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Where is Glasgow? Clarifying a Jamaican locality after 85 years

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Abstract

In the 1920s, C. T. Trechmann collected from many Cretaceous and Eocene localities in western Jamaica. In describing Eocene echinoids from one of Trechmann's sites, H. L. Hawkins provided locality data that was ambivalent. The echinoid site of Glasgow, which I formerly interpreted as located in the parish of St. James, is more probably referring to the settlement of the same name on the border of the parishes of Hanover and Westmoreland, further west.

Key words: Glasgow, Jamaica, Yellow Limestone Group

The purpose of this note is to clarify confusion concerning a fossil locality in Jamaica that was first reported in the 1920s, namely Glasgow. The confusion possibly exists only in my own mind, but, having been allowed to perpetrate an error in at least two of my papers, it is necessary to clarify exactly where Glasgow is to be found.

The amateur Dr Charles Taylor Trechmann (1884–1964) was an important figure in Caribbean geology and paleontology, particularly during the 1920s and 1930s (Donovan, 2003). His notable attributes included a willingness to collect interesting fossils from his Caribbean localities and present them to leading experts for description. For example, Professor Herbert Leader Hawkins (1887–1968) of University College Reading, an expert on fossil sea urchins, benefited from this generosity, and wrote two papers based on Trechmann's Cretaceous and Cenozoic echinoids from Jamaica (Hawkins, 1923, 1924). It is the latter reference that is particularly significant to the present communication. Hawkins (1924, p. 312) described 17 echinoid taxa derived from five localities, listed as below.

A. Rudist Limestone, Great River Valley, near Catadupa.
B. Yellow Limestone, Spring Mount.
C. Yellow Limestone, Railway between Cambridge and Catadupa.
D. Yellow Limestone, Glasgow.
E. White Limestone, Montego Bay.

No further data was provided for any of these localities. Despite the minimal information, four localities are undoubtedly in the parish of St. James, namely (A–C) and (E). The only site with an equivocal identification is that of Glasgow (D), because there is more than one settlement with this name on the island. However, there is a Glasgow in the parish of St. James (Fig. 1) with an outcrop of the Yellow Limestone Group to the south (McFarlane, 1977), which could place (D) in the same area as the other localities (although these exposures are closer to other settlements). In a major review of the Jamaican Cenozoic echinoids, I applied this inference (Donovan, 1993, p. 402) and showed the Glasgow echinoid site firmly within the parish of St. James (Donovan, 1993, fig. 1, locality 6). This was repeated in at least one subsequent paper (Miller and Donovan, 1996, text-fig. 4, locality 9).

My interests have diversified since 1993 and now include the fossil Crustacea of the Antilles, particularly Jamaica. At the same time that Trechmann was supplying Hawkins with Jamaican echinoids he was sending fossil decapods crustaceans to Thomas H. Withers (1883–1953) of the British Museum (Natural History), London. Among his papers on Jamaican decapods, Withers (1924) was published just four months before Hawkins (1924) and these two papers presumably described material collected by Trechmann during his previous field season. The Eocene (=Yellow Limestone Group) specimens described by Withers were from two localities, and were accompanied with superior stratigraphic and locality data to that provided by Hawkins. Thus, whereas locality (B) of Hawkins is just 'Yellow Limestone, Spring Mount' (see above), Withers (1924, p. 84, 85, 89, 91) was able to provide the following details: "Eocene, Lutetian, Yellow Limestone (*Cerithium giganteum* and *Velates schmiedeliana* bed): Spring Mount, 6 miles S.E. of Montego Bay, West Jamaica."

Spring Mount is a well known paleontological site and caused no confusion. What is more illuminating are the references to Glasgow in Withers (1924, p. 86, 88, 89). Stratigraphic data is identical to that of Spring Mount, but the locality is "Glasgow, about 8 miles, S. of Lucea, West Jamaica." There is little doubt that this must be the same locality

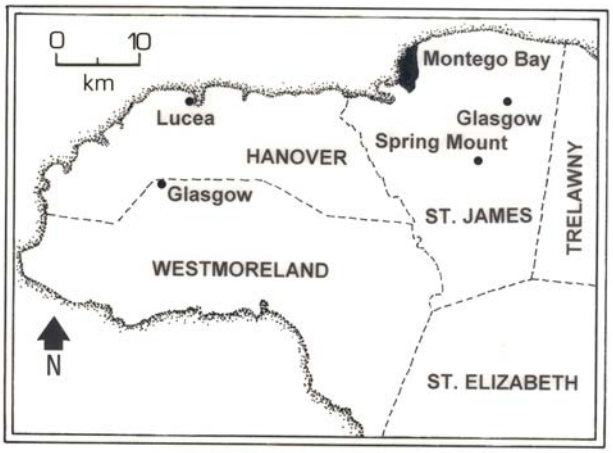

Fig. 1. Outline map of western Jamaica, showing the villages of Glasgow in the parishes of St. James (east), and on the border between Westmoreland and Hanover (west). Only the latter is an important locality for invertebrate macrofossils of the Eocene Yellow Limestone Group. Parish names are printed in capitals to distinguish them from settlements.

as that of Hawkins, yet it is not in the parish of St. James. Instead, it is further west and in the parish of Westmoreland, although the exposures of the Yellow Limestone Group are just over the border in the more northerly parish of Hanover.

Therefore, Figure 1 is presented herein to correct those maps mentioned above that show the fossiliferous beds of Glasgow in the Yellow Limestone Group to be in the parish of St. James. The correct site is more probably on the borders between the parishes of Hanover and Westmoreland. This is confirmed by Trechmann (1923, p. 343), who lists echinoids and crab claws from this locality.

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