Dob’s Linn – the type locality of the Telychian (Upper Llandovery) 
*Rastrites maximus* Biozone?

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with 2 figures

Abstract. *Rastrites maximus* does not occur in the Birkhill Shales at Dob’s Linn, the type locality for the *Rastrites maximus* Biozone. Indeed, the uppermost Birkhill Shales here yield a fauna typical not of the lower part of the Telychian (Upper Llandovery), the level at which the *R. maximus* Biozone or Subzone has traditionally been placed, but of the upper Aeronian (Middle Llandovery). *R. maximus* does occur in the Birkhill Shales to the south and east of Dob’s Linn, however, where, as a result of the diachronicity of the base of the overlying Gala greywackes, the uppermost Birkhill Shales are younger than at Dob’s Linn, being of lower Telychian age.

In Wales *R. maximus* has not been found to be as useful in biostratigraphical studies as a number of contemporaneous species. Not only has it poor preservation potential in turbidite sandstones, very common in the thick Telychian sequences of mid-Wales, but also, a similar, but longer-ranging species, only distinguishable from *R. maximus* when complete and well-preserved, has been found here.

Erection of the *Rastrites maximus* Biozone

It was CHARLES LAPWORTH (1878), in his classic paper on “the Moffat Series” (Llandeilo, Middle Ordovician to Llandovery, Lower Silurian) of southern Scotland, who erected the Biozone of *Rastrites maximus* CARRUTHERS, 1867. He stated (LAPWORTH 1878, p. 325) that this “concluding zone of the Moffat Series embraces the final 25 feet of shaly strata seen in the typical exposure at Dob’s Linn.” This “final 25 feet” comprises that uppermost part of the Birkhill Shales (LAPWORTH’s (1878) highest subdivision of “the Moffat Series”), immediately underlying the Gala greywackes. Thus Dob’s Linn became the type locality for the lower Telychian (Upper Llandovery) *R. maximus* Biozone, and is quoted as such by, for example CURTIS (in WHITTARD 1961) and RICKARDS (1976).


In addition to Dob’s Linn, LAPWORTH (1878) noted that strata yielding *maximus* Biozone graptolites were also exposed in Thirlstane Burn, at Mount Benger, at Craigmichan, in Bel-craig Burn and at Glenkiln.

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