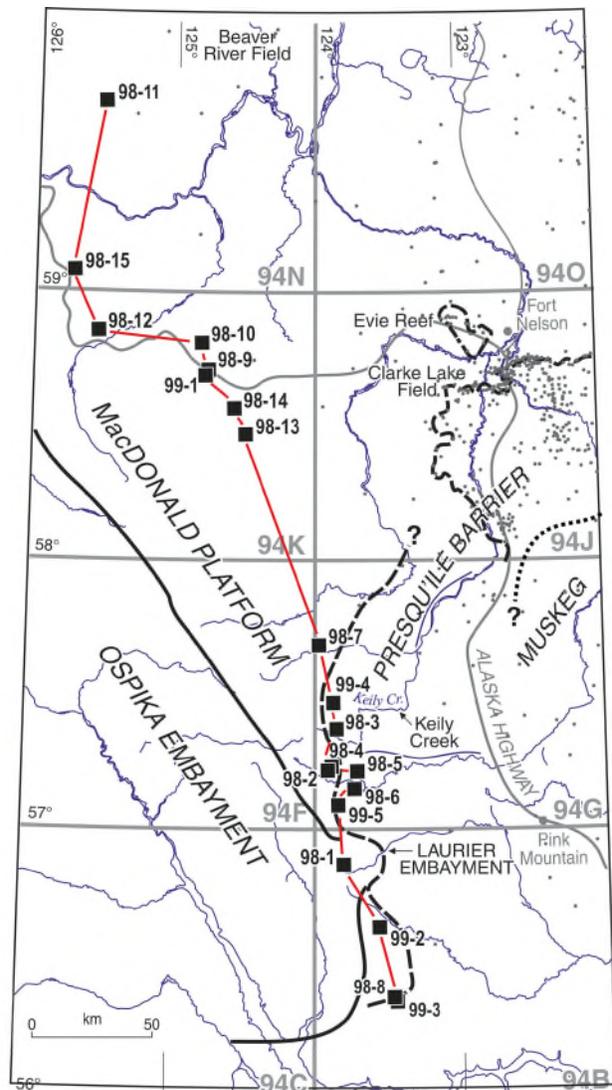
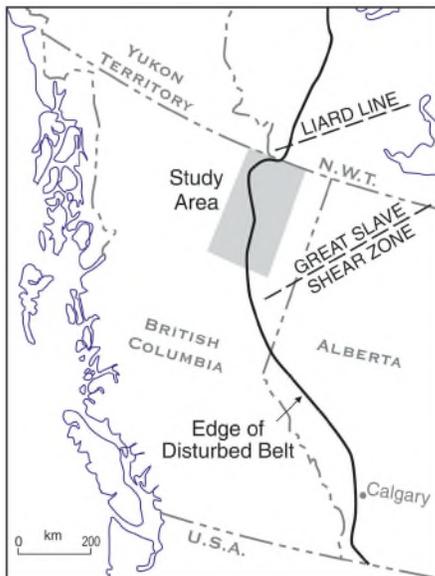


Figure 1. Locations of measured sections by section number. Line of cross-section for Figure 4 passes through all sections northwestward from Section MTA-99-3 in the Halfway River map area to Section MTA-98-11 in the Toad River map area. Muncho-McConnell-Stone limit of Ospika Embayment is from Thompson (1989). Laurier Embayment is after Davies (1997). The Liard Line and Great Slave Shear Zone (Cecile et al., 1997) are shown in the inset index map.

the impetus for a more detailed study of exposed Devonian strata. During this study, data and samples from Lower and Middle Devonian formations were collected from four 1:250 000 map areas: Halfway River (94B), Trutch (94G), Tuchodi Lakes (94K), and Toad River (94N). Twenty stratigraphic sections were measured through Devonian strata exposed in a narrow, sinuous outcrop belt along the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains in these map areas (Fig. 1 and Tables 1, 2, 3; see Figures 11–30 for complete section descriptions).

Purpose and objective

The purpose of this study was to gain more detailed lithostratigraphic and biostratigraphic information about Devonian strata exposed along the Rocky Mountain Thrust Belt of northeast British Columbia, primarily in support of exploration for hydrocarbon resources hosted in these strata. The primary objective was to present these data in a coherent manner as a series of measured stratigraphic sections with accompanying biostratigraphic information and to verify and further develop the presently understood stratigraphic relationships within these strata (e.g. Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970) as well as with respect to overlying and underlying strata. A related objective was to identify potential gas and oil reservoir rock in Devonian strata exposed along this part of the Rocky Mountain Thrust Belt.

Previous work and stratigraphic nomenclature

Detailed geological information about the Devonian stratigraphy of northeastern British Columbia was not published until after the construction of the Alaska Highway. Williams (1944), in an early reconnaissance geological survey, reported on the widespread distribution of Devonian strata along the highway. Laudon and Chronic (1949) applied a modified formational nomenclature from the Mackenzie River area to this succession. They proposed two new names for the lowermost Devonian strata—the Muncho and McConnell formations—and referred overlying carbonate-dominated strata to the Ramparts Formation. Black shale capping the section was assigned to the Fort Creek Formation. The type area of both the Ramparts and Fort Creek (abandoned) formations are in the northern District of Mackenzie (Kindle and Bosworth, 1921).

This stratigraphy underwent revision in the early 1960s when Kidd (1962) reassigned the shale-dominated succession formerly placed in the Fort Creek Formation by Laudon and Chronic (1949) to a new unit, the Besa River Formation. This was partly because the term ‘Fort Creek Formation’ as a formal stratigraphic unit had already been abandoned (Hills et al., 1981, p. 65). By 1966, when outcrops in the Rocky Mountains were re-examined during the Geological Survey of Canada’s Operation Liard, Taylor and MacKenzie (1966, 1970) realized that previous correlations were not adequate and redefined the Lower and Middle Devonian

Table 1. Location data for sections (UTM Zone 10V eastings and northings; NAD 83).

Section name	NTS map area	Easting (base in metres)	Northing (base in metres)	Easting (top in metres)	Northing (top in metres)	Airphoto number
MTA-98-1	94-B	457000	6306250	456450	6305750	A17136-81
MTA-98-2	94-G	446000	6343000	446750	6342700	A17163-156
MTA-98-3	94-G	448475	6360100	448100	6360600	A17163-157
MTA-98-4	94-G	446150	6343600	446750	6343500	A17163-156
MTA-98-5	94-G	456500	6341350	456000	6341250	A17163-89
MTA-98-6	94-G	455250	6334150	454850	6333750	A17163-87
MTA-98-7	94-G	442000	6394200	442800	6394250	A17164-40
MTA-98-8	94-B	471150	6248200	472250	6248250	A17165-93
MTA-98-9	94-K	397400	6508250	396000	6506500	A1169-143
MTA-98-10	94-K	395300	6520000	395800	6521000	A11613-34
MTA-98-11	94-N	357300	6621050	358500	6620900	A19440-69
MTA-98-12	94-K	352450	6526300	352000	6525950	A11609-38
MTA-98-13	94-K	412450	6482000	413000	6482500	A11634-53
MTA-98-14	94-K	408000	6492750	408500	6493400	A11613-285
MTA-98-15	94N	342800	6552500	343000	6552250	A18177-30
MTA-99-1	94-K	396000	6506500	395400	6505750	A11609-143
MTA-99-2	94-B	465050	6276750	465700	6277000	A17163-45
MTA-99-3	94-B	472000	6246250	471800	6246800	A17165-93
MTA-99-4	94-G	447300	6369850	446300	6369250	A17163-149
MTA-99-5	94-G	448900	6327600	449450	6328000	A17163-160

Table 2. Age determinations from fauna in measured sections MTA 98-1 to MTA-98-15, and MTA-99-1 to MTA-99-5*.

Section	GSC sample C-number	Unit (metres above base of section)	Description (formation or equivalent)	Age (conodont determinations except for a brachiopod determination from sample C-406029)
MTA-98-1	C-254917	N/A (209.5)	Base of Besa River Formation immediately overlying Section MTA-98-1 (Besa River)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to mid-Middle varcus Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
MTA-98-2	C-254918	1 (14.5)	Below contact between Nonda and Muncho-McConnell formations (Nonda)	Middle Ordovician to Middle Devonian (likely Silurian)
	C-254919	19 (281.9)	Top unit of the Muncho-McConnell Formation (Muncho-McConnell)	Barren
MTA-98-3	C-254920	Top of Nonda	Contact between the Nonda and Muncho-McConnell formations stratigraphically below base of section MTA-98-3 (Nonda)	Barren
	C-254921	6 (57.0)	Finely comminuted shell hash in grey argillaceous dolomitic lime mudstone (Stone)	Barren
	C-254922	15 (126.5)	Crinoid dolowackestone (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	<i>costatus</i> or <i>ensensis</i> Zone to Upper varcus Subzone (mid-Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
	C-254923	18 (167.0)	Stromatoporoidal boundstone?? (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
	C-254924	23 (240.5)	Top of unit (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
	C-406029	23 (219.5)	Base of unit – <i>Stringocephalus</i> sp. (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Givetian, late Middle Devonian
MTA-98-4	C-254925	12 (220.5)	Top of unit at hardground (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254926	14 (241.5)	Shaly interval between two resistant mudstone beds (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254927	20 (285.0)	Horn corals, crinoids - above top of bioherm (Dunedin)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to Lower varcus Subzone (latest Eifelian to early Givetian, Middle Devonian)
	C-254928	22 (304.5)	Near the top of the unit, at contact with the Besa River Formation (Dunedin)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to Lower varcus Subzone (latest Eifelian to early Givetian, Middle Devonian)
MTA-98-5	C-254929	12 (201.0)	Thin, wavy-bedded interval (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
	C-254930	18 (262.5)	Stromatoporoid bed (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	possibly Ordovician to Middle Devonian (McCracken, pers. comm.)
	C-254931	21 (282.3)	Stromatoporoid trash layers (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
	C-254932	22 (302.0)	Stromatoporoid debris beds with shells and crinoids (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
MTA-98-8	C-254933	9 (228.6)	Rippled dolostone (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254934	13 (265.6)	Bioclastic floatstone with shells, crinoids and corals (Dunedin)	Missing from the collections
MTA-98-9 (Section MTA-99-1 includes a re-measured Dunedin section at this location)	C-254944	18 (544.4)	Dark grey lime mudstone at Base of Dunedin — see Section MTA-99-1 (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254945	23 (628.1)	Contact between the Dunedin and Besa River formations — see Section MTA-99-1 (Dunedin)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to mid-Middle varcus Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)

Table 2. (Cont.)

Section	GSC sample C-number	Unit (metres above base of section)	Description (formation or equivalent)	Age (conodont determinations except for a brachiopod determination from sample C-406029)
MTA-98-10	C-254935	3 (55.6)	Base of the Dunedin Formation (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254936 and C-254937	8 (145.5)	Shelly bed (Dunedin)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to Middle <i>varcus</i> Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
	C-254938	10 (285.0)	Contact between the Dunedin and Besa River formations (Dunedin)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to mid-Middle <i>varcus</i> Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
MTA-98-11	C-254939	17 (519.0)	Upper Dunedin Formation (Dunedin)	Barren
MTA-98-12	C-254940	13 (264.8)	Recessive, with some fauna, about 20–30 m to Besa River Formation (Dunedin)	Barren
MTA-98-13	C-254941	21 (421.2)	Lumpy bedded upper part of unit (Dunedin)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to mid-Middle <i>varcus</i> Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
MTA-98-14	C-254942	11 (274.3)	Contact between Dunedin and Stone formations (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254943	15 (439.4)	Contact between Dunedin and Besa River formations (Dunedin)	<i>kockelianus</i> Zone to mid-Middle <i>varcus</i> Subzone (late Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
MTA-99-1	C-254972	2 (4.0)	1.0 m above base of the Stone Formation (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254973	6 (44.4)	Top of the unit (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254974	13 (160.0)	Thin coralline bed (Dunedin)	Barren
	C-254975	15 (188.3)	Top bed with coral heads (Dunedin)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to mid-Middle <i>varcus</i> Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
	C-254976	16 (192.3)	From concretion in the Besa River Formation (Besa River)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone to mid-Middle <i>varcus</i> Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)
MTA-99-2	C-254977	2 (11.5)	Burrow-mottled dolomitized mudstone (Stone)	Indeterminate
	C-254978	9 (205.0)	Top of thick and resistant bed (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
MTA-99-3	C-254979	2 (41.5)	Stromatoporoids and corals in thick beds (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
	C-254980	5 (87.25)	Sample in dominant lithology of unit (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	<i>ensensis</i> Zone - Upper <i>varcus</i> Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian)
	C-254981	9 (260.25)	Argillaceous crinoidal limestone (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Barren
MTA-99-4	C-254982	1 (3.0)	Top bed with coral and stromatoporoid boundstone (Nonda)	Late Llandovery-early Wenlock (Early Silurian)
	C-254983	18 (582.75)	Bioclastic wackestone to floatstone (Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided)	Indeterminate
MTA-99-5	C-254984	7 (188.0)	Fossiliferous bed at the top of the Dunedin Formation (Dunedin)	upper <i>ensensis</i> Zone to Middle <i>varcus</i> Subzone (latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian, Middle Devonian)

*McCracken (2000a, b) and Norris (1998)

Table 3. Section names and formation thicknesses*.

Section name	Nonda	Muncho McConnell	Wokkpash	Stone	Dunedin (DQS map unit in MTA-98-1)	Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided	Besa River
MTA-98-1					209.0+		0.5+
MTA-98-2	15.0+	267.0		100.5+			
MTA-98-3		6.0+		105.5		129.0+	
MTA-98-4				199.5+	108.0		0.5+
MTA-98-5				5.0+		306.8+	
MTA-98-6				49.5+		451.5+	
MTA-98-7				10.5+	124.5		0.5+
MTA-98-8		0.5+		223.5	55.5		0.5+
MTA-98-9		20.8+	49.4	481.9	0.5+		
MTA-98-10				55.5+	227.5		0.5+
MTA-98-11				33.0+	490.5+		
MTA-98-12				1.3+	263.5		0.5+
MTA-98-13		0.5+	41.6	228.8	169.0		0.5+
MTA-98-14		0.5+	50.7	184.6	204.1		0.5+
MTA-98-15			2.6	1386.6	105.4+		
MTA-99-1				3.0+	185.3		6.0+
MTA-99-2				13.0+		214.5	0.5+
MTA-99-3				0.5+		260.25	0.5+
MTA-99-4	36.75+	142.5		199.5		238.5+	
MTA-99-5				4.5+	163.5		0.5+

*Thickness in metres. Incomplete thicknesses denoted with a plus (+) sign

outcrop stratigraphy in northeast British Columbia. They were unable to discern significant differences between the Muncho and McConnell formations and, because of this, combined them into a single unit, the Muncho-McConnell Formation. Taylor and MacKenzie (1966) first recognized a distinctive sandy unit, the Wokkpash Formation, as occurring within the thick Lower Devonian dolomite succession. Finally, they separated the Ramparts Formation of Laudon and Chronic (1949) into the dolostone-dominated Stone and limestone-dominated Dunedin formations of late Early and early Middle Devonian age. Taylor and MacKenzie (1970) noted, however, that the Dunedin Formation underwent a facies change to more reefal character south of Keily Creek in the Trutch map area. Thompson (1989) recognized that thicker sections of Dunedin exposed in the mountains of the Halfway River map area correlated with several Middle Devonian formations (Pine Point, Sulphur Point, Watt Mountain, and Slave Point) mapped extensively in the subsurface immediately east of the mountain belt. Previously MacQueen and Taylor (1974) and MacQueen and Thompson (1978), using the surface-to-subsurface correlations of Griffn (1967), had also identified the dominantly subsurface Pine Point and Slave Point formations within thicker 'Dunedin' successions. Throughout the 1970s, there was further refinement and identification of more local facies

variations within Middle Devonian strata of the mountains (MacQueen and Taylor, 1974; Taylor et al., 1975; Morrow, 1978).

The stratigraphic nomenclature used in this study (Fig. 2) follows that of previous workers who correlated the anomalously thick 'Dunedin' successions mapped in the Trutch and Halfway River map areas with a succession of Middle Devonian formations in the subsurface. However, the term 'Pine Point Formation (Group)' is not used here because of the wide variance in its definition and usage. The reader is referred to Hills et al. (1981, p. 140) and Morrow et al. (2002) for a more detailed discussion of the term 'Pine Point Formation'. For example, the Pine Point Formation was originally defined (Cameron, 1918) to include strata that are part of what is now known as the Lonely Bay Formation and the Bituminous Limestone and Shale members of Norris (1965). Norris (1965) redefined the unit to include all these strata above the Chinchaga Formation plus younger strata up to the base of the Sulphur Point Formation and including the foreereef argillaceous strata of the Buffalo River Member and a tongue of the Horn River Formation. Skall (1975) elevated the Pine Point Formation to group status but excluded Lower Keg River Member strata above the Chinchaga Formation,

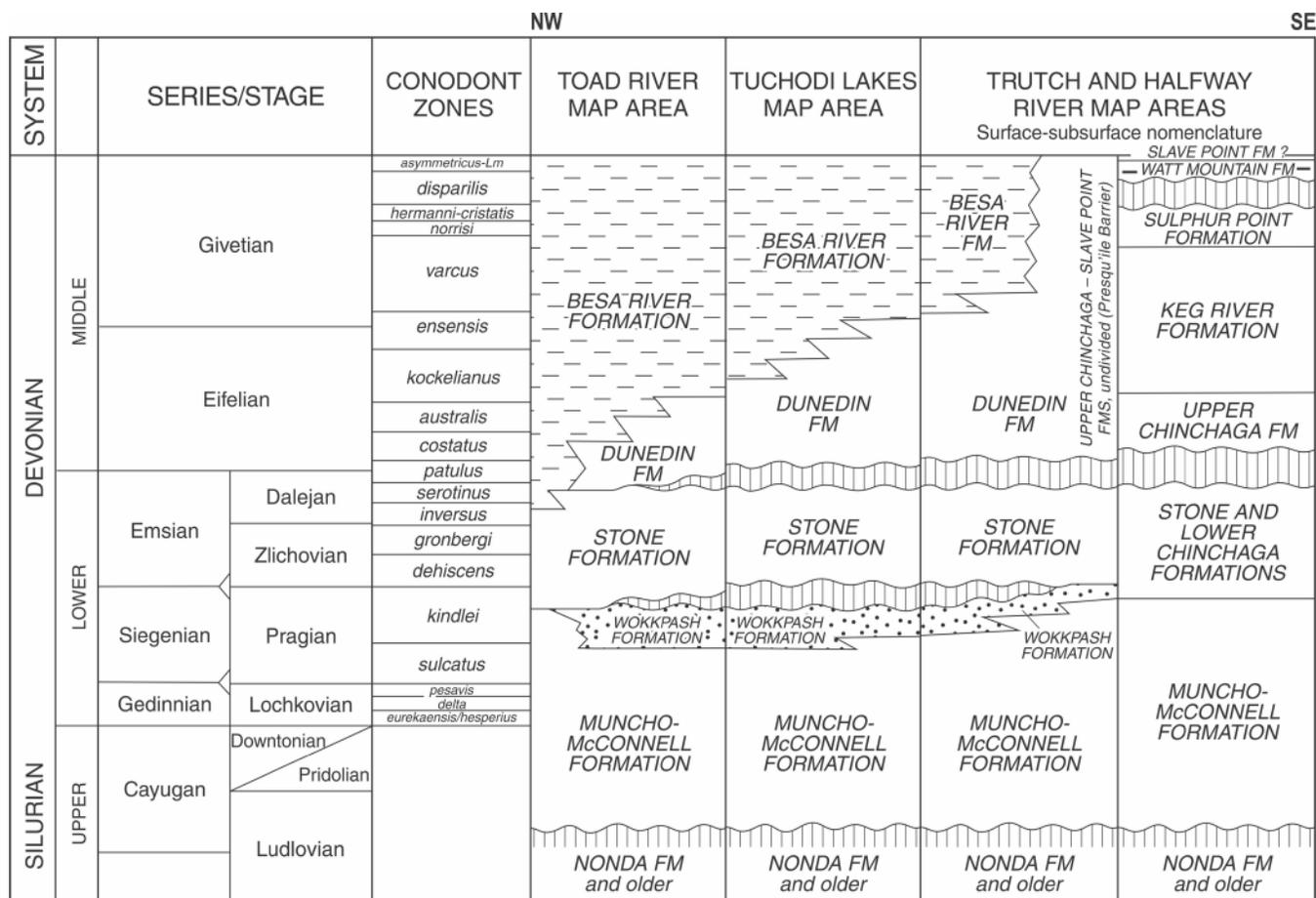


Figure 2. Stratigraphy of northeast British Columbia within the study area. An informal unit recognized here is the 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided'. These strata have been mapped as Dunedin Formation (Thompson, 1989), but are the surface exposure of the thick Presqu'ile Barrier reef complex that is developed throughout northeast British Columbia. This unit is formed largely, but perhaps not completely, of strata equivalent to the Keg River Formation and the upper part of the Chinchaga Formation. Lower and Middle Devonian conodont zonation is from Johnson et al. (1985).

although these were formerly included in the Pine Point. These are only a few of the many different usages that have been applied to the term 'Pine Point'.

A more recent use of the name 'Pine Point' in a major formal publication that focused on Devonian stratigraphy, is as an informal lithostratigraphic unit, the 'Pine Point dolostone' described in the region of the Northwest Territories near and at the former Pine Point minesite (Meijer Drees, 1993). Such a term cannot be used in this study because equivalent strata at the front of the Presqu'ile Barrier in northeast British Columbia contain a large proportion of limestone in addition to the fine-crystalline dolostone characteristic of the 'Pine Point dolostone' at Pine Point in the Northwest Territories (Meijer Drees, 1993).

This study follows the suggestion of Morrow et al. (2002) that the well-defined subsurface stratigraphic succession of Chinchaga (Upper and Lower members), Keg River (Lower and Upper Members), Sulphur Point, and Watt Mountain formations be used in place of the poorly

defined Pine Point Formation wherever possible. There is, however, a need to recognize that most of the thick 'Dunedin' sections that include these strata cannot be subdivided lithostratigraphically. This is primarily because of the absence of the distinctive green shale marker of the Watt Mountain Formation, which permits separation of the Slave Point Formation from underlying pre-Slave Point middle Devonian strata. Consequently, an informal stratigraphic unit, the 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided' (Fig. 2), is used here to indicate an undivided succession ranging in age from late Eifelian (Upper Chinchaga equivalent) to middle Givetian (Watt Mountain equivalent) or even to late Givetian (Slave Point equivalent).

METHODOLOGY

The material presented here formed part of a Master of Science degree submitted by L.M. Nadjjwon to the University of Waterloo, under the supervision of M. Coniglio at the

University of Waterloo. Fieldwork was conducted during the summers of 1998 and 1999. Twenty stratigraphic sections were measured through Lower and Middle Devonian strata (Fig. 1). Lithological descriptions for carbonates follow the classification of Dunham (1962), and modifications by Embry and Klovan (1971). Descriptions for siliciclastic rocks follow the classification of Folk (1974). Bed thickness and bedding-style terminology follows Ingram (1954) and Kahle and Floyd (1971). Breccia fabric descriptions follow Morrow (1982). Field descriptions were supplemented with thin-section examination, as outlined by Flügel (1982), for selected samples.

The Alaska Highway runs through the study area, though access to all but two field sections (Sections MTA-98-9 and MTA-99-1) was by helicopter. Strata were measured with a 1.5 or 1.3 m long Jacob's staff. Units within each formation were recognized on the basis of changes in lithology, fresh and weathered colour, weathering pattern, bedding, sedimentary structures (e.g. mudcracks), fossil content, and postdepositional alteration (e.g. dolomitization, brecciation, and mineralization).

PALEOGEOGRAPHIC AND DEPOSITIONAL SETTING

Northeastern British Columbia, as part of Western Canada, was within tropical to subtropical latitudes throughout Middle Devonian time, with the paleoequator near the latitude of Great Slave Lake and inclined approximately 30° to the present parallels of latitude (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). Open ocean lay to the west and north, and transgressions are interpreted to have progressed from northwest to southeast (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). The study region is included in the Macdonald Block, bordered to the north by the Liard Line (Fig. 1, 3) and to the south by the Great Slave Lake Shear Zone, (Fig. 1) both of which are basement features (Cecile et al., 1997). The MacDonald Platform, which occupies most of the study area (Fig. 3), was a region of dominantly shallow-water carbonate deposition.

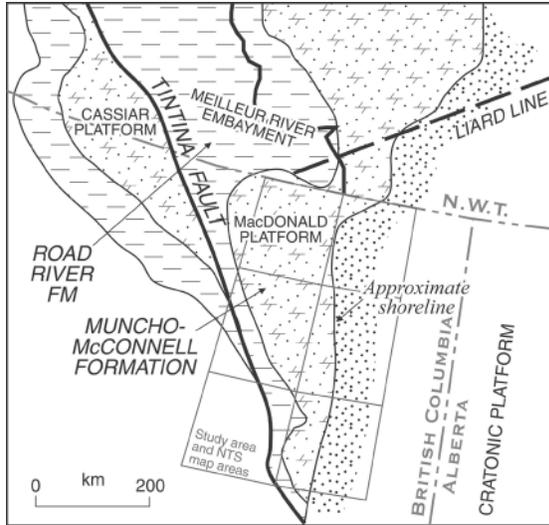
The discussion that follows and the maps shown in Figure 3 are based almost entirely on Morrow and Geldsetzer (1988). The paleogeographic maps of Figure 3 have not been restored palinspastically. A major structural discontinuity, the Tintina Fault (Fig. 3), separates the 'in place' Devonian east of Tintina from dextrally transported Devonian strata, including the tectono-sedimentological feature known as the Cassiar Platform (Fig. 3a), on the west side of the Tintina Fault.

Devonian sedimentation in Western Canada took place within two major provinces: the Continental Shelf and Cratonic Interior (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). A thick sequence of marine sediments accumulated within the Continental Shelf tectono-sedimentological province, which is divided into inner and outer parts (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). Shallow-marine carbonate deposits are characteristic of the Inner Shelf, whereas the Outer Shelf is characterized by resedimented slope and basin carbonate, siltstone, and shale that were deposited in marine basins and troughs bordering the west side of the Inner Shelf. Nineteen of the twenty stratigraphic sections described here are on the MacDonald Platform (Fig. 1), which is part of the Inner Continental Shelf tectono-sedimentological province of Morrow and Geldsetzer (1988). One stratigraphic section (Fig. 1), of slope and basin siliciclastic strata, is located in the Laurier Embayment, a part of the larger Ospika Embayment, both of which are part of the Outer Continental Shelf tectono-sedimentological province of Morrow and Geldsetzer (1988).

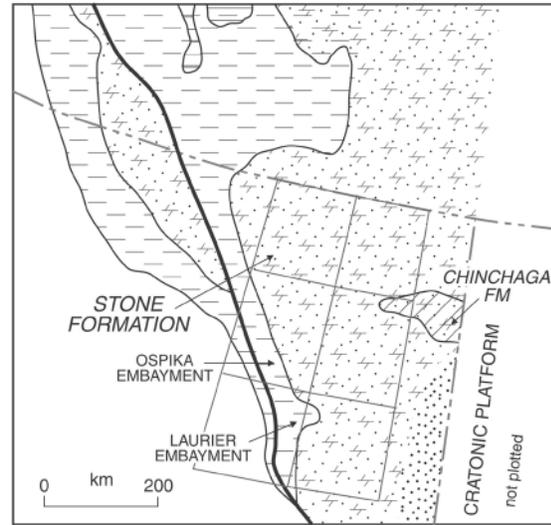
The Cratonic Platform tectono-sedimentological province (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988; Fig. 3a) lies east of MacDonald Platform. The Cratonic Platform contains a much thinner accumulation of shallow- to restricted-marine sediments. The Cratonic Platform was separated from the Continental Shelf tectono-sedimentological province by a 'hinge line' (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988; Griffin, 1967) across which the rate of Devonian subsidence abruptly increased westward. No measured stratigraphic sections of this study fall within the Cratonic Platform.

Several major western Canadian Devonian paleogeographic features affected sedimentation in northeast British Columbia. The Peace River Arch (Fig. 3), along the west edge of the Cratonic Platform Province in south-central British Columbia, was intermittently active throughout Devonian time, undergoing uplift and depression throughout the Devonian, and contributing clastic sediments during times of marine regression (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988; Cecile et al., 1997). To the north of this arch lay the MacDonald Shelf, which during the Devonian was an open-marine platform (MacDonald Platform) facing the Ospika Embayment and Meilleur River Embayment shale basins to the west and northwest, respectively (Fig. 3a; Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). A southern extension of the Kechika Trough, the Ospika Embayment (Fig. 1, 3), contained several re-entrants that extended into the MacDonald Shelf, or Platform (Ross et al., 1993), which accumulated basal sediments until final filling in the early Middle Devonian. One of these is the 30 km wide Laurier Embayment (Fig. 1; Davies, 1997) situated in the northern part of the Halfway River map area.

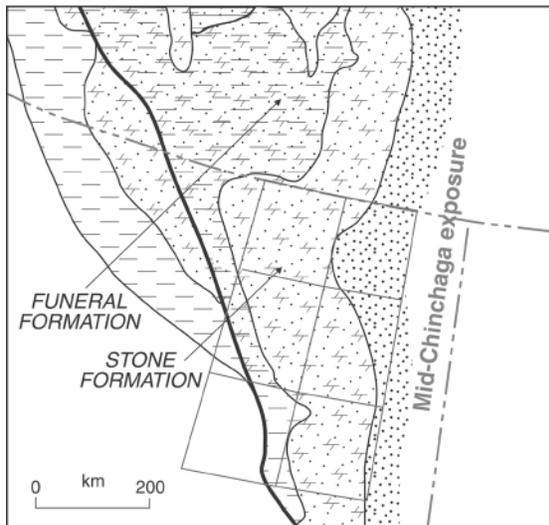
Figure 3. Generalized paleogeographic maps of Lower and Middle Devonian facies distributions west of 120°W longitude. *Modified from* Morrow and Geldsetzer (1988). Outline of study area is superimposed on these maps.



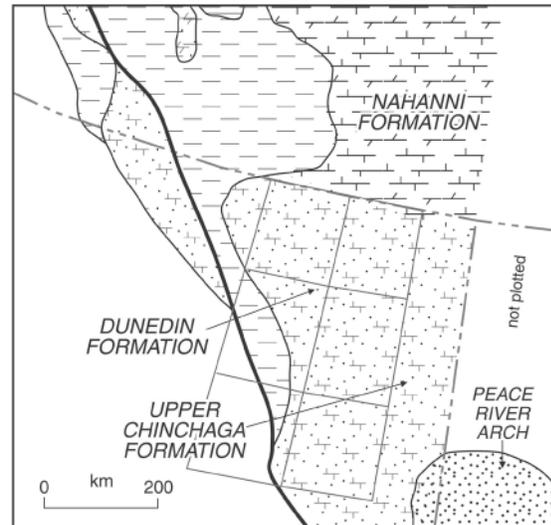
a Gedinnian and Siegenian



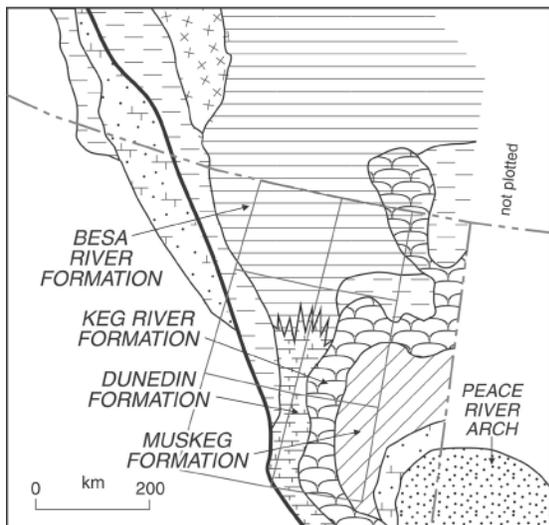
b late Emsian to early Eifelian



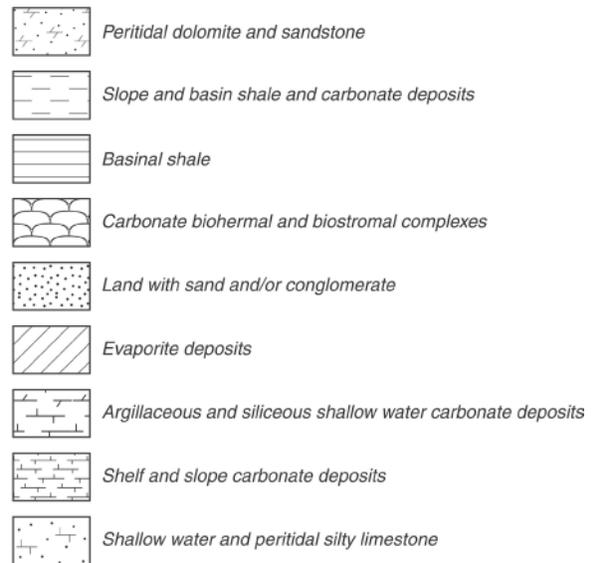
c middle Eifelian



d late Eifelian



e early to middle Givetian



East of the MacDonald Platform, across the Cratonic Platform Province, lay a shallow basin of restricted-marine circulation, the evaporitic Elk Point Basin (Maiklem, 1971). This continental interior basin extended as far south as North Dakota at the time of maximum Devonian marine incursion during the late Givetian (Braun et al., 1988).

Devonian strata in northeast British Columbia (Fig. 3) were deposited during the Kaskaskia Transgression (Sloss, 1963). This continent-wide transgression began in the latest Silurian, as recorded by the Muncho-McConnell Formation (Fig. 3a), and ended in the latest Famennian with deposition of the Exshaw Shale (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988). Several minor regressions, for example the middle Eifelian regression (Fig. 3c), which resulted in the mid-Chinchaga detrital break, punctuated the overall transgressive event. Following the Eifelian regression, the Devonian sea advanced all the way to North Dakota and filled the Elk Point Basin (Moore 1988; Fig. 3d). In mid-Givetian time, the western portion of the MacDonald Shelf underwent accelerated subsidence and the shale-carbonate facies transition shifted abruptly eastward (Fig. 3e). This marked the end of Dunedin Formation deposition and coincided with the development of a carbonate barrier complex, the Presqu'île Barrier reef complex. This complex formed at the northern edge of the Elk Point Basin as a stable carbonate barrier, or, in other words, as a reef-rimmed cratonic basin margin, called variously the Keg River-Slave Point Barrier (Fig. 3e), or 'Presqu'île Barrier' (Morrow and Geldsetzer, 1988) of the Elk Point Basin. This reef complex served as an effective barrier to marine circulation between the Elk Point Basin and the open ocean to the northwest until early Frasnian time. An abrupt transgression drowned the reef complex and deeper marine sedimentation was established, including deposition of the Besa River and Hay River formation shales as part of the continent-wide 'Taghanic Onlap' (Braun et al., 1988) Late Devonian marine transgression and basinal shale deposition.

BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND FORMATION AGES

Previous studies

Devonian strata of northeastern British Columbia contain few age-diagnostic macrofaunas. Macrofaunas with age significance identified in previous studies include fish fragments considered to be Early Devonian (R. Thorsteinsson, pers. comm. 1998) reported from two localities in the Muncho-McConnell Formation (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970). The crinoid *Gasterocoma bicaula* (Johnson and Lane, 1969), with its distinctive ossicles containing two axial canals, is diagnostic of the upper Lower Devonian (late Emsian) to lower Middle Devonian (middle Eifelian) (Dunn and Kendall, 1978). A. W. Norris (pers. comm. in Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970) described two-holed crinoids from strata 225 m from the base of the Dunedin in the Caribou

Range (Toad River map area). Previous work (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970) indicated that the Dunedin top is diachronous based upon brachiopod determinations. In the Caribou Range to the north, the top beds contain *Schuchertella* cf. *S. adoceta*, which is Eifelian in age. In the central areas, top beds contain the Givetian brachiopods *Leiorhynchus castanea*, whereas in the south (94B), they contain *Hadorrhynchia sandersoni* and *Halloceras logani*, both indicative of late Givetian strata. Chatterton (1978), based on conodont determinations, found the age of the Dunedin near its northern limit to be no younger than early to middle Eifelian.

At Mount Jane Smith (59°N, 126°07'W) along the northwestern limit of Dunedin exposure immediately west of the Toad River map area, a conodont collection taken from the Dunedin Formation 30 m beneath its upper contact indicates that the Dunedin Formation at this locality is no younger than earliest Eifelian (Chatterton, 1978). This is older than the latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian age for the upper contact of the Dunedin Formation at its type section in Section MTA-99-1 (Table 2). These data corroborate the previously suggested diachronous nature of the upper Dunedin contact (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970).

BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC DATA OF THIS STUDY

Introduction

Conodonts represent the most generally useful means for biostratigraphic zonation of Devonian carbonate rocks worldwide (Johnson et al., 1985). Forty-two (42) conodont samples were collected during this study and seventeen of these yielded identifiable conodonts (Table 2). Collections were made preferentially from beds near the upper and lower contacts between formations. Conodont samples were processed and analyzed by A. D. McCracken (2000a, b). Most of these were collected from the Dunedin Formation (22 samples) and the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided (13), with the remainder from the Stone (2), Muncho-McConnell (1), Nonda (2) and Besa River (2) formations.

Abundant macrofauna were observed in many of the stratigraphic sections measured in this study, but only one of these (*Stringocephalus* sp.) has stage-specific age significance (Sample C-406029 in Section MTA-98-3).

Nonda Formation

The uppermost bed of the Nonda Formation beneath the Devonian succession at Keily Creek in the Trutch map area (Section MTA-99-4) is firmly dated as late Llandovery to early Wenlock, or Early Silurian in age (Table 2) in agreement with previous work, summarized in Norford (1997).

Norford (1997) indicated that the beds immediately below the erosional top surface of the Nonda Formation fall within an age range of late Llandovery to early Wenlock throughout northeast British Columbia.

Muncho-McConnell Formation

No new faunal age dates for the Muncho-McConnell Formation were obtained during this study. Norford (1997) indicated a latest Wenlock age for the base of the Muncho-McConnell throughout northeast British Columbia.

Stone Formation

As with the Muncho-McConnell Formation, no new age dates were obtained for the Stone Formation during this study. Previous work (e.g. Chatterton, 1978) has indicated a Siegenian to Emsian age for the Stone Formation in northeast British Columbia.

Dunedin Formation

All Dunedin conodont determinations were from the upper parts or uppermost beds of the Dunedin Formation. Almost all these yielded conodonts representing the *ensen-sis* Zone to Lower or Middle *varcus* Subzone, indicating the latest Eifelian to early Givetian of the Middle Devonian (Table 2). One sample (C-254943 in Table 2) yielded conodonts indicative of the *kockelianus* Zone to Middle *varcus* Subzone, which ranges from late Eifelian to mid-Givetian in age.

Dunedin strata also contain some age-significant macrofauna. Crinoid ossicles with two axial canals were identified in Section 11 (Caribou Range in the Toad River map area) at 70 m above the base of the Dunedin Formation. This suggests that the lower part of the formation is late Emsian to early Eifelian in age in the northern sections of the study region, confirming the results of previous workers (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970; Morrow, 1978).

Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided

Conodont samples from the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided yielded age determinations similar to those of the Dunedin Formation, ranging from the *costatus* Zone to the Upper *varcus* Subzone (Table 2). This indicates a mid-Eifelian to mid-Givetian age range (Table 2). However, it is of interest to note that the youngest age (Upper *varcus* Subzone) is slightly younger than the youngest determinations (Middle *varcus* Subzone) from the Dunedin Formation as well as those (Middle *varcus* Subzone) from the basal beds of the Besa River Formation above the Dunedin Formation at its type section (MTA-99-1). Consequently, the Upper

Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided includes strata that are age-equivalent to uppermost Keg River Formation and possibly younger (Johnson et al., 1985).

Large terebratulid brachiopods identified as *Stringocephalus* sp. (Norris, 1998), diagnostic of the Givetian Stage or Age (Crickmay, 1960), were found in reef-like buildups 20 m from the top of the Dunedin/Keg River at Section MTA-98-3. Similar brachiopods (not formally identified) were found near the top of Section 19.

Besa River Formation

The two conodont determinations obtained from samples from basal Besa River beds in Sections MTA-98-1 and MTA-99-1 were both indicative of the *ensen-sis* Zone to mid-Middle *varcus* Subzone, or a latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian age range.

Dolomitic quartz sandstone map unit (Unit Dqs)

The Besa River in Section MTA-98-1 conformably overlies the 'dolomitic quartz sandstone map unit' in the Laurier Embayment. This is consistent with the perception that the 'dolomitic quartz sandstone map unit' is at least partly coeval with deposition of the Dunedin Formation and the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided, but no fauna were collected from this unit to confirm this interpretation.

STRATIGRAPHY OF THE STUDY AREA

Introduction

Devonian stratigraphy within the two northern map areas (Toad River and Tuchodi Lakes) differs markedly from that within the two southern map areas (Trutch and Halfway River; Fig. 2, 4), where some sections include strata equivalent to formations, such as the Keg River and Sulphur Point formations that are mapped throughout the subsurface to the east of the outcrop belt. Lower Devonian formations are present across the study area but tend to be markedly thicker to the northwest (Fig. 4). A marked basinal re-entrant filled with a siliciclastic succession occurs along the Devonian shelf edge in the Halfway map area. This has been termed the Laurier Embayment (Fig. 1, 4; Davies, 1997). Strata occupying this embayment are age-equivalent to the Silurian to Middle Devonian, carbonate-dominated shelf platform succession bordering the embayment, and have been described and informally named by Thompson (1989; Fig. 4, 5).

The Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided and the Dunedin Formation were the primary research subjects of a Master thesis (Nadjwion, 2001) using the outcrop

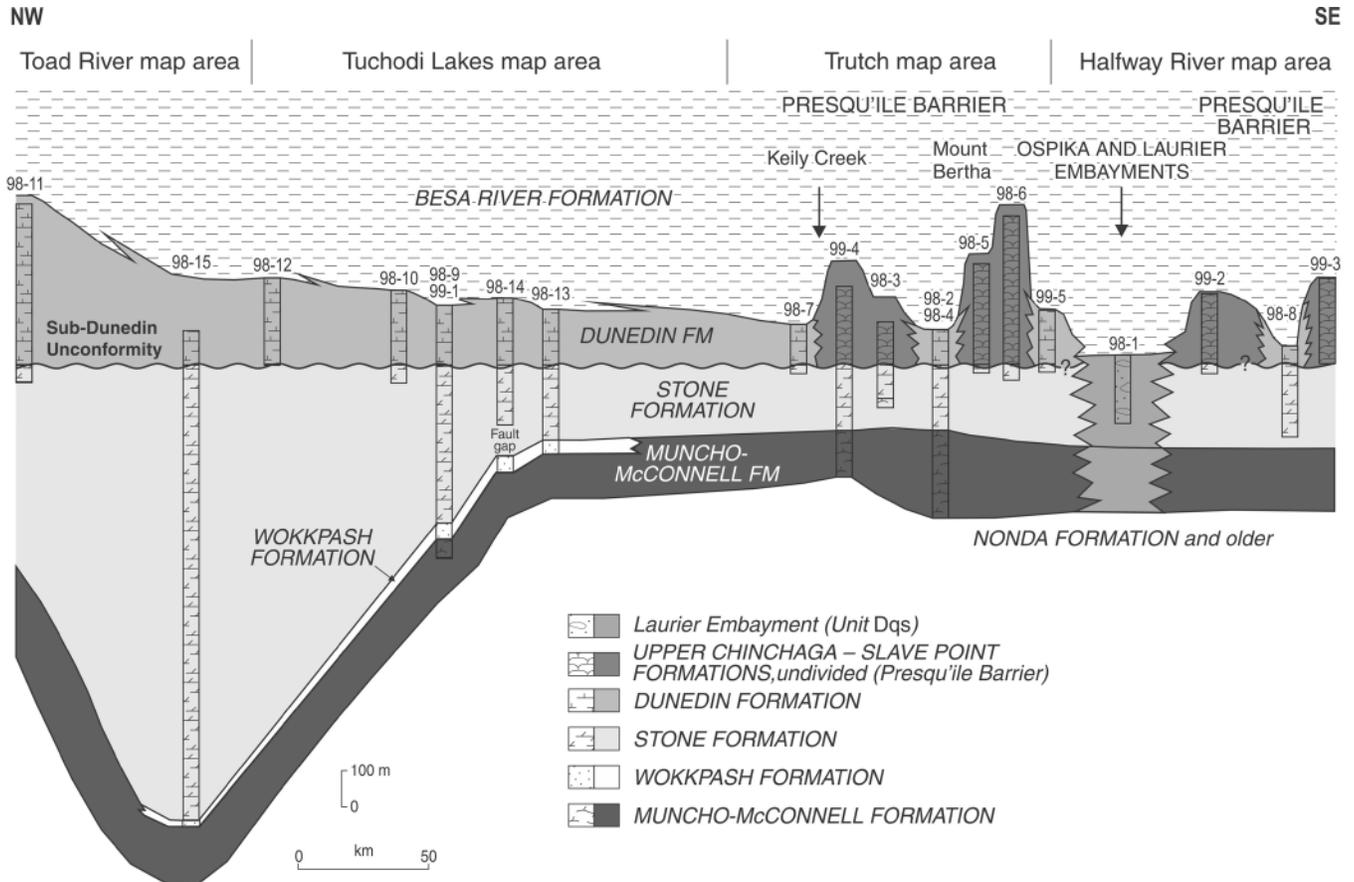


Figure 4. Generalized cross-section of the study area, illustrating the relationships between the formations and thickness changes within them. Section datum is the top of the Stone Formation and the line of section is shown on Figure 1.

stratigraphic data provided by this study. A more complete summary of sedimentological and diagenetic findings for these formations is planned for future publications.

Dolomitic quartz sandstone unit (Dqs)

The Middle Devonian dolomitic quartz sandstone unit (Dqs) was measured in only one incomplete section (Fig. 5; MTA-98-1) of the uppermost map unit of the basinal lower Paleozoic siliciclastic succession within the Laurier Embayment (Fig. 1; Thompson, 1989). The latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian age of Besa River limestone and shale immediately overlying this unit in Section MTA-98-1 (Table 2), as mentioned previously, is consistent with Thompson's (1989) correlation of the Dqs map unit with Dunedin strata flanking the Laurier Embayment. Also, the presence of eroded breccia fragments of grey dolostone in unit 2 of Section MTA-98-1 that resemble dolostone of the Stone Formation may indicate that much of the Dqs map unit is formed of deposits shed into the embayment during the period of erosion of the surrounding MacDonald Platform that followed deposition of the Stone Formation.

Muncho-McConnell Formation

The oldest Devonian unit is the Muncho-McConnell Formation, originally named by Taylor and MacKenzie (1970) describing an approximately 60 to 350 m thick succession of homogeneous, colour-banded, medium to light grey, medium- to thick-bedded, fine-crystalline to aphanitic dolostone. Recessive, faintly yellow-weathering, silty to sandy, laminated dolostone intervals impart a somewhat 'ribbed' appearance in outcrop to the Muncho-McConnell (Fig. 6a, 7a). The two complete sections of Muncho-McConnell measured as part of this study were 267.0 m in Section MTA-98-2, and 142.5 m in Section MTA-99-4 (Fig. 1, Table 3). The Muncho-McConnell overlies the dark grey, more resistant, Silurian Nonda Formation (Fig. 2, 4, 6a and 7a; Norford et al., 1966) with a low-relief, and abruptly unconformable contact (Fig. 8a) across the study area.

Because of the paucity of data, determination of facies changes within the Muncho-McConnell across the study region is difficult. Overall, it is very fine-crystalline dolomite, probably originally deposited as a mudstone. There are numerous silty and sandy intervals as laminae and lenses (Fig. 8b). Dominant sedimentary structures are laminae (many likely microbial), fenestral fabric, and local channels and scour features, some of which are half a metre in



Figure 5. Outcrop photographs at or near Section MTA-98-1 near Robb Lake. **a)** View to the south of the east-west ridge immediately south of Section MTA-98-1. This shows part of the siliciclastic lower Paleozoic succession that fills the Laurier Embayment (see Fig. 1). 2010-056 **b)** Hummocky trough-crossbedding in dolomite-cemented quartzarenite sandstone of unit 2 in Section MTA-98-1. Jacob's staff for scale. 2010-057

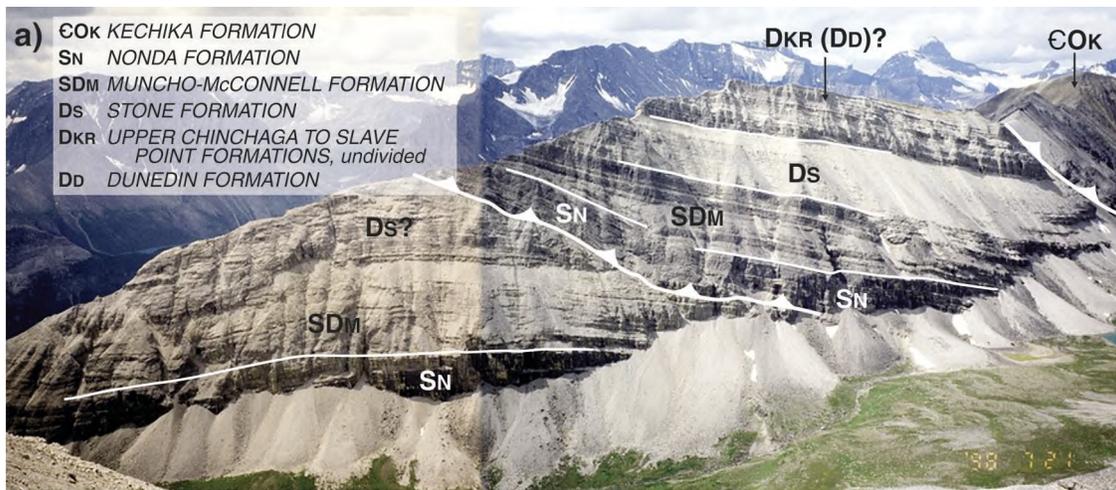


Figure 6. Outcrop photographs at or near Section MTA-98-3 north of Redfern Lake. **a)** Panoramic view to the south of several thrust panels immediately south of Section MTA-98-3. 2010-058 **b)** Close-up view of the large terebratulid brachiopod *Stringocephalus* sp. in unit 23 of Section MTA-98-3. Brachiopod shells shown are about 10 cm in length. 2010-059

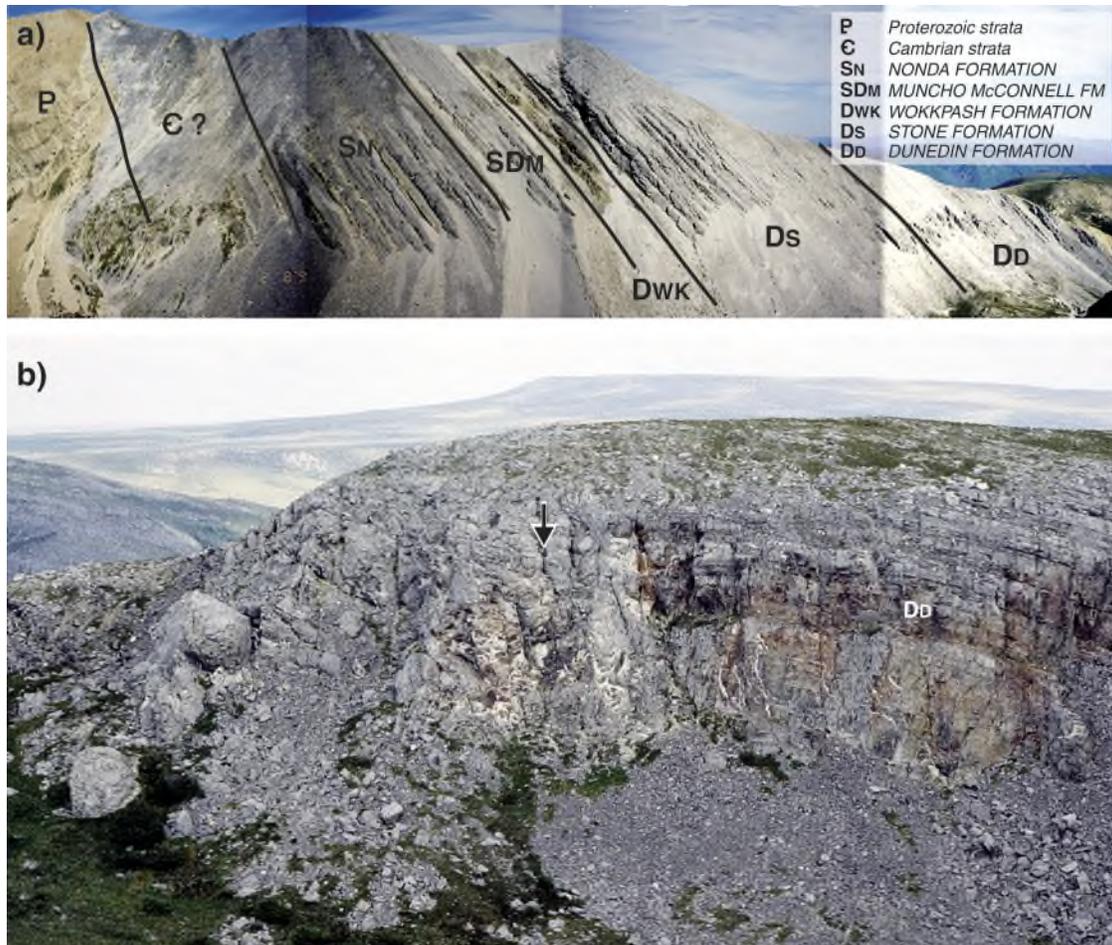


Figure 7. Outcrop photographs at Sections MTA-98-11 and MTA-98-13. **a)** View to the north from Section MTA-98-13 of the lower Paleozoic succession near Mount Mary Henry. 2010-060 **b)** View to the north of a small hill, about 15 to 20 m high, formed of bedded limestone near the top of the Dunedin Formation immediately north of Section MTA-98-11. A large, white calcite- and/or dolospar-cemented body of rubble and mosaic breccia is exposed (arrow). Larger breccia blocks are estimated to be about a metre across. 2010-061

amplitude. Visible fauna are seen only in Section MTA-98-2, as stromatoporoids within small biostromes near the base of the formation. This same section is also the most siliciclastic. In general, this formation was deposited in a peritidal environment but Section MTA-98-2 shows some evidence of occasional deposition in a subtidal to open-marine environment, perhaps because of its relative proximity to the Laurier Embayment (Fig. 4).

Wokkpash Formation

North of Keily Creek (Fig. 1) the Muncho-McConnell Formation is conformably overlain by a succession of nearshore, crossbedded, dolomitic, cream- to yellowish-orange-weathering, white quartz arenite of the Wokkpash Formation, which is reported to range in thickness from about 40 to about 125 m (Fig. 2; Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970). Strata of this formation are included within four sections of the two northern map areas (Table 3). Three complete

Wokkpash sections ranging in thickness from 41.6 to 50.7 m were measured (Table 3, Fig. 7a). The Wokkpash Formation is unconformably overlain by the Stone Formation (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970; Fig. 2). The Wokkpash was not identified in the southern part of the Trutch map area or in the Halfway River map area, consistent with the observations of Taylor and MacKenzie (1970) (Fig. 4). The dominant lithology is sandstone, with dolomitic sandstone in Section MTA-98-13, the southernmost exposure of the formation. Much of the sandstone contains silty layers.

Overall, the formation contains sedimentary structures indicative of deposition within a shallow-marine foreshore to nearshore environment with moderate to high energy levels, such as a barrier bar complex. These features include scour-and-fill bedding (Fig. 8b), crossbedding, and current laminae. There are also soft-sediment deformation structures, including flame and ball-and-pillow structures.

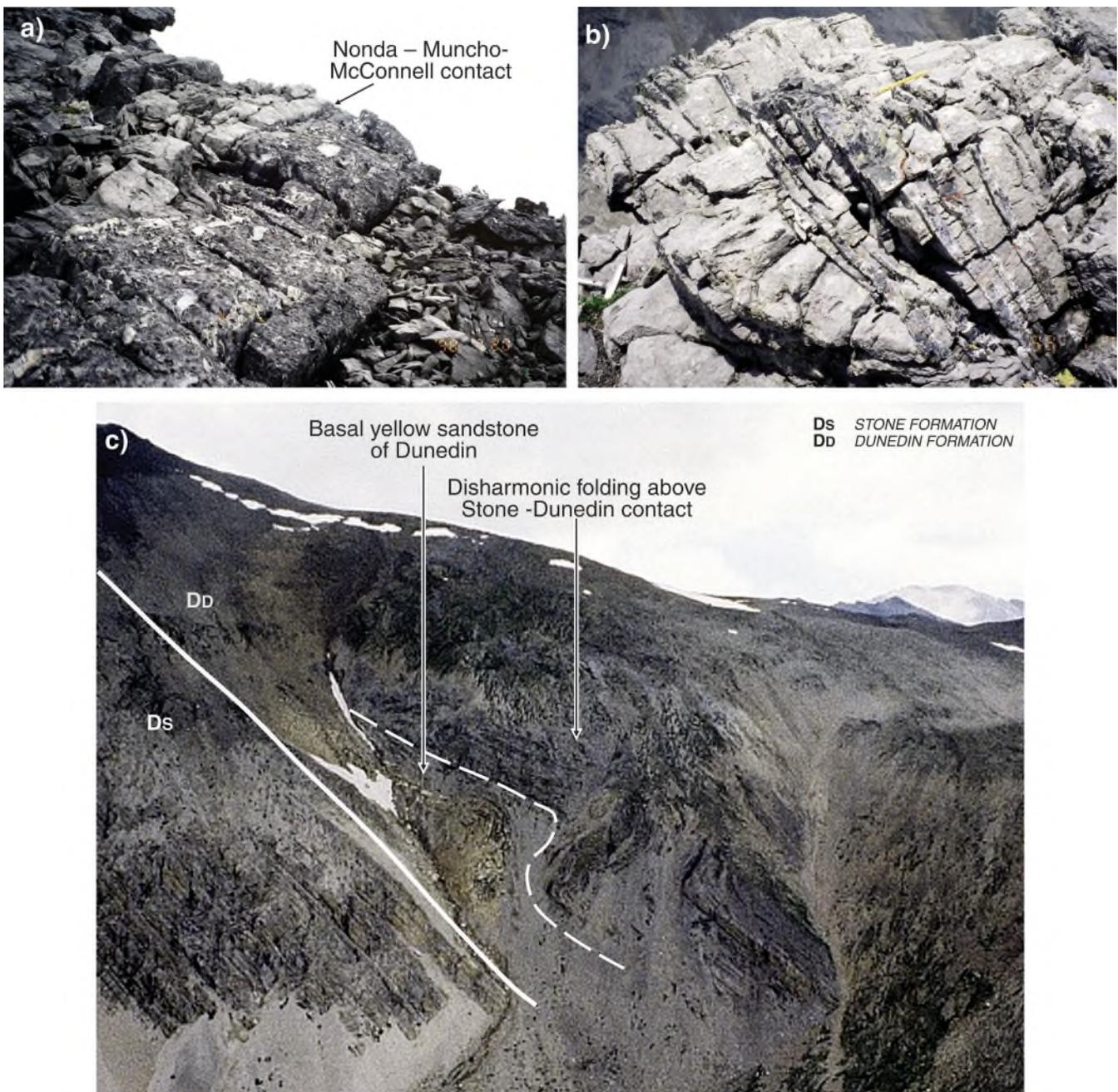


Figure 8. Outcrop photographs at or near Section MTA-98-2 south of Colledge Lake. **a)** Contact between Nonda and Muncho-McConnell formations at the top of unit 1 in Section MTA-98-2 (arrow). The contact is erosional, with up to 20 cm of relief. The highly fossiliferous bed below the contact is approximately 50 cm thick. 2010-062 **b)** Lenticular silicified sand lenses within the dolostone of unit 5 in Section MTA-98-2. 2010-063 **c)** View to the north from Section MTA-98-2 across the valley of Section MTA-98-4 showing disharmonic folding (outlined for emphasis) at the Stone-Dunedin contact. Detachment has occurred at the base of the yellow sandy beds of the Dunedin. 2010-064

Stone Formation

The Stone Formation conformably overlies the Muncho-McConnell Formation south of Keily Creek and the Wokkash Formation north of Keily Creek (Fig. 4). The Stone Formation is a succession of northward-thickening, shallow-marine dolostones estimated to range from 150 to 650 m in thickness (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970). North of the type section (in Section MTA-98-9), the thickness of the Stone Formation increases more markedly. The seven complete Stone sections measured in this study range in thickness from 105.5 to 1386.6 m (Table 3). The anomalously thick Stone Formation in Section MTA-98-15 may be structurally thickened. South of Keily Creek, where the Wokkash is absent, the Stone Formation appears to overlie the Muncho-McConnell conformably.

The dominant rock types of the formation are dolostone and silty to sandy dolostone. The dolostone is generally fine crystalline, originally a mudstone, and contains features such as colour banding, laminae, fenestral fabric, mudchip breccias within laminated units, scour and channel fills, and rare teepee structures, mudcracks, burrows, and stromatolite-like features. Bioclasts are rare, and include amphiporids in Sections MTA-98-15 and MTA-99-4, finely comminuted skeletal debris, corals, and bivalve shells in Section MTA-98-3, stromatolites and comminuted shell hash in Section MTA-98-2, and comminuted shell hash in Section MTA-99-2. Mature quartz sand appears within the formation in the more southerly sections of the Tuchodi Lakes map area as sandy laminae and crossbeds, and in sandy and silty lenses, stringers, and thin beds. Thick pods and beds of particulate rubble pack- and float breccias are found in the middle portions of the Stone Formation in the central portions of the study area, in the same sections in which siliciclastic content first becomes apparent in outcrop. The breccias are composed of rounded to angular mud intraclasts floating in a darker mudstone matrix. These breccias are found in Sections MTA-98-13, 98-14, and 99-4. The breccias can be contained within one or several beds, or may even cut perpendicularly through bedding.

The upper contact of the Stone Formation with the Dunedin Formation is clearly unconformable at several sections, including MTA-98-15, 98-10, 99-1, 98-13, 98-14, and 98-7. This contact appears as a weathered surface with orange to red mud infiltrating the karst surface, or as a wavy unconformity with a relief of up to 50 cm. The contact between the Stone and Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided is not as clearly unconformable in the outcrop localities studied.

There are several different types of postlithification breccias and other diagenetic features within the Stone Formation. Breccias associated with tectonism and faulting are found in Sections MTA-98-15 and MTA-98-14, as calcite-cemented rubble to mosaic packbreccias. In Sections MTA-98-9 and MTA-98-10 there are rubble and mosaic pack breccias showing clear solution collapse, cemented by barite and

minor calcite. This breccia extends upward into the Dunedin Formation at Section MTA-98-10. Calcite-cemented collapse rubble breccia is found in the basal units of Sections MTA-98-25 and MTA-99-4. The only dolomite-cemented breccias are found within Section MTA-99-2, which has saddle-dolomite-cemented collapse breccia clearly associated with the overlying hydrothermal dolomitization of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided at that location.

Dunedin Formation

The overlying Dunedin Formation, a succession of open-marine, shelfal argillaceous limestone (Taylor and MacKenzie 1970), was deposited north of Keily Creek and generally north and west of the Presqu'ile Barrier reef complex (Bassett and Stout, 1967). The 'Presqu'ile Barrier' (Meijer Drees, 1994) is a paleogeographic feature that coincides with the northwest limit of the combined Keg River and Slave Point formations mapped both on the surface and in the subsurface (Fig. 1). The Dunedin Formation was reported to range in thickness from about 140 to about 350 m in outcrop exposures in northeast British Columbia (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970). The nine complete Dunedin successions measured in this study range in thickness from 55.5 to 263.5 m (Table 3). There is a general northwestward increase in Dunedin thickness to a maximum measured incomplete thickness of 490.5 m in Section MTA-98-11 (Fig. 4). The thinnest Dunedin successions, at sections MTA-98-4, MTA-98-7, and MTA-98-8, occur immediately adjacent to the Presqu'ile Barrier represented by the relatively thick Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided succession (Fig. 4).

The darker open-shelf limestone of the Dunedin rests abruptly and unconformably on lighter coloured dolostone of the underlying Stone Formation (Fig. 4, 9a) in the Tuchodi Lakes and Toad River map areas (Morrow, 1978). In the Trutch and Halfway River map areas south of Keily Creek (Fig. 1, 4) the basal Dunedin beds of orange and yellow dolomitic siltstone and sandstone up to 20 m thick overlie the erosional unconformity surface at the top of the Stone Formation. In some areas, this surface has structural expression as a minor décollement with small detachment folds developed in overlying Dunedin strata (Fig. 8c). The upper contact of the Dunedin with the overlying dark grey and black shale of the Besa River Formation is gradational over several metres (Fig. 9b). This interpretation of a gradational upper contact is corroborated by conodont age determinations from samples immediately above and below the upper Dunedin contact at the Dunedin type section (Taylor and MacKenzie, 1970) in Section MTA-99-1 (Table 2). Conodont determinations from these samples (C-254975 and C-254976 in Table 2) indicate that both the basal Besa River strata and the uppermost Dunedin strata in this section fall within the *ensensis* Zone to mid-Middle *varcus* Subzone. This indicates a latest Eifelian to mid-Givetian Middle Devonian age for the entire stratigraphic interval containing these faunas at the Dunedin type section.

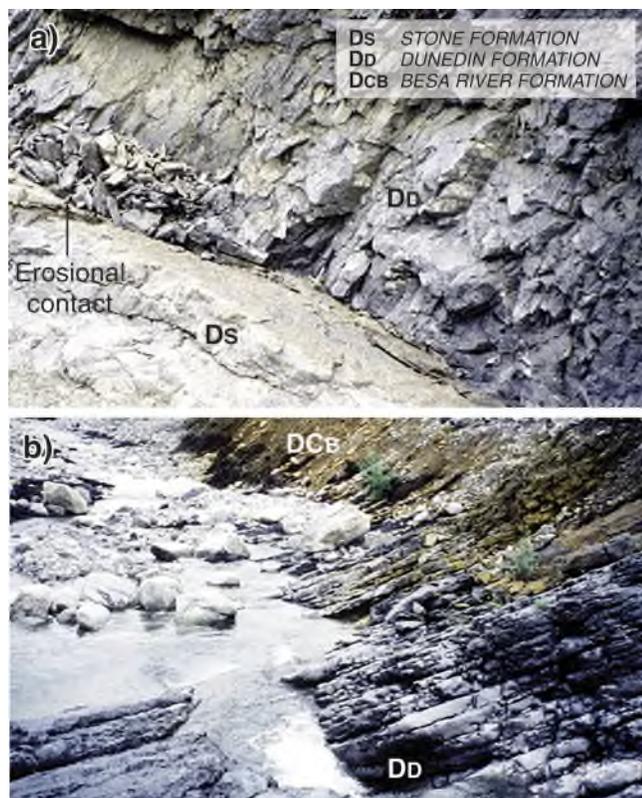


Figure 9. Outcrop photographs at Section MTA-98-10. **a)** Sharp, erosional contact of medium to dark bluish grey Dunedin limestone on light grey dolostone of the Stone Formation (arrow). 2010-065 **b)** Upper gradational contact of the Dunedin Formation to Besa River Formation in Section MTA-98-10, where thin-bedded Dunedin limestone passes upward to grey Besa River shale. 2010-066

The Dunedin Formation was deposited almost entirely as limestone except for basal beds that are commonly peritidal syngedimentary dolostone. A minor percentage of dolomite also occurs as irregular matrix replacement throughout the formation, appearing as micrometre-scale euhedral to sub-hedral rhombs generally associated with peritidal deposits. Section MTA-98-7 contains a higher proportion of dolomitic limestone than other sections. This may be a consequence of its relatively landward position on MacDonald Platform (Fig. 1, 4).

Typical rock types include mudstone, wackestone and packstone, with some grainstone and floatstone. Many of the units contain peloids. Amphiporid rudstones are also found as small beds throughout the formation. There are some rare silty intervals, preserved as laminae and lenses, which occur in Section MTA-99-1 and in Dunedin sections south of MTA-99-1. Typical sedimentary structures include bioturbation and burrows, laminae, microbial-mediated laminae, fenestral fabric, scour-and-fill laminae, colour laminae, mudcracks, sedimentary breccias of mudchip intra-clasts, and rare crossbedding. Some bioclasts found include ostracodes, brachiopod and gastropod shell fragments,

crinoids, hemispheroidal stromatoporoids, and also amphiporids, corals, calcispheres, charophyte oogonia, trilobite fragments, echinoderm fragments, flnger and laminar stromatoporoids, and stromatolites. Bryozoans are found in the most southern sections (MTA-98-13 and MTA-98-7). The middle third of Section MTA-98-10 contains within peloidal bioclastic grainstone small, shallowing-upward cycles that end at possible hardground surfaces and have basal scour features.

Overall, the formation appears to have been deposited during a transgressive event. The basal units are generally shallow open marine in nature, and are followed by strata indicating fluctuating peritidal and shallow subtidal marine depositional environments. Upward through the formation the proportion of subtidal and open-marine strata increases and the peritidal strata decrease. Section MTA-98-11 is the farthest northerly measured section, and also the thickest. Within the basal 200 m of the section there are numerous irregular crinoidal grainstone and floatstone beds alternating with mudstone. These are interpreted as crinoidal and bioclastic shoals forming on the northern edge of the MacDonald Platform during initial Dunedin Formation deposition. Nodular black chert and silicified bioclasts are commonly found within the uppermost 100 m of the formation in many sections.

A breccia pipe occurs in the upper part of Section MTA-98-11, cemented by very coarse-crystalline calcite and silica, with large angular clasts (Fig. 7b). As previously mentioned in the discussion of the Stone Formation, the lower half of Section MTA-98-10 contains a great thickness of barite- and calcite-cemented mosaic to rubble floatbreccia (Morrow, 1982) of probable solution-collapse origin.

Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided

Dunedin Formation strata mapped near the Presqu'île Barrier are age-equivalent to the Upper Chinchaga Member and the lower part of the Keg River Formation (Lower Keg River Member) in the subsurface (Fig. 2). As discussed previously, surface exposures of anomalously thick successions mapped as 'Dunedin' in the southern Trutch and Halfway River map areas have been designated here as the 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided'. This unit forms the outcrop continuation of the subsurface Presqu'île Barrier (Fig. 10a) in these map areas (Fig. 1, 2). This informal name is applied to strata previously mapped as Dunedin Formation in the Halfway River map area by Thompson (1989). Thompson (1989) recognized that the thicker Dunedin outcrop successions in this map area included packages of strata correlative with, and individually recognizable in outcrop as, correlatives of the subsurface Pine Point, Sulphur Point, Watt Mountain, and Slave Point formations (Fig. 19 in Thompson, 1989). This detailed subdivision of thick Dunedin successions in the Trutch and Halfway River map areas was not recognizable in 'Dunedin' successions examined during this study, primarily because the distinctive

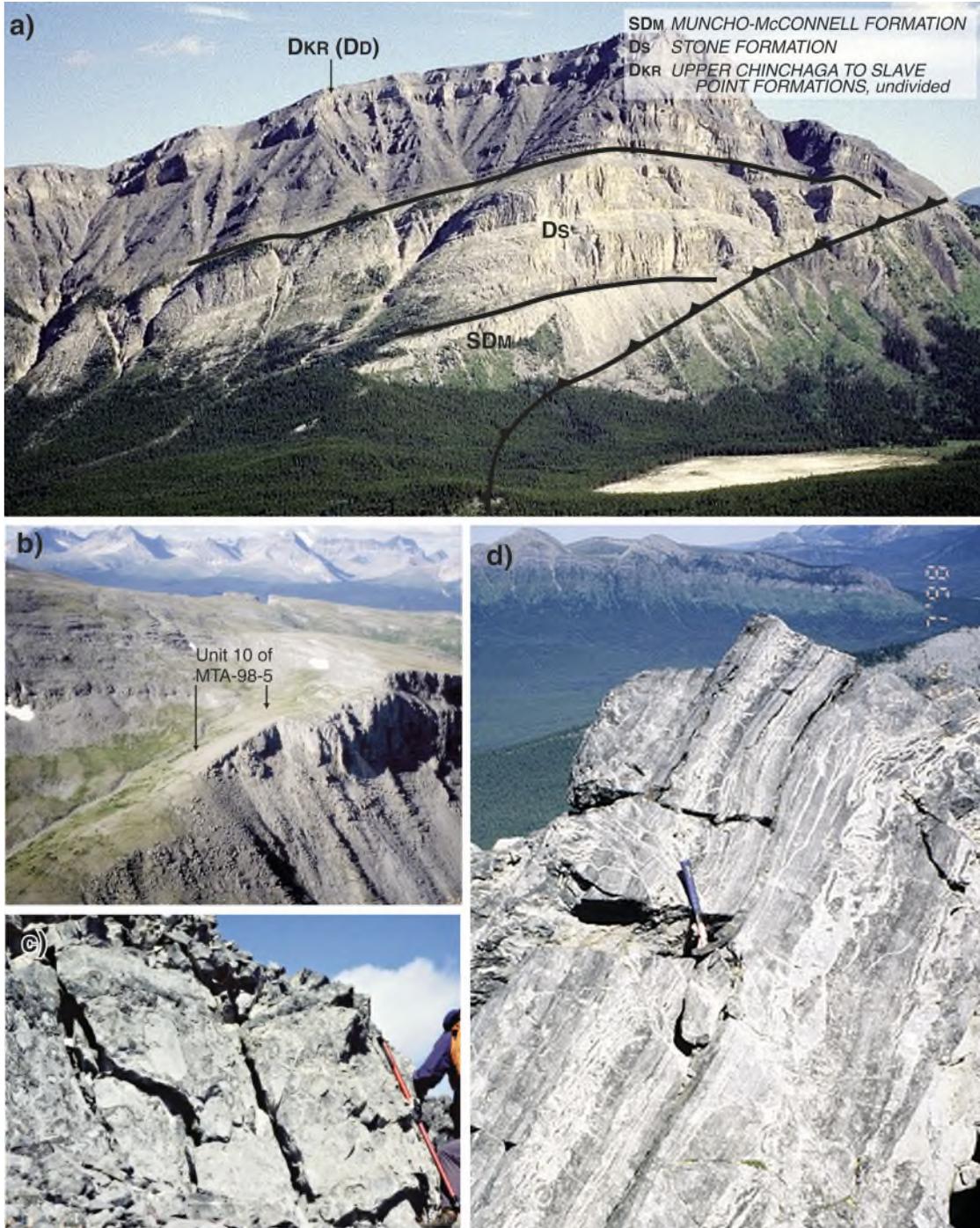


Figure 10. Outcrop photographs at or near Section MTA-98-5. **a)** View to the north of Mount Bertha. 2010-067 **b)** Section MTA-98-5 on the north side of Mount Bertha. A large, subvertical body of dolomitized and white dolospar-cemented mosaic breccia (unit 10) lies between the arrows. Strata around this body are undolomitized limestone or unbrecciated bedded dolostone (see Section MTA-98-5). 2010-068 **c)** Large, hemispheroidal and domal stromatoporoids in the 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided' strata in unit 18 of Section MTA-98-5. These reefal, stromatoporoid-dominated beds form the prominent line of light grey cliffs along the upper part of the 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point undivided' in Figure 10a. Jacob's staff for scale. 2010-069 **d)** Dolospar-cemented brecciated dolostone of unit 10 in this section. Hammer for scale. 2010-070

green shale marker of the Watt Mountain Formation was not observed. However, the presence of charophyte oögonia in unit 21 of Section MTA-98-3 in the upper part of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided may indicate that unit 21 is age-equivalent to Watt Mountain strata farther east (Morrow et al., 2002). Watt Mountain strata are characterized by an abundance of charophyte oögonia indicating a fresh- to brackish-water environment (Meijer Drees, 1993). It is not certain, however, how much, if any, of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided is younger than the Keg River Formation.

The Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided limestone was affected by hydrothermal dolomitization following burial (*see* Presqu'île and Manetoe dolomites, below). There is some matrix dolomitization of micrometre-scale euhedral to subhedral dolomite rhombs within the limestone intervals.

Siliciclastic deposits are found at the base of the Dunedin Formation in sections MTA-98-4 and MTA-99-5 and at the base of Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided strata in sections MTA-99-2 and MTA-99-4. These basal units are pure quartz arenite grading to silty dolostone in the north, and become a silty dolomite farther to the south. These units may represent shoreface deposition attendant upon southward marine transgression across MacDonald Platform after subaerial exposure of the Stone Formation.

Diverse rock types occur throughout the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided, from mudstone to bioclastic rudstone. Sedimentary structures include laminae, burrowing and bioturbation, mud intraclasts and sedimentary breccias, fenestral fabric, microbial laminae, current ripples, crossbedding and crosslamination, and stromatolites (Flügel, 1982). Bioclasts include brachiopod and gastropod shells, ostracodes, echinoderm fragments, bryozoans, corals, hemispheroidal and laminar stromatoporoids, crinoids, amphiporids, trilobites, sponges, algae, and calcispheres.

Most of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided was deposited in and around a reef or biostromal complex. Alternation of back-reef restricted lagoons, reef-core stromatoporoidal (Fig. 10c) and coral rudstones, and forereef, bioclast-rich debris beds are common. This facies mosaic was developed on an open-marine subtidal platform of mudstone and bioclastic wackestone, or upon a siliciclastic shoreface. The outcrop belt runs approximately parallel to the strike of the reef front, but there are some sections that contribute an east-west component to the complex. The Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided in Sections MTA-98-5 and MTA-98-6 are positioned east of the Dunedin Formation in Section MTA-98-4, and there is a distinct difference in the appearance of the sections. The easterly Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided sections are much thicker, and contain back-reef lagoon and reef core sediments, whereas the westerly Dunedin section contains open-marine and off-reef debris beds and biostromes. Another example is seen between Sections MTA-98-8 and MTA-99-3 (Fig. 4). These sections are separated by only one mountain ridge, and are about

2 km apart, but display very different thicknesses and facies development within the strata mapped entirely as "Dunedin Formation" (Thompson, 1989) in both sections. The Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided in Section MTA-99-3 is thick, and contains thick stromatoporoidal boundstones and other reefal facies not typical of the Dunedin Formation in its type area farther north, whereas the Dunedin in Section MTA-98-8 is much thinner and contains forereef, slope-deposited, and open-marine strata.

Dolomitization, as part of the Presqu'île Dolomite, occurs throughout the formation as a result of hydrothermal alteration (Fig. 10b). Associated fabrics include rubble and mosaic float- and packbreccias, zebra fabrics, and saddlerized salt-and-pepper (Fig. 10d). Many of the coarser breccias have later calcite and quartz cements in open vugs and veins. Some vugs contain a final lining of a bituminous substance. As with the Dunedin Formation, silicification commonly occurs within the top 100 m of the formation as chert nodules and lenses and silicification of bioclasts.

Besa River Formation

The Besa River Formation represents the onset of southeastward marine transgression and basinal shale deposition progressively across the MacDonald Platform toward the Presqu'île Barrier during Eifelian time and over the Presqu'île Barrier in Givetian time (Fig. 1, 2, 4).

The contact between the Besa River shale and the underlying Dunedin Formation or Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided can be abrupt (as at Section MTA-99-1), gradational, or interfingering (Sections MTA-98-10 and 98-8; Fig. 9b). Exposures of Besa River Formation were not measured formally, except at Section MTA-99-1 where its basal 6 m were described. It consists of noncalcareous, recessive, platy, shale. There are lime mudstone concretions, up to 1 m in length, within the lowermost beds.

Presqu'île and Manetoe dolomites

Presqu'île Dolomite is a postdepositional diagenetic replacement facies that is superimposed on the Middle Devonian carbonate deposits of the Presqu'île Barrier reef complex along its entire length. Presqu'île Dolomite has extensive lateral development within the Sulphur Point Formation, but is also extensively developed within the overlying Slave Point and underlying Keg River formations along the margin of the Presqu'île Barrier in the Northwest Territories (Meijer Drees, 1993) and in northeast British Columbia (Griffn, 1967). This diagenetic dolomite forms the host rock for most of the prolific Devonian gas reservoirs of northeast British Columbia, including the large Clarke Lake gas field shown in Figure 1. Typically, Presqu'île Dolomite occurs as large masses of dolomitized carbonate characterized by a large proportion of white, coarse-crystalline 'saddle dolomite' as massive replacements, as dolospar-cemented

breccias, as dolospar-filled vugs, or as zebra dolomite—a more or less regular alternation of white dolospar and grey host carbonate in a centimetre-scale, colour-banded fabric (Beales and Hardy, 1980).

Large masses of this type of replacement (*sensu lato*) dolomite occur in the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided in five sections (MTA-98-5, MTA-98-6, MTA-99-2, MTA-99-3, and MTA-99-4) and smaller amounts occur in the Dunedin Formation in three sections (MTA-98-4, MTA-98-8, and MTA-99-5). All these outcrop occurrences of Presqu'ile Dolomite are restricted to the region south of Keily Creek (Fig. 4). In other words, Presqu'ile Dolomite in Dunedin strata is developed in close proximity to the Presqu'ile Barrier, represented by the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided successions (Fig. 4).

There are wide variations in textural development of these outcrop occurrences of Presqu'ile Dolomite. However, there are two contrasting styles of Presqu'ile Dolomite emplacement or dolomitization. One style occurs solely, albeit spectacularly, in Section MTA-98-5. Here, a large, subvertical body, about 100 m wide, of white, dolospar-cemented rubble and mosaic breccia has intersected the stratigraphy at a high angle (Fig. 10b) and individual beds display numerous dolomite-cemented fracture fillings subparallel and sub-perpendicular to bedding (Fig. 10d). All other occurrences are less obviously associated with fracture fillings and are instead wholesale replacements of skeletal lime grainstone, packstone, and wackestone (Nadjiwon, 2001).

SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS OF STRATIGRAPHIC SECTIONS

Section MTA-98-1

This section (Fig. 11), southeast of Robb Lake in the Halfway River map area, is the only one representing the Ordovician to Devonian feature known as the Laurier Embayment. The section was rubbly with few in-place outcrops, and determination of exact thicknesses quite difficult. A 209 m section (Fig. 5) was measured within the dolomitic quartz sandstone (Dqs) map unit, and extended to the upper contact with the Besa River Formation. The degree of textural sedimentary maturity in terms of grain sorting and rounding in this map unit increases uniformly upsection. The basal unit is an impure quartz arenite, fine-grained sandstone containing possible resedimented, crinoid-ossicle-rich turbidites or grain-flow beds, probably deposited within a deeper marine environment below effective wave base. This unit is overlain by a more mature quartz arenite with polished quartz grains. It also contains wavy bedding, some dolomite intraclasts, and some large, metre-high sets of trough cross-bedding, indicating deposition in shallower water than the underlying unit. The uppermost unit is another pure quartz arenite, silica cemented and massive to wavy bedded, with only one bed of dolomitic sandstone near the base of the unit.

This section represents deposition in a moderate-depth marine environment grading upward to a shallow-water near-shore environment. This could be due to progressive filling of the Laurier Embayment after it formed in Late Silurian time (Thompson, 1989). The overlying beds of the Besa River Formation indicate that the Dqs map unit represents the final filling of the Ospika River Embayment re-entrant.

Section MTA-98-2

Section MTA-98-2 (Fig. 12), south of Colledge Lake in the Trutch map area, includes uppermost Nonda Formation dolostone, and complete Muncho-McConnell and Stone formational successions. The upsection continuation of this succession into the overlying Dunedin Formation is along a ridge immediately north of this section (Section MTA-98-4). One conodont sample of Silurian age was collected at the top of the Nonda Formation. This section represents the southernmost complete section of the Muncho-McConnell Formation measured in this study.

Basal silty dolostone beds of the Muncho-McConnell Formation unconformably overlie the Nonda Formation with erosional relief here (Fig. 8). The Muncho-McConnell consists generally of dolostone and silty dolostone, with local sandstone laminae, beds, and units, increasing in frequency in the middle of the formation where some thick quartz sandstone beds occur. Near the base of the formation are some stromatoporoid-rich sections that are likely biostromal. As sand content increases upward, faunal content and incidence of biostromal features decreases. Overall, this formation was deposited within a shallow-marine environment with low to moderate energy levels. The influx of siliciclastic deposits caused most fauna to disappear by the middle of the time of Muncho-McConnell deposition, but with the return of carbonate sedimentation during Stone Formation deposition they quickly returned.

The Stone Formation here is a uniform light grey dolostone with a basal unit of yellow sandy dolostone. Overall, Stone strata are rather featureless alternations of medium to thick, light grey intervals alternating with yellow dololaminates, with scattered sand stringers within planar beds. There is no visible fauna. This formation likely formed in quiet, shallow water in a restricted-marine, possibly intertidal to lower tidal flat setting. Quartz silt and sand may be eolian.

Section MTA-98-3

This ridge section (Fig. 13) lies immediately north of Redfern Lake in the Trutch map area. It includes strata of the Stone Formation and the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided. The upper contact with the Besa River Formation is not exposed.

SECTION MTA-98-1

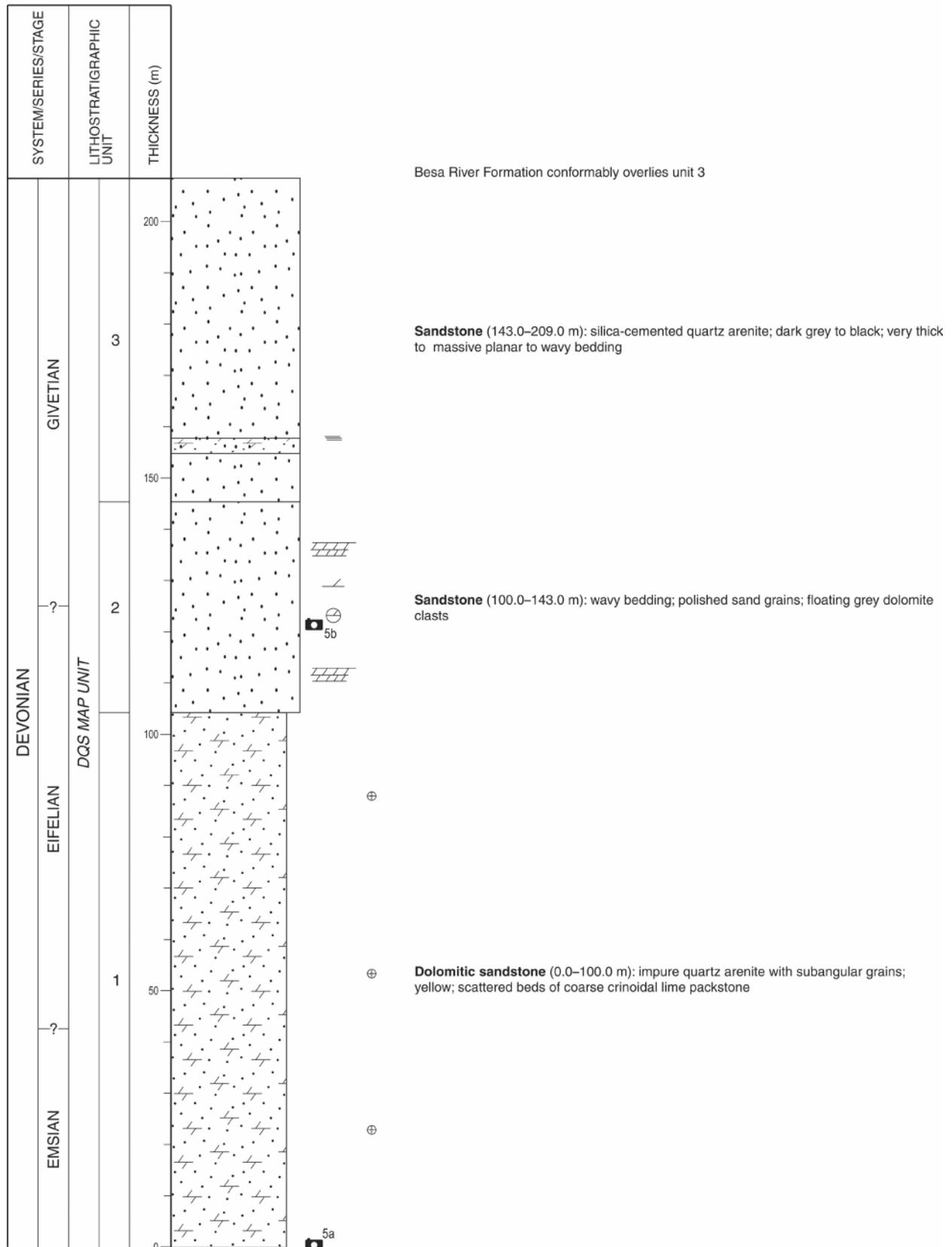


Figure 11. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-1. This figure also includes a legend for symbols used in the columnar sections illustrated in Figures 11 to 30 inclusive.

SEDIMENTARY FEATURES

<i>Mosaic/rubble breccia</i>	
<i>Crackle breccia</i>	
<i>Zebra dolomite</i>	
<i>Dolospir-lined vug</i>	
<i>Vuggy</i>	
<i>Chert nodules and lenses</i>	
<i>Chert (selective silicification, spongy silicification)</i>	
<i>Wispy argillaceous laminae</i>	
<i>Crosslaminated</i>	
<i>Laminated</i>	
<i>Rippled</i>	
<i>Small-scale crosslaminae (current)</i>	
<i>Medium- to large-scale planar cross-stratification</i>	
<i>Channeling</i>	
<i>Mud flakes</i>	
<i>Sedimentary breccia</i>	
<i>Conglomerate lens</i>	
<i>Lenticular bedding</i>	
<i>Nodular bedding</i>	
<i>Fenestral fabric</i>	
<i>Calcareous/calcite cement</i>	
<i>Dolomitic</i>	
<i>Sandy</i>	
<i>Silty</i>	
<i>Argillaceous or minor shale</i>	
<i>Dolostone lithoclasts</i>	
<i>Sandstone lithoclasts</i>	
<i>Limestone lithoclasts</i>	
<i>Peloids</i>	
<i>Burrow mottled</i>	
<i>Churned (intensely bioturbated)</i>	
<i>Regional unconformity</i>	
<i>Pyrite nodules</i>	
<i>Mud cracks</i>	

FAUNA, FLORA, AND MISCELLANEOUS

<i>Calcispheres</i>	
<i>Calcareous algae</i>	
<i>Dasycladacean algae</i>	
<i>Dome-shaped stromatolites</i>	
<i>Stromatoporoids, hemispheroidal</i>	
<i>Stromatoporoids, lamellar</i>	
<i>Amphipora</i>	
<i>Gastropods</i>	
<i>Brachiopods</i>	
<i>Skeletal debris</i>	
<i>Ostracode</i>	
<i>Trilobite</i>	
<i>Solitary coral</i>	
<i>Colonial coral</i>	
<i>Echinoderm fragments</i>	
<i>Crinoid ossicles</i>	
<i>Sponge spicules</i>	
<i>Bryozoans</i>	
<i>Sample location</i>	
<i>Fossil identification location</i>	
<i>Photograph (with figure number)</i>	

LITHOLOGY

	<i>Limestone, planar</i>
	<i>Limestone, wavy bedded</i>
	<i>Dolostone, planar</i>
	<i>Dolostone, wavy bedded</i>
	<i>Dolomitic limestone/ Calcareous dolostone</i>
	<i>Silty or sandy dolostone</i>
	<i>Sandstone</i>
	<i>Shale</i>
	<i>Thin bedded</i>
	<i>Medium bedded</i>
	<i>Thick bedded</i>

Figure 11. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-2

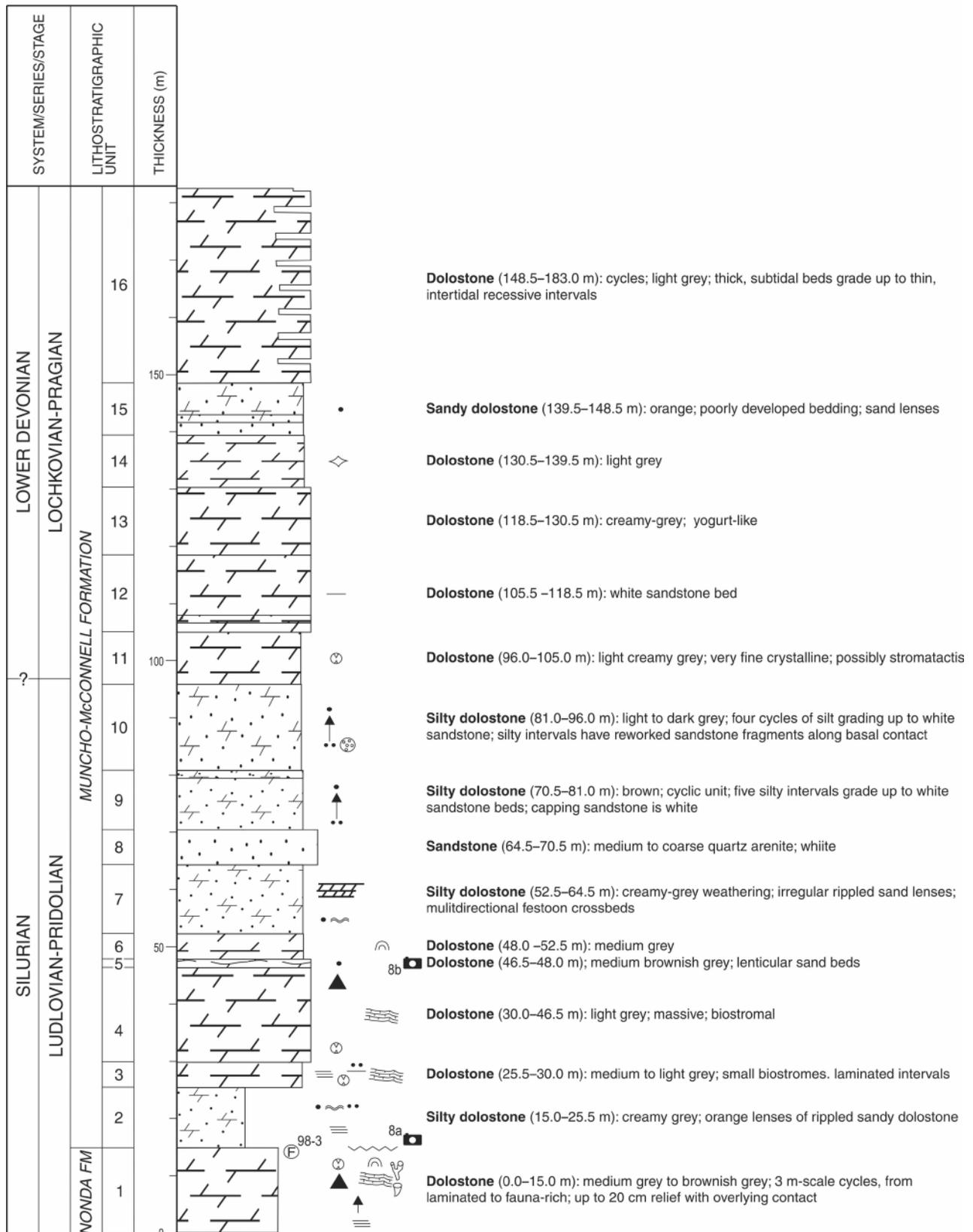


Figure 12. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-2.

SECTION MTA-98-2, continued

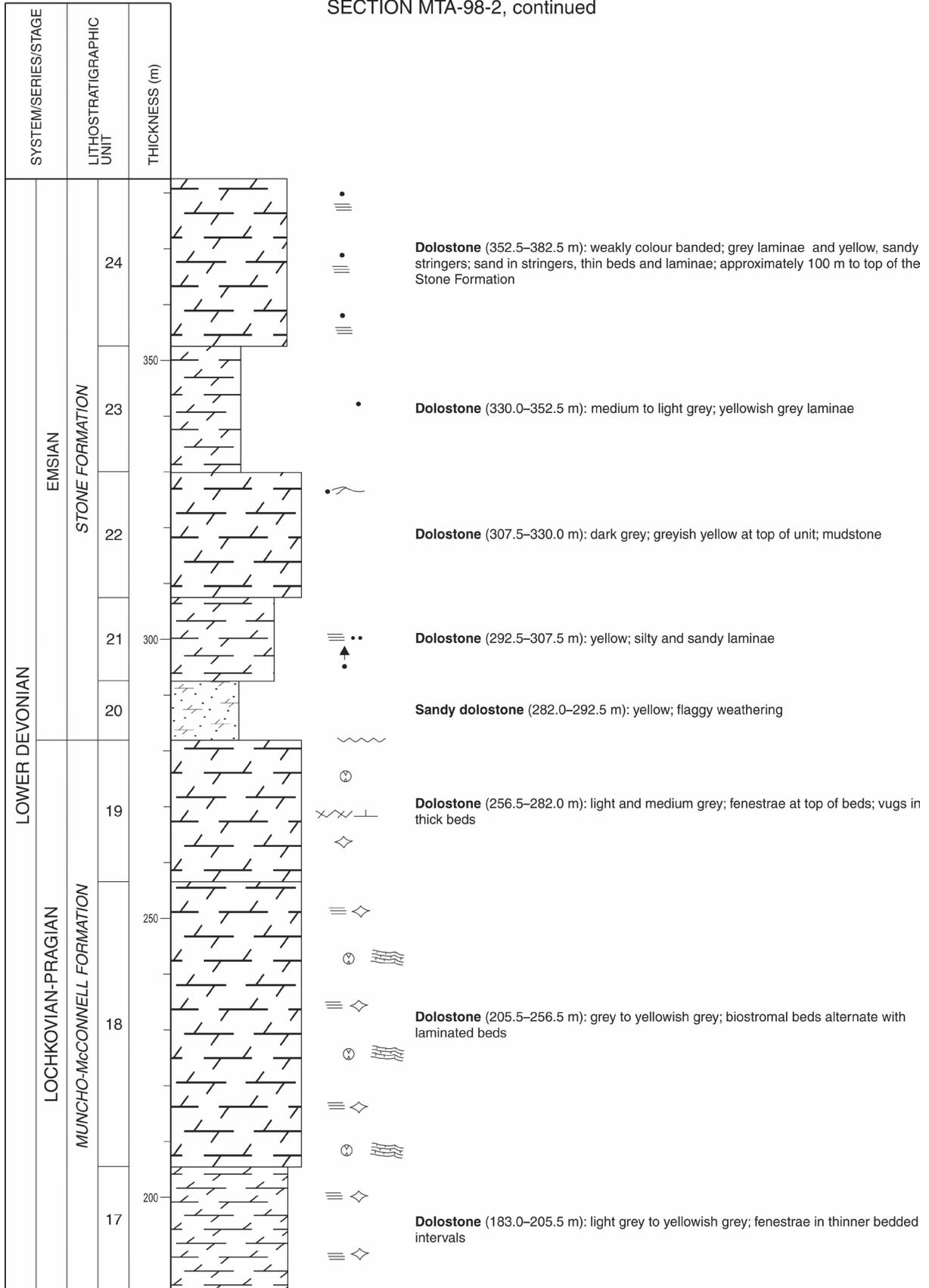


Figure 12. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-3

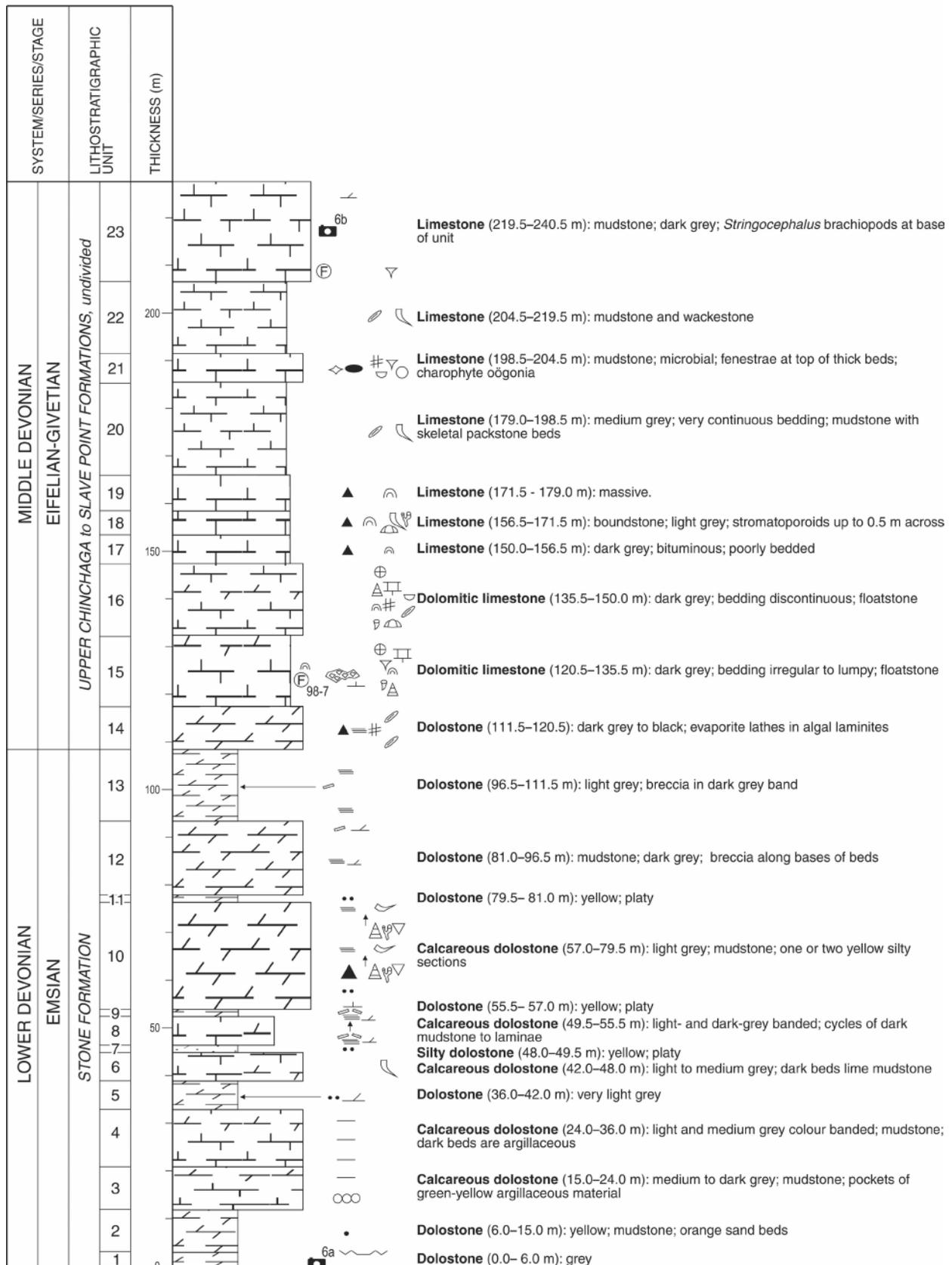


Figure 13. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-3.

The Stone Formation is dominantly dolomudstone to calcareous dolostone, with some silty intervals. The basal unit contains sand beds within a dolomudstone. Most beds are featureless, with some nodular bedding and argillaceous units near the base. In the middle and upper parts of the formation, laminated beds are common, as well as sedimentary breccias with mud intraclasts. One bioclastic unit is found in the middle of the formation, with gastropods, brachiopods, and corals. Otherwise visible bioclasts are rare, generally occurring as finely comminuted shell debris. Deposition probably occurred in low- to moderate-energy, shallow subtidal to peritidal environments. The prevalence of yellow intervals of platy and silty dololaminite with common mudchip breccias indicates that peritidal deposition was the norm. The admixture of yellow argillaceous material may have been eolian.

The contact between the Stone Formation and the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided occurs above a recessive dolomudstone unit, and shows a marked change in lithology, although there is no direct evidence of an unconformity between the formations here. The basal units are dolomitized, with evidence of hydrothermal dolomitization possibly associated with coarse-crystalline, calcite-cemented collapse rubble breccias. The basal unit of the Stone and the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided is composed of shallow-water microbial and algal laminites with amphiporid beds and evaporite minerals. Stromatoporoid floatstone to boundstone with a skeletal grainstone and packstone matrix overlies this, and comprises the remainder of the lower half of the formation. This stromatoporoid boundstone forms large, 15 m thick, light-coloured reef masses with darker flank beds dipping away from individual reef mounds, visible on nearby cliff faces (Fig. 6a). Some beds may have been hydrothermally dolomitized and are partly silicified. The upper units of the formation are skeletal packstone to mudstone. The Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided probably represents progradation of a reef complex, with the lowest units consisting of back-reef amphiporid lagoons, followed by some floatstone shoals, followed by stromatoporoid boundstone. This boundstone is capped by darker, more open-marine, open-shelf, or deeper marine lagoonal, fossiliferous lime mudstone containing amphiporids, the robust brachiopod *Stringocephalus* sp. and other skeletal debris (Fig. 6b).

Section MTA-98-4

Section MTA-98-4 (Fig. 14) was measured on a small ridge just north of Section MTA-98-2 near Colledge Lake in the Trutch map area, and contains the upper portion of the Stone Formation and the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided, including its upper contact with the Besa River Formation.

The Stone Formation is dolostone with silty to sandy intervals throughout. Silt and sand occur as stringers, thin beds, and disseminated as floating grains throughout the

formation. The most common sedimentary structures are rippled bed partings and laminae. There are some higher energy features near the top of the formation, such as current laminae and thick crossbeds. Bioclastic content is fairly low, with some intervals of packstone to wackestone with bioclastic fragments, and one unit (5) with stromatolites in the lower beds.

Generally, this formation was deposited in low- to moderate-energy, very shallow-water and restricted subtidal to peritidal environments as indicated by mudcracks and some pseudomorphs after gypsum. The higher energy, crossbedded intervals may reflect tidal current and channel activity related to the proximity of this section to the Laurier Embayment.

The Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided directly overlies the Stone Formation with a striking, yellow-to-orange weathering, recessive, silty to sandy, 21 m thick interval resting abruptly on a very-light-grey- to white-weathering, thick-bedded Stone Formation dolostone. The Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided grades from silty and sandy at the base, with little to no bioclastic content, to highly bioclastic and biostromal at its top. Near the base, peritidal deposition is indicated by fenestrae, microbial laminae, and mudclast sedimentary breccias. Colour-banded units above this contain resedimented mudchip breccias and skeletal debris in medium beds capped by rippled lime siltstone rhythmically alternating with thin, recessive, shaly intervals. These beds may represent open-marine slope deposition. The presence of amphiporid rudstone beds within some of these units indicates probable deposition within a shallow back-reef lagoon. Above these beds, bioclastic content increases abruptly within a resistant, light coloured, stromatoporoid-bearing biostromal unit. This is overlain by a mudstone and skeletal wackestone with a diverse fauna (corals, crinoids, bryozoans, ostracodes, trilobites and brachiopods), indicating deposition in a more normal, open-marine environment than those below the biostrome.

White dolospar-cemented breccias, vug-fillings, and dolomitization of the Presqu'île Dolomite occur in the biostromal units and in some mudstone beds lower in the section.

Section MTA-98-5

This section (Fig. 15) includes strata of the uppermost part of the Stone Formation on the northeast side of Mount Bertha (Fig. 10) in the Trutch map area, and continues upward through the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided. The upper contact with the Besa River Formation is not exposed.

The lower part of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided contains dark, bioturbated dolomudstone and dolowackestone and scattered thick beds with abundant stromatolites. These strata were probably deposited subtidally at moderate water depths below active wave base. Biostromal limestone units containing large stromatoporoids overlie

SECTION MTA-98-4

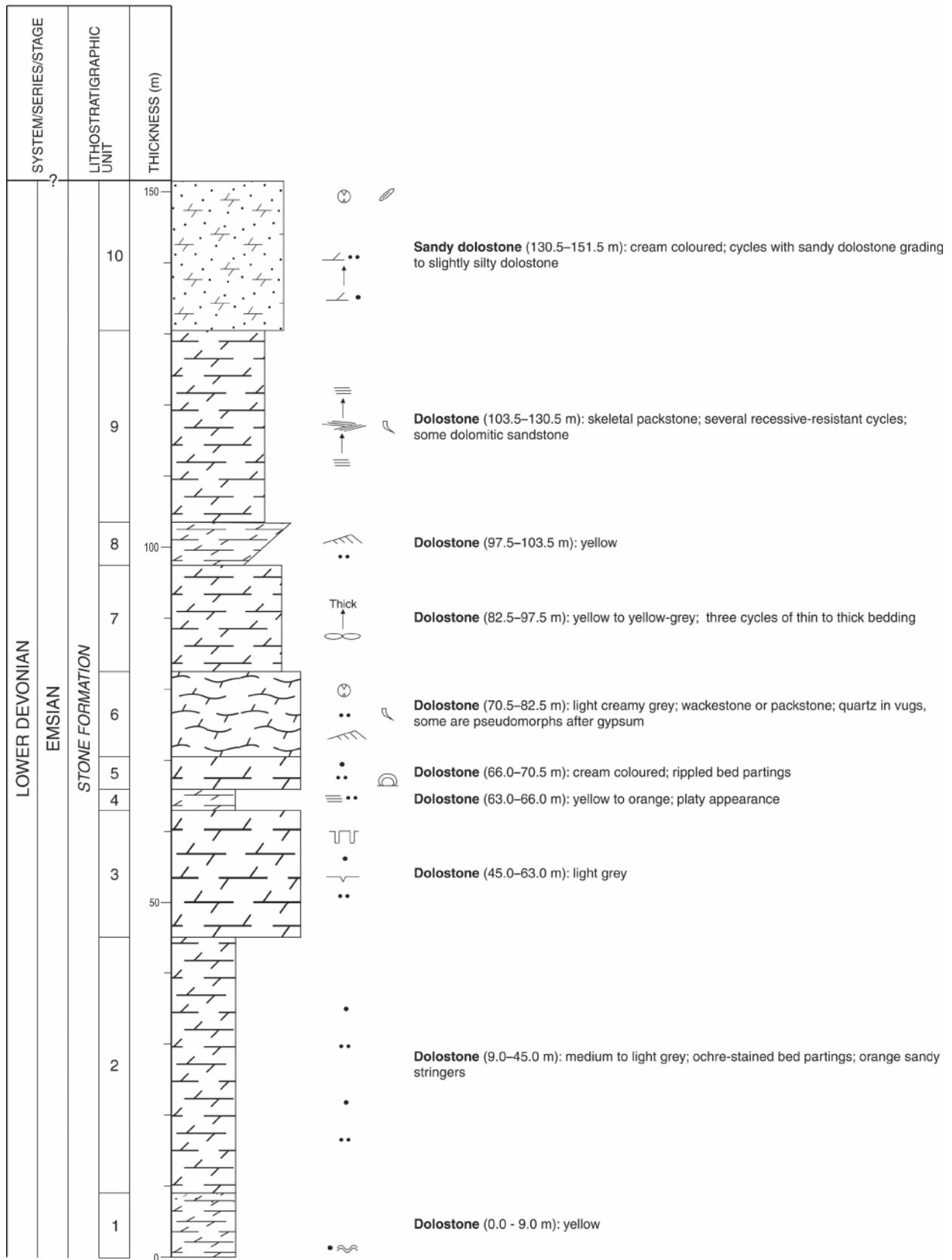


Figure 14. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-4.

SECTION MTA-98-4, continued

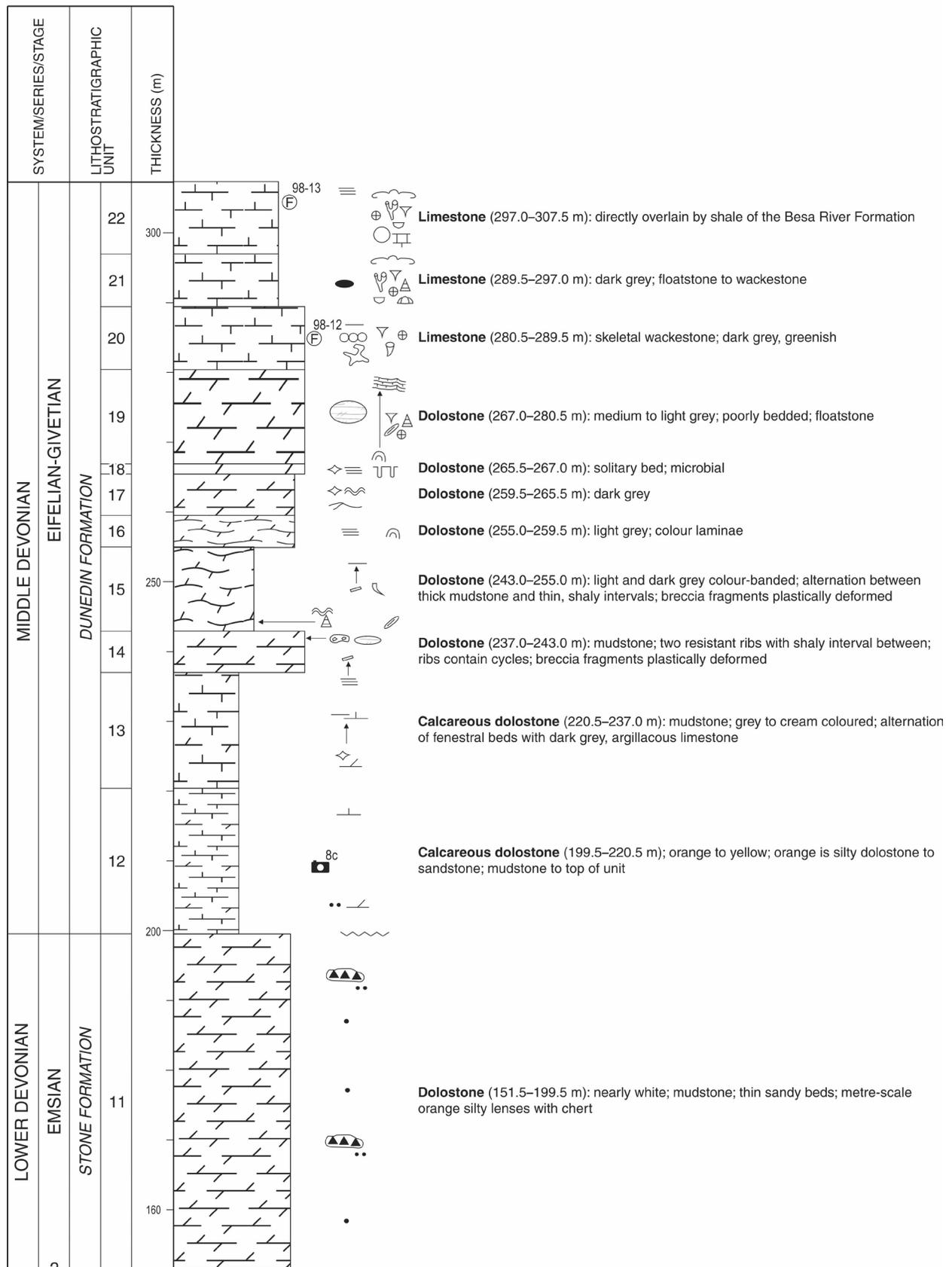


Figure 14. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-5

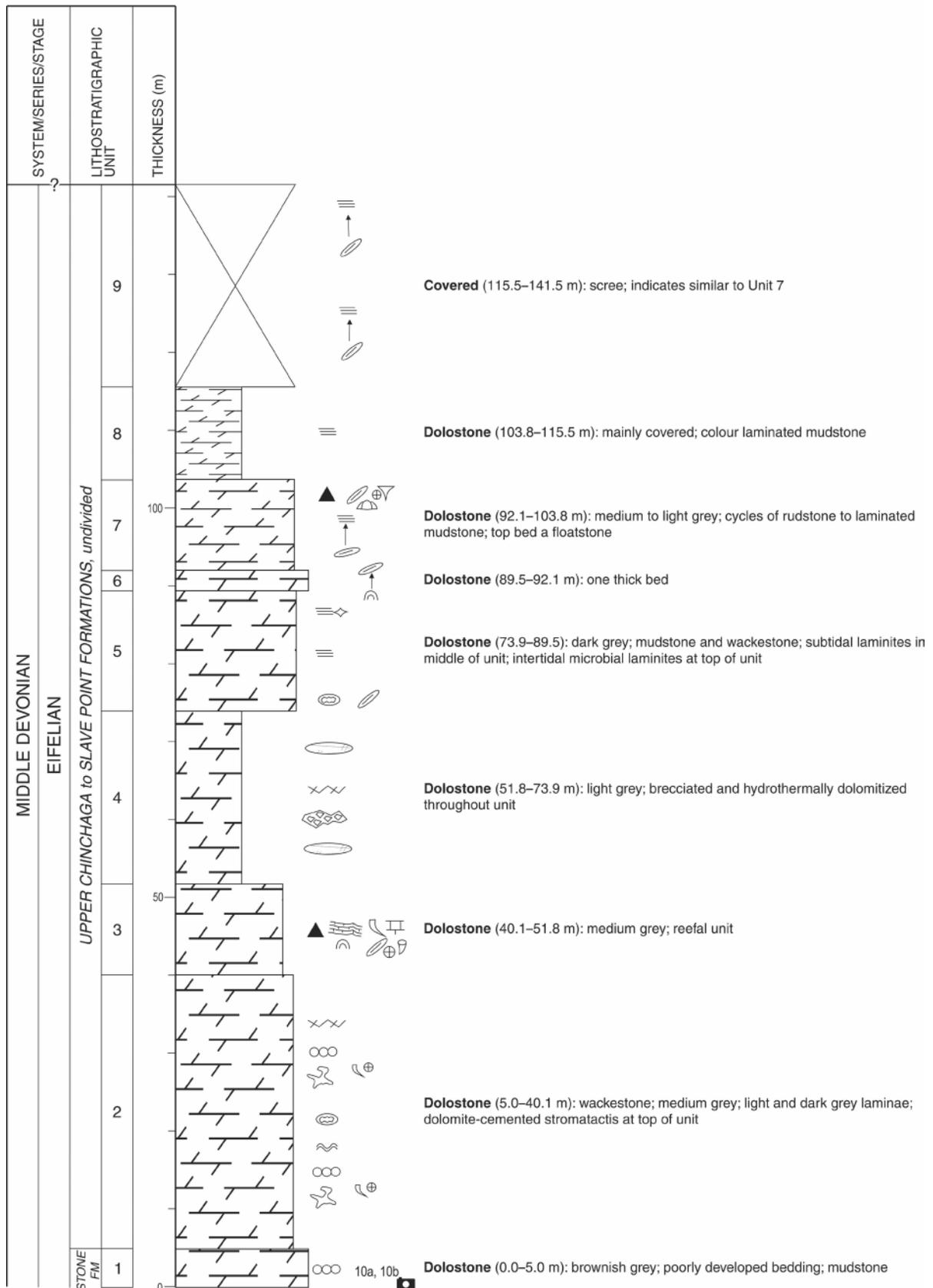


Figure 15. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-5.

SECTION MTA-98-5, continued

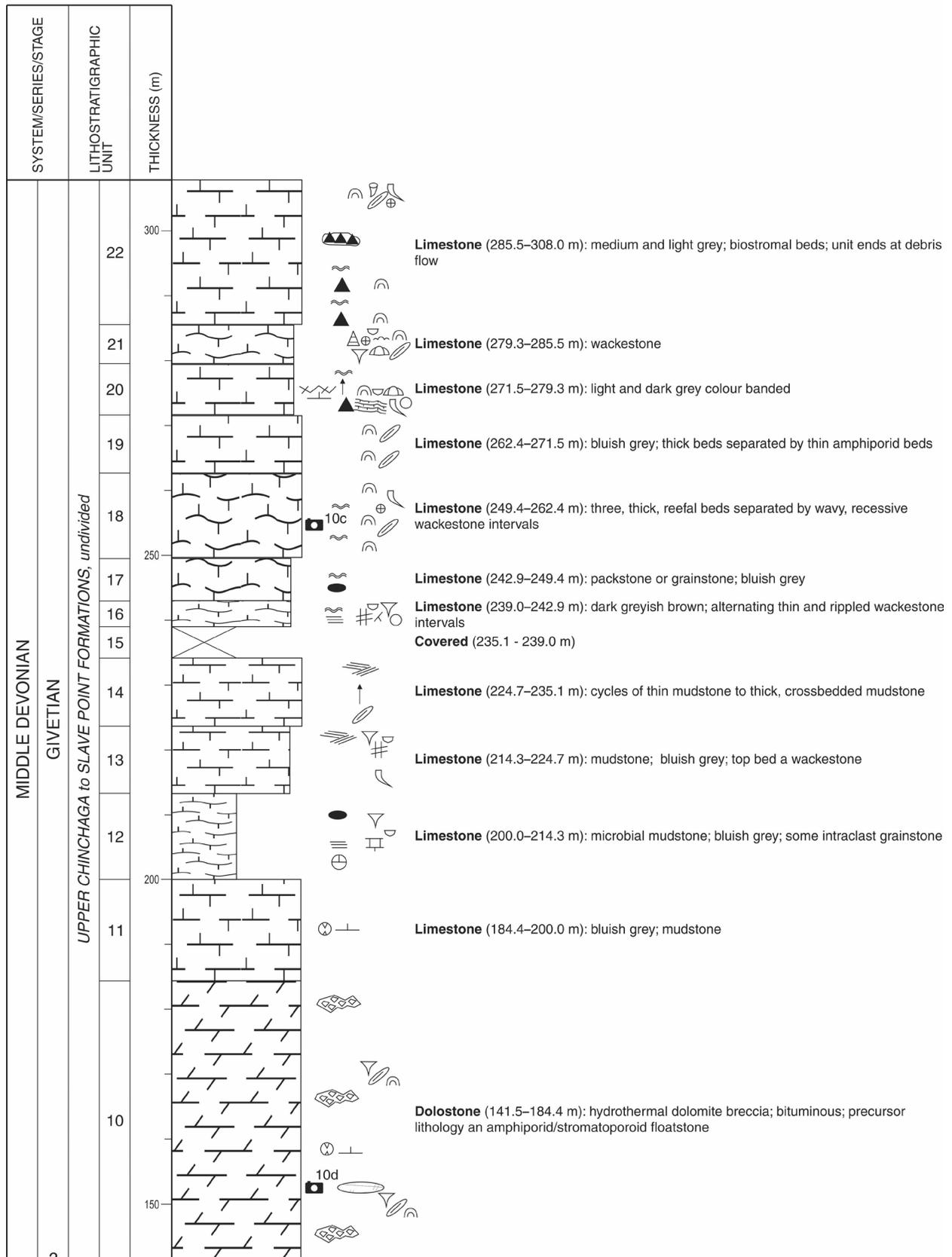


Figure 15. (Cont.)

these deeper water deposits. Scattered amphiporid-bearing lime rudstone and floatstone beds indicate close association with a restricted lagoon. The next few units were deposited in this lagoonal environment, with amphiporids, microbial laminites and fenestral fabrics. This pattern of alternating biostromal and amphiporid-rich beds continues upward to the top of the section. The entire section was probably deposited near the back edge of the reef complex, fluctuating between reefal/biostromal and back-reef lagoon facies.

This section is dominantly altered by hydrothermal dolomitization. Many of the internal textures and sedimentary structures were obliterated by the coarse recrystallization in a subvertically oriented body of a spectacular, 100 m wide, hydrothermally dolomitized white dolospar-cemented breccia with abundant zebra fabric (Presqu'île Dolomite). The upper part of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided was not altered by the dolomitization.

Section MTA-98-6

This section (Fig. 16) is located on a mountain immediately south of Mount Bertha and Section MTA-98-5. The section was measured from the uppermost beds of the Stone Formation through the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided to within approximately 50 m of its upper contact with the Besa River Formation. The short interval of measured Stone Formation is yellow- to light greyish-brown-weathering, medium- to thick-bedded silty dolostone containing some dololaminite and mudchips indicating restricted peritidal deposition.

The contact between the Stone Formation and the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided is abrupt but not obviously unconformable. The lowermost two units indicate a subtidal depositional environment, with mudstone and wackestone and a biostromal mound with stromatactis and laminar stromatoporoids. This is followed by an alternation of reefal and/or biostromal units and backreef lagoonal to restricted-marine units. The reefal units are formed of stromatoporoidal rudstone to floatstone, capped by laminated mudstone. The restricted-marine to lagoonal units contain amphiporid rudstone (locally crossbedded), microbial laminae, and some sedimentary breccias. Generally, this section is similar to Section MTA-98-5, with open-marine carbonate passing upward to reefal to backreef facies. As with Section MTA-98-5, much of this section has been altered by hydrothermal dolomitization of the Presqu'île Dolomite, with associated white dolospar-cemented rubble brecciation and destruction of many original characteristics of the units.

Section MTA-98-7

This section (Fig. 17) was measured immediately north of Prophet Creek in the Trutch map area, and contains strata of the uppermost Stone Formation and the Dunedin Formation.

The section is located immediately north of the Dunedin to Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided transition at the edge of the Presqu'île Barrier (Fig. 1, 4).

The top 10 m of Stone Formation is featureless lithographic dolomitic limestone. There are no visible bioclasts. The upper contact with the Dunedin Formation is an erosion surface exhibiting brecciation and solution collapse, and extensive silicification in strata immediately below the unconformable contact.

The basal unit of the Dunedin Formation is open-marine bioclastic wackestone. Overlying strata are formed of intervals of resistant, medium- and wavy-bedded skeletal lime wackestone/packstone interbedded with recessive, silty, calcareous dololaminite. This indicates an alternation of open-marine, shallow subtidal and restricted peritidal environments. The upper part of the section contains charophyte oögonia and fenestral fabric, indicating deposition within a brackish water environment, likely a pond, which may have formed on the tidal flat surface.

Section MTA-98-8

This section (Fig. 18) lies north of Nabesche River in the Halfway River map area. The section contains strata of the Stone Formation and a complete, albeit thin, Dunedin Formation succession up to its contact with the overlying Besa River Formation.

The Stone Formation has a dominant lithology of dolostone to sandy dolostone. The most common sedimentary structures are laminae within dolomitic mudstone, sandy stringers and laminae, and numerous channel fills. Microbial-mediated laminae are definitively found only in the uppermost unit of the formation. No bioclasts were observed.

Sedimentary structures indicate deposition under restricted subtidal and peritidal conditions. The abundance of channel fills is atypical of the Stone Formation. One possible explanation is that these represent tidal channels. Perhaps the proximity of this section to the Laurier Embayment is a factor that favoured more vigorous development of tidal channels in lower shoreface environments adjacent to tidal flats.

The Dunedin Formation overlies the Stone Formation with a sharp, but not well exposed contact. Above a basal unit, thin interval of thin-bedded lime mudstone, the formation becomes a highly bioclastic, skeletal wackestone and packstone exhibiting thin to thick, graded bedding. This interval exhibits very great faunal diversity (crinoid, coral, brachiopod, amphiporid, ostracode, and bryozoan fragments). These units are overlain by an interval of coralline and lamellar stromatoporoid floatstone with a more restricted fauna. A unit transitional to the Besa River Formation, a crinoid-peloid floatstone, caps the succession.

SECTION MTA-98-6

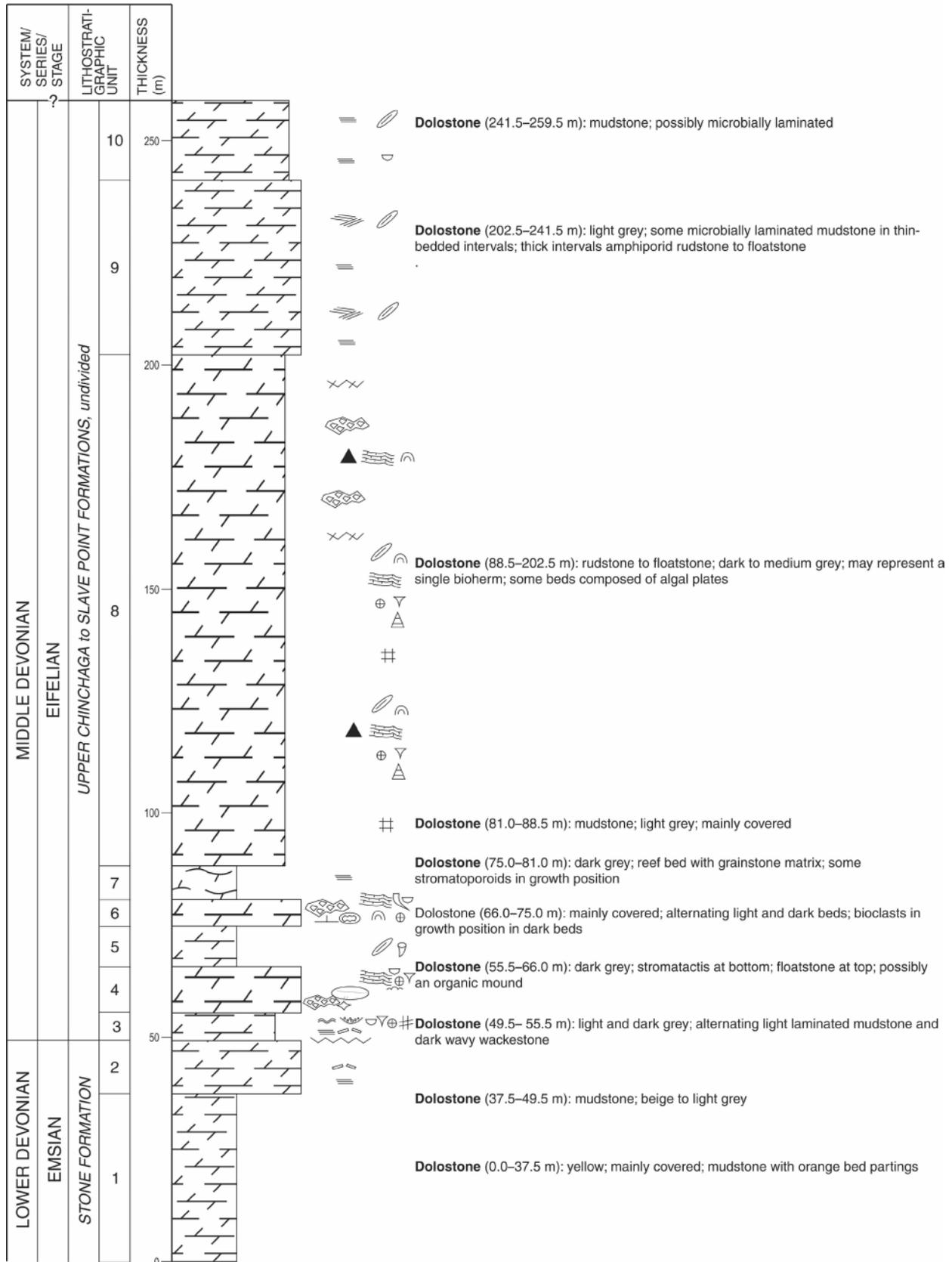


Figure 16. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-6.

SECTION MTA-98-6, continued

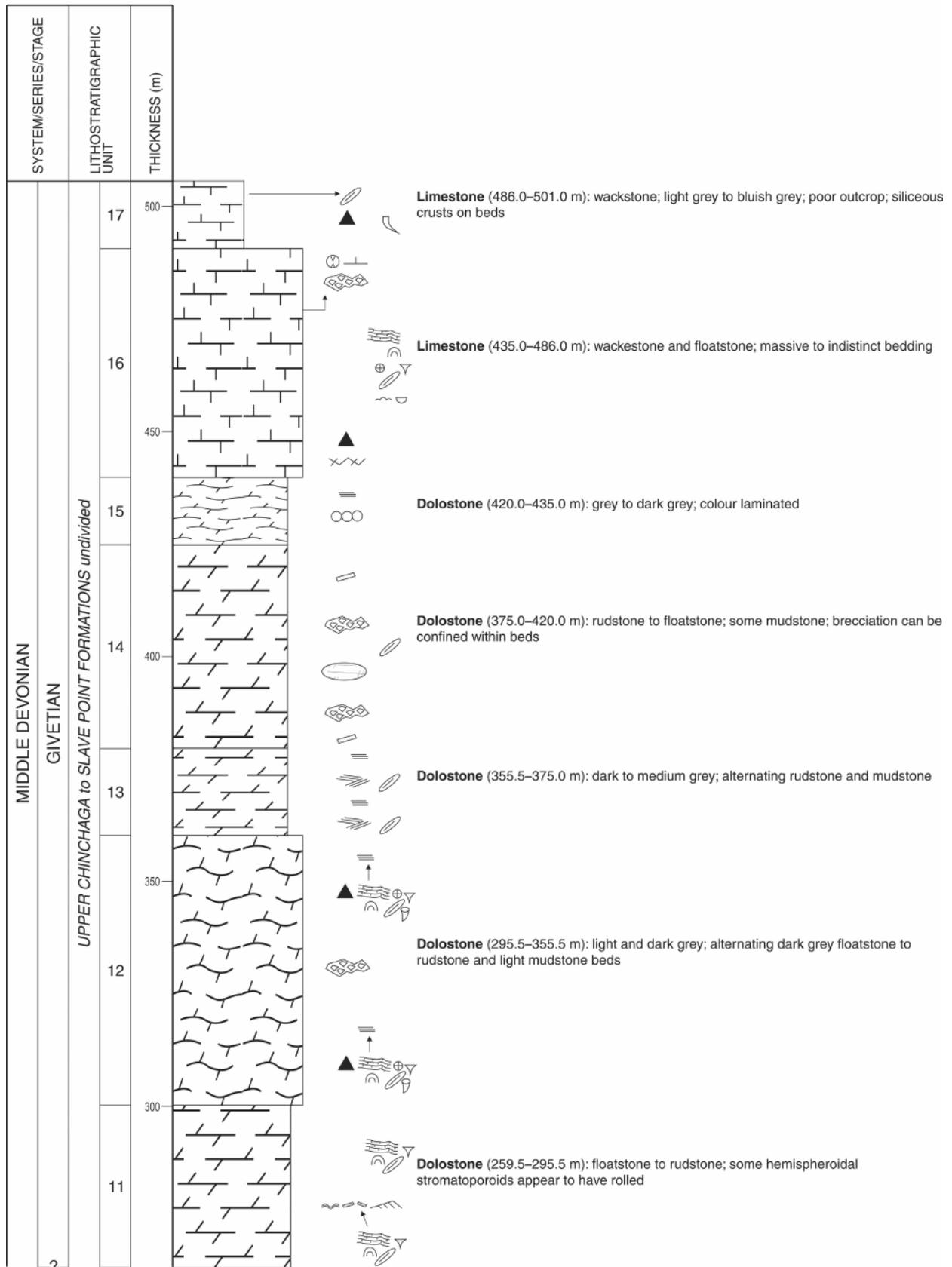


Figure 16. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-7

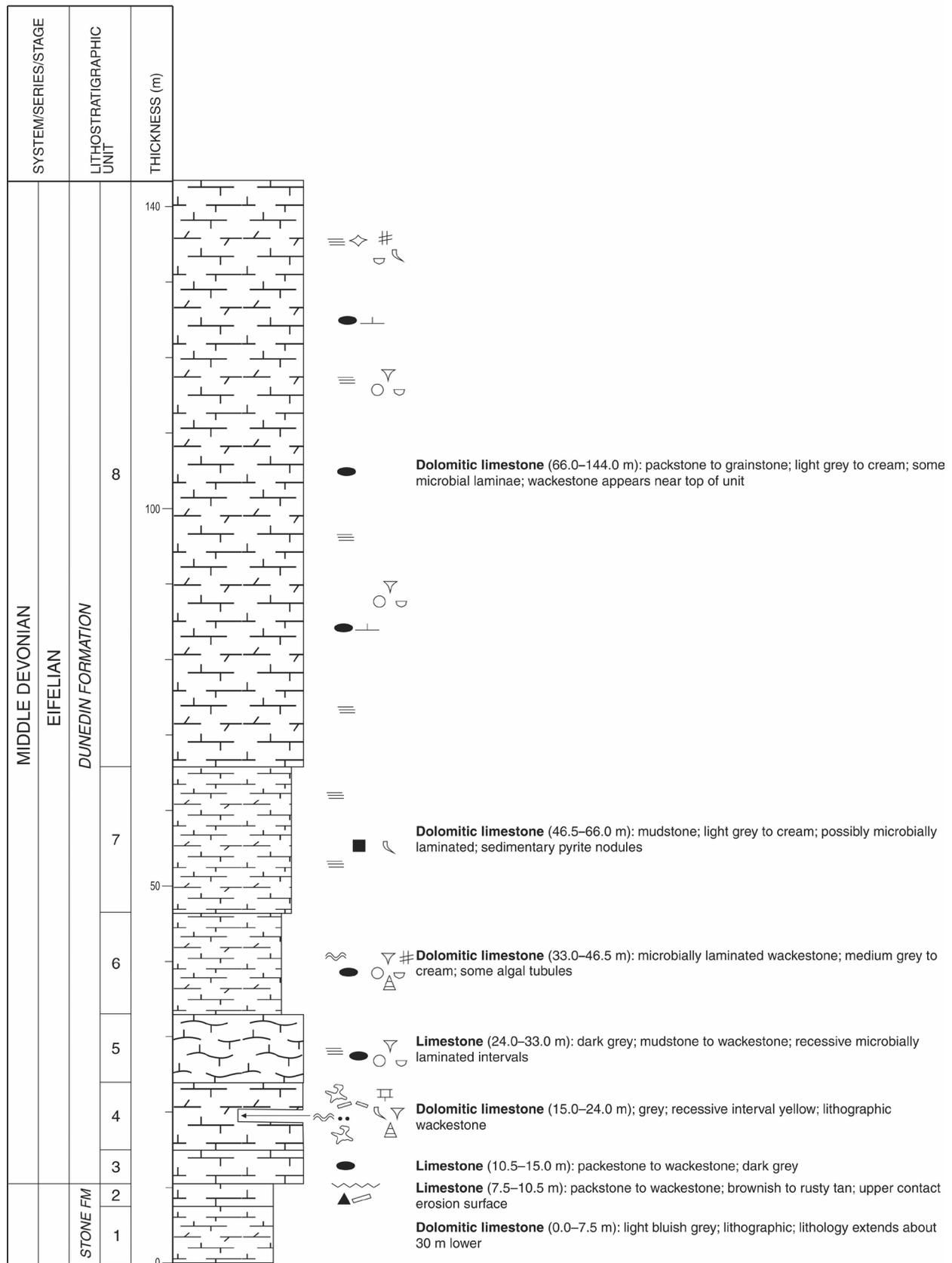


Figure 17. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-7.

SECTION MTA-98-8

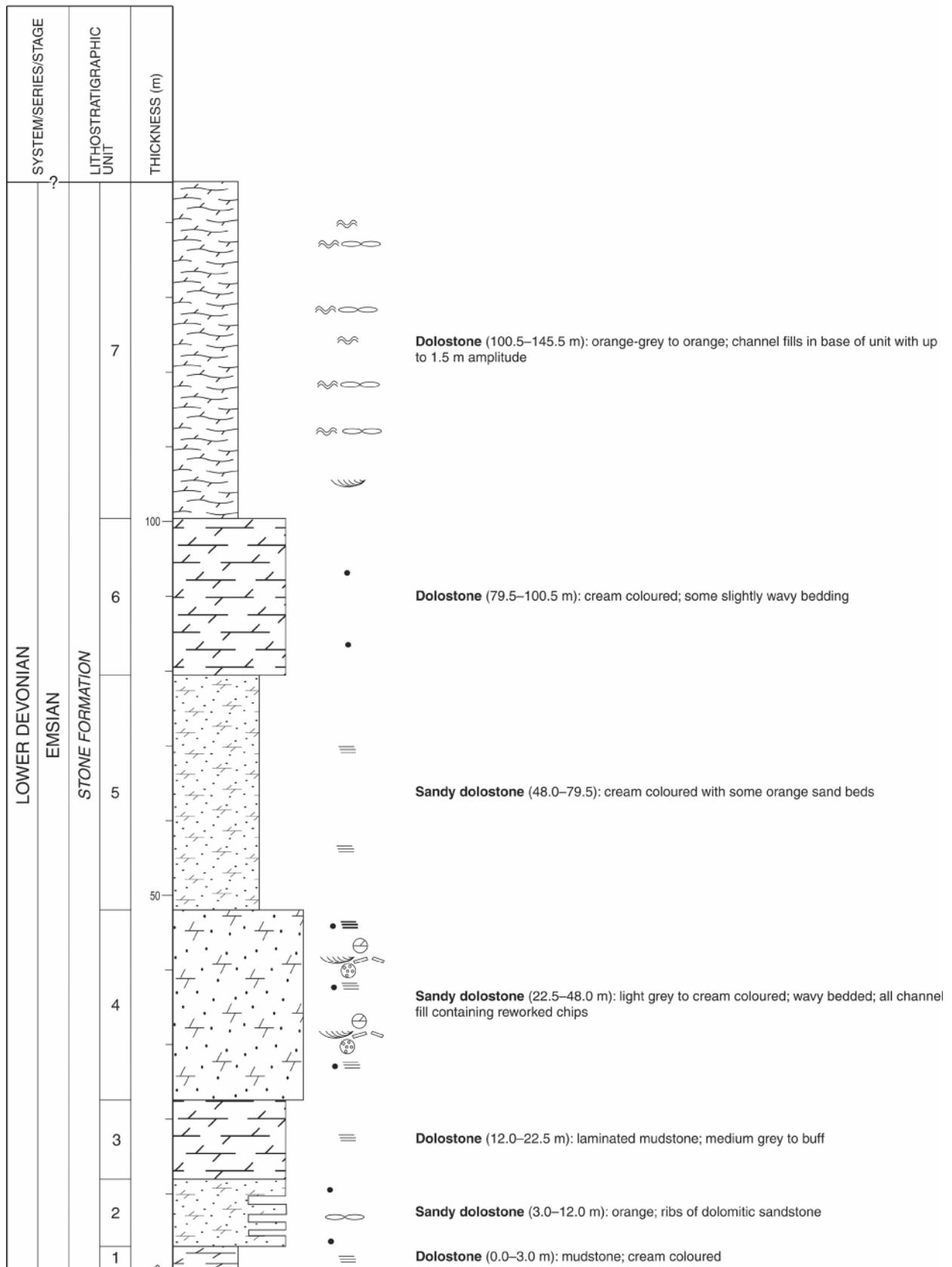


Figure 18. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-8.

SECTION MTA-98-8, continued

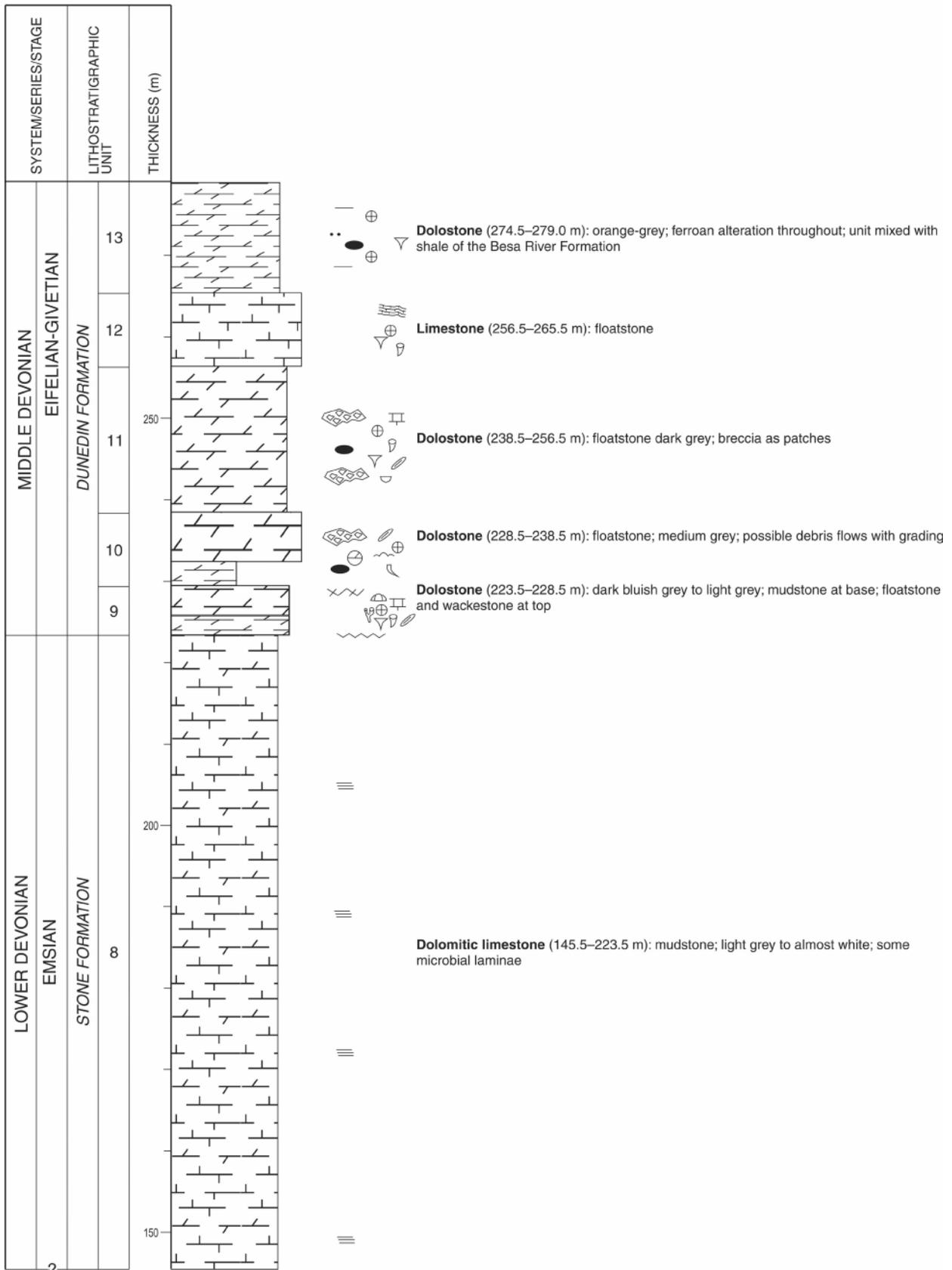


Figure 18. (Cont.)

The bottom three units of the formation show indications of slope deposition in a forereef position, including rounding of bioclasts and grading of bioclasts and intraclasts within beds. The lamellar stromatoporoid beds with low faunal diversity may indicate deposition in a reef front or upper forereef slope position.

Section MTA-98-9

This section (Fig. 19) extends along 110 Creek in the Tuchodi Lakes map area. The section contains strata of the uppermost Muncho-McConnell Formation, and the Wokkash and Stone formations. The overlying Dunedin Formation is described separately as Section MTA-99-1. This section includes the type section of the Stone Formation.

The top 20.8 m of the Muncho-McConnell Formation were measured. They consist dominantly of cream- to yellow-weathering dolomudstone and silty dolostone, with fine laminae and laminar fenestral fabric. No bioclasts were visible. These features indicate deposition within a low-energy and restricted peritidal environment.

The Wokkash Formation is composed of sandstone, with dolomite and silica cements. The basal unit is laminated to wavy thin bedded, but the upper units are thickly crossbedded with some soft-sediment deformation features, including ball-and-pillow structures. Overall, the sandstone is fairly mature. The formation was likely deposited in a shallow, nearshore-marine environment, with high current energy. The large-scale, metre-thick crossbeds may have developed in an offshore barrier bar setting. The upper contact with the Stone Formation is sharp, but not well exposed.

The Stone Formation is relatively thick here, and is dolostone throughout. The lithology is dominantly dolomudstone, laminated and fenestral in places. Some sandy stringers occur in the basal units of the formation. Overall, the formation appears monotonous, with medium to thick beds of laminated to massive mudstone punctuated locally with fenestral intervals and scour and channel features. This formation was likely deposited within a restricted subtidal to intertidal environment, under low-energy conditions occasionally punctuated with higher energy events causing channelling and scouring. Much of the upper portions of the formation have been disturbed by postlithification brecciation, with cementation by megacrystalline white calcite and barite. The upper contact with the Dunedin Formation is sharp, wavy, and slightly unconformable.

Section MTA-98-10

This section (Fig. 20) extends along Snake Creek in the Tuchodi Lakes map area (94K). The section includes strata from the uppermost Stone Formation and the Dunedin Formation up to the contact between the Dunedin and Besa River formations.

The Stone Formation is dominantly dolomudstone to dolowackestone. The presence of laminar fenestral fabric, thinly laminated dololaminite and teepee structures indicates that deposition occurred in a restricted peritidal environment. Much of the formation has been affected by spectacular postlithification brecciation and cementation by megacrystalline calcite and barite with individual crystals up to a metre in length, and has been crosscut by calcite and barite veins.

The contact between the Stone Formation and the overlying Dunedin Formation is wavy and unconformable, and the upper bed of the Stone Formation is karsted and mud cracked with ochre staining. The Dunedin Formation is largely limestone, with the basal unit above the Stone-Dunedin unconformity dolomitized. Most of the formation consists of mudstone and wackestone, with some intervals of grainstone in the middle third. Cycles consisting of thick beds scoured into the top of the underlying cycle, with scours filled with laminated sediment, are found within the grainstone in the middle third of the formation. There are also small, shallowing-upward cycles with pinkish hardground tops within the grainstone interval. Rare horizons of small, hemispheroidal stromatoporoids are found within the top third of the formation. Overall, the formation appears to have been deposited within alternating subtidal and peritidal environments. The presence of charophytes in the lower part of the Dunedin Formation may indicate some brackish-water influence in an overall peritidal setting (*see* Morrow, 1978). The upper contact with the Besa River Formation appears to be transitional, with some shale alternating with limestone in the upper beds of the formation. This formation underwent postlithification brecciation and collapse similar to the Stone Formation, but on a much larger scale, with some blocks metres in length. Breccias are cemented by megacrystalline barite with subordinate calcite.

Section MTA-98-11

This northernmost section (Fig. 21) of the study extends across the southern end of the Caribou Range in the Toad River map area. This section includes the uppermost beds of the Stone and the Dunedin formations. The contact with the Besa River Formation is covered and occurs approximately 40.0 m above the top of the section. Crinoids with two axial canals were found between 102.0 and 222.0 m, indicating an age of latest Emsian to earliest Eifelian for the lower Dunedin strata. The Stone Formation consists of dolomudstone to dolowackestone with some laminae and syndimentary breccias of mudclasts, likely deposited within a restricted- marine, peritidal setting.

Section MTA-98-11 includes the thickest Dunedin succession of this study. The formation is limestone throughout, except for a basal dolostone unit. The dominant lithology is mudstone to wackestone, with some floatstone to packstone units composed of crinoids. Many of the crinoid intervals

SECTION MTA-98-9

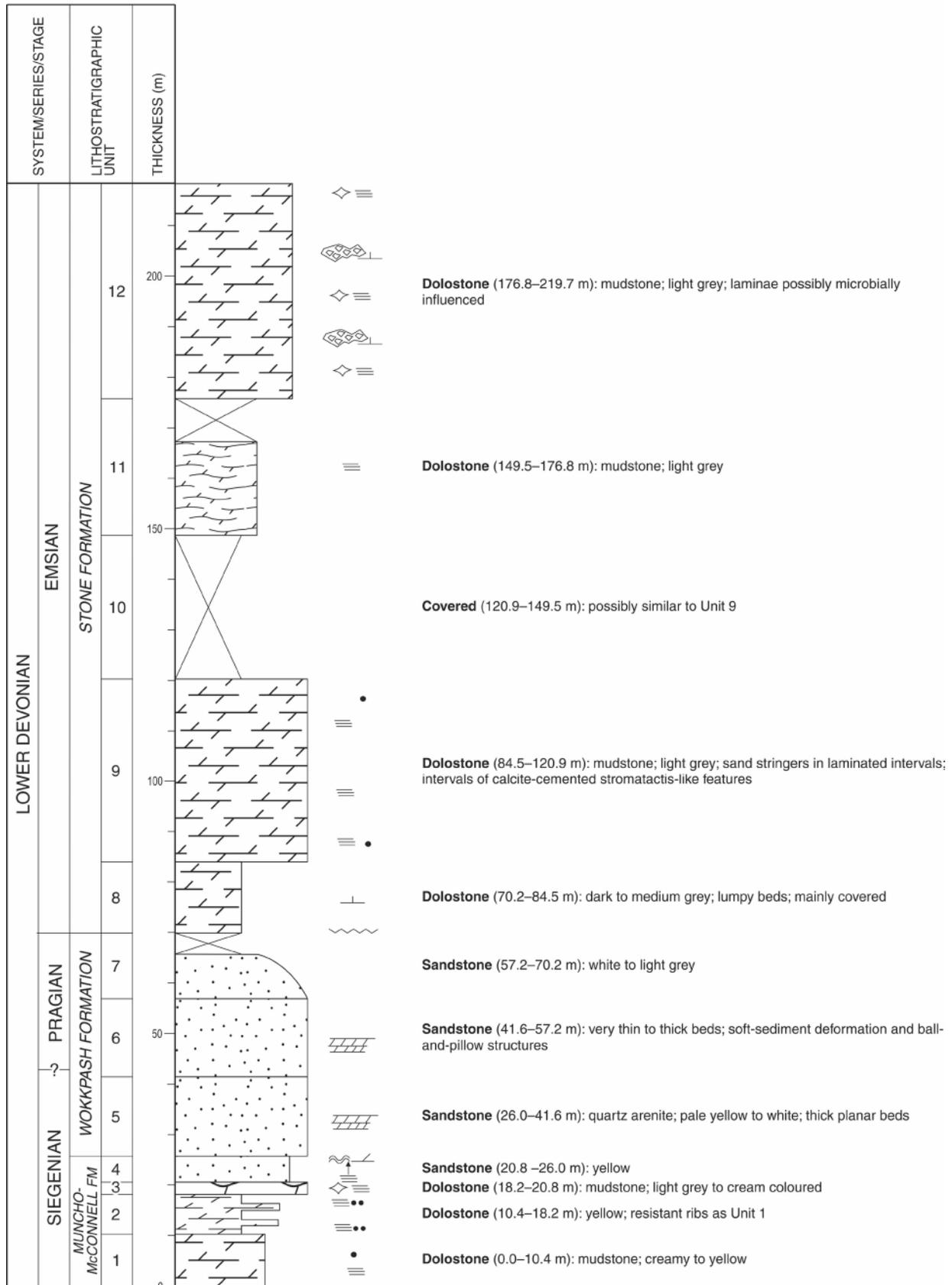


Figure 19. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-9.

SECTION MTA-98-9, continued

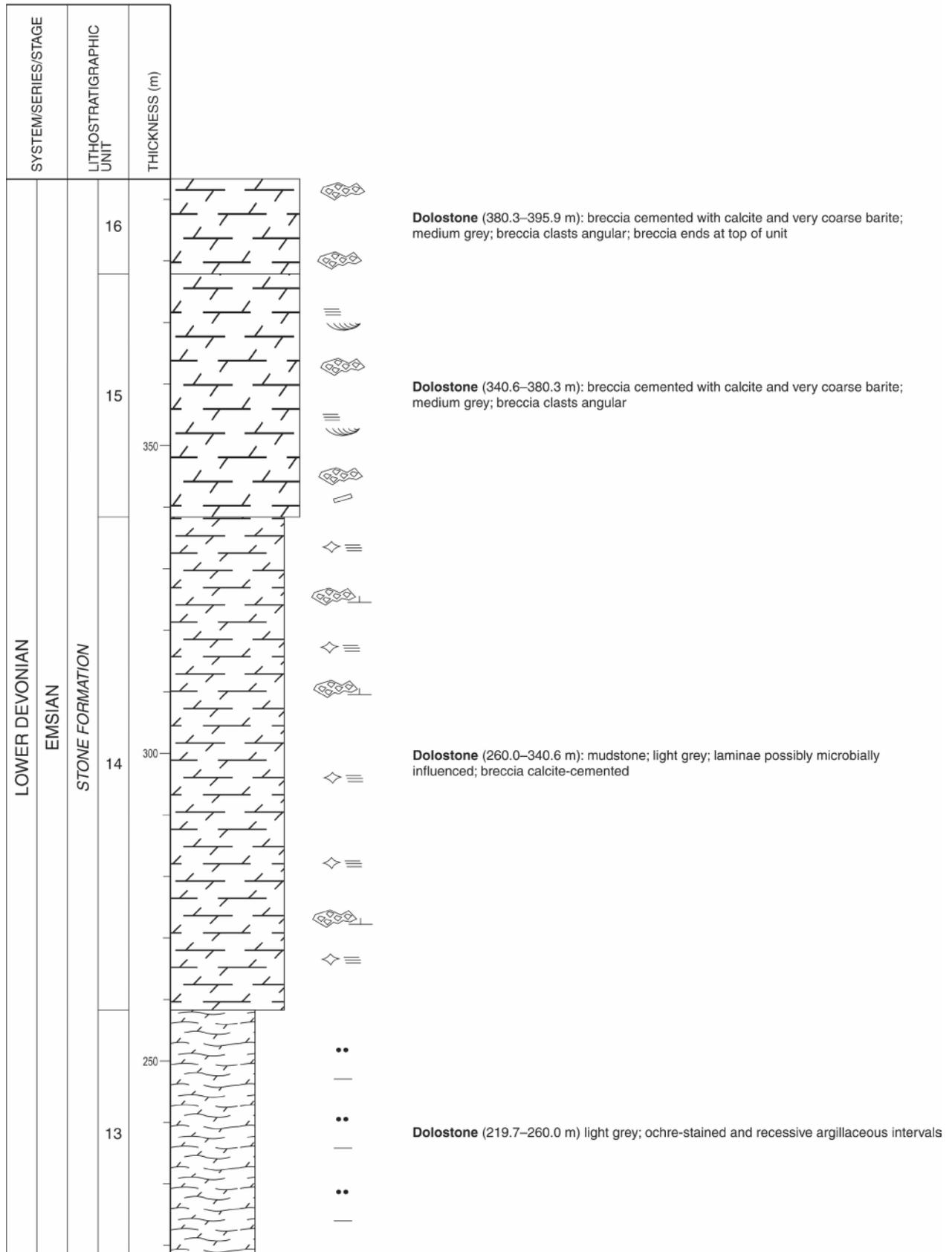


Figure 19. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-9, continued

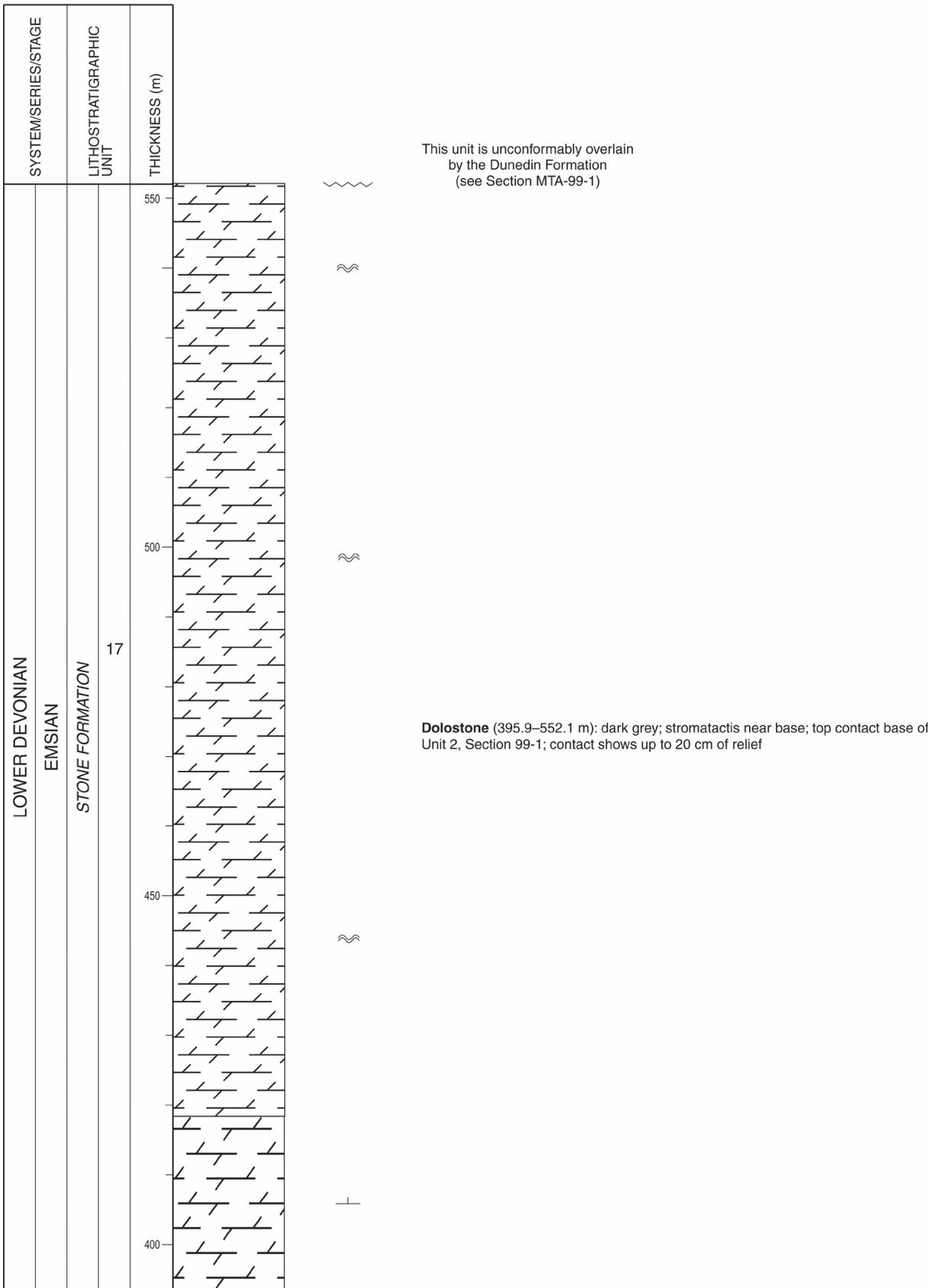


Figure 19. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-10

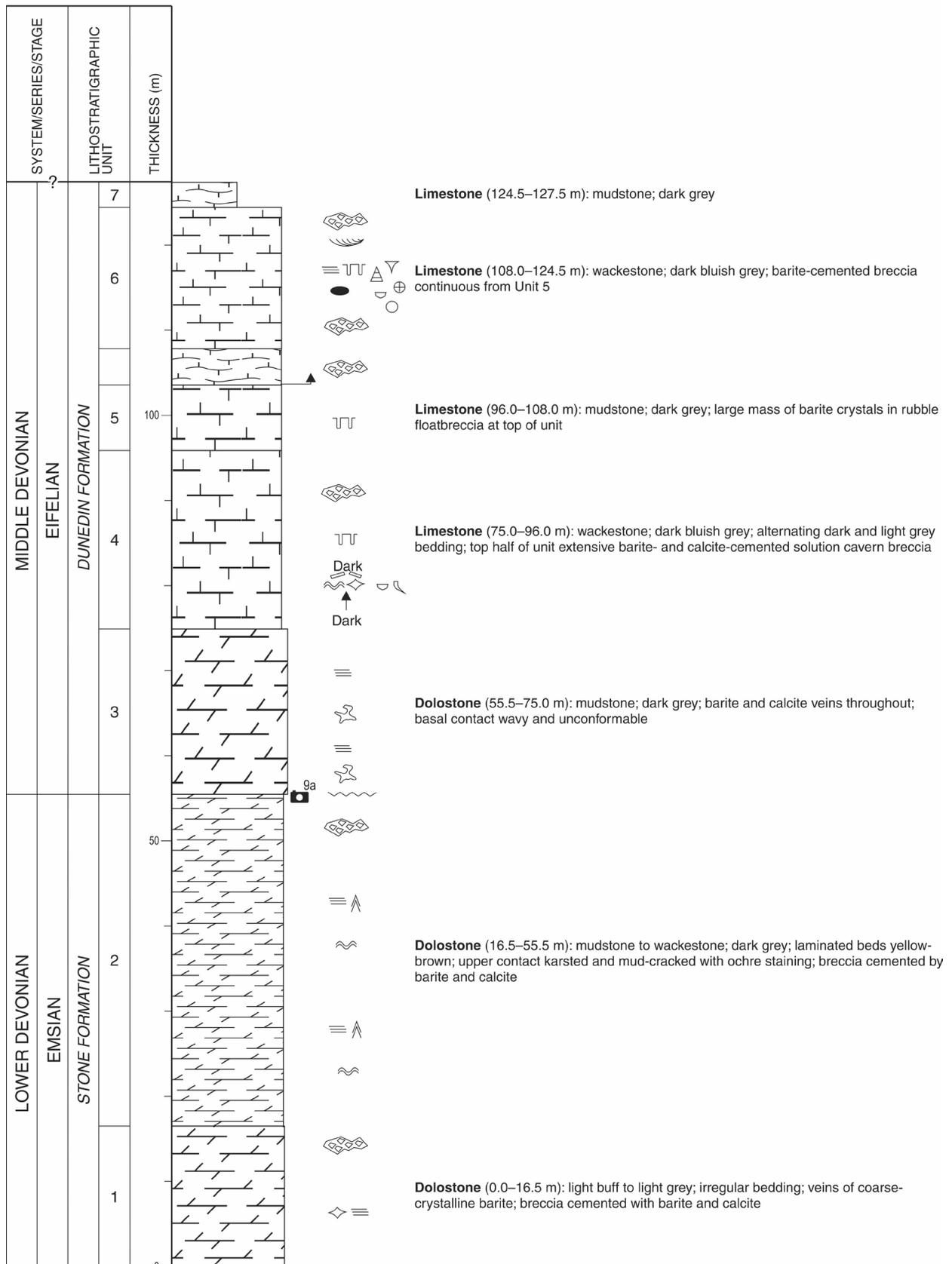


Figure 20. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-10.

SECTION MTA-98-10, continued

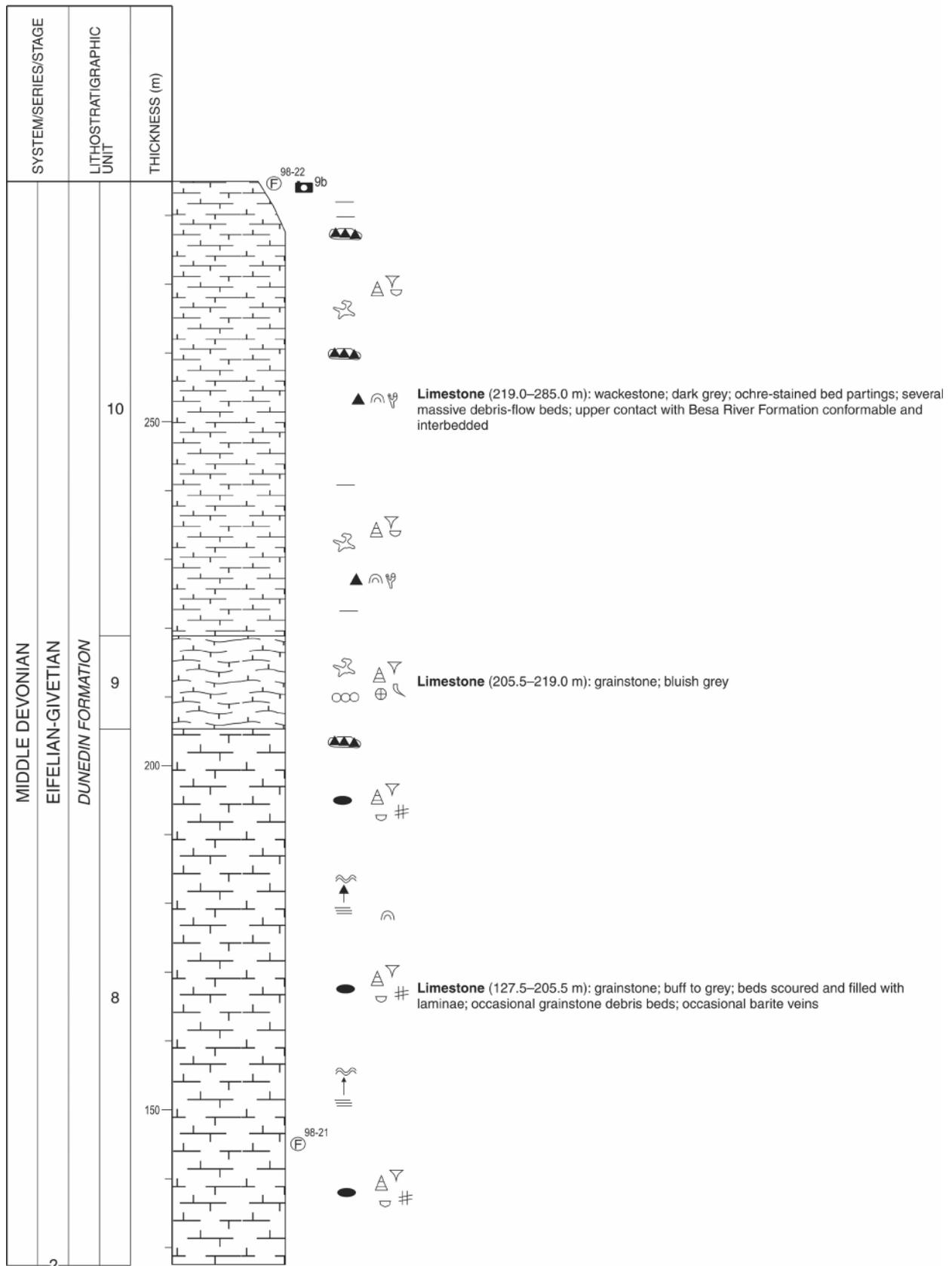


Figure 20. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-11

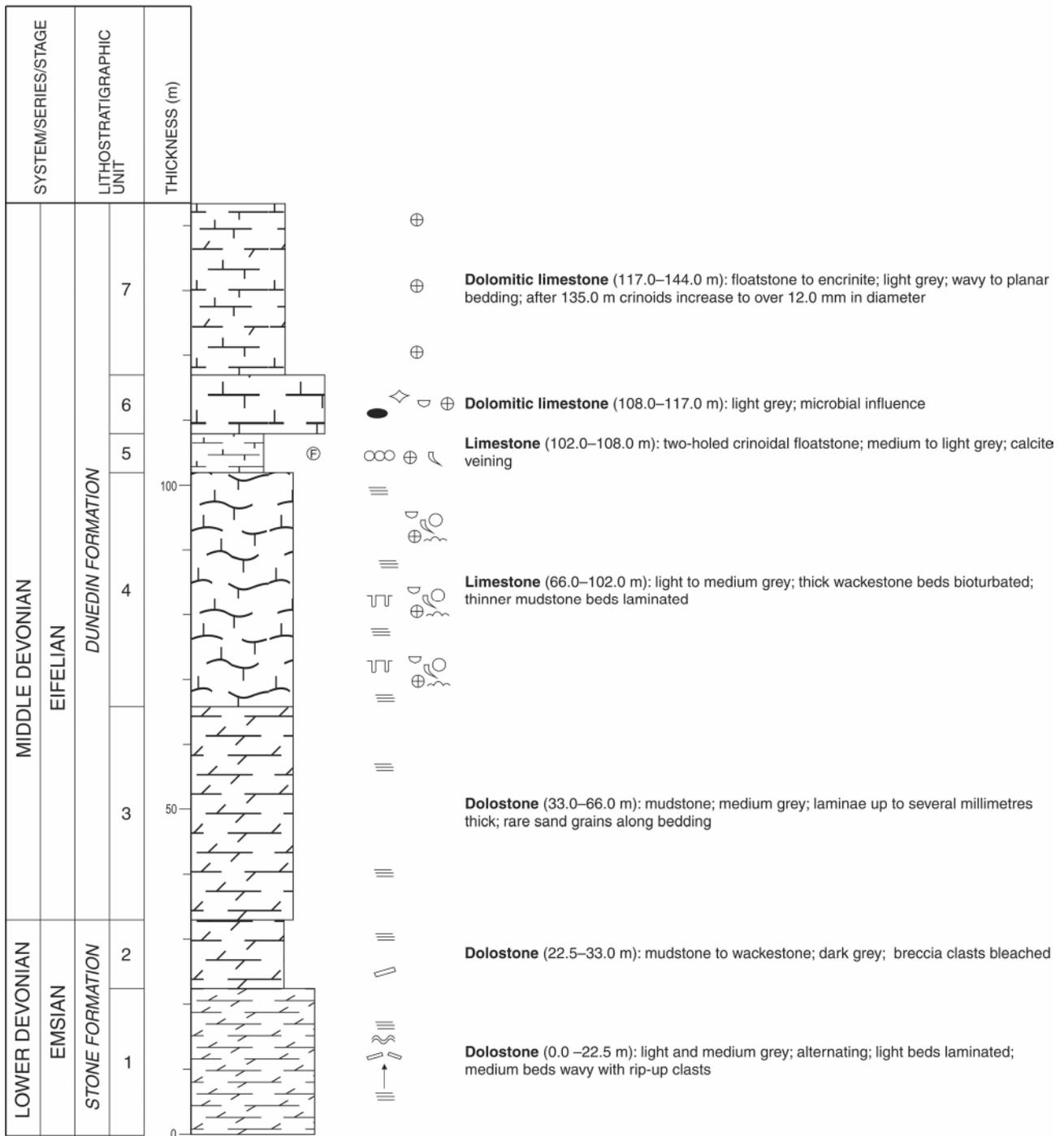


Figure 21. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-11.

SECTION MTA-98-11, continued

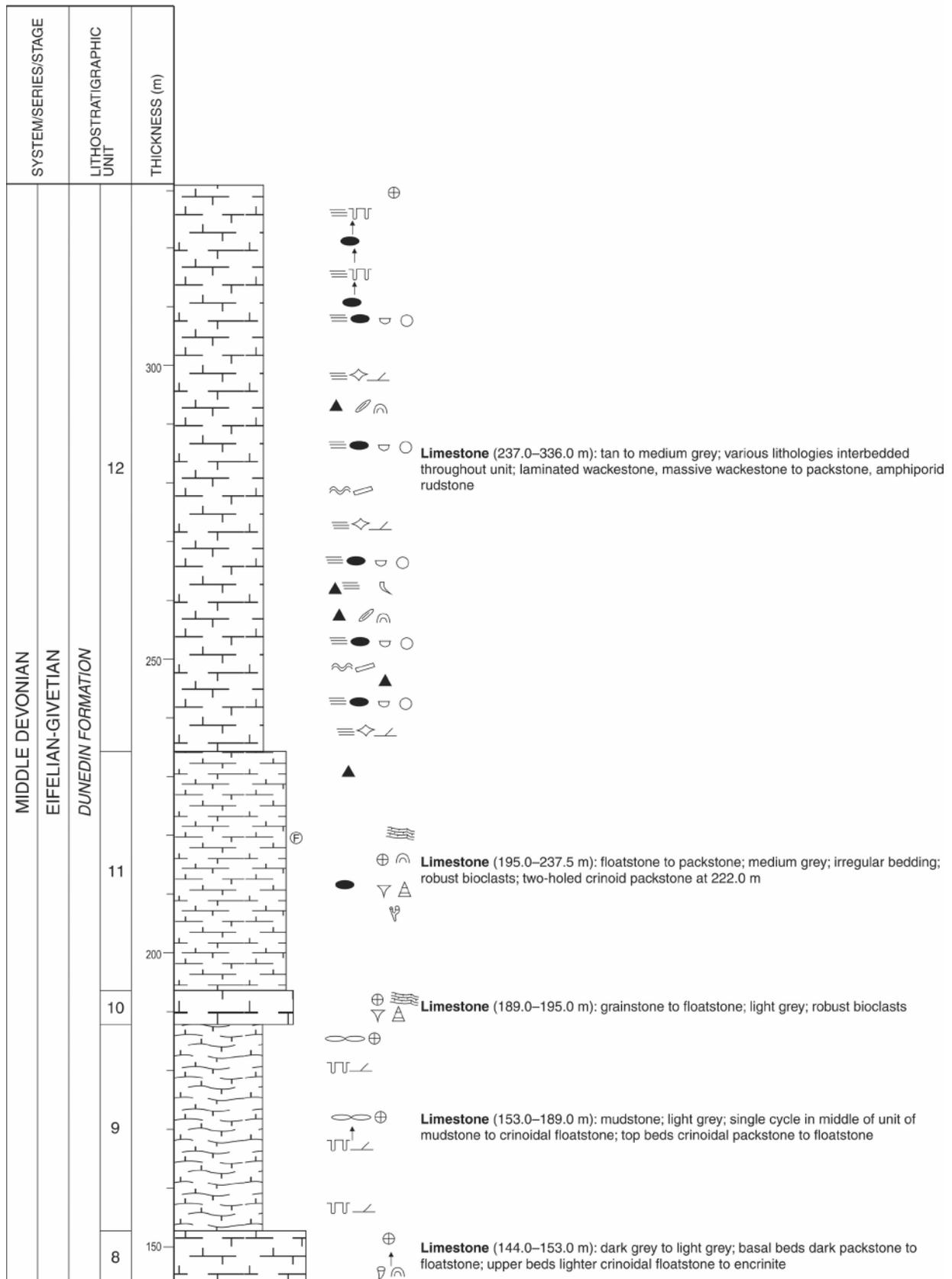


Figure 21. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-11, continued

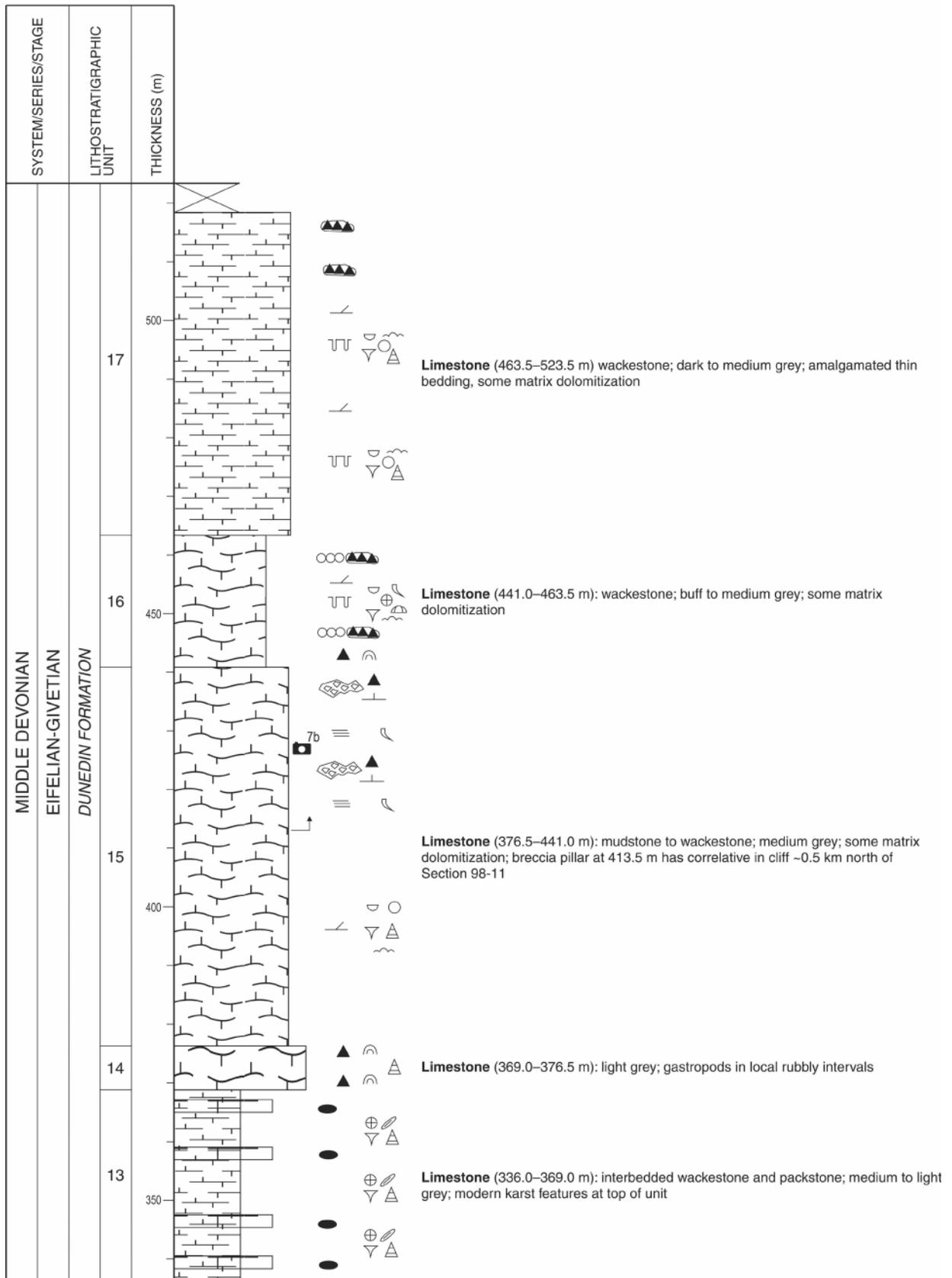


Figure 21. (Cont.)

are associated with robust bioclasts, with the crinoid ossicles themselves reaching over 12.0 mm in diameter, indicating deposition in a higher energy environment. Some amphiporid rudstone to packstone is found within the mudstone and wackestone intervals, indicating deposition in a more sheltered and brackish environment. The Dunedin Formation in this section indicates deposition in an open-marine to subtidal environment, with some crinoidal and bioclastic shoals near the base of the formation. Occasional peritidal and lagoonal environments are indicated, possibly occurring behind the crinoidal shoals.

There is one area affected by brecciation, with a large pillar of calcite-cemented rubble to mosaic pack breccia occurring around 410.0 to 440.0 m. In addition, there is abundant silicification in the upper 100.0 m of the formation. A large outcrop half a kilometre north of this section displays the upper part of a similar, but larger, probably calcite-cemented breccia body (Fig. 7b).

Section MTA-98-12

This section (Fig. 22) extends up the nose of a ridge at the south end of the Sentinel Range in the Tuchodi Lakes map area. It includes strata from the uppermost beds of the Stone Formation and the Dunedin Formation. The contact with the overlying Besa River Formation is covered, and occurs approximately 25.0 m above the top of the section.

Only 1.3 m of Stone Formation was measured in this section, consisting of thinly laminated dolostone with some fenestral fabric, likely deposited within a peritidal environment. The contact with overlying Dunedin strata is sharp but not well exposed.

The Dunedin Formation is dominantly limestone, with dolostone occurring only in the lowermost unit of the formation. The dominant lithology is peloidal mudstone to wackestone, with some rare packstone and bioclastic floatstone intervals. There is an interval with scour-and-fill bedding near the base of the formation, and one thick bed of stromatolites at the base of the formation. Faunal diversity tends to increase slightly upsection. Uppermost beds contain corals and stromatoporoids. The formation was likely deposited initially in a restricted-marine, peritidal setting, which became slightly more open marine and subtidal.

Section MTA-98-13

This section (Fig. 23) lies east of Mount Mary Henry in the Tuchodi Lakes map area. This section includes strata of the Wokkpash, Stone, and Dunedin formations, up to the upper contact of the Dunedin Formation with the Besa River Formation.

The lower contact between the Wokkpash and Muncho-McConnell formations is not exposed. The Wokkpash Formation consists of dolomite-cemented sandstone to sandy dolostone. The first unit is fairly massive, with some quartz arenite bands near the base and laminae near the top. Some laminae are reworked into chips aligned along bedding. There are also some low-angle crossbeds. The upper unit contains lenticular bedding and appears bioturbated. There are no visible bioclasts. The formation was likely deposited within a high- to moderate-energy, foreshore marine environment, perhaps offshore from barrier bars. The upper contact with the Stone Formation is sharp but not well exposed.

The Stone Formation is uniformly dolostone with some silty and sandy dolostone. The lithology is generally sandy dolomudstone and wackestone. The dominant sedimentary structures are laminae, fenestral fabric, and mudchips, and crossbedding in the sandstone beds. There are very few visible bioclasts, but there are some amphiporid-bearing beds near the middle of the formation. This formation was likely deposited in a low-energy peritidal environment that included times of higher energy, possibly storms, when intraclast breccias formed. Sandstone and occasional channel deposits were deposited during times of deeper water and higher energy. The contact between the Stone and Dunedin formations is sharp but not obviously unconformable.

The Dunedin Formation consists of limestone with some rare dolostone. The dominant lithologies are mudstone, wackestone, and peloidal packstone. Some grainstone is found near the top, containing a moderately diverse ostracode, brachiopod and crinoid fauna, and dasycladacean algae, the only visible fauna in the formation. Deposition took place mainly within a restricted peritidal to shallow subtidal environments. Silicification and barite veining occurs near the base of the formation.

Section MTA-98-14

This section (Fig. 24) lies near the North Tetsa River in the Tuchodi lakes map area, and includes strata of the Wokkpash, Stone, and Dunedin formations. The section base is at the contact between the Muncho-McConnell and Wokkpash formations, and the top is at the contact between the Dunedin and Besa River formations.

The Wokkpash Formation is composed of yellow and orange weathering, thin- to medium-bedded, silty and sandy dolostone, dolomite-cemented sandstone, and dolostone, with a few, massive, white, quartzarenite beds. It rests with an abrupt contact on the more resistant dolostone of the Muncho-McConnell Formation. There are no visible bioclasts. Mudcracks and fenestral fabric occur near the top of the formation. This formation was likely deposited within a shallow nearshore to shoreface marine environment,

SECTION MTA-98-12

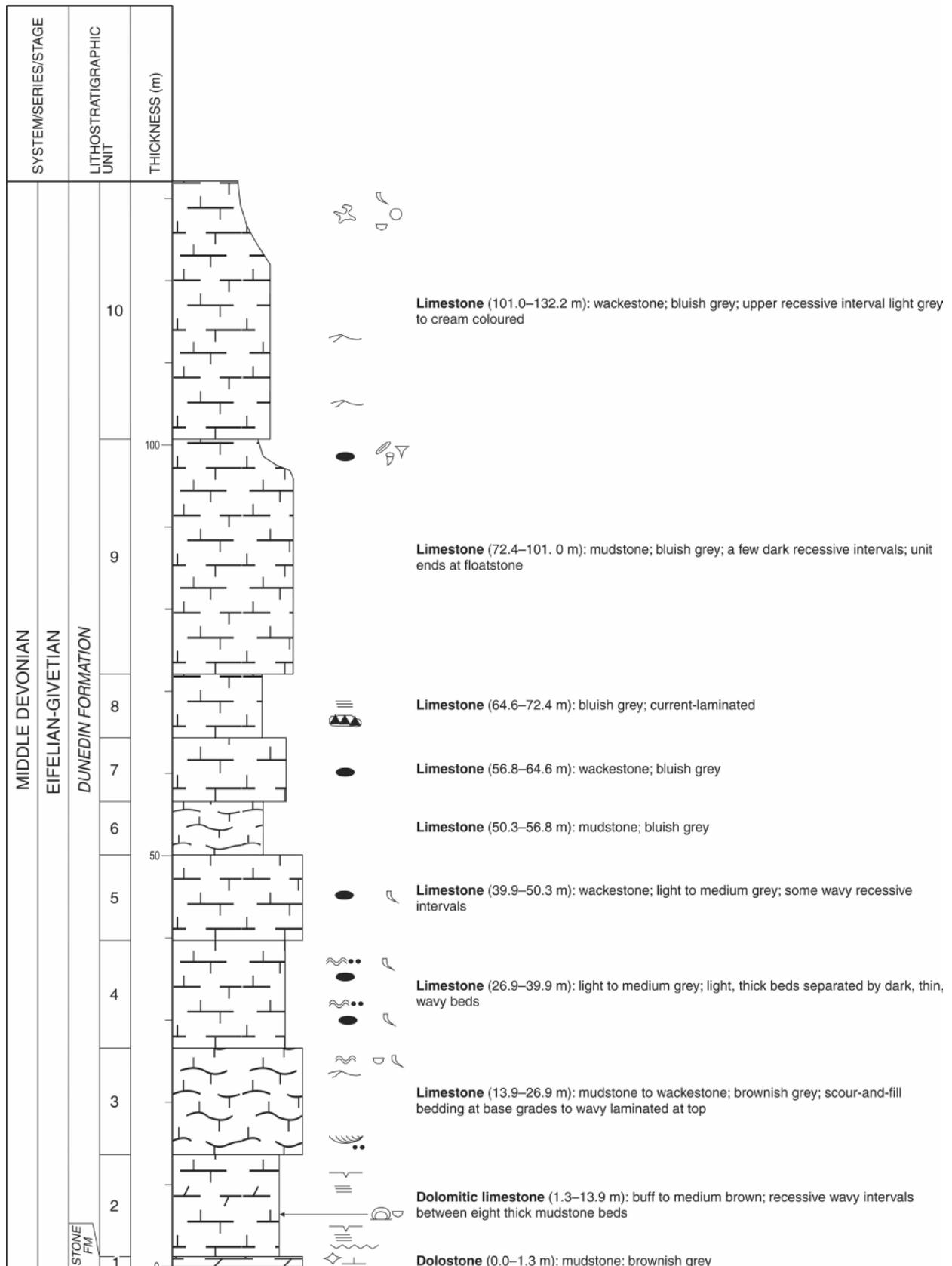


Figure 22. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-12.

SECTION MTA-98-12, continued

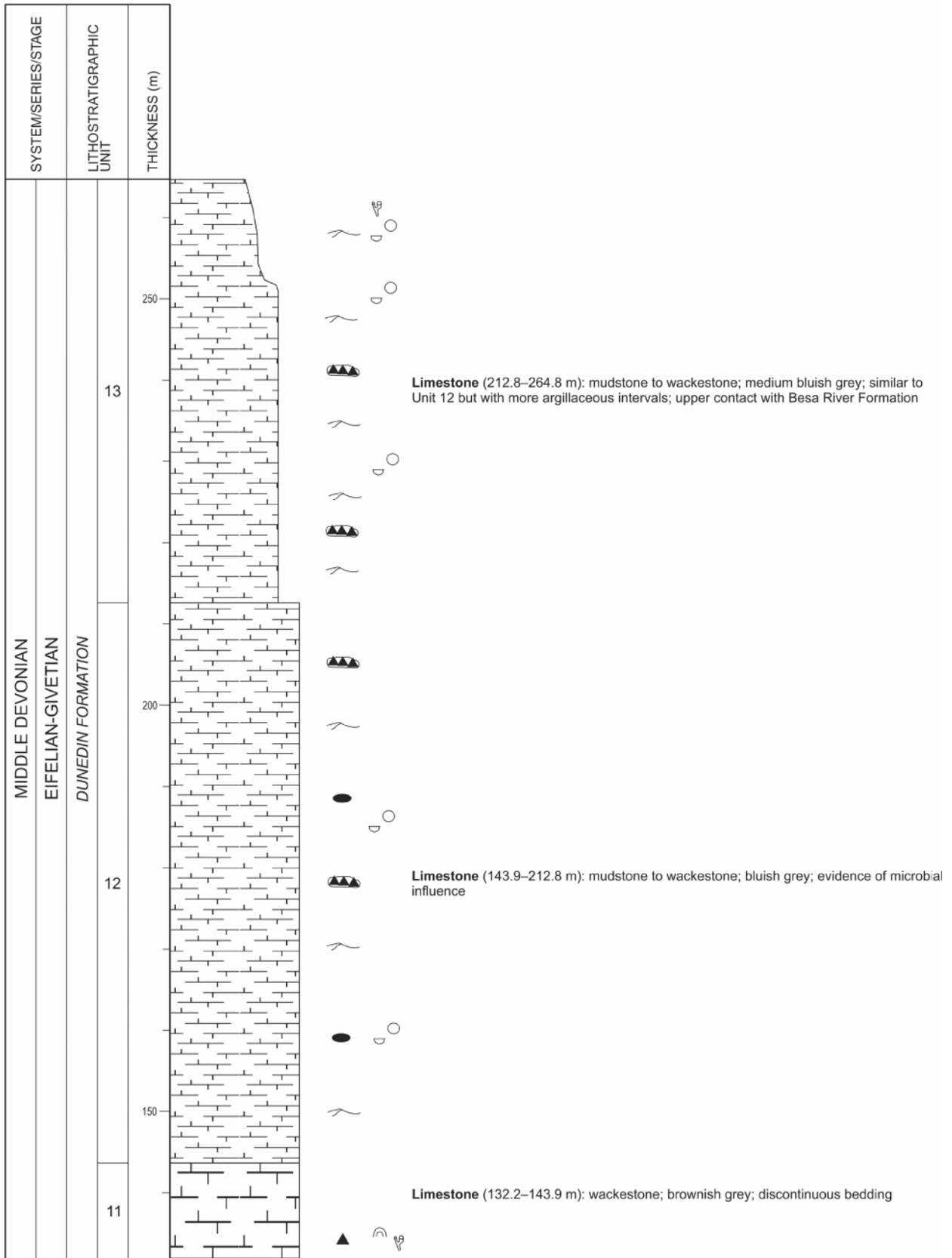


Figure 22. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-13

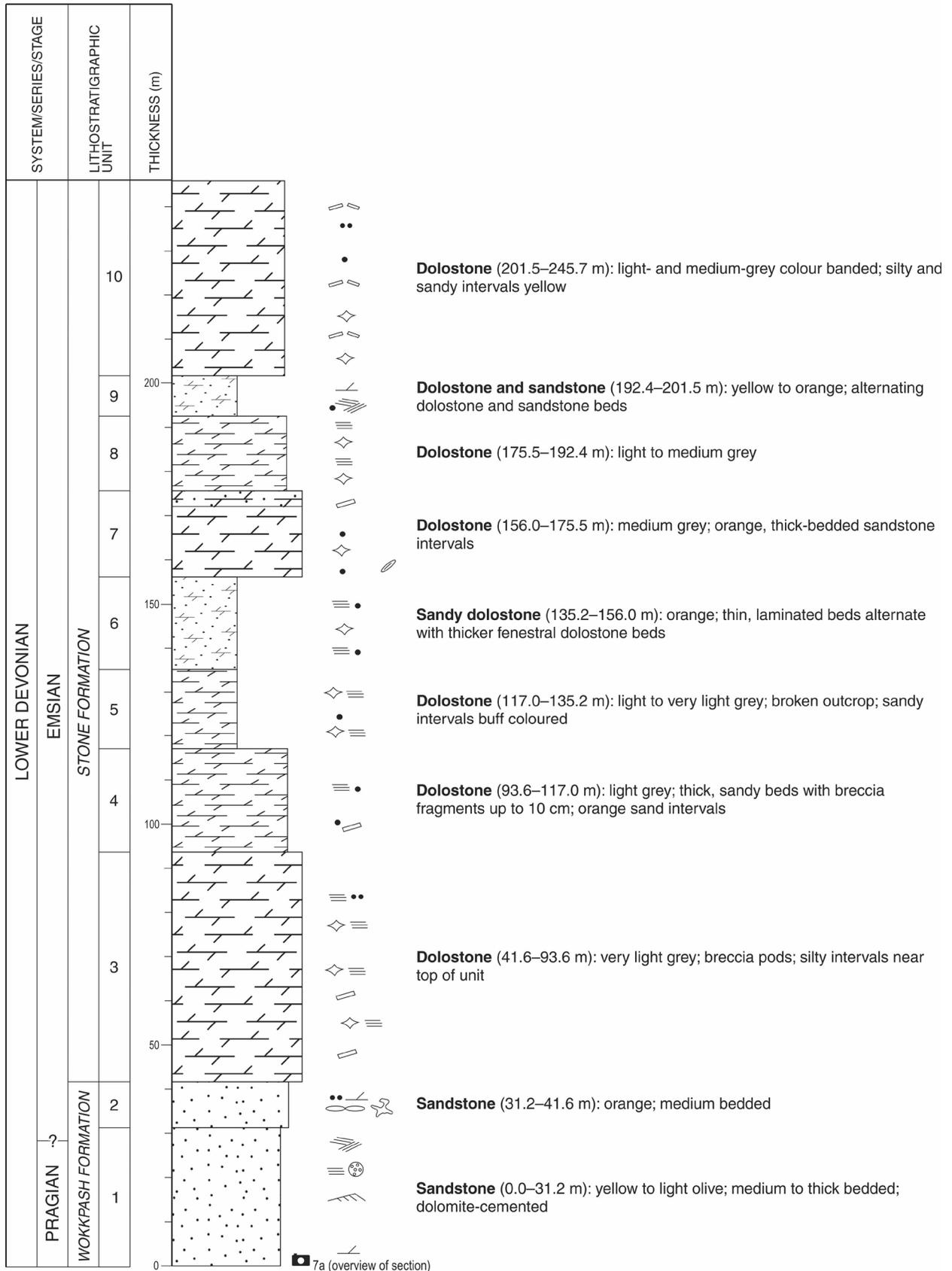


Figure 23. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-13.

SECTION MTA-98-13, continued

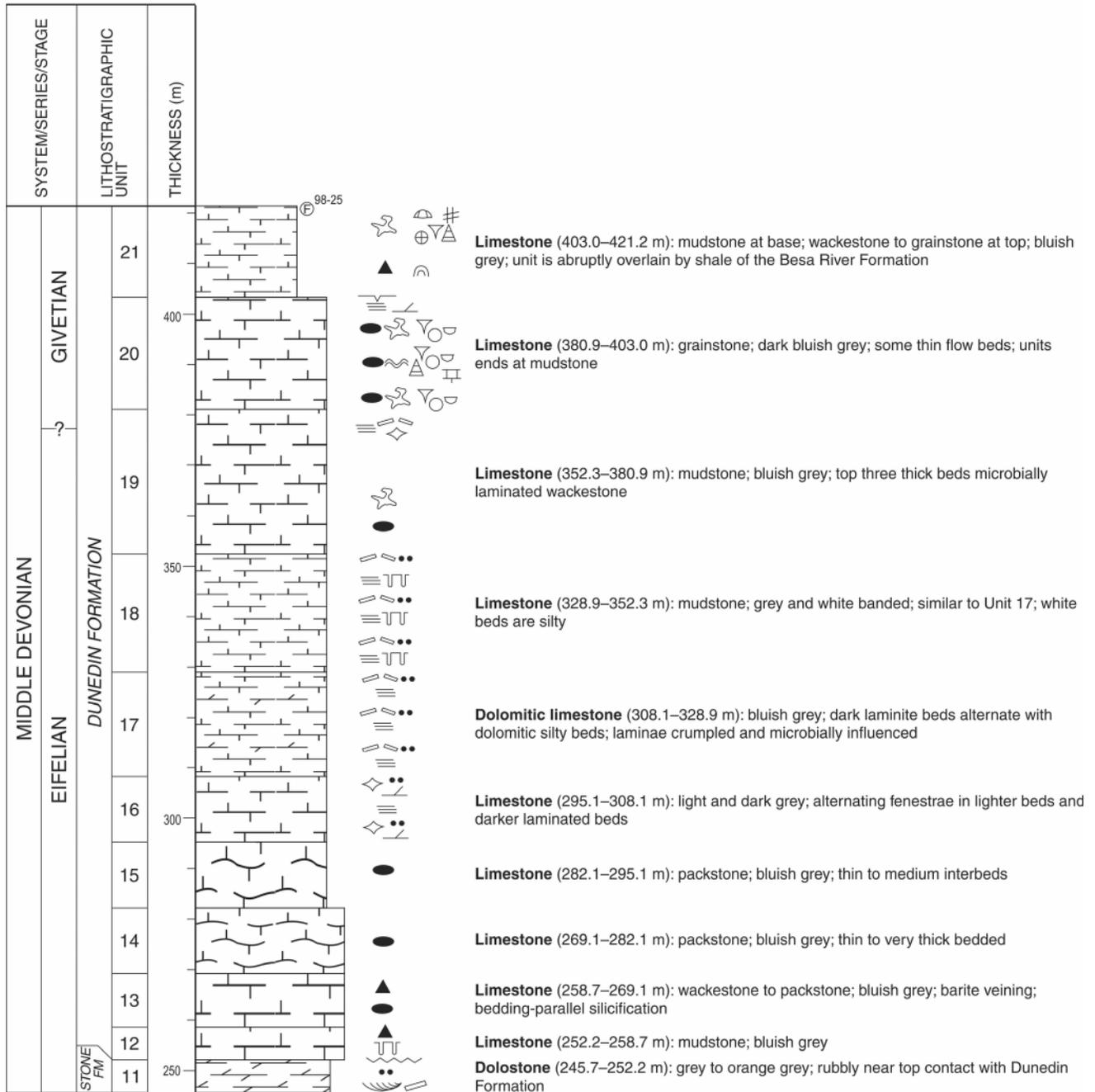


Figure 23. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-14

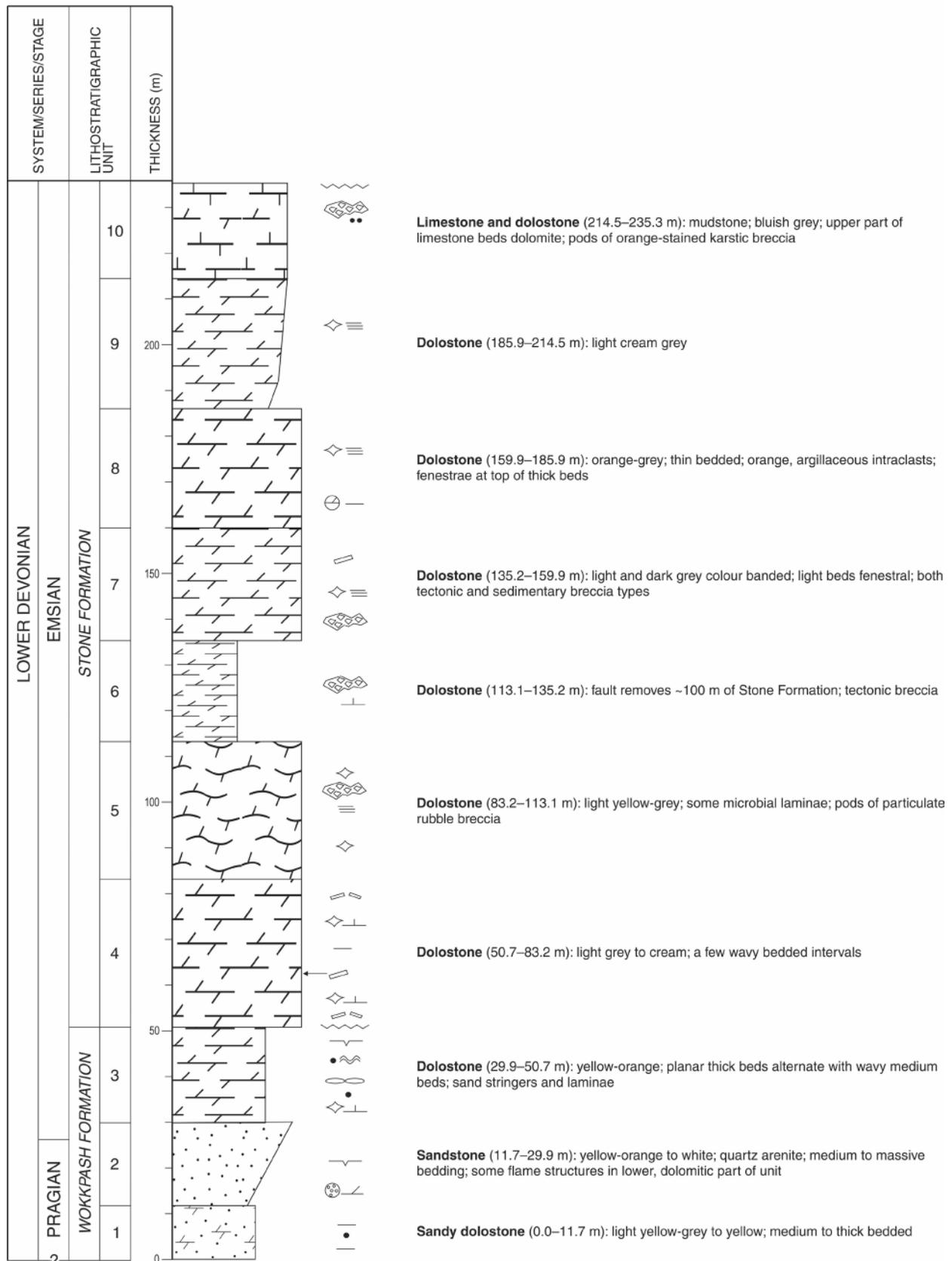


Figure 24. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-14.

SECTION MTA-98-14, continued

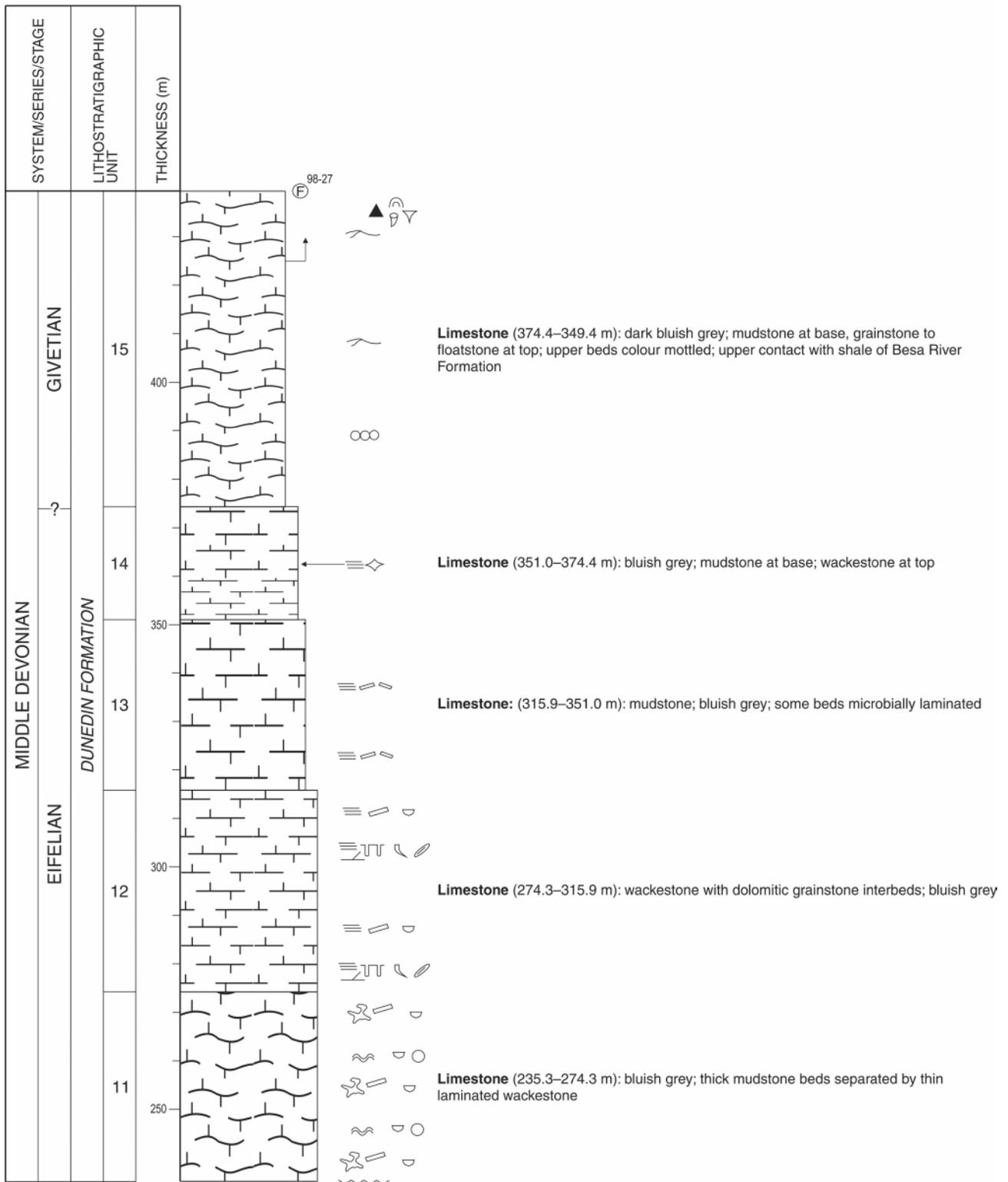


Figure 24. (Cont.)

possibly farther from the sediment source and depositionally more updip than other, cleaner, Wokkpash sections measured to the north.

The Stone Formation is composed largely of thick-bedded, cream-coloured dolostone, alternating with dolomudstone and dololaminite. Fenestral fabrics are abundant in the thinner bedded dololaminite. The Stone Formation rests with a sharp contact on the underlying Wokkpash. There are pods of breccia near the base of the formation that are associated with a fault, which cuts approximately 100 m of strata from the formation. Lenses of sedimentary breccias are also abundant. Many of these are lenses of reworked mudchips as intraclasts. The Stone Formation at this location was likely deposited in a tidal-flat-dominated peritidal environment, which was disrupted fairly often by higher energy events, possibly storms, which generated mudchip breccias. The contact between the Stone Formation and the overlying Dunedin Formation limestone occurs at a corroded, orange-stained, paleokarst surface, indicating exposure and the development of an unconformity. The upper beds of the Stone Formation contain pods of silty material that are likely a paleo terra rossa that may have formed in response to a period of subaerial exposure following Stone Formation deposition.

The Dunedin Formation is composed of peloidal lime mudstone and wackestone and local laminated grainstone with a rather depauperate fauna dominated by ostracodes and rare amphiporids. The top beds of the formation are a silicified fossiliferous grainstone to floatstone with a more diverse, open-marine fauna of corals, brachiopods, and hemispheroidal stromatoporoids. Overall, the formation was likely deposited within a peritidal and subtidal, slightly restricted and low-energy marine environment. The laminated grainstone may have been deposited within small, higher energy channels that cut through tidal flats or as occasional storm washover deposits on tidal flats.

Section MTA-98-15

This section (Fig. 25) was measured along a ridge a few kilometres northeast of Muncho Lake in the Toad River map area. The section includes the uppermost beds of the Wokkpash Formation, the Stone Formation, and part of the Dunedin Formation. The Stone Formation at this location is very thick in comparison with other sections; this may be due to fault repetition, though no faults were obvious during measurement of the section.

The Wokkpash Formation in this section is a yellow sandy dolostone with some sand chips. The contact with the overlying, more resistant Stone Formation is abrupt but not well exposed.

The Stone Formation is dolostone, mainly dolomudstone to dolowackestone, with some thick-bedded, more resistant intervals containing amphiporid floatstone beds throughout.

Thinner dololaminite beds commonly exhibit fenestral fabric and tend to occur in repetitious alternations with medium- to thick-bedded dolostone. Deposition probably occurred in a somewhat restricted, shallow subtidal and peritidal environment. The upper contact of the Stone Formation with the overlying Dunedin Formation is sharp and irregular with a strongly karsted appearance. Orange mud infiltrates uppermost Stone strata immediately beneath this erosional surface.

The Dunedin Formation is dominantly limestone, with fossiliferous mudstone and skeletal wackestone as the dominant lithologies. The basal unit contains laminae and fenestral fabric. The uppermost measured unit displays 4 m thick cycles, consisting of burrowed skeletal wackestone grading up to peloidal skeletal packstone and floatstone. The formation was deposited initially within a low-energy peritidal environment, grading upsection to strata indicating a low- to moderate-energy shallow subtidal, to more open-marine environment.

Section MTA-99-1

This section (Fig. 26) extends along 110 Creek in the Tuchodi Lakes map area. It includes the type section of the Dunedin Formation as well as strata of the underlying Stone Formation and overlying Besa River Formation.

The Dunedin Formation is dominantly limestone, with a basal interval of dolomitic limestone. The contact between the Stone and Dunedin formations occurs at a scalloped surface with up to 50 cm relief, indicating an erosional unconformity. The predominant lithology is fossiliferous mudstone to skeletal wackestone, with some skeletal packstone and floatstone intervals. Faunas are moderately diverse and dominated by ostracodes and brachiopods. Large favositid and hexogonarid corals were observed only along the uppermost Dunedin bed surface immediately beneath Besa River shale. Reddish-orange-stained hardgrounds are scattered throughout. The formation was likely deposited within a subtidal, slightly restricted-marine shelf environment that became more open marine upsection. The upper contact with the Besa River Formation is abrupt and apparently conformable.

Section MTA-99-2

This section (Fig. 27) extends along the nose of a ridge north of Lapierre Creek in the Halfway River map area. The section includes uppermost strata of the Stone Formation, and the complete Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided up to its contact with the overlying Besa River Formation. Strata of this section are strongly overprinted by the Presqu'ile Dolomite.

SECTION MTA-98-15

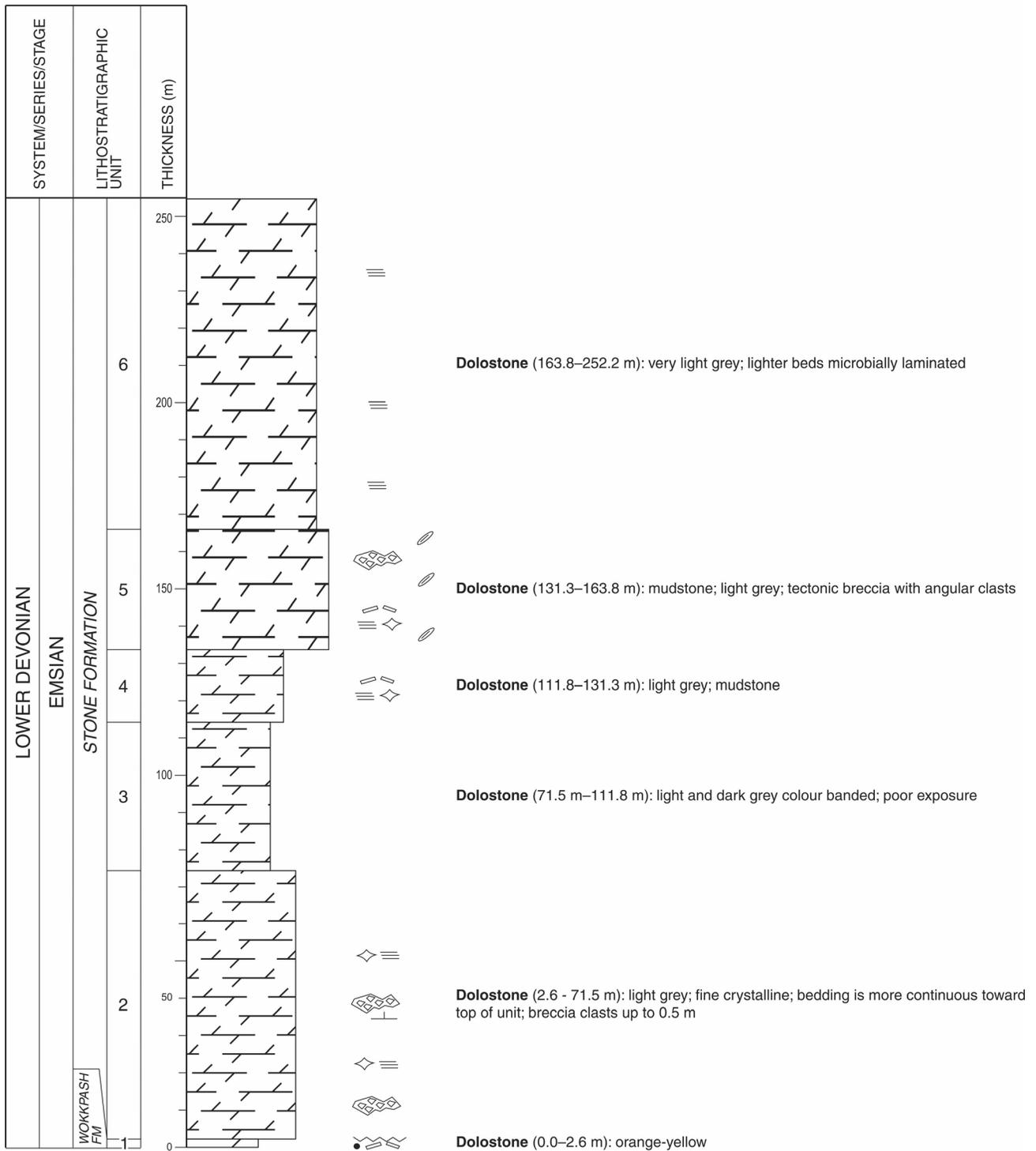


Figure 25. Columnar section for Section MTA-98-15.

SECTION MTA-98-15, continued

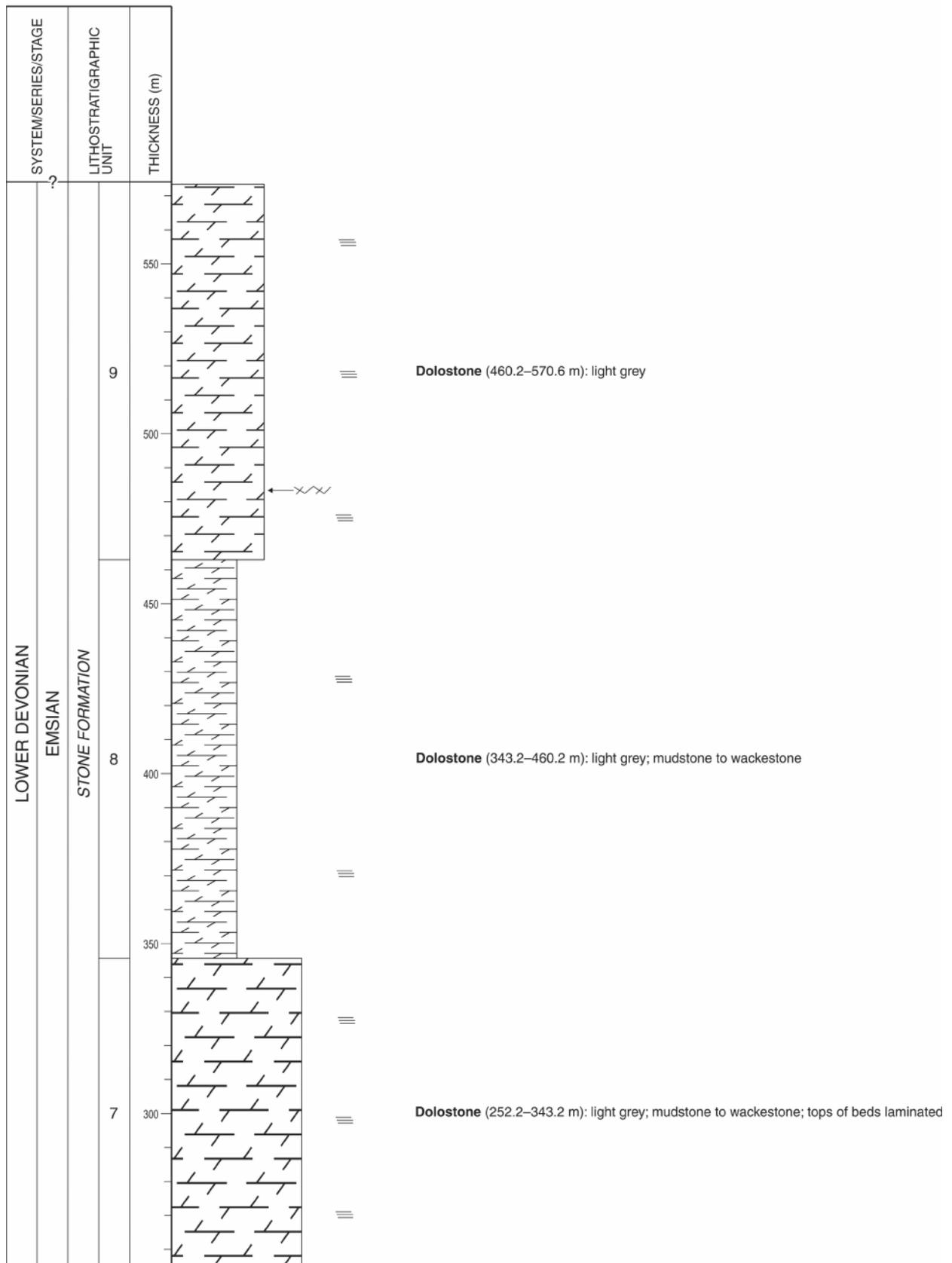


Figure 25. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-15, continued

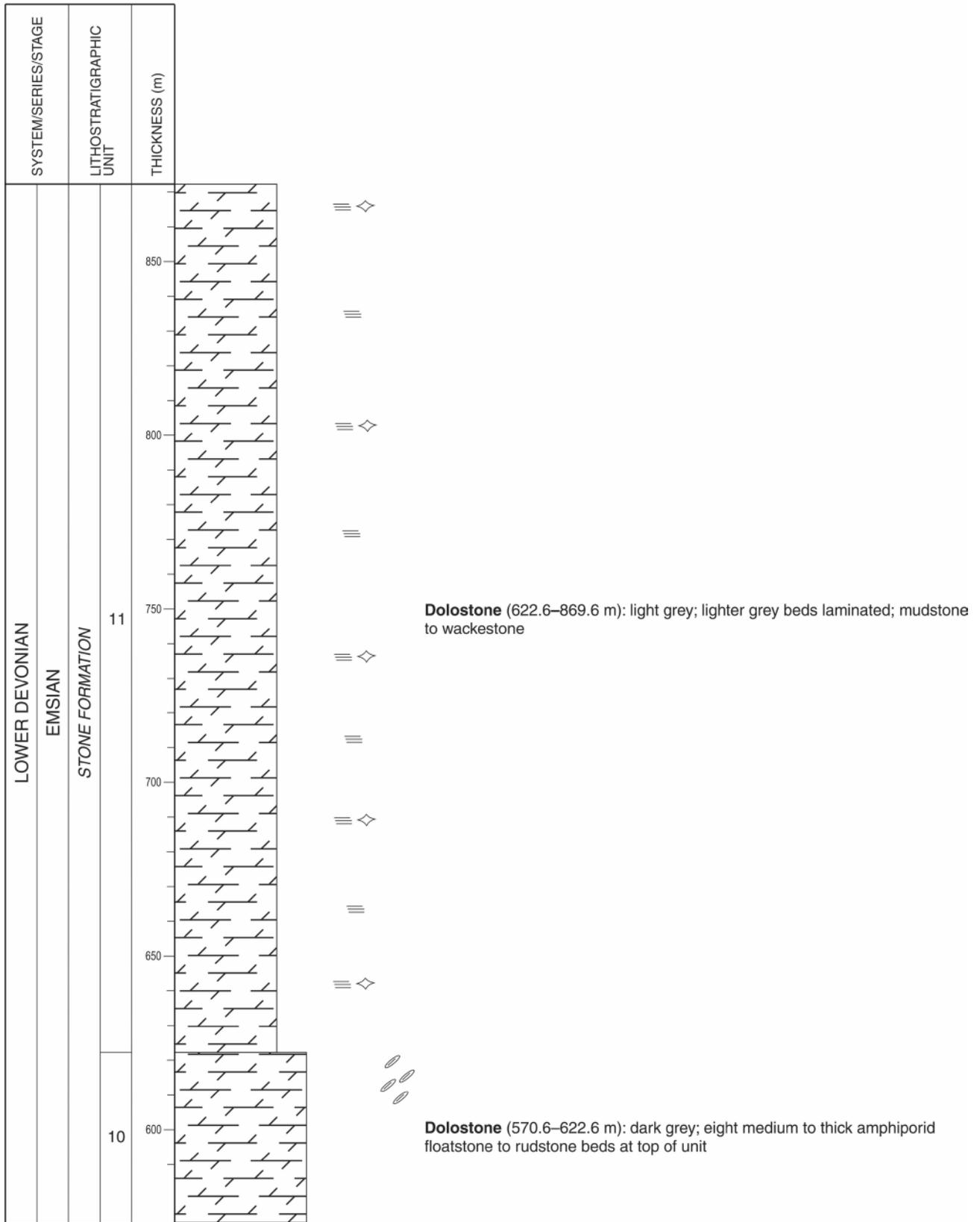


Figure 25. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-15, continued

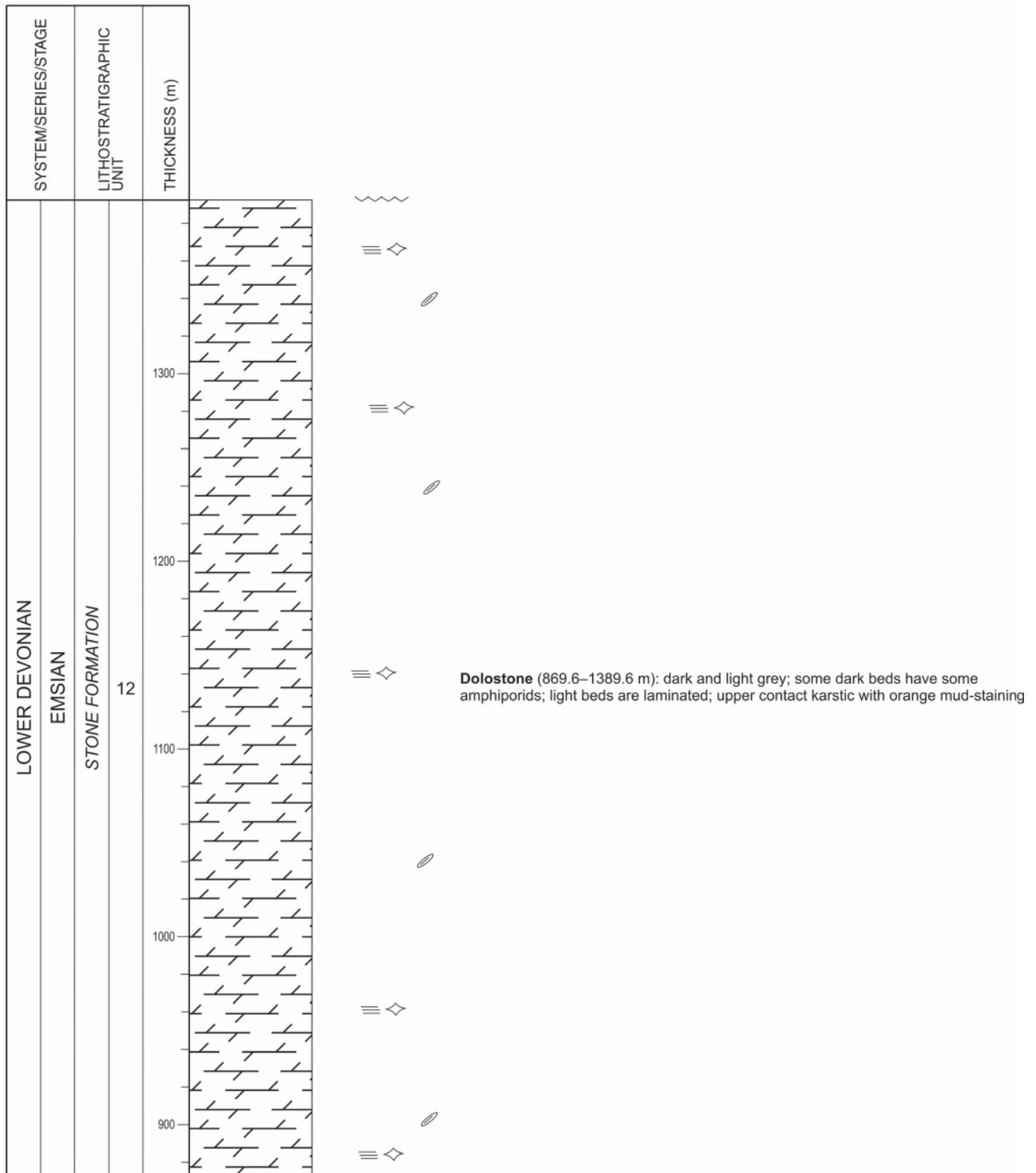


Figure 25. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-98-15, continued

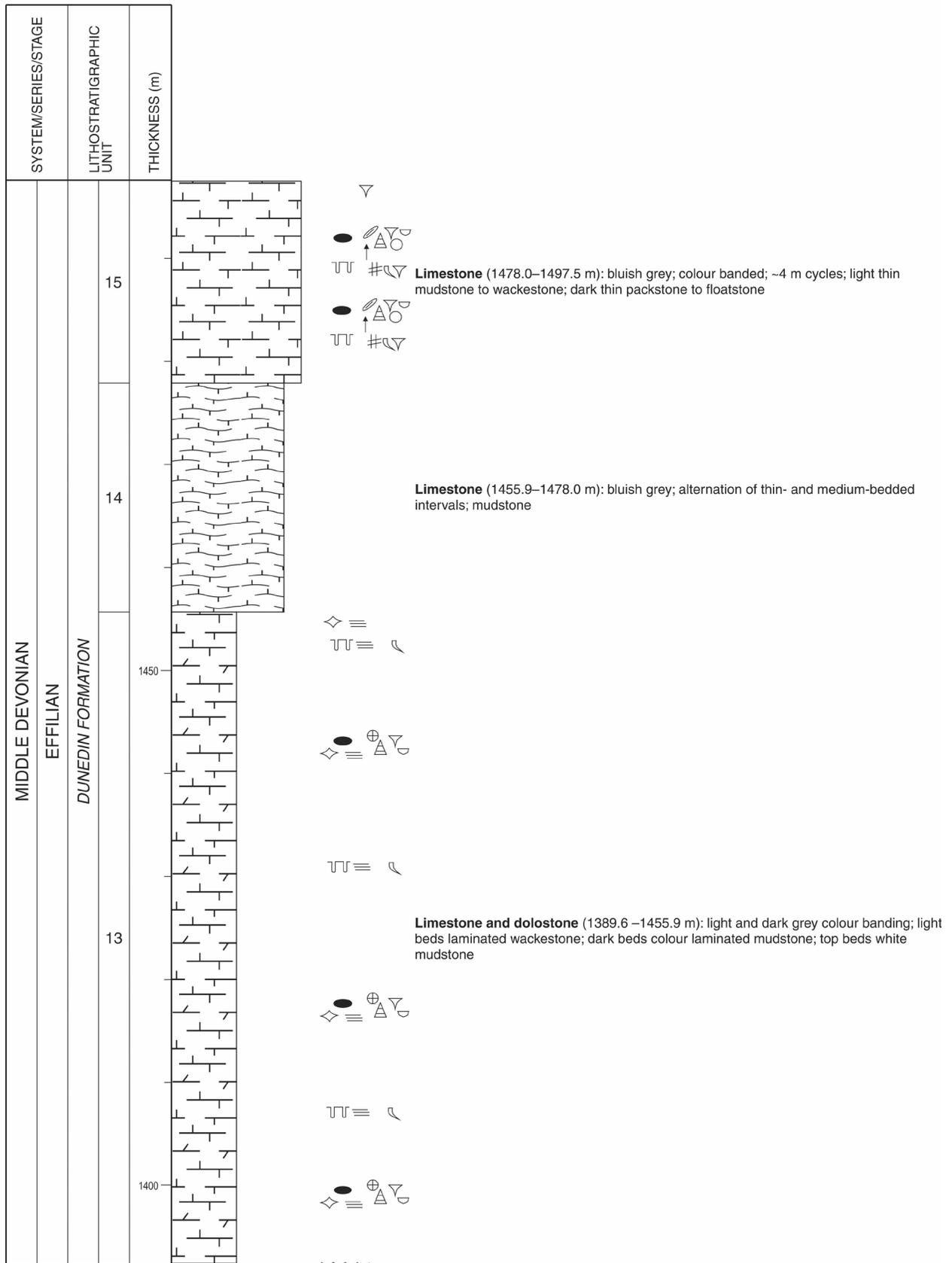


Figure 25. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-99-1

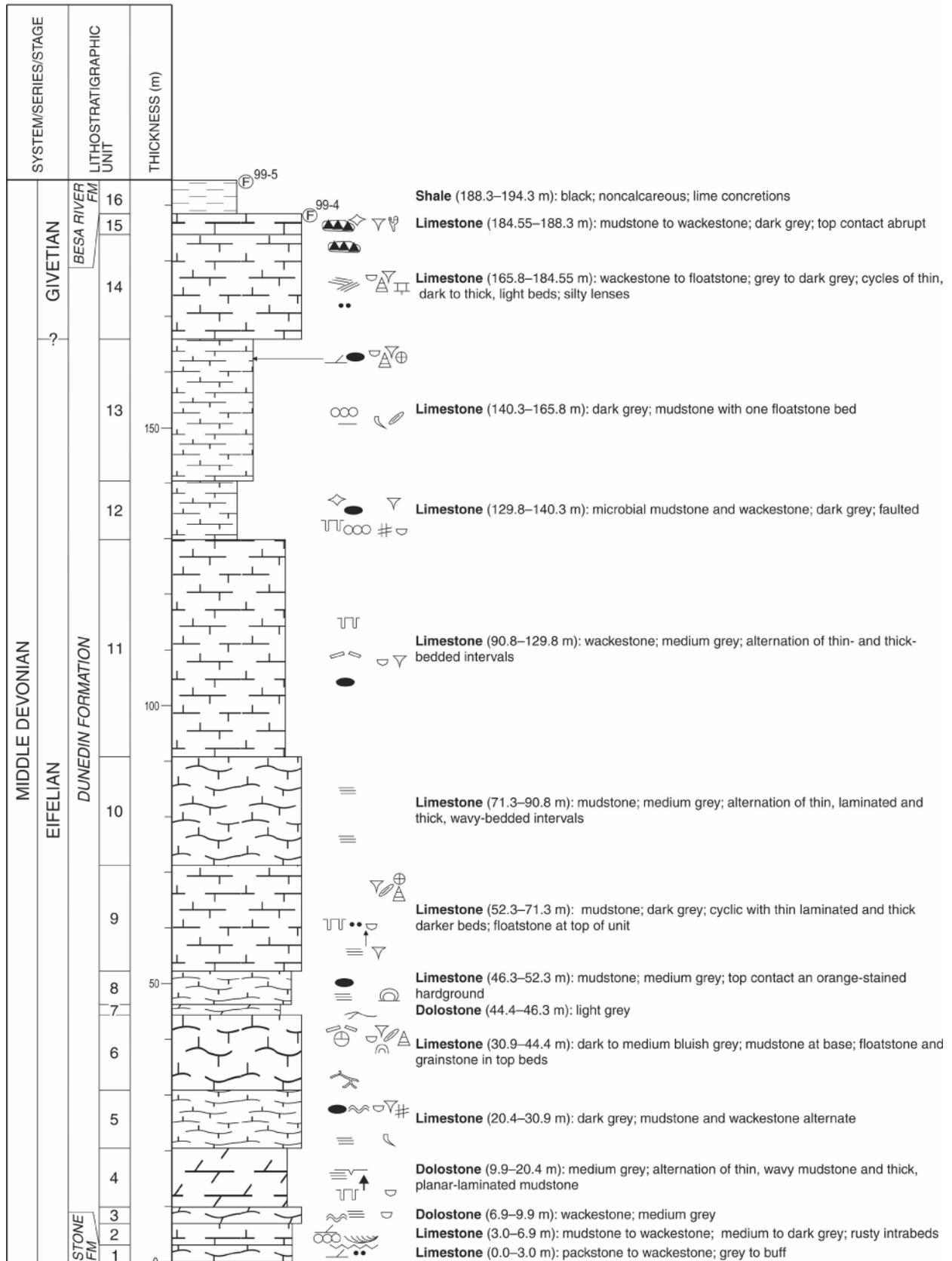


Figure 26. Columnar section for Section MTA-99-1.

SECTION MTA-99-2

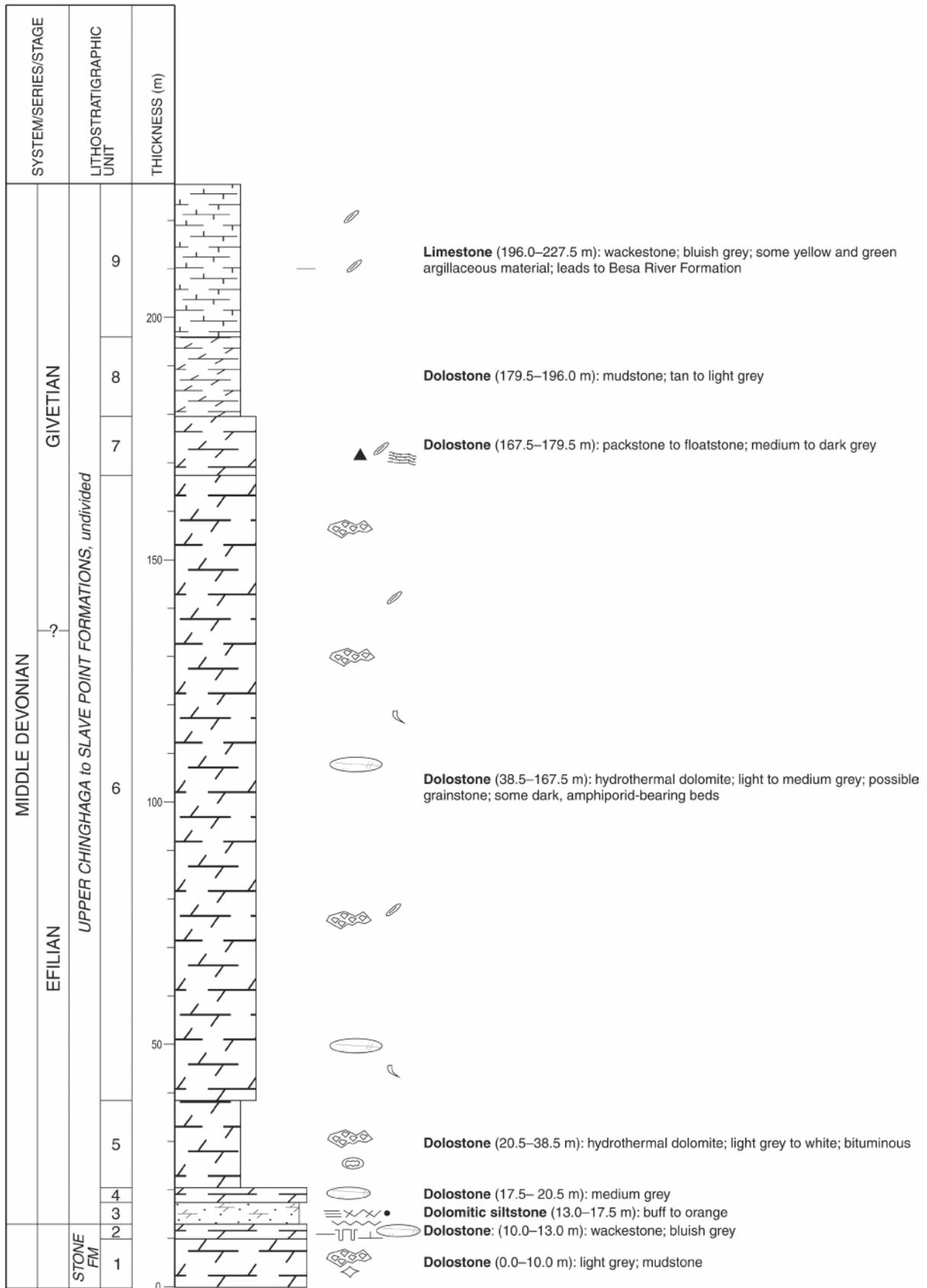


Figure 27. Columnar section for Section MTA-99-2.

The Stone Formation is dolostone and mudstone to argillaceous wackestone. Fenestral fabric and burrows can be seen through intense hydrothermal dolomitization and associated brecciation.

The basal 165 m of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided also underwent intense brecciation and hydrothermal dolomitization associated with development of the Presqu'île Dolomite, and little indication of the original sedimentary structures and lithology remain. The basal unit is dolomitic siltstone to sandstone, which is then overlain by apparent grainstone. Original lithologies and sedimentary structures can still be determined within the upper 70 m, though also altered. These upper beds alternate between mudstone and amphiporid rudstone with some silicified lamellar stromatoporoids. An uppermost interval of slightly argillaceous, tan lime mudstone caps the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided and underlies the upper conformable contact with the Besa River Formation. Because of the alteration, very little can be determined as to the depositional environment, but there are indications that deposition occurred within and around a reef complex.

Section MTA-99-3

This section (Fig. 28) extends along the nose of a ridge north of Nabesche River in the Halfway River map area. The section includes strata of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided.

The formation is dominantly limestone, with the middle third partly altered to hydrothermal dolomite of the Presqu'île Dolomite. The lower part is dominantly fossiliferous mudstone to skeletal wackestone, with some amphiporids, followed by bioclast-rich floatstone. This small interval was then followed by more wackestone and packstone with local amphiporid floatstone to rudstone beds. The hydrothermal dolomitization with attendant textural obliteration makes the next intervals along the line of section difficult to interpret, but strata exposed along strike farther down the slope were not as intensely altered. Here there are very thick intervals of hemispheroidal stromatoporoid boundstone. The upper portions of the unit, following the dolomitized intervals, are skeletal grainstone and mudstone intercalated with amphiporid rudstone and floatstone.

Deposition began in a subtidal to open-marine setting, followed by development of biostromes or even reefs (i.e. bioherms). This was then replaced by back-reef lagoonal deposition and low faunal diversity, but with numerous amphiporid beds. Reefal stromatoporoid boundstone was then deposited, followed by yet another amphiporid-rich lagoonal interval. Thin-bedded lime mudstone above this leads upsection to the shale of the Besa River Formation.

Section MTA-99-4

This section (Fig. 29) extends along a ridge immediately south of Keily Creek in the Trutch map area. The section starts within the Silurian Nonda Formation, leads through the Muncho-McConnell and Stone formations, and into the basal beds of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided.

The uppermost Nonda Formation is dolostone and silty to sandy dolostone with boundstone of hemispheroidal stromatoporoids and corals, mudcracked mudstone, and alternating bands of lamellar stromatoporoids and quartzarenite beds. The contact between the Nonda and Muncho-McConnell formations occurs at an unconformity, marked by a silcrete horizon.

The Muncho-McConnell Formation is yellow and orange weathering dolostone to sandy dolostone, with laminae and fenestral fabric in mudstone and silty to sandy mudstone. There is no visible fauna within the formation. Overall, it appears the formation was deposited within a carbonate peritidal setting, which at times had a high siliciclastic input.

The Stone Formation is all light grey dolostone as mudstone and argillaceous or sandy mudstone. Other than a few amphiporid rudstone intervals within Unit 12, there are no visible bioclasts. Sedimentary breccias are found in thick sections of rubble to mosaic floatbreccia with light mudstone clasts in a darker mudstone matrix. The clasts are centimetre scale, with sharp, angular outlines. This formation contains postdepositional rubble breccias cemented by calcite near the base, and vugs filled with megacrystalline calcite at the top. This formation was likely deposited within subtidal and peritidal environments with occasional higher energy episodes (e.g. storms) forming the sedimentary breccias.

The lower part of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided is composed of dolostone, changing upward to limestone. The basal unit, overlying an abrupt, possibly unconformable, contact with the underlying Stone Formation, is a distinctive, yellow-weathering, recessive quartz arenite that grades upward to silty dololaminite. This is followed by a thick interval of fossiliferous mudstone and skeletal wackestone. The uppermost two units are composed of massive bioclastic grainstone beds. This formation contains some Presqu'île Dolomite near the base, but the upper units are undolomitized. Deposition likely started in a shoreface, siliciclastic-dominated environment, followed by more open-marine, subtidal conditions. Finally, a biostromal or reef complex formed on this open-marine platform. The uppermost part of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided is not exposed here.

SECTION MTA-99-3

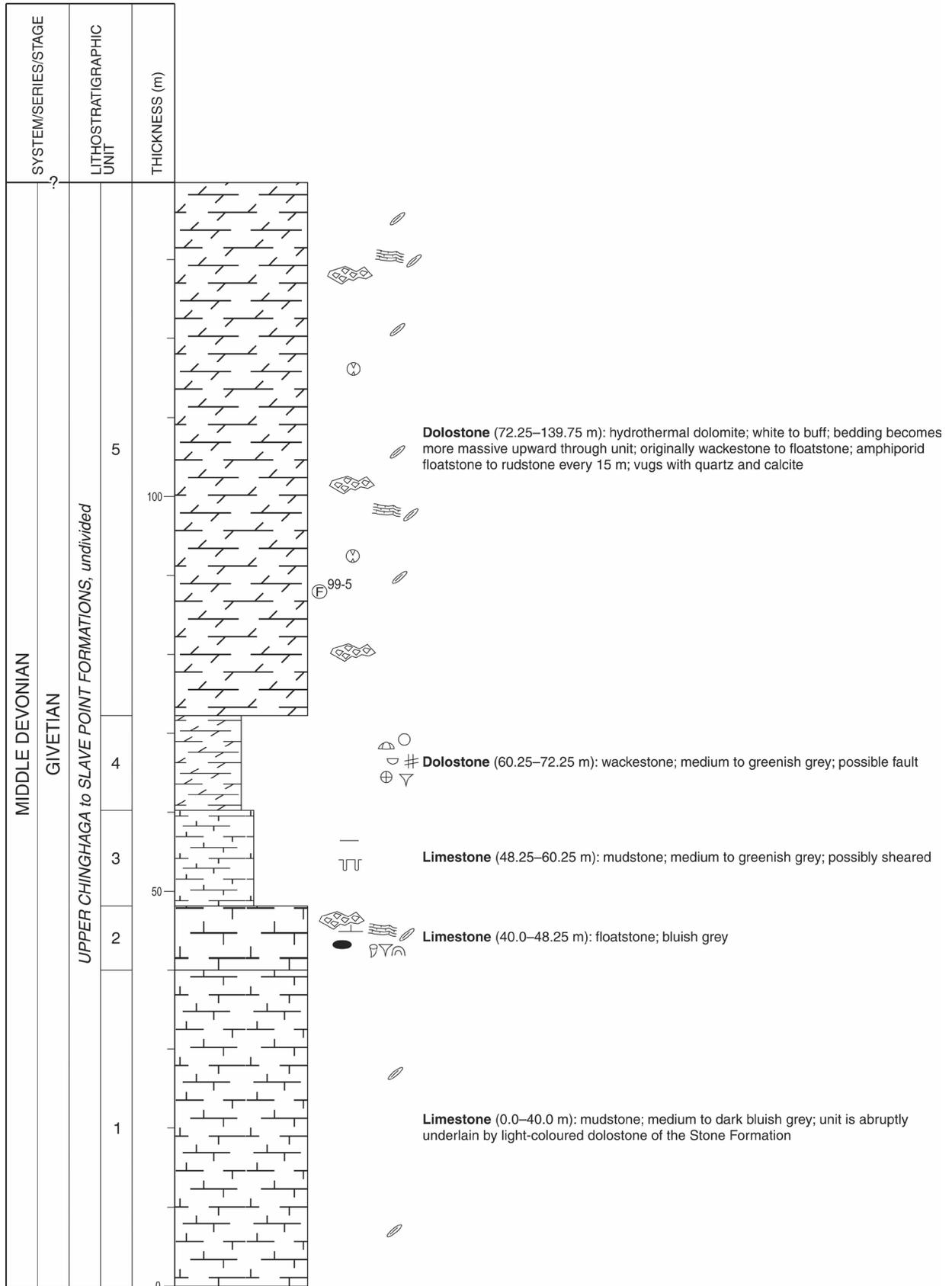


Figure 28. Columnar section for Section MTA-99-3.

SECTION MTA-99-3, continued

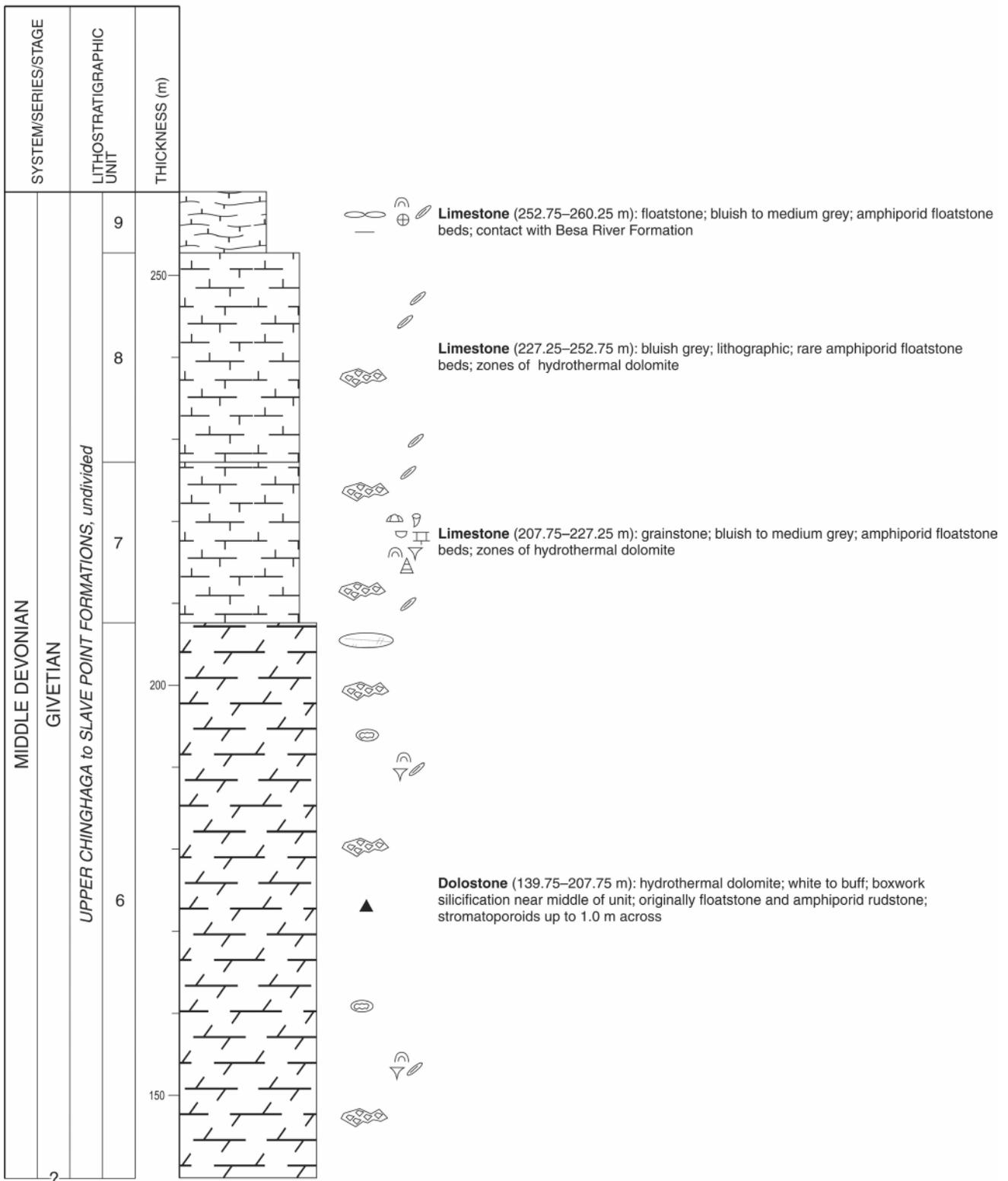


Figure 28. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-99-4

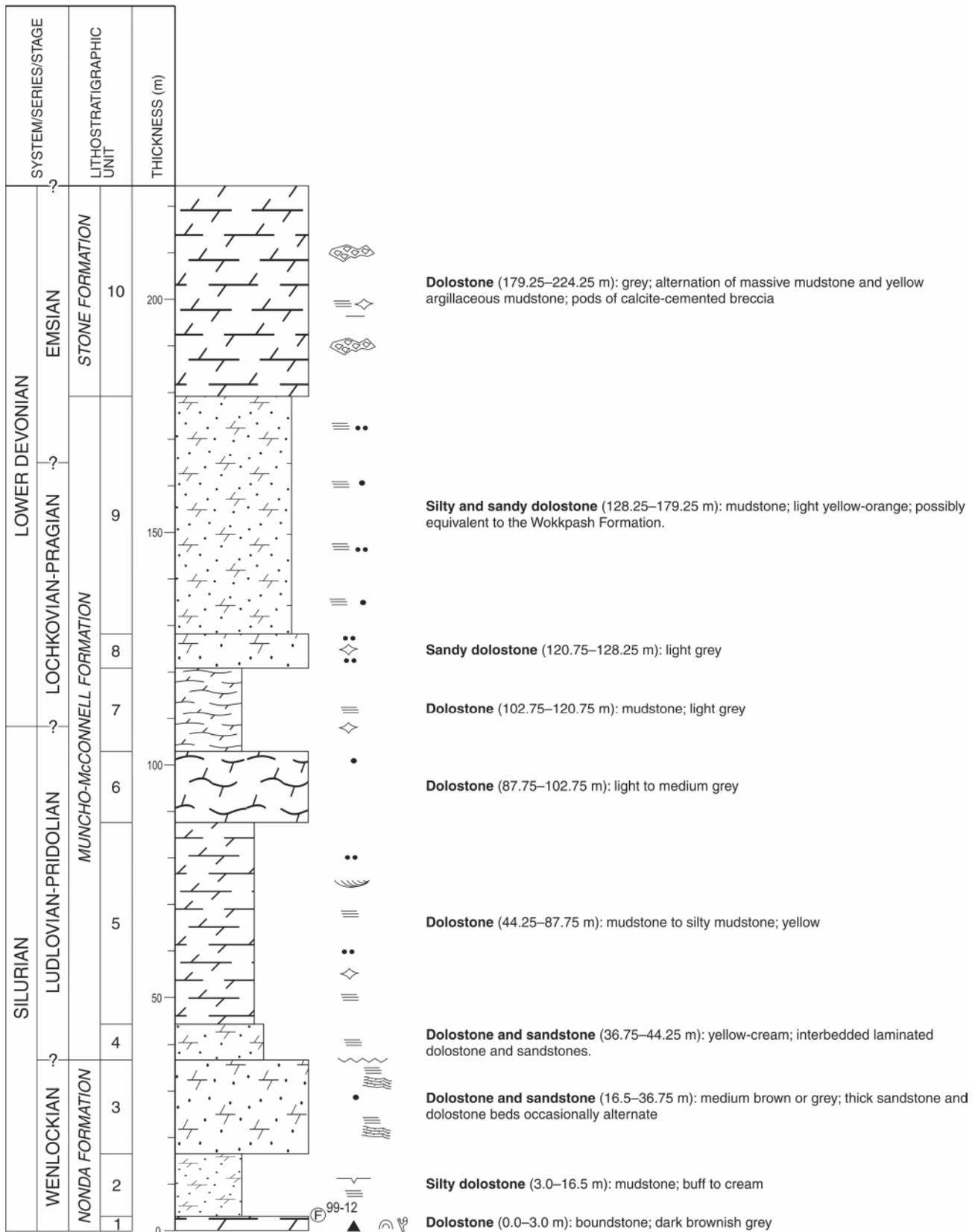


Figure 29. Columnar section for Section MTA-99-4.

SECTION MTA-99-4, continued

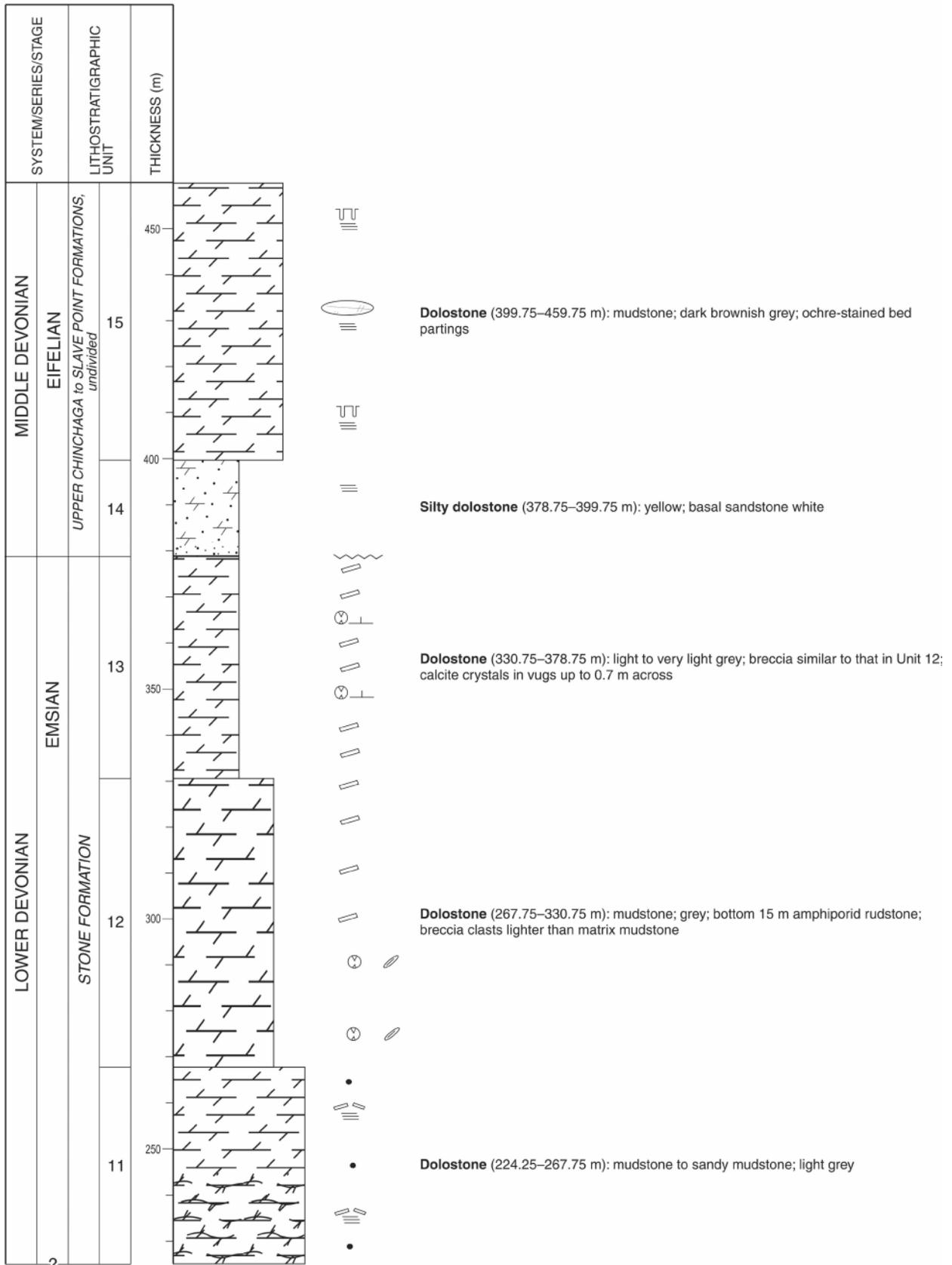


Figure 29. (Cont.)

Section MTA-99-5

This section (Fig. 30) was measured directly east of Mount McCusker in the Trutch map area. The section was measured from the top beds of the Stone Formation upward to the contact between the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided and the Besa River Formation. A radical change in dip within the top unit indicates that it may be structurally separated from the underlying units by an eastward-verging thrust.

The uppermost Stone Formation is an argillaceous dolostone with silty and sandy laminae. There is a sharp, but not obviously unconformable, contact between the Stone and the overlying Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided.

The basal unit of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided is a thin-bedded argillaceous dolostone. It is followed by a thick section of alternating amphiporid floatstone and grainstone beds displaying bed-parallel orientation of bioclasts with high faunal diversity. This is overlain by another thick interval of mudstone and skeletal packstone and floatstone without the intervening amphiporid floatstone

SECTION MTA-99-4, continued

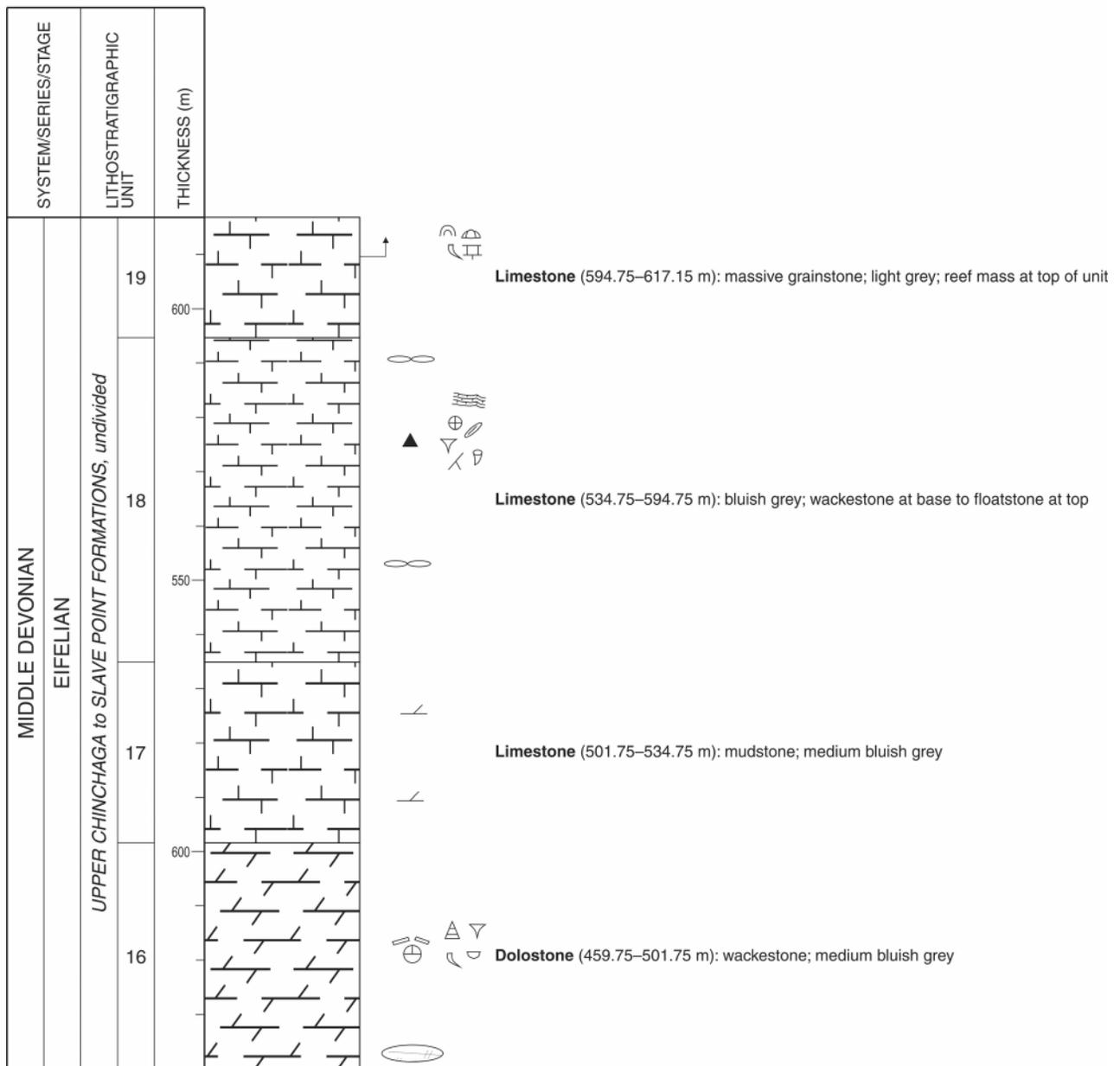


Figure 29. (Cont.)

SECTION MTA-99-4

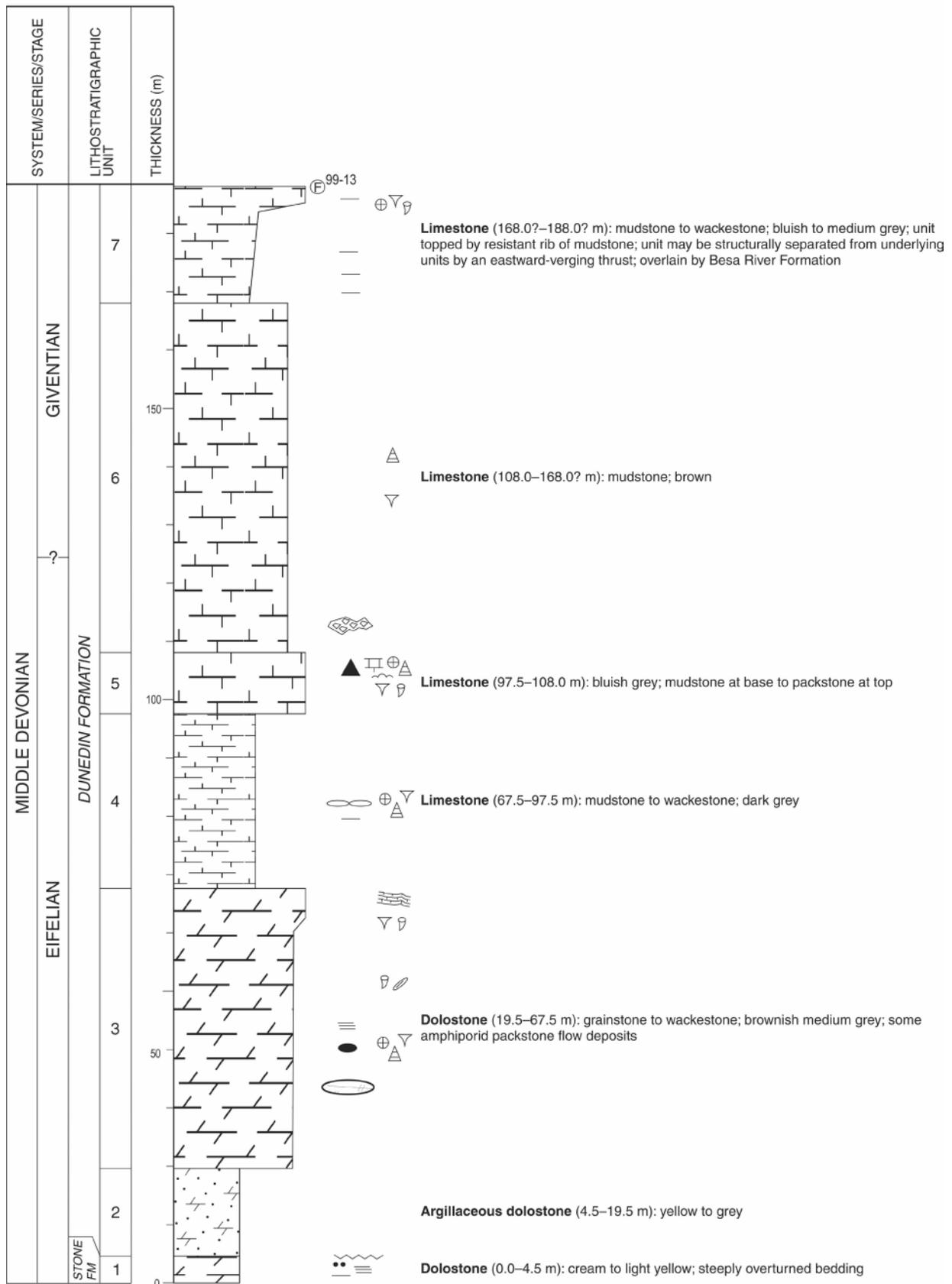


Figure 30. Columnar section for Section MTA-99-5.

intervals. This passes upward to fairly monotonous and nondescript mudstone including some intervals with high bioclast content.

Deposition of the section began in a shoreface setting, followed by a foreereef submarine slope setting resulting in numerous coarse-skeletal grainflow, debris flow and/or turbidite deposits. The argillaceous skeletal wackestone and lime mudstone at the top of the Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided here may represent an upward transition to Besa River shale.

CONCLUSIONS

Important conclusions of this study include the following:

- 1) The presence of strata that can be included within the Presqu'île Barrier reef complex of the subsurface has been documented in six measured outcrop sections from the southern Trutch map area and from the Halfway River map area. These sections contain abundantly stromatoporoidal strata as young as mid-Givetian, and may even include strata that are age-equivalent to the Watt Mountain or Slave Point formations.
- 2) Presqu'île Dolomite is commonly developed in large masses within the thick 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided' limestone successions of the Presqu'île Barrier in outcrop. Similar, but less extensive bodies of white hydrothermal dolospar are developed within Dunedin Formation strata, particularly in faunal-rich, slope-deposited successions adjacent to Presqu'île Barrier sections. However, white dolospar, or calcite-cemented breccias (Manetoe Dolomite) occur within Dunedin strata even in northernmost sections.
- 3) The previously described bounding stratigraphic relationships of the upper and lower contacts of the Dunedin Formation have been confirmed. More documentation has been obtained concerning the basal unconformity of the Dunedin and of the diachronous and gradational upper Dunedin contact with the Besa River Formation.
- 4) The presence of Lower to Middle Devonian siliciclastic units within the postulated Laurier Embayment has been confirmed. Particularly extensive masses of Presqu'île Dolomite occur in Presqu'île Barrier successions of 'Upper Chinchaga to Slave Point Undivided' strata on the south side of Laurier Embayment.

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