

This study involved detailed analysis of microscopic fossils from the Ordovician Period (approx. 465,000,000 years old). During this period in earth history, there is little evidence of anything living on the land. Most believe that terrestrial plants had yet to evolve, but there are microscopic remains that are suggestive of desiccation tolerance – chiefly spores. The specimens we examined for this study are spores from Saudi Arabia that were produced by organisms that were likely living on land. Whether they represent early evidence of plants as we define them, or some precursors, is one of the things we hope to establish.



Wilson Taylor

Department Chair
Biology



Wall Ultrastructure of the Oldest
Embryophytic Spores: Implications for
Early Land Plant Evolution

Revue de Micropaléontologie