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## On the use of the term Newark for Triassic and Early Jurassic rocks of eastern North America

by PAUL ERIC OLSEN\*

with 1 figure and 1 table

**Abstract.** Triassic and Early Jurassic predominately red sedimentary rocks and minor basic volcanic rocks fill discrete basins in eastern North America. These rocks have been termed the Newark Group. Recently, this term has fallen into disuse in favor of interpretive designations resulting in a confusing and contradictory terminology. It is proposed that the rank of the term Newark be raised to supergroup to conform to the American code of Stratigraphic Nomenclature and to permit the use of group names for individual basins.

**Zusammenfassung.** Die rot gefärbten Sedimente der Trias und des unteren Jura mit ihren Einschaltungen vulkanischer Gesteine sind in Ost-Amerika auf wohl definierte Becken beschränkt und werden als Newark-Gruppe zusammengefaßt. Da diesem Begriff in letzter Zeit ein mißbräuchlich interpretierender Sinn gegeben wurde, entstand eine sich widersprechende Terminologie. Es wird hiermit vorgeschlagen, dem Begriff „Newark“ im Einklang mit dem amerikanischen Katalog stratigraphischer Nomenklatur den Rang einer Übergruppe (Supergroup) einzuräumen, um den Gebrauch von Gruppen-Namen für die individuellen Sedimentationsbecken zu erlauben.

In 1856 W. C. REDFIELD proposed the term Newark Group to include the predominately red sedimentary rocks and basaltic volcanics exposed in numerous basins in eastern North America (Fig. 1). Previous to this, these rocks had been referred to by their supposed age or European correlate, *i. e.* New Red Sandstone, Triassic, Keuper, etc. As RUSSELL (1892, p. 15) correctly pointed out, the name Newark “. . . is the oldest specific title not implying opinion as to geologic age”. *Thus, it has clear priority as a strict rock-stratigraphic term.* Subsequently, the rank of Newark changed with contemporary stratigraphic practice: RUSSELL (1889) used system rather than group; MOORE (1933) preferred series to system, and McLEARN (1953) returned to group.

Although the name Newark Group has been widely used for more than a century, several authors have suggested it be dropped or its definition altered. KLEIN (1960, 1962) concluded that since the term Newark had been used by some authors in a time-stratigraphic sense, the term should be restricted to include only the formations of the Newark Basin. He proposed

\* Author's address: Mr. PAUL ERIC OLSEN, Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

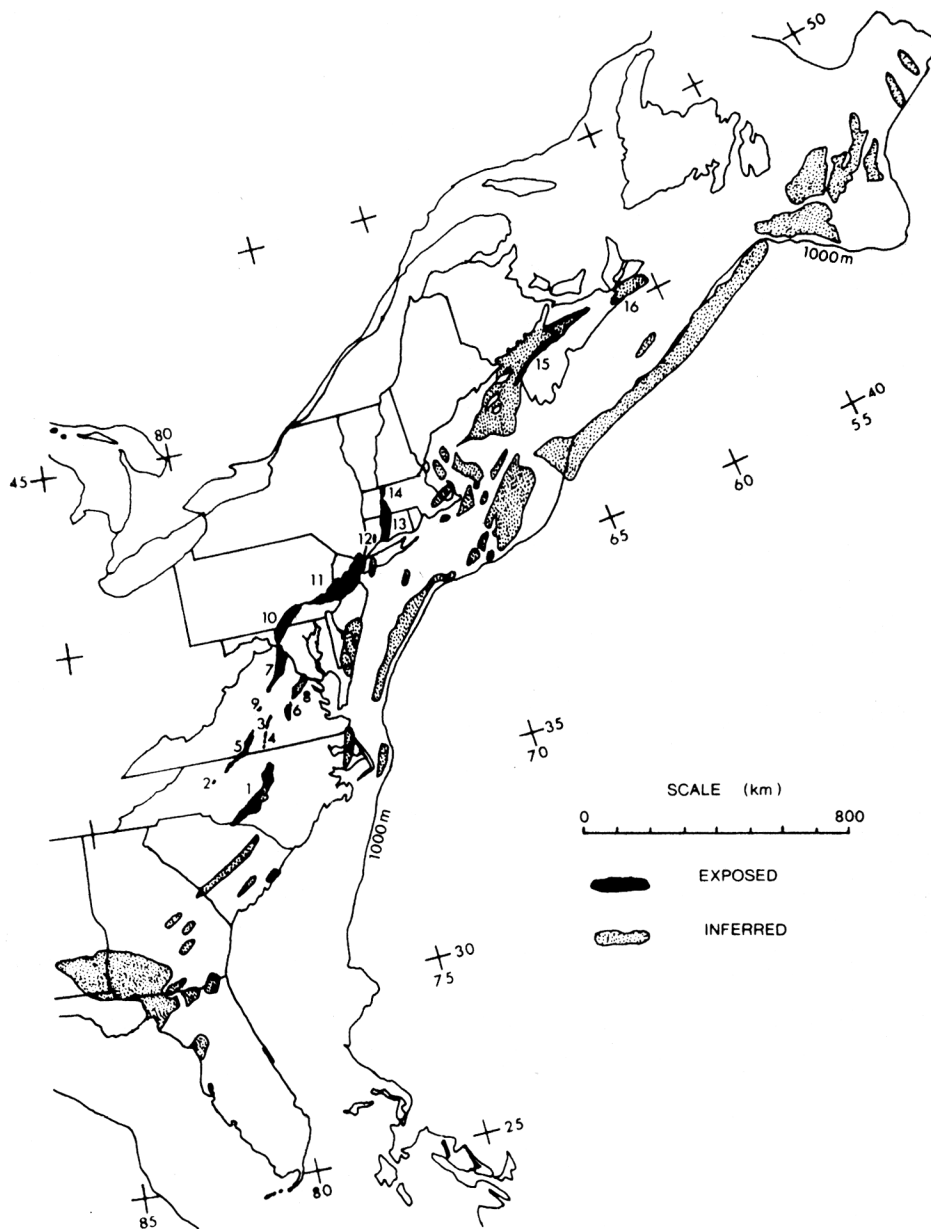


Fig. 1. Newark Supergroup of eastern North America. Key to numbers given in Table 1. Data primarily from CALVER 1963; JANSÁ & WADE 1975; KING et al. 1944; and VAN HOUTEN 1977.

