

# The first record of the trace fossils *Cochlichnus* from the Pennsylvanian continental and marine deposits in the Donets Basin, Ukraine

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## article info

### key words

trace fossils, *Cochlichnus anguineus*, late Bashkirian, Pennsylvanian, Donets Basin, Ukraine.

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### article history

Submitted: 21.07.2023. Revised: 20.10.2023. Accepted: 30.12.2023

### cite as

Dernov, V. 2023. The first record of the trace fossils *Cochlichnus* from the Pennsylvanian continental and marine deposits in the Donets Basin, Ukraine. *GEO&BIO*, 25: 109–120.

## abstract

Sinusoidal trace fossils *Cochlichnus anguineus* are described for the first time from marine and continental siltstones and sandstones of the Mospyne and Smolyanynivka formations (late Bashkirian, Early Pennsylvanian) in Luhansk Oblast, eastern Ukraine (central Donets Basin). Previously, in Ukraine, *Cochlichnus anguineus* was recorded in the early Bashkirian Buzhanka Formation of the Lviv Paleozoic Trough. *Cochlichnus* isp. is known from the Ediacaran of western Ukraine. The studied ichnofossils come from four localities representing sedimentary sequences of shallow marine, lagoonal, and lacustrine terrigenous rocks. The ichnogenus *Cochlichnus* Hitchcock, 1858 is known from the Precambrian to Holocene and were generally distributed in non-marine environments in the Carboniferous, although it has been recorded in a wide range of environments, from lacustrine (Mermitia Ichnofacies) to marine (Cruziana Ichnofacies). In the Pennsylvanian deposits of eastern Ukraine, these trace fossils are predominantly found in lacustrine black shales, but also in lagoonal siltstones and shallow marine sandstones and siltstones. *Cochlichnus* has been interpreted as traces of grazing, feeding, and locomotion, and it is suggested that traces, depending on the environmental conditions and potential producers, may be combinations of all these ethological categories. Potential producers of *Cochlichnus* include worms *sensu lato*, as well as nematodes, annelids, insect larvae, or cyclostomates. In modern freshwater basins, traces morphologically similar to *Cochlichnus* are produced by nematodes and dipteran larvae. It seems that nematodes and/or annelids are the most likely producers of the studied *Cochlichnus*, since representatives of Diptera are not known in the Carboniferous. In the Donets Basin, *Cochlichnus anguineus* usually co-occurs with the trace fossils *Lockeia*, *Planolites*, and *Palaeophycus*. Sometimes these ichnofossils are found on the layer surfaces bearing microbially induced sedimentary structures together with *Taphrohelminthopsis* and *Aulichnites*.

# Перша знахідка іхнофосилій *Cochlichnus* у пенсильванських континентальних та морських відкладах Донецького басейну, Україна

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**Резюме.** Синусоїдальні іхнофосилії *Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858 вперше описані з верхньобашкирських (нижній пенсильваній) морських та континентальних відкладів моспінської та смоляннівської світ Луганської області (центральний Донбас). На території України іхнофосилії *Cochlichnus anguineus* були відомі раніше з відкладів бужанської світи (нижня частина башкирського ярусу) Львівського палеозойського прогину; *Cochlichnus* isp. відомий з едіакарію Заходу України. Вивчені іхнофосилії походять з чотирьох місцезнаходжень, що представляють осадові послідовності мілководно-морських, лагунних та озерних теригенних порід. Сліди *Cochlichnus* відомі починаючи з докембрію і по сучасність. В карбоні вони були поширені в основному в неморських фаціях, хоча загалом їх зафіксовано в широкому діапазоні фаціальних обстановок: від озерних (мермієва іхнофація) до морських (крузіанова іхнофація). У пенсильванських відкладах Сходу України ці іхнофосилії трапляються переважно в озерних чорних сланцях, а також в лагунних алевролітах і мілководних морських пісковиках і алевролітах. Іхнорід *Cochlichnus* інтерпретується як сліди пастьби, харчування та пересування, і припускається, що вони, в залежності від умов навколишнього середовища та потенційних продуцентів, можуть бути комбінаціями всіх цих етологічних категорій іхнофосилій. Потенційними продуцентами *Cochlichnus* можуть бути черви *sensu lato*, а також нематоди, анеліди, личинки комах або круглороті. У сучасних прісноводних басейнах сліди, схожі або навіть ідентичні *Cochlichnus*, продукуються нематодами та личинками комах ряду Diptera. Схоже, що нематоди та/або анеліди є найвірогіднішими продуцентами вивчених іхнофосилій *Cochlichnus*, оскільки представники Diptera не відомі в карбоні. В Донецькому басейні *Cochlichnus anguineus* зазвичай трапляються разом з іхнофосиліями *Lockeia*, *Planolites* та *Palaeophycus*. Іноді вони, а також іхнофосилії *Taphrhelminthopsis* і *Aulichnites* присутні на поверхнях нашарування, які несуть мікробіальні осадові структури.

Ключові слова: Іхнофосилії, *Cochlichnus anguineus*, верхня частина башкирського ярусу, пенсильваній, Донецький басейн, Україна

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## Introduction

*Cochlichnus* Hitchcock, 1858 is a trace fossil in the form of a sinusoidal wave preserved on lower and upper bedding surfaces mainly of sandstones and siltstones [Hitchcock 1858; Gluszek 1995; Metz 1995, 1996; Buatois *et al.* 1996; etc.]. These trace fossils occur in marine and continental deposits from the Ediacaran to Holocene and are described in many works [e.g. Hitchcock 1858; Gluszek 1995; Buatois *et al.* 1996, 1997; Keighley & Pickerill 1997; etc.]. However, the producers of these ichnofossils are not reliably known, although traces identical to them have also been found in recent non-marine sediments [Chamberlain 1975; Ratcliffe & Fagerstrom 1980; Metz 1987].

In Ukraine, *Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858 was recorded in the early Bashkirian Buzhanka Formation of the Lviv Paleozoic Trough [Shul'ga *et al.* 2007: fig. 30; author's interpretation]. In addition, *Cochlichnus* isp. is known from the Ediacaran of Podillia (western Ukraine) [Paliy 1978; Gureev 1986; Ivantsov *et al.* 2015]. *Cochlichnus* isp. figured by Ivantsov *et al.* [2015: pl. 7, fig. 3] is very similar to *Cochlichnus anguineus* from the Pennsylvanian strata of Indiana, USA [Archer & Maples 1984: fig. 3c] and Early Devonian rocks of Algeria [Bendella *et al.*, 2022: fig. 4G].

Here, I describe the first record of *Cochlichnus anguineus* in the continental and marine deposits of the late Bashkirian Mospyne and Smolyanyivka formations exposed in the southern part of Luhansk Oblast, Ukraine. The studied material indicates a wide distribution of these trace fossils in the Pennsylvanian rocks of eastern Ukraine and brings us closer to uncover their producers.

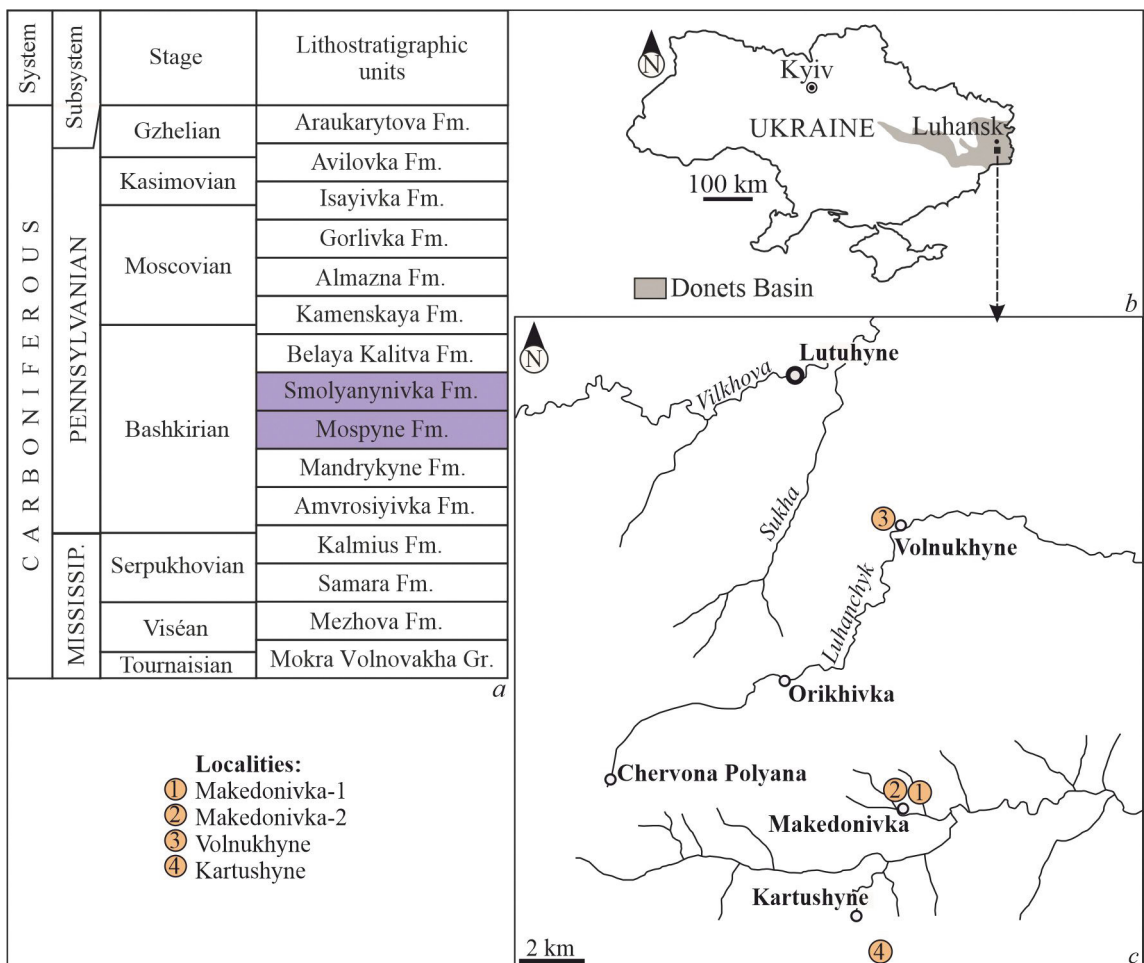
## Geological setting and Material

**Material.** In this study, I investigated 13 sandstone and siltstone slabs with *c.* 30 well-preserved *Cochlichnus anguineus* (specimens GMLNU-9/01 to GMLNU-9/13) and several field photos of these trace fossils *in situ*. The studied collection (GMLNU-9) is stored in the Geological Museum of Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University (Poltava, Ukraine).

**Fossil sites.** The studied material was collected at four fossil sites of the Mospyne and Smolyanynivka formations (Fig. 1) in the central part of the Donets Basin:

(1) Makedonivka-1: Ukraine, Luhansk Oblast, Luhansk Raion, quarries near the village of Makedonivka (coordinates: 48°14'20.5"N 39°18'23.3"E). These quarries exposed a thick fine-grained sandstone bed, which lie 60 m below the  $G_1^2$  limestone layer of the Mospyne Formation (Fig. 2c). The sandstone contains rare plant debris, impressions of marine bivalves and diverse trace fossils, including *Arborichnus*, *Circulichnis*, *Laevicyclus*, *Lockeia*, *Psammichnites*, *Treptichnus*, etc. [Dernov, 2023].

(2) Makedonivka-2: Luhansk Oblast, Luhansk Raion, the ravine slope and old coal mine dumps near the northern outskirts of the village of Makedonivka (coordinates: 48°14'36"N 39°17'58"E). This fossil site represents the 10-m-thick shale-dominated succession that lie above the  $g_1^2$  coal layer, Mospyne Formation (Figs 2a, b).



**Fig. 1.** Stratigraphic position (a) and geographical location (b, c) of the *Cochlichnus*-bearing fossil sites.

**Рис. 1.** Стратиграфічне положення (a) та географічне розташування (b, c) вивчених місцезнаходжень.

The roof shale of the  $g_1^2$  coal bed contains remains of the non-marine bivalves *Curvirimula trapeziforma* (Dewar, 1939) and *C. tessellata* (Jones, 1891) [Dernov 2022a], horseshoe crabs [Dernov 2019], crossopterygian scales *Rhizodopsis sauroides* (Williamson, 1849) and *Rhabdoderma elegans* (Newberry, 1856) [Dernov 2019], coprolites, and evidence of plant-arthropod interactions (endophytic oviposition, leaf margin feedings, etc.) [Dernov 2021].

A rich terrestrial plant assemblage consisting of the genera *Asolanus*, *Bothrodendron*, *Cyperites*, *Lepidodendron*, *Lepidophloios*, *Lepidostrobophyllum*, *Syringodendron*, *Stigmara*, *Asterophyllites*, *Calamites*, *Pinnularia*, *Sphenophyllum*, *Corynepteris*, *Alethopteris*, *Dictyoxylon*, *Eusphenopteris*, *Karinopteris*, *Mariopteris*, *Lyginopteris*, *Neuraethopteris*, *Paripteris*, *Trigonocarpus*, *Cordaicarpus*, *Cordaites*, and *Samaropsis* was studied from this locality by Dernov and Udovychenko [2019].

The siltstone with *Cochlichnus anguineus* is grey and greyish-yellow, fine-grained, micaceous, horizontally bedded with plant debris and rare steinkerns of non-marine bivalves. *Cochlichnus anguineus* is concentrated mainly in a 3 to 4-cm-thin interlayer of limonitised brown siltstone with small plant debris and the trace fossils ?*Palaeophycus* isp. and *Diplichnites* isp. A thin interlayer of ellipsoidal siderite nodules with rare remains of horseshoe crabs [Dernov 2019: fig. 3.8] and pteridosperms *Karinopteris* lies in the lower part of the siltstone layer, just above limonitised siltstones with *Cochlichnus anguineus*.

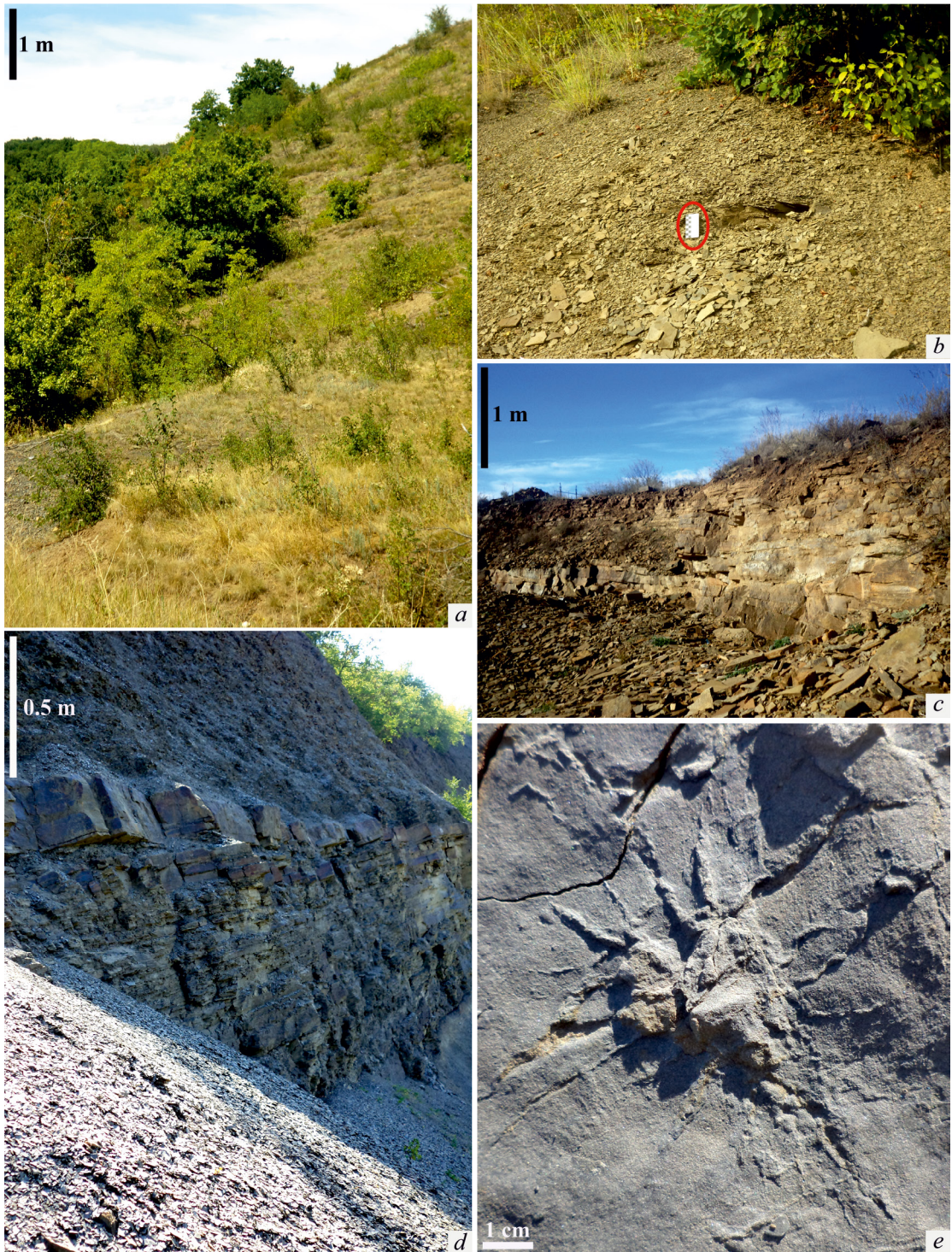
(3) Volnukhyne: Luhansk Oblast, Luhansk Raion, a quarry near the village of Volnukhyne (coordinates: 48°21'28"N, 39°16'53"E). This quarry exposed lacustrine and lagoonal siltstones that lie above the  $g_3$  coal layer of the Mospyn Formation (Fig. 2d).

A single slab of the fine-grained grey lacustrine or lagoonal siltstone with several *Cochlichnus anguineus* was found on the talus along with trace fossils *Planolites*, microbially induced sedimentary structures, and gas-escape structures (Fig. 2e). At this fossil site, in the roof shale of the  $g_3$  coal layer, a rich assemblage of terrestrial plants, including the genera *Asolanus*, *Bothrodendron*, *Cyperites*, *Lepidodendron*, *Lepidophloios*, *Lepidostrobophyllum*, *Asterophyllites*, *Calamites*, *Calamostachys*, *Sphenophyllum*, *Alethopteris*, *Cardioneura*, *Cyclopteris*, *Karinopteris*, *Lyginopteris*, *Mariopteris*, *Neuropteris*, *Palmatopteris*, *Artisia*, *Cordaites*, and *Samaropsis* was recorded [Dernov & Udovychenko 2019]. Plant debris often bears attached microconchids, as well as galls, endophytic oviposition, etc. [Dernov & Udovychenko 2019; Dernov 2021].

(4) Kartushyne: Luhansk Oblast, Roven'ky Raion, heap spoils of the coal mine 1.2 km south of the village of Kartushyne (coordinates: 48°09'53.7"N, 39°15'33.1"E); upper part of the Smolyanynivka Formation, roof shale of an unidentified coal layer in the interval between the  $h_7$  and  $h_{11}$  coal beds.

The mine dumps are composed mainly of slabs of black and dark grey lacustrine siltstones with remains of terrestrial plants (*Bothrodendron*, *Cyperites*, *Lepidodendron*, *Lepidophloios*, *Lepidostrobophyllum*, *Sigillaria*, *Stigmara*, *Annularia*, *Asterophyllites*, *Calamites*, *Radicitis*, *Sphenophyllum*, *Asterotheca*, *Renaultia*, *Eusphenopteris*, *Neuropteris*, *Paripteris*, *Odontopteris*, *Alethopteris*, *Mariopteris*, *Cyclopteris*, *Cordaianthus*, *Cordaites*, *Samaropsis*, etc.), microconchids, non-marine bivalves *Carbolicola acuta* (Sowerby, 1812), ?millipedes, insects, horseshoe crabs, scales of the crossopterygians *Rhizodopsis sauroides* and *Megalichthys* sp., fish egg capsule *Palaeoxyris* sp. and the trace fossils *Cochlichnus anguineus*, ?*Skolithos*, *Palaeophycus*, and *Diplichnites*.

**Regional stratigraphy.** The Mospyn Formation ( $C_2^2$  or G) consists of a paralic succession of sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, coals, and limestones [Aizenverg *et al.* 1963, 1975; Dunaeva 1969; Poletaev *et al.* 2011; Nemyrovska & Yefimenko 2013]. The thickness of this formation varies from 315 m in the NW part of the Donets Basin to 730 m in the SE part of the Donets Basin [Aizenverg *et al.* 1963; Dunaeva 1969; Poletaev *et al.* 2011; Nemyrovska & Yefimenko 2013]. The Mospyn Formation corresponds to the lower part of the Zuyivkian Horizon (lower half of the Kayalian Regional Stage) of the Regional stratigraphic scheme of the Dnipro–Donets Downwarp [Poletaev *et al.* 2011; Nemyrovska & Yefimenko 2013].



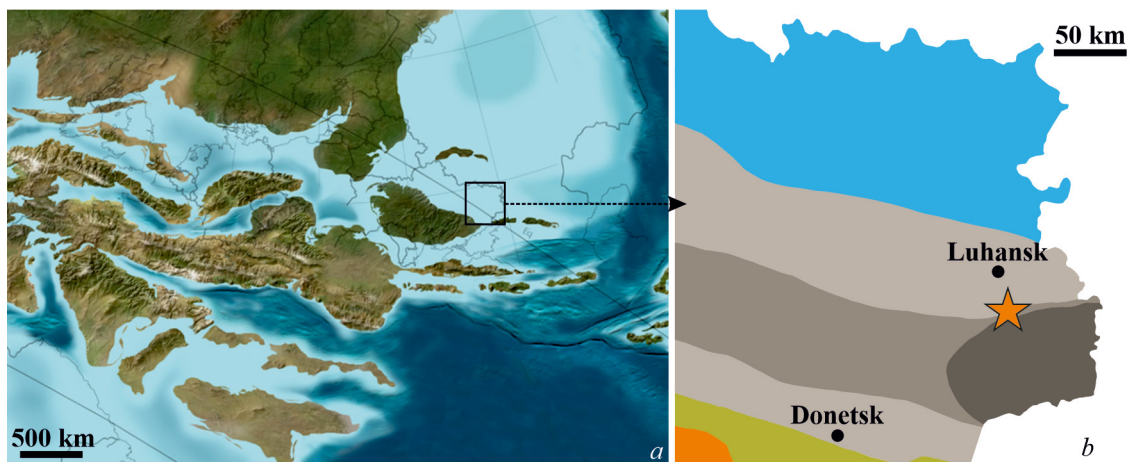
**Fig. 2.** Geological setting of the studied fossil sites: (a) general view of the fossil site Makedonivka-2; (b) siltstone layer with *Cochlichnus anguineus* (Makedonivka-2), scale bar = 100 mm; (c) general view of the fossil site Makedonivka-1; (d) siltstone layer with *Cochlichnus anguineus* (Volnukhyne); (e) gas-escape structure in the siltstone with *Cochlichnus anguineus* (Volnukhyne).

**Рис. 2.** Геологічні особливості вивчених місцезнаходжень: (a) загальний вигляд місцезнаходження Македонівка-2; (b) алевроліти з *Cochlichnus anguineus* (Македонівка-2), масштабна лінійка = 100 мм; (c) загальний вигляд місцезнаходження Македонівка-1; (d) алевроліти з *Cochlichnus anguineus* (Волнухине); (e) знаки виділення газу із нелітифікованого осаду в алевролітах з *Cochlichnus anguineus* (Волнухине).

The Smolyanynivka Formation ( $C_2^3$  or H) consists of a paralic succession of sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, coals, and limestones [Aizenverg *et al.* 1963, 1975; Dunaeva 1969; Poletaev *et al.* 2011; Nemyrovska & Yefimenko 2013]. This formation is characterised by thick (40–60 m) beds of coarse-grained alluvial sandstones [Aizenverg *et al.* 1963]. The thickness of this formation varies from 330 m in the NW part of the Donets Basin to 670 m in the SE part of the Donets Basin [Aizenverg *et al.* 1963; Dunaeva 1969; Poletaev *et al.* 2011; Nemyrovska & Yefimenko 2013]. The Smolyanynivka Formation corresponds to the upper part of the Zuyivkian Horizon (stratigraphic interval between the  $H_1$  and the  $H_4$  limestone layers) and almost completely to the Makiyivkian Horizon (interval between the  $H_4$  and the  $I_1$  limestone layers) [Poletaev *et al.* 2011].

**Age.** Mospyne and Smolyanynivka formations contain remains of typical Langsettian terrestrial plants [Novik 1974; Dernov & Udovychenko 2019; etc.] and ammonoids [Popov 1979; Dernov 2022b], non-marine bivalves of the upper part of the *lenisulcata* Zone and lower part of the *communis* Zone (Mospyne Formation) [Dernov 2022a] and upper part of the *communis* Zone and *lower modiolaris* Subzone (Smolyanynivka Formation) [Sergeeva 1981], as well as late Bashkirian conodonts [Nemyrovska, 1999], and other marine and terrestrial biota, such as miospores, foraminifers, corals, bryozoans, brachiopods, scaphopods, gastropods, horseshoe crabs, millipedes, insects, and fishes.

**Palaeogeography.** The Bashkirian coal-bearing deposits in the Donets Basin were accumulated mainly in a large alluvial-deltaic plain, which was flooded periodically by the warm epicontinental seas [Logvinenko 1953; Feofilova & Levenshtein 1963; Ustinovsky 1993]. Only the central part of the Donets Basin was characterised by a continuous regime of marine sedimentation in the early late Bashkirian (Fig. 3).



**KEY**

- |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  High salinity basin                           |  Shallow sea (<100 m depth) |
|  Coastal plain periodically flooded by the sea |  Coastal plain and lagoons  |
|  Littoral zone of the sea                      |  Land                       |

**Fig. 3.** Bashkirian palaeogeography of eastern Ukraine: (a) palaeogeographic map of Europe in the Pennsylvanian (<https://deertimemaps.com>); (b) palaeogeographic map of the Donets Basin in the Bashkirian (modified from Ischenko *et al.*[1993: fig. 33]).

**Рис. 3.** Палеогеографія Сходу України в башкирський час: (a) палеогеографічна карта Європи в пенсильванії (<https://deertimemaps.com>); (b) палеогеографічна карта Донбасу в башкирський час (взято з [Ischenko *et al.*, 1993: fig. 33]).

## Systematic ichnology

Ichnogenus *Cochlichnus* Hitchcock, 1858

**Type ichnospecies.** *Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858; original designation, by monotypy.

**Other included ichnospecies.** *C. annulatus* Orłowski, 1989; *C. antarticus* Tasch, 1968.

**Diagnosis.** Regular, sinusoidal, horizontal trails and burrows resembling a compressed and stretched corkscrew. The overall width of an individual trace may change progressively [after Häntzschel 1975; Keighley & Pickerill 1997; Uchman 1998].

**Remarks.** *Cochlichnus* differs from *Belorhapha* Fuchs, 1895 by smooth rounded rather than angular curves of the trace. *Cochlichnus* differs from *Helminthopsis* Heer, 1877 by regular curves of the sinusoid, while the outlines of *Helminthopsis* resemble river meanders rather than sinusoidal wave [Buatois *et al.* 1997].

**Stratigraphic range.** From the Ediacaran to the present.

*Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858

Figs 4 and 5

See Stanley & Pickerill [1998: p. 9], Schlirf [2000: p. 176] and Uchman *et al.* [2004: p. 135] for synonymy.

**Diagnosis.** Regular, sinusoidal, smooth, horizontal trails and burrows resembling a compressed and stretched corkscrew. The overall width of an individual trace may change progressively [after Häntzschel 1975; Keighley & Pickerill 1997; Uchman 1998].

**Material.** Thirteen sandstone and siltstone slabs preserving *c.* 30 trace fossils and several field photos of the trace fossils *in situ* (specimens GMLNU-9/01 to GMLNU-9/13).

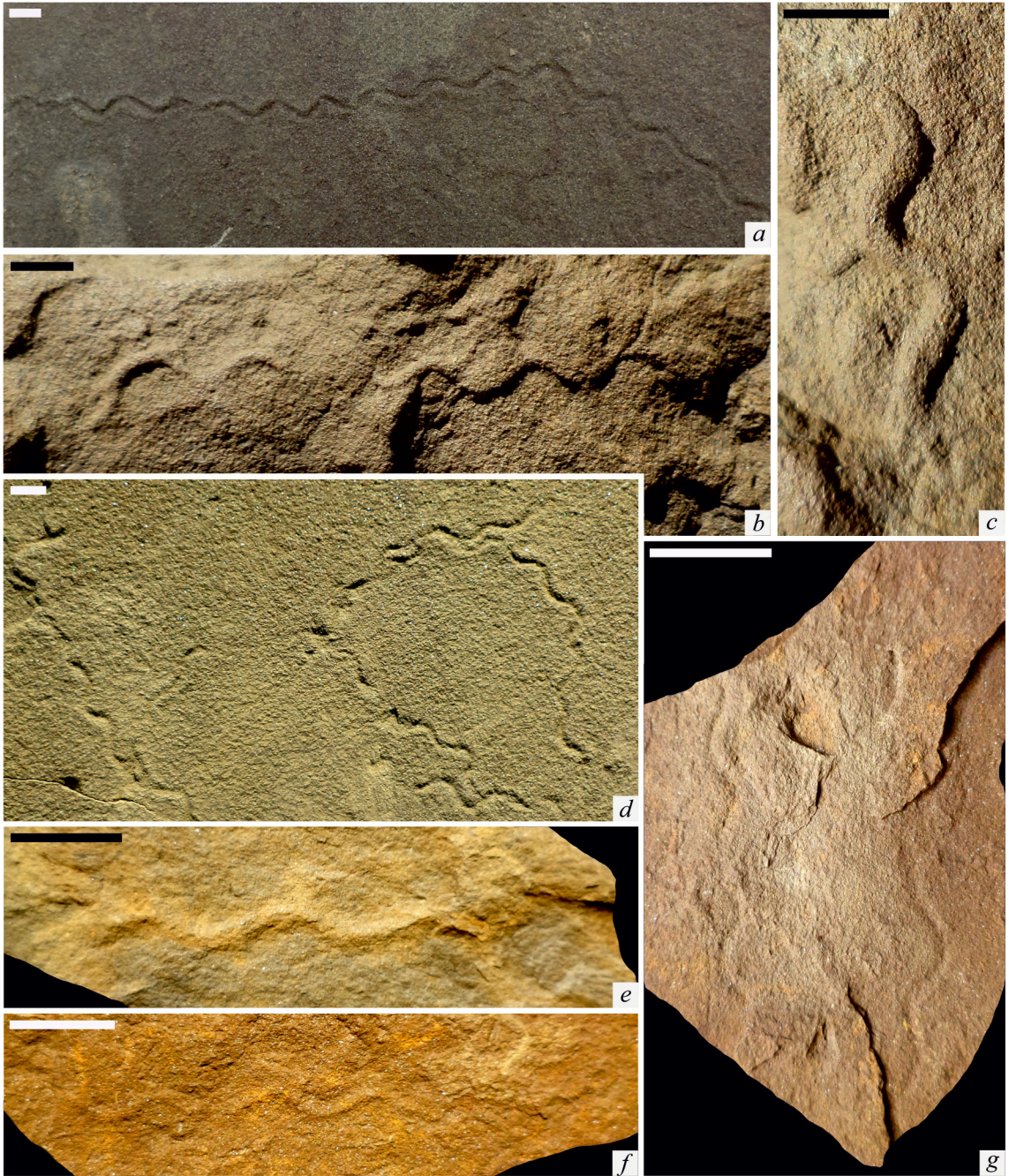
**Description.** Horizontal, cylindrical, thin, sinusoidal trails and burrows with a smooth surface preserved as a convex hyporelief on the lower bedding surface and concave epirelief on the upper surface of the fine-grained sandstone and siltstone layers. The traces are straight, less often weakly arched (Fig. 4d) or sharply curved at an angle of about 45° (Fig. 4a), not branching, and usually occur singly; if several traces co-occur, they may intersect (Figs 4d and 5d). The diameter of the trails/burrows mainly ranges between 1.2 and 1.5 mm; much less frequently, the width of the trails is 5.0 mm (Fig. 5c). The length of the most complete trace fossil is 150 mm (Fig. 4a). The wavelength of the sinuous meanders ranges between 8.0 and 12.0 mm, and the amplitude between 3.0 and 5.5 mm. The cross section of the positive ridges is rounded or ellipsoidal, sometimes slightly flattened from above.

**Remarks.** *Cochlichnus anguineus* differs from other ichnospecies of the ichnogenus *Cochlichnus* in the absence of annulation and lateral markings [Buatois *et al.* 1996, 1997]. *Cochlichnus kochi* (Ludwig, 1869), which is widely distributed in the Westphalian strata of England [Elliott 1985], is a junior synonym of *Cochlichnus anguineus* [Gluszek 1995]. Stanley & Pickerill [1998] consider *Cochlichnus antarcticus* to be a junior synonym of *C. anguineus*; ichnospecies *C. kochi*, *C. serpens* Webby, 1970, *C. lagartensis* Muniz, 1980, *C. duomaensis* Yang *et al.*, 1983 and *C. sousensis* Muniz, 1985 are all junior synonyms of *C. anguineus* [Fillion & Pickerill 1990; Buatois & Mangano 1993; Stanley & Pickerill 1998].

In 1994, a new name *Cymataulus* Rindsberg, 1994 was proposed for sinusoidal traces inside rather than on the surfaces of layers [Rindsberg 1994]. However, this idea has not found support among researchers, because in many cases it is difficult and sometimes impossible to establish whether *Cochlichnus* burrows inside the sediment or traces on its surface [Pickerill & Narbonne 1995]. Thus, *Cymataulus* is considered a junior synonym of *Cochlichnus* [Buatois *et al.* 1996, 1997; Keighley & Pickerill 1997].

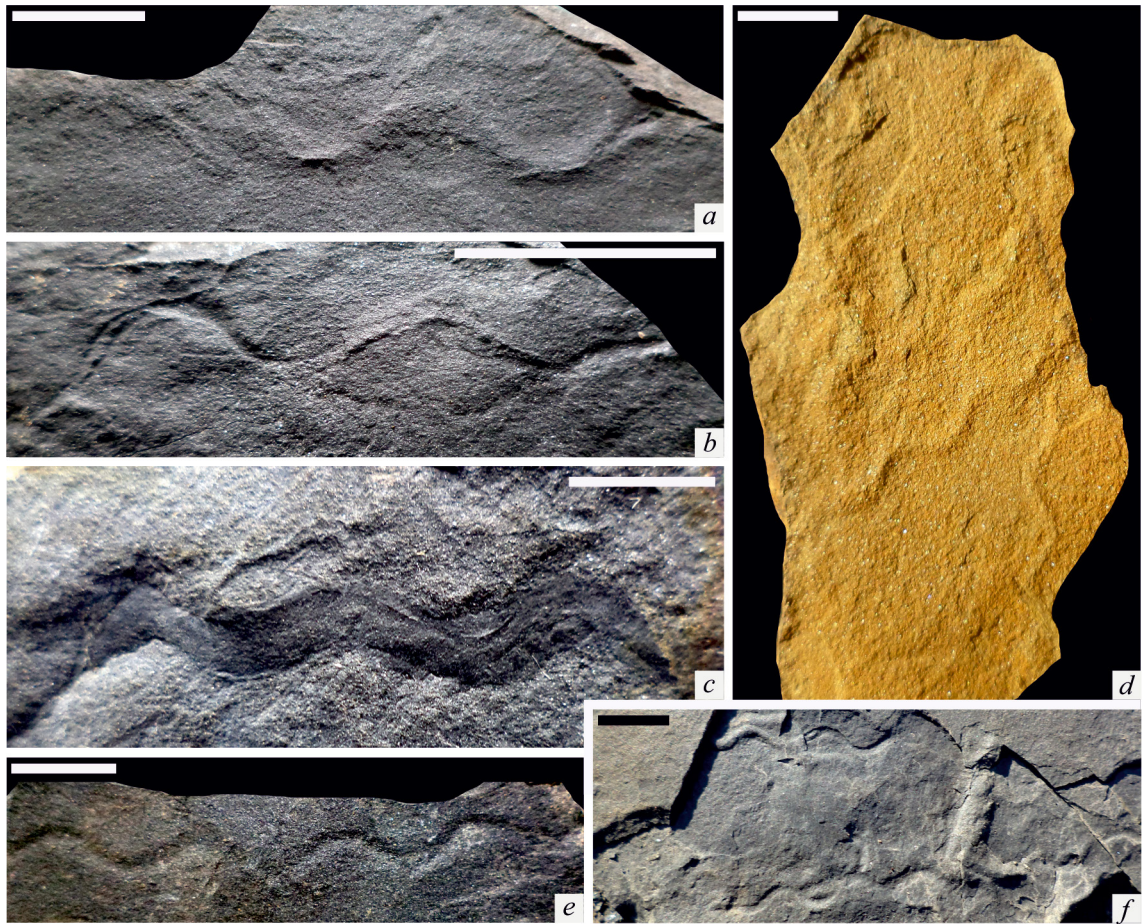
**Localities.** See 'Geological setting and Material' section.

**Occurrences.** Ediacaran–Holocene.



**Fig. 4.** *Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858 from the Mospyne Formation: (a–d) Makedonivka-1 fossil site (a—GMLNU-9/01, b—GMLNU-9/05, c—GMLNU-9/03, d—field photo of the trace fossil *in situ*); (e–g) Makedonivka-2 fossil site (e—GMLNU-9/02, f—GMLNU-9/04, g—GMLNU-9/06). Scale bars = 10 mm.

**Рис. 4.** *Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858 з моспинської світи: (a–d) місцезнаходження Македонівка-1 (a — GMLNU-9/01, b — GMLNU-9/05, c — GMLNU-9/03, d — польове фото іхнофосилій *in situ*); (e–g) місцезнаходження Македонівка-2 (e — GMLNU-9/02, f — GMLNU-9/04, g — GMLNU-9/06). Масштабні відрізки = 10 мм.



**Fig. 5.** *Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858 from the Mospyne and Smolyanynivka formations: (a–c, e) Kartushyne fossil site (a—GMLNU-9/09, b—GMLNU-9/07, c—GMLNU-9/10, e—GMLNU-9/12); (d) Makedonivka-2 fossil site (GMLNU-9/11); (f) Volnukhyne (GMLNU-9/08). Scale bars = 10 mm.

**Рис. 5.** *Cochlichnus anguineus* Hitchcock, 1858 з моспинської та смолянинівської світ: (a–c, e) Картушине (a — GMLNU-9/09, b — GMLNU-9/07, c — GMLNU-9/10, e — GMLNU-9/12); (d) Македонівка-2 (GMLNU-9/11); (f) Волнухине (GMLNU-9/08). Масштабні відрізки = 10 мм.

## Discussion and concluding remarks

In the Donets Basin, *Cochlichnus anguineus* usually co-occurs with *Lockeia* (Makedonivka-1), *Planolites* (Volnukhyne), and *Palaeophycus* (Makedonivka-2). Sometimes these trace fossils are found on the bedding surfaces bearing microbially induced sedimentary structures (Fig. 4a) together with *Taphrhelminthopsis* and *Aulichnites* (Makedonivka-1).

*Cochlichnus* is known from the entire Phanerozoic [Buatois *et al.* 1996; Lucas *et al.* 2004] and was generally distributed in non-marine environments in the Carboniferous, although it has been recorded in a wide range of environments, from lacustrine (Mermia Ichnofacies) to marine (Cruziana Ichnofacies) [Buatois *et al.* 1997; Lucas & Lerner 2005; Uchman *et al.* 2008, 2009; Smith *et al.* 2011].

*Cochlichnus* has been interpreted as traces of grazing, feeding, and locomotion and it is suggested that traces, depending on the environmental conditions and potential producers, may be combinations of all these trace fossil ethological categories [Buatois *et al.* 1997]. Potential producers of *Cochlichnus* include worms *sensu lato* [Webby 1970; Hakes 1976], nematodes [Moussa 1970; Chamberlain 1975; Metz 1998], annelids [Hitchcock 1858], cyclostomates [Gluszek 1995] or insect larvae [Toula

1908; Uchman *et al.* 2004]. In modern freshwater basins, traces morphologically similar to *Cochlichnus* are produced by nematodes [Chamberlain 1975], larvae of Ceratopogonidae [Metz 1987], Therevidae [Michealis 1972] and *Chironomus motilator* [Tarr 1935]. It seems that nematodes and/or annelids are the most likely producers of *Cochlichnus*, since representatives of Diptera are not known from the Carboniferous.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the anonymous reviewers whose comments and suggestions improved the quality of the final version of the manuscript. The research was carried out within the framework of the scientific theme 'Late Precambrian and Phanerozoic biota of Ukraine: biodiversity, revision of systematic composition and phylogeny of leading groups' (No. 0122U001609).

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