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**INTERNAL FEATURES OF *NEOSPIRIFER DRESSERI* MENDES, 1956
(BRACHIOPODA-SPIRIFERIDA), REVISITED**

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Neospirifer dresseri was first described by Mendes in 1956 from Middle Pennsylvanian carbonates of the Itaituba Formation, Amazon Basin. The silicified specimens studied are extraordinarily well preserved and can be easily extracted from the matrix by acid dissolution. One non-catalogued specimen recently found in the invertebrate collection of DPE-IG/USP is specially convenient for the study of internal features, particularly the brachidium, that is still attached to the brachial valve and well preserved, except by the lateral extremities of spires, the left one broken and the other partially enclosed in silicified matrix. This allows detailed measurement of the structures in relation to those of the shell, without the necessity of serial grinding.

Other features such as insertion of brachidium in the brachial valve, shape of the jugum, number of lamellae, cardinal process and patterns of asymmetry, can easily be assessed.

Preserved brachidium structures of Paleozoic spiriferids free from the matrix are rare in the literature. Data obtained from our analysis show that the brachidium morphology of *N. dresseri* is similar to reconstructions of brachidia based on serial grinding of Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian species from various parts of the world.

The internal features described will help reassess the validity of *Neospirifer dresseri* Mendes, 1956.

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