

Hierarchical level	Level description (principal occupants)	Permissive view				
		Description	Alternative interpretations	Source for interpretation	Stratigraphic unit	Date (Ma) (source)
1c	Solitary prokaryotic cell	Spheroids resembling cyanobacteria	Nonfossils	Walsh 1992	Onverwacht Group, Barberton Mountain Land, South Africa	3445 to 3416 (Walsh 1992)
2a	Monomorphic aggregate of prokaryotic cells	Carbonaceous filaments		Schopf and Packer 1987	Apex Basalt, Warrawoona Group, Western Australia	3465 (Schopf 1993)
2b	Differentiated aggregate of prokaryotic cells	<i>Archaeoellipsoides</i> ; akinetes of nostocalean cyanobacteria		Amard and Bertrand-Sarfati 1997	Franceville Group, Gabon	2065 (Amard and Bertrand-Sarfati 1997)
2c	Diff. aggr. with intermediate parts (euk. cell)	<i>Kildinosphaera</i> , <i>Leiosphaeridia</i> ; sphaeromorph acritarchs	2a	Zhang 1986	Chuanlinggou Fm., North China	1900 to 1800 (Knoll 1992; Porter and Knoll 2000)
3a	Monomorphic aggregate (simple euk. cell aggr.)	<i>Grypania</i> ; spirally coiled eukaryotic cell	2c	Han and Runnegar 1992	Negaunee Fm., Michigan	2100 (Han and Runnegar 1992) to 1850 (Porter and Knoll 2000)
3b	Differentiated aggregate (diff. euk. cell aggr.)	Bangiophyte red alga; unbranched uniseriate filaments	3a	Butterfield et al. 1990	Hunting Fm., Somerset Island, Canada	1250 to 1100 (Kah et al. 1999)
3c	Diff. aggr. with intermediate parts (multicellular individual)	Megascopic, carbonaceous, leaf-shaped algae	?	Zhu and Chen 1995	Tuanshanzi Fm., North China	1850 to 1600 (Zhu and Chen 1995)
4a	Monomorphic aggregate (simple colony)	Moorowipora, Arorowipora; cerioid corals		Sorauf and Savarese 1995; Scrutton 1997	Lower Cambrian (Botomian), Moorowie Fm., South Australia	519 to 510 (Bowring and Erwin 1998)
4b	Differentiated aggregate (differentiated colony)	Dendroid graptolites		Berry 1987	Various Middle Cambrian	509 to 500 (Bowring and Erwin 1998)
4c	Diff. aggr. with intermediate parts (colonial individual)	Charniodiscus, e.g., frondose pennatulacean octocorals		Jenkins 1992; also Jenkins and Gehling 1978; Conway Morris 1993	Mistaken Point, Newfoundland, Canada	565 (Grotinger et al. 1995)