process is enhanced, forming more durable limestone. Many ancient, buried reefs found on the continents show fresh-water cement crystals of these types.

In the fossil record we find definite contrasts in the types of corals found in the lower rock systems as compared with the upper systems. Within the phylum to which corals belong (Cnidaria or Coelenterata) there are three orders of corals which have been major producers of limestone formations. (Many miles of roads in the U. S. are paved with the fossilized skeletons of these creatures, because the ancient coral reefs frequently became very thick and massive, and thus are good sites for locating rock quarries.) Two of the most common and productive of these orders, Rugosa, and Tabulata, are entirely extinct and are found only in Paleozoic rock systems (except for a few species in the Lower Triassic). No specimens of the other of the three major orders of corals--Order Scleractinia--are found in any of the vast areas and thicknesses of Paleozoic rock systems on the earth. (See Lehmann, 1983, p. 69; Murray, 1985, p. 11-14; and other invertebrate paleontology textbooks for the stratigraphic ranges.) These corals, often called "scleractinians" or "hexacorals," have built (together with the help of algae) all of the many great reefs which are found in the oceans today, and also many that are found in limestone deposits of the Triassic System up through the Quaternary. This order of corals includes many solitary, as well as colonial, species. Of great significance for our consideration of fossil distribution is the fact that the scleractinian corals all have very fundamental and obvious morphologic differences which distinguish them from both of the great extinct orders we have just discussed. So there is no possibility of confusing them with Order Rugosa (the "tetracorals") or with Order Tabulata (the "tabulate corals") when they are found in the field--or as one examines museum specimens.

If the Flood was accomplishing the laying down of the sedimentary strata of the continents, as many young-earth creationist authors visualize, there is no logical way even to imagine how the enormous quantity of scleractinian corals on the earth could have escaped being mixed into the deeper (Paleozoic) rock systems of the continents--since the skeletal masses and fragments of them are all at least as dense as those of the other corals of the earth.

Some young-earth creationists have assumed that the isolation of contrasting fossil types in the geologic formations and systems could have been accomplished during the Flood by some kind of "ecological zoning" process. Obviously ecological zoning could not have produced the distributions of any of the fossils we have described above, because both diatoms and radiolarians lived in the same ecological zone,