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Short Papers

Abstracts

The Cambrian-Ordovician boundary in the Cordillera Oriental, NW Argentina

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THE CAMBRIAN/ORDOVICIAN BOUNDARY

The global Cambrian/Ordovician inter-systemic boundary was a controversial problem regarding the fossil record and reference stratigraphic section. The Cambrian/Ordovician Boundary Working Group of the International Subcommission on Ordovician Stratigraphy (ICS-IUGS) selected the conodont species *Iapetognathus fluctivagus* as the index fossil for establishing the boundary after comprehensive taxonomic studies. Nicoll *et al.* (1999) monographed *I. fluctivagus* and other species of *Iapetognathus* as well as its purported ancestor *Iapetonudus ibexensis,* and they documented their known occurrences, ranges and correlations with other fossils considered significant to define the base of the Tremadocian. Cooper *et al.* (2001) proposed the section of Green Point, western Newfoundland, Canada, for the GSSP for the Cambrian/Ordovician (C/O) boundary determined there by the first appearance of *I. fluctivagus*, which was later approved by the IUGS executive.

Terfelt *et al.* (2012) revisited the taxonomy, stratigraphic ranges and lineage of *Iapetognathus*, with interpretations that were refuted by Miller *et al.* (2014). The latter authors concluded that the homotaxial succession of *Iapetognathus* species, as defined by Nicoll *et al.* (1999), should be maintained for determining the base of the Ordovician System globally. The definition of the C/O boundary in Argentina was evaluated following the newly conodont biostratigraphic concepts (Nicoll *et al*. 1999; Cooper *et al.* 2001) in the Volcancito Formation at the Famatina Range of western Argentina (Albanesi *et al.* 2005). Previous studies about this boundary by means of conodonts were carried out in the Cajas Range of the Cordillera Oriental, northwestern Argentina, by Rao (1999) according to the definition of the C/O boundary by Barnes (1988) on the base of the *Cordylodus lindstromi* Zone. Recently, other study areas, such as Lari in the Puna region (Giuliano et al. 2013) or new localities in the Cordillera Oriental; e. g., Santa Victoria, Nazareno, El Moreno, Alfarcito (e. g., Zeballo and Albanesi 2009), were surveyed as potential sites for the location of the C/O boundary (Figure 1). Albanesi and Pacheco (2010) recorded *I. fluctivagus* in the Amarilla Creek section of the Cajas Range, close to the base of the upper Cardonal Formation. This stratigraphic interval (44. 5 m thick) consists of grey-greenish shales interbedded with calcareous sandstones that represent an upper off-shore environment. The present contribution attempts a better approximation of the C/O boundary considering a resampling for conodonts through the critical interval, with the definition of successive conodont zones and the record of the FAD of *I. fluctivagus*.

THE *IAPETOGNATHUS* ZONE

At the Amarilla Creek section the *Iapetognathus* Zone (26. 5 m thick) records the greater number and

diversity of conodonts. This biozone is recognized in the lower-upper part of the Cardonal Formation,* where the basal exposed strata of the upper part of the section represent the mid to upper *Cordylodus lindstromi* Zone recognized in previous studies. The index species *I. fluctivagus* is recorded few meters below the record of *Rhabdinopora* sp., which are considered the global guide fossils of the referred horizon (Nicoll et al. 1999; Cooper et al. 2001). Most associated species continue their records from the underlying zone, adding the appearance of *Iapetognathus fluctivagus*, *I. jilinensis*, *I. aengensis*, C*ordylodus prolindstromi*, *C.* cf. *andresi*, C. cf. *viruanus*, *Phakelodus elongatus*, *Fryxellodontus* sp., *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis*, *Problematoconites perforatus*, *Furnishina furnishi*, *Acanthodus uncinatus* and *A. lineatus*. Several of these species continue their occurrences in the following *Cordylodus angulatus* Zone. The *Iapetognathus* Zone was recognized in the United States, China, Canada, Kazakhstan, and it is identified in the Cajas Range, Argentina, in the present study. The record of *I. jilinensis* expands the recognition of the zone to Sweden, Estonia and Alaska, and is particularly described in China, where it verifies a stratigraphic range similar to that of *I. fluctivagus* (Nicoll et al.

1999).

SYSTEM	SERIES	STAGE	CONODONT ZONE			
			North America		**Northwest Argentina**	
ORDO-VICIAN	Lower	Trema-docian	*Cordylodus angulatus*		*Cordylodus angulatus*	
			Iapetognathus		*Iapetognathus*	
CAMBRIAN	Furongian	10	*Cordylodus lindstromi sensu lato*		*Cordylodus lindstromi sensu lato*	
			Cordylodus intermedius	*Clavohamulus hintzei*	*Cordylodus intermedius*	?
				Hirsutodontus simplex		*Hirsutodontus simplex*
			Cordylodus proavus	*Clavohamulus elongatus*	*Cordylodus proavus*	?
				Fryxellodontus inornatus		
				Hirsutodontus hirsutus		*Hirsutodontus hirsutus*

Figure 2. —Biostratigraphic chart of the Upper Cambrian - Lower Ordovician (after Zeballo and Albanesi 2009)

Figure 1. —Index map of sample sites in north - western Argentina (after Zeballo and Albanesi (2009)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The biostratigraphic record through the Amarilla Creek section displays a continuous succession of biozones that spans the Furongian upper Stage 10 to the lower Tremadocian Stage in Cardonal Formation, which is truncated and contacts by fault with the Floian Acoite Formation. In the upper Cardonal Formation the *Cordylodus lindstromi*, *Iapetognathus* and *Cordylodus angulatus* zones are recognized

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(Figure 2). Although *I. fluctivagus* is scarce, its FAD confirms the C/O boundary in the lower upper part of the studied section. The abundance of cosmopolitan species in this ancient basin of the Gondwanan margin reflects the important faunal exchange during the late Cambrian and early Ordovician across the Iapetus Ocean in middle to high latitudes (Zeballo and Albanesi 2009).

The conodont elements exhibit a black color alteration (CAI 5 = 300º and 480º), probably related to the influence of the nearby granite that intruded the Paleozoic rocks during the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary interval.

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Ordovician of the Anarak Region: implications in understanding Early Palaeozoic history of Central Iran

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ABSTRACT: The Pol-e Khavand area south-east of the town of Anarak preserves important clues for understanding geological evolution of Central Iran during the Palaeozoic. New observations confirm the non-conformable relationship between Doshakh metamorphites and overlying unmetamorphosed Lower Palaeozoic sediments, suggesting accretion of the volcanic arc in front of the Yazd block sometime in the late Cambrian to early Ordovician. The newly introduced volcano-sedimentary Polekhavand Formation preserves evidence of a ?Late Cambrian to Early Ordovician post-collisional bimodal volcanism and related extensional regime in the Pol-e Khavand area during that time. The Middle to Upper Ordovician interval of the studied succession is assigned to the newly introduced Chahgonbad Formation. The Darriwilian age of the base of this lithostratigraphical unit is demonstrated by the brachiopods *Tritoechia* and *Yangtzeella* which co-occur with a diverse a cephalopod assemblage. The low diversity fauna including brachiopods *Hibernodonta* sp., *Hindella* sp., *Rostricellula* cf. *ambigena* and trilobites *Vietnamia* cf. *teichmulleri* suggest a Katian age for the upper part of the unit. There is insufficient evidence for the existence of the hypothetical Palaeo-Tethys suture zone south of the Pol-e Khavand area.

INTRODUCTION

The presence of the Ordovician sediments along the northern margin of the Yazd block south-east of Anarak in Central Iran (Fig. 1) was first established during geological mapping of the area about thirty years ago by Sharkovski et al. (1984). For a lithostratigraphical subdivision of the Lower Palaeozoic part of the sedimentary succession the authors of the report applied the formal units (Shirgesht and Niur formations) earlier established by Ruttner et al. (1968) in the adjacent Tabas Block, eastern Central Iran. Sharkovski et al. (1984) also provided the first detailed description of the Anarak Metamorphic Complex and suggested stratigraphical relationships between the Ordovician sediments and metamorphic rocks of the Doshakh Unit. They assigned a Lower Cambrian age to the Lakh Marble within the Anarak Metamorphic Complex on the basis of the occurrence of Lower Cambrian archaeocyathids. In 2004 the area was visited by a team of Italian geologists to sample biostratigraphically constrained sites for palaeomagnetic studies. Results of these studies were published recently by Muttoni et al. (2009). They also collected an abundant ostracod assemblage described by Schallreuter et al. (2006), who inferred an

Upper Ordovician (Katian) age for the fossiliferous horizon. More recently significant contradictions in the understanding of the geology of the area are revealed in publications by Bagheri and Stampfi (2008) and by Buchs et al. (2013). These authors consider the Anarak Metamorphic Complex to comprise Palaeozoic to Triassic meta-sediments, meta-igneous rocks and serpentinized ultramafic rocks which were onlapped or tectonically interfingered with Jurassic to Neogene sediments. They also postulated that the Anarak Metamorphic Complex was thrusted onto Palaeozoic sedimentary cover of the Yazd (Cimmerian) block, whilst discussion of the stratigraphical contacts between the Doshakh metamorphites and Ordovician volcano-sedimentary succession was omitted.

Recent discoveries and continuing reviews of the Ordovician faunas and lithostratigraphy in the Anarak area put a new light on the geological history of the northern margin of the Yazd block. This is potentially important for re-evaluating the existing models of the tectonic evolution of Central Iran through the Palaeozoic.

GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE ORDOVICIAN SUCCESSION

The Ordovician deposits are exposed in two isolated localities south-east of the town of Anarak. The studied transect is situated in the Pol-e Khavand area at 21 km south-east of the town of Anarak (Fig. 1a-c). This is the same section as described by Sharkovski et al. (1984). New field observations convincingly confirmed previous reports by these researches of the existence of the sharp non-conformity between Doshakh metamorphites and overlying unmetamorphosed siliciclastic Lower Palaeozoic sediments (unit 1 Sharkovski et al. 1984), which contain channels, infilled with pebbly conglomerates. Reworked clasts of greenschists characteristic of the Doshakh metamorphites are common in these conglomerates, while some characteristic minerals, like muscovite and chlorite occur in the matrix. These stratigraphical contacts have been traced for over 1000 m west of the studied section and have also been observed in several excavations.

Notwithstanding existing claims regarding the 'great similarities' between the Ordovician successions observed in the Pol-e Khavand area and those of the the Derenjal Mountains in the Tabas Block (Schallreuter et al. 2006), there are important differences. The Shirgesht Formation of the Tabas Block ranges continuously from the Cambrian (Furongian) to the Middle Ordovician (Darriwilian), while a presumably Upper Ordovician interval at the top of the unit is barren (Ghobadi Pour et al. 2006; Ghobadi Pour and Popov 2009; Popov et al. 2011). Unlike the Lower Palaeozoic succession of the Tabas Block, the ?Late Cambrian to Ordovician deposits in the Pol-e Khavand area rest with non-conformity on the Doshakh metamorphites. There is a distinct disconformity at the base of the fossiliferous part of the succession, and there is a good evidence of ?Late Cambrian to Early Ordovician bimodal volcanism. Both are unknown in the Derenjal Mountains. To overcome the problems addressed above we propose two new lithostratigraphical units namely the Polekhavand and Chahgonbad formations with the type sections located in the Pol-e Khavand area south-east of Anarak.

Polekhavand Formation (?Cambrian, Furongian to Lower Ordovician)

Type section is located at about 1. 5 km south-west of the eastern foothills of the Pol-e Khavand Mountains (N33°10′58″; E 53°53′39″, altitude 1383 m). Total thickness is about 180 m.

Distribution: The unit has a restricted distribution in the northern part of the Yazd block south-east of the town of Anarak.

Lower boundary: The Polekhavand Formation rests with non-conformity on Doshakh metamorphites.

Upper boundary: In the type section the unit is overlain disconformably by the Chahgonbad Formation.
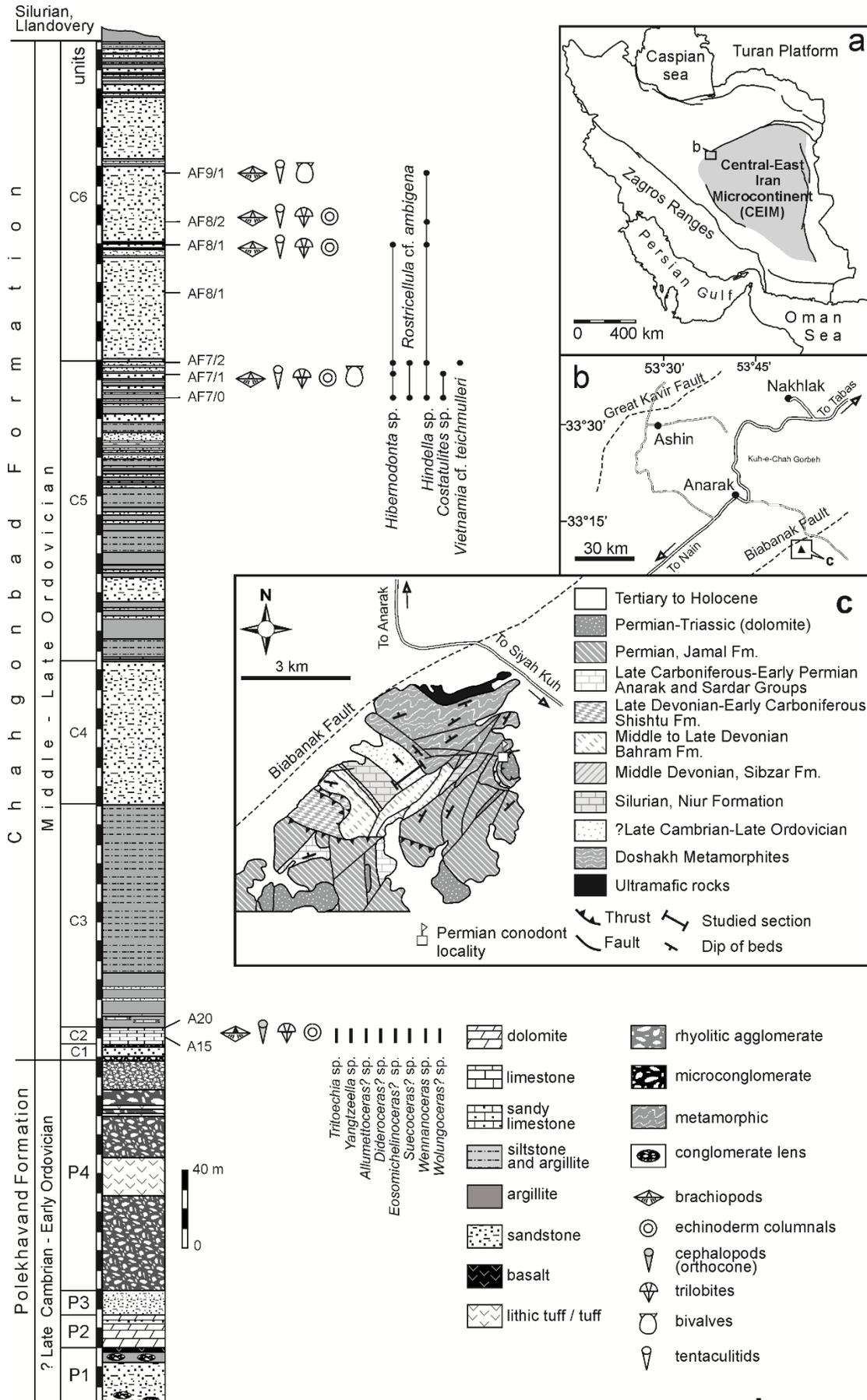
Fig. 1. a, simplified map of Iran showing location of the Anarak area; b, sketch map of the vicinity of Anarak showing geographical position of the Pol-e Khavand area; c, simplified geological map (slightly modified after Sharkovski et al. 1984) of the Pol-e Khavand area south-east of Anarak, showing the position of the studied section and approximate location of the Permian conodont sample after Bagheri and Stampfli (2008); d, stratigraphical column of the Ordovician deposits exposed in the Pol-e Khavand area, showing lithostratigraphical subdivision, position of sampled fossiliferous horizons and stratigraphical distribution of brachiopods cephalopods, trilobites and tentaculitids.

Subdivision: In the type section the Polekhavand Formation can be subdivided into four informal units (Fig. 1d), including: (P1) up to 28. 5 m of greenish-grey, fine-grained sandstones with conglomerate lenses and a bed of amygdaloidal basalts in the upper part; (P2) up to 17. 3 m of yellowish-brown dolomite with a bed of medium- to coarse-grained sandstone in the upper part; (P3) up to 15. 7 m of poorly sorted, fine-grained sandstone; (P4) up to 117 m purplish-brown, poorly sorted agglomerates with numerous rhyolite lithic clasts up to 90 cm across, intercalated with lithic tuffs and tuffs.

Biostratigraphy and chronostratigraphical age: The rocks assigned to the Polekhavand Formation are barren and its age is defined by stratigraphical position between the Doshakh metamorphites accreted to the Yazd block sometime in the ?late Cambrian–early Ordovician and the Darriwilian to Katian Chahgonbad Formation.

Depositional environments and lithofacies: The lower unit comprises alluvial fan deposits with channels infilled with debris of metamorphic rocks suggesting erosion of uplifted rocks of the Doshakh Metamorphic Complex. The presence of amygdaloidal basalts also suggests that the lower part of the Polekhavand Formation formed in a terrestrial environment, while the dolomites suggest a brief restricted marine incursion. The upper unit was probably formed on the flanks of the volcanic build-up. It shows several packages, including individual units of agglomerates, separated by tuff horizons. The former probably represent multiple rhyolite mass flows (probably lahars) caused by the collapse and fragmentation of growing rhyolite domes. Each flow horizon probably represented an individual eruption. Laterally there are a few small packages of red jasper most likely derived from a hot rhyolite flow, as a result of hot water leaching silica and subsequently re-precipitating in cool cavities, as it is common at the outer margins of the flow.

Chahgonbad Formation (Middle Ordovician, Darriwilian to Upper Ordovician, Katian)
Type section: is located in the Pol-e Khavand area at about 1. 5-2 km south-west of the eastern foothills of the Pol-e Khavand Mountains and about 4 km north of the Chahgonbad well (N33°10′50″; E 53°53′40″, altitude 1384 m). Total thickness is about 505 m.

Distribution: The unit has a restricted distribution in the northern part of the Yazd block south-east of the town of Anarak.

Lower boundary: The Chahgonbad Formation is separated by disconformity from the Polekhavand Formation.

Upper boundary: In the type section the unit is separated by a paraconformity from the Sillurian (Llandovery, Rhuddanian to Aeronian) transgressive black shales (so-called 'hot shales'). Formal lithostratigraphical subdivision for the Silurian is not established for the Anarak area.

Subdivision: In the type section the Chahgonbad Formation can be subdivided into six informal units (Fig. 1d), including: (C1) up to 10. 5 m of oligomict microconglomerate and coarse-grained sandstone; (C2) up to 8. 7 m of brownish-purple argillaceous bioclastic limestones with a bed of oolitic ironstones up to 0. 4 m thick at the base; (C3) up to 115 m of intercalating grey argillites and sandstones with several tuff horizons; (C4) up to 73. 6 m of violet-red sandstone sandstone with a few beds of argillites and siltstones, cross-bedded sandstones in the upper 15 m; (C5) up to 136 m of violet-red and greenish red argillites, siltstones and sandstones; (C6) up to 161 m of violet-red and greenish-red sandstones with siltstone and argillite intercalations in the middle and upper part.

Biostratigraphy and chronostratigraphical age: The only fossils previously reported from the Chahgonbad Formation are ostracods recovered from the unit C1 and described by Schallreuter et al. (2006). However, the mid Katian age of the ostracod fauna assessed in the cited publication is put in question by its co-occurrence with the brachiopods *Tritoechia* sp. and a new species of *Yangtzeella*, which suggests a Darriwilian age for the unit. Other components of the brachiopod assemblage include *Camerella* sp., *Phragmorthis* sp. and an orthide similar to *Lomatorthis*. Cephalopods, including *Allumettoceras*? sp., *Dideroceras*? sp., *Eosomichelinoceras*? sp., *Suecoceras*? sp., *Wennanoceras* sp. and *Wolungoceras*? sp. represent the most distinctive component of the faunal assemblage of Unit C1. Preliminary results of the study of this cephalopod fauna suggest that it is somewhat different from the Dariwillian assemblages of the Alborz Mountains (Evans et al. 2013) and may show some affinity with North China and South Korea. Other components of the fauna are the poorly preserved trilobites *Nilleus* sp. and unidentified asaphids, as well as echinoderms, which are currently under study. The two uppermost units (Fig. 1d; units C5 and C6) contain a low diversity fauna of brachiopods, trilobites and tentaculitids. The most common taxa are *Hibernodonta* sp. and *Hindella* sp. In the unit C5 they overlap with the rhynchonellide *Rostricellula* cf. *ambigena* (Barrande, 1847), characteristic of the lower Katian in Bohemia and Morocco (Havlíček 1961; Villas 1985; Colmenar and Álvaro 2014), and the tentaculitid *Costatulites* sp. Another biostratigraphically informative taxon is the trilobite *Vietnamia* cf. *teichmulleri* (Hamman and Leone, 1997) which was previously known from the Punta Serp+eddi Formation of Sardinia. In unit C6, the brachiopod *Hindella* sp. tends to form a monotaxic association and the age of this interval is probably mid to late Katian.

Depositional environments and lithofacies: The moderately diverse fauna from Unit C1 inhabited offshore substrates while the presence of oolitic ironstones within the unit may suggest low rates of sedimentation. Low diversity faunal associations from units C8 and C9 inhabited nearshore siliciclastic shoals.

DISCUSSION

The non-conformity between Doshakh metamorphites and the overlying volcano-sedimentary Polekhavand Formation suggests that a Late Permian to Triassic age for the 'Doshakh accretionary wedge' inferred by Bagheri and Stampfli (2008) is extremely unlikely. Instead Doshakh metamorphites most probably represent remnants of the Late Precambrian to Late Cambrian volcanic arc accreted in front of Central Iran sometime in the Late Cambrian to Early Ordovician, while the unmetamorphosed

Ordovician succession represents an onlap assemblage sealing the Late Cambrian to Early Ordovician suture. Exhumation and erosion of the Doshakh metamorphites resulted in the deposition of the terrigenous sediments of the Polekhavand Formation during the Late Cambrian to Early Ordovician, while post-collisional bimodal volcanism occurred in the area, suggesting an extensional regime at that time. Deposition of the Chahgonbad Formation coincided with marine transgression in the Pol-e Khavand area, which occurred in the Darriwilian time.

An important aspect for evaluation of the age of the Doshakh metamorphic complex is the age of the Lakh Marbles. Notwithstanding recent claims to the contrary in recent publications by Bagheri and Stampfli (2008) and Buchs et al. (2013), reports of so-called 'archaeocyathids' were indeed published, including illustrations of a few specimens in a short note by Mel'nikov et al. (1986). Subsequently Kruse and Zhuravlev (2008, p. 636) restudied the specimens, which were housed in the Paleontological Institute Moscow, and came to the conclusion that specimens identified as *Dictocyathus*, *Paranacyathus* and *Agastrocyathus* are in reality naturally etched specimens of the desmosponge *Rankenella*, whereas a specimen identified as *Coscinocyathus* represents an eocrinoid oscicle. *Rankenella* is well known from the middle to upper Cambrian Mila Formation of eastern Alborz, where it can be found as an important reef-builder in the metazoan build-ups of the Mila Formation Member 3 (Kruse and Zhuravlev 2008, p. 636). Thus the mid to late Cambrian age of the Lakh Marbles is sufficiently proved in present. Thus the supposed 'late Palaeozoic corals' illustrated by Bagheri and Stampfli (2008, pl. 2, fig. H) are in reality desmosponge the *Rankenella*, while the echinoderm ossicles (Bagheri and Stampfli 2008, pl. 2, figs F, G) probably belong to eocrinoids.

Some authors of the present manuscript (Hairapetian, Holmer and Popov) recently revisited the supposed locality of the Permian (Kungurian–Roadian) conodonts, associated with the Doshakh metamorphic complex, in the eastern margin of the Pol-e Khavand area (Bagheri and Stampfli 2008, fig. 2; pl. 1, fig. A). There are indeed unmetamorphosed Permian carbonates exposed in proximity to the outcrop area of brecciated quartzites assigned to the Doshakh metamorphites. Nevertheless, stratigraphical contacts between these two units are not evident. The surrounding area is strongly tectonized. Keeping in mind strong differences in the degree of metamorphism of the rocks, contacts between limestones and brecciated quartzites are most probably faulted. Conodonts extracted from the limestones cannot be used for biostratigraphical dating of the adjacent quartzites. The data presented shows that there is insufficient proof of the late Palaeozoic age of the metamorphic rocks exposed in the Anarak area and in particular of the Doshakh metamorphites and the Lakh Marbles.

CONCLUSIONS

Restudy of the Ordovician succession in the Pol-e Khavand south-east of the town of Anarak reveals significant differences between the Lower Palaeozoic sedimentary successions of the northern part of the Yazd block and the Tabas block. As a consequence a substantial revision of the Ordovician lithostratigraphy of the area is proposed with the introduction of the Polekhavand and Chahgonbad formations. New observations convincingly establishes the existence of the sharp non-conformity between the Doshakh metamorphic complex and the overlying volcano-sedimentary Polekhavand Formation reported earlier by Sharkovski et al. (1984), while the ?late Cambrian to early Ordovician post-collisional bimodal volcanism suggests an extensional regime in the area during that interval. The ?late Cambrian–early Ordovician Polekhavand Formation was deposited mainly in the terrestrial environment, while a marine transgression in the Pol-e Khavand area occurred only in the Darriwilian. In the absence of

sufficient proof of the late Palaeozoic age for the metamorphic rocks, the Doshakh metamorphic complex most probably represents a remnant of a late Precambrian-Cambrian volcanic arc accreted to Central Iran during the Early Palaeozoic, and the position of the hypothetical Palaeo-Tethys suture zone south of the Pol-e Khavand area inferred by Bagheri and Stampfi (2008, fig. 2) and Buchs et al. (2013, fig. 2) is doubtful. The new geological data provided here does not fit into existing models of the tectonic development of the Anarak region and the northern margin of Central Iran during the Palaeozoic. These latter models require careful reconsideration and improvement.

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The Balognathiid Ordovician conodonts *Eoplacognathus robustus* Bergström and *E. lindstroemi* Bergström

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INTRODUCTION

The *Eoplacognathus* apparatus was first described, and their species defined as zonal and subzonal key conodonts by Bergström (1971), based on only P elements. This original description is only based on the oral shape of the P elements. The key conodonts *E. robustus* and *E. lindstroemi* document accurately the homonymous subzones for the conodont-bearing strata.

The Middle-Upper Ordovician strata of the Ponón Trehué outcrops, exposed in the San Rafael Block (Fig. 1), provided a large collection of conodonts. Previous work on this conodont fauna was carried out by Heredia (1982, 1998, 2001, and 2002). A recent revision of this collection allowed us to reinterpret S and M elements previously assigned to the *Baltoniodus* species as belonging to the *E. robustus* and *E. lindstroemi* apparatuses.
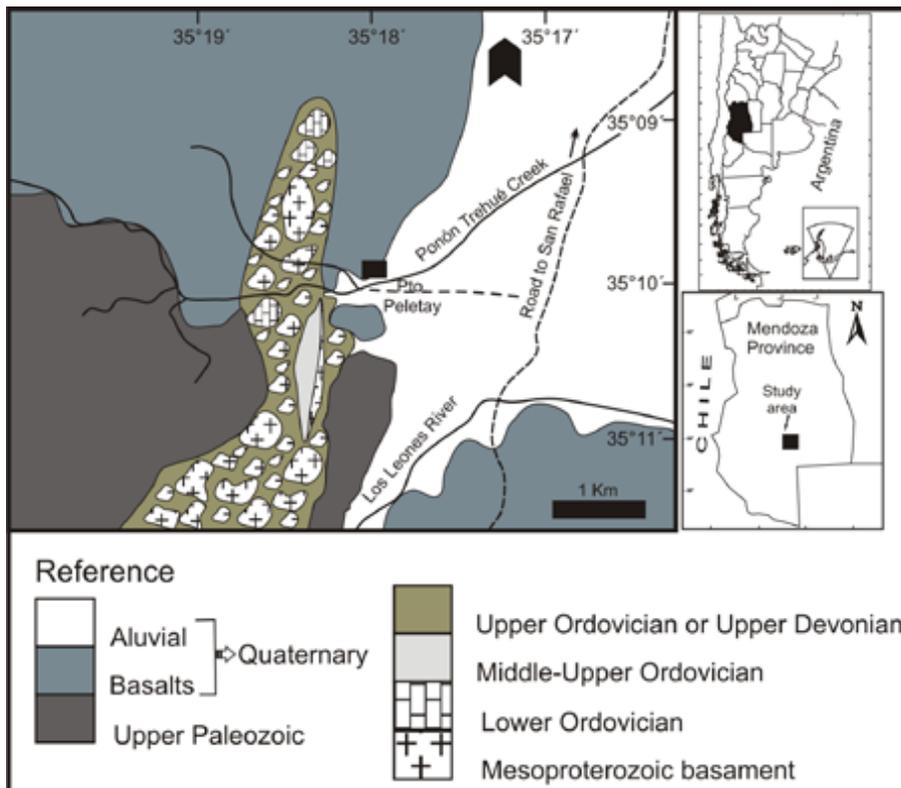
FIGURE 1. —Geologic map of the Ponón Trehué Ordovician outcrops. Arrow points to location of the La Tortuga type section.

The main goal of this contribution is to analyze morphological characters of P elements, including S and M elements as part of the *Eoplacognathus* apparatus proposing a new reconstruction of it, and finally to make a focus on the inclusion of these conodont species in the family Balognathidae.

BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS ON TAXONOMY

The family Polyplacognathidae Bergström included three genera, *Polyplacognathus* Stauffer; *Eoplacognathus* Hamar, and *Cahabagnathus* Bergström. All these genera are characterized exclusively by bimembrate apparatuses. Stouge and Bagnoli (1990) reported for the first time S and M elements in the apparatus of *Eoplacognathus pseudoplanus* and proposed a change in this genus name to *Lenodus pseudoplanus*, including the genus *Lenodus* to the Family Balognathidae. These authors kept the genus *Eoplacognathus* in the Polyplacognathidae. However, Löfgren and Zhang (2003) continued using the designation *Eoplacognathus pseudoplanus,* and they recognized S and M elements for this species. Mellgren et al. (2012) recognized S elements in the *E. foliaceous* apparatuses.
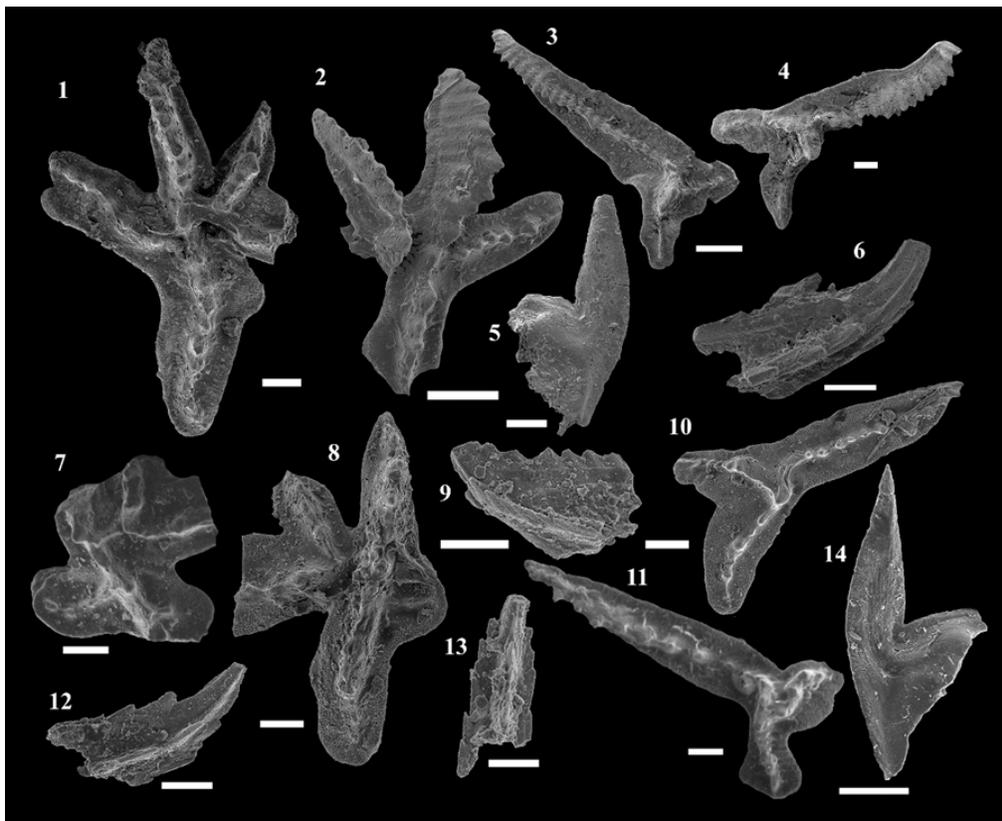
PLATE 1: Index conodonts from La Tortuga section, Upper Darriwilian, Ponón Trehué Formation (Sierra Pintada, Mendoza). Scanning electron microscope photomicrographs, scale bar 0. 1 mm. 1-6, *Eoplacognathus lindstroemi* Bergström, all the elements from PT11'. 1, dextral Pa elements CORD MP 2364(1-2). 2, sinistral Pa element, CORD MP 2364(3). 3, dextral Pb element CORD MP 2362(2). 4, sinistral Pb element CORD MP 2361(2). 5, M element, CORD MP 2290(6). 6, Sd element, CORD MP 2290(2). 7-14. *Eoplacognathus robustus* Bergström. 7, dextral Pa element CORD MP 2228(1), PT 8. 8, sinistral Pa element CORD MP 2225 (1), PT 9. 9, Sb element CORD MP 2292 (2) PT9. 10, sinistral Pb element CORD MP 2223(5), PT 9. 11, dexral Pb, CORD MP 2229(1) PT9. 12, Sd element, CORD MP 2292(4), PT9. 13, Sa

element, CORD MP 2292(3), PT9. 14, M element, CORD MP 2292(1), PT9.

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The presence of the middle Ordovician genus *Baltoniodus* (Lindström, 1955) in the Central Andean Basin, Argentina: The stratigraphic significance

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ABSTRACT: Lower Palaeozoic sedimentary rocks of the central Andean basin of Argentina are concentrated in northwestern Argentina and the Famatina basins. Since the pioneering works on conodonts (Monaldi and Monaldi 1978; Rao *et al.* 1991, among others) there have been numerous contributions on this subject. The Ordovician sections of Chaschuil (Suri Formation, Famatinian basin), Gallinato Creek (Santa Gertrudis Formation, Mojotoro Range), Los Colorados, Lipán and Zenta (Eastern Cordillera and Subandean Range) were sampled and several conodont collections were obtained (Aceñolaza et al. 2008; Carlorosi et al. 2013)(Fig. 1). The discovery of the conodont key species *Baltoniodus triangularis* Lindström in these sections allowed us to recognize a global scheme that pointed out the basal Dapingian (Wang *et al*. 2009; Carlorosi *et al*. 2013). Also many elements of the genus *Baltoniodus* were recovered from the Santa Gertrudis Formation, which were studied for this contribution. Our main aims are to present a new species of the multielement genus *Baltoniodus* that has been recovered from the studied area and to establish the stratigraphical relation between *B. triangularis* and this species.
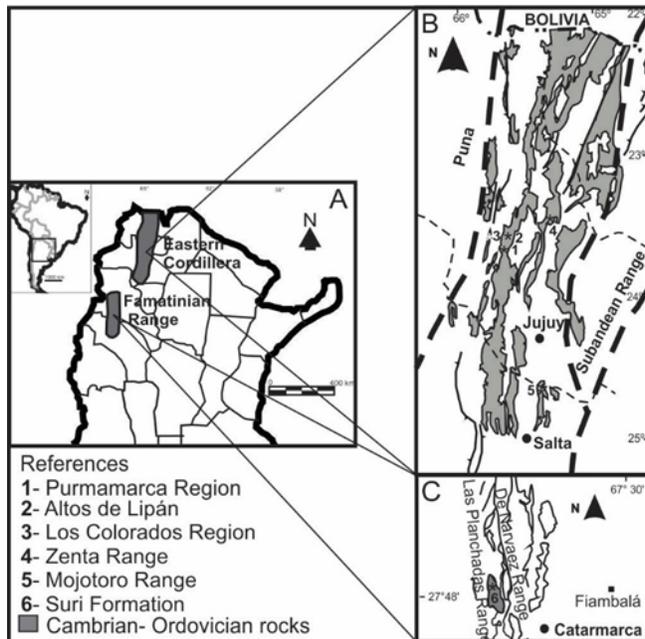
FIGURE 1- Map showing the location of the studied areas. Each area is indicated by a number.

STRATIGRAPHY

The areas of study are: 1 - Quebrada de Chamarra (Los Colorados Region, Fig. 1-B3) . The section is located at 23°31'56. 4'' S and 65°40'04. 3'' W. A 2500 m thick succession constituted by two formations, Acoite and Alto del Cóndor, but only the uppermost Alto del Cóndor Formation have been taken in consideration. 2 - Altos de Lipán (Fig. 1-B2): A section cropping out in the eastern flank of the Altos de Lipán, Purmamarca (Jujuy), at 23º41'50'' S, 65º40'35'' W. 3 –Mojotoro Range of the Salta province (Fig. 1-B5). Ordovician sandstones and siltstones of the Santa Gertrudis Formation yield conodonts (24°41'10. 96'' S and 65°17'18. 79'' W.). 4 - The last area is the Suri Formation which is outcropping in the Chaschuil area, Famatinian Basin (27°47'57. 40'' S and 68°3'20. 92'' W. Fig. 1- C6).

CONODONTS AND STRATIGRAPHY

The conodont associations recovered from each study area are comparable in respect to the presence of significant species, the fauna consists of: *Baltoniodus triangularis* (Lindström), *Baltoniodus* sp. nov. A, *Drepanodus arcuatus* Pander, *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* (Sergeeva), *Drepanoistodus forceps* Lindström, *Erraticodon patu* Cooper, *Gothodus costulatus* Lindström, *Oistodus* sp., *Trapezognathus diprion* (Lindström), *Trapezognathus quadrangulum* Lindström and *Triangulodus* sp, among others. This conodont association can be assigned to an interval that spans the lowermost to lower Dapingian (*Baltoniodus triangularis* Zone) (Wang *et al*. 2009; Carlorosi *et al*. 2013).

The *Baltoniodus triangularis* apparatus was described for the Baltoscandia area, South China and the Central Andean Basin (Lindström, 1955; Stouge and Bagnoli, 1990; Wang *et al*., 2009 among others). The morphological characters used for the definition of this new species (*B*. sp. nov. A) are primarily based on P elements (Pl. 1) that had been compared to the P elements of *B. triangularis*. This new species is defined on those elements shown by Cooper (1981) and Albanesi and Vaccari (1994) and assigned as *Baltoniodus navis* (*sensu* Cooper). Moreover, the association of advanced forms of *B. triangularis*, *B*. sp. nov. *A* and *Erraticodon patu* in the Santa Gertrudis and Suri formations allows to propose the upper part of the *B. triangularis* Zone and establish a closer affinity for northwestern Argentina with the Australian faunal province.

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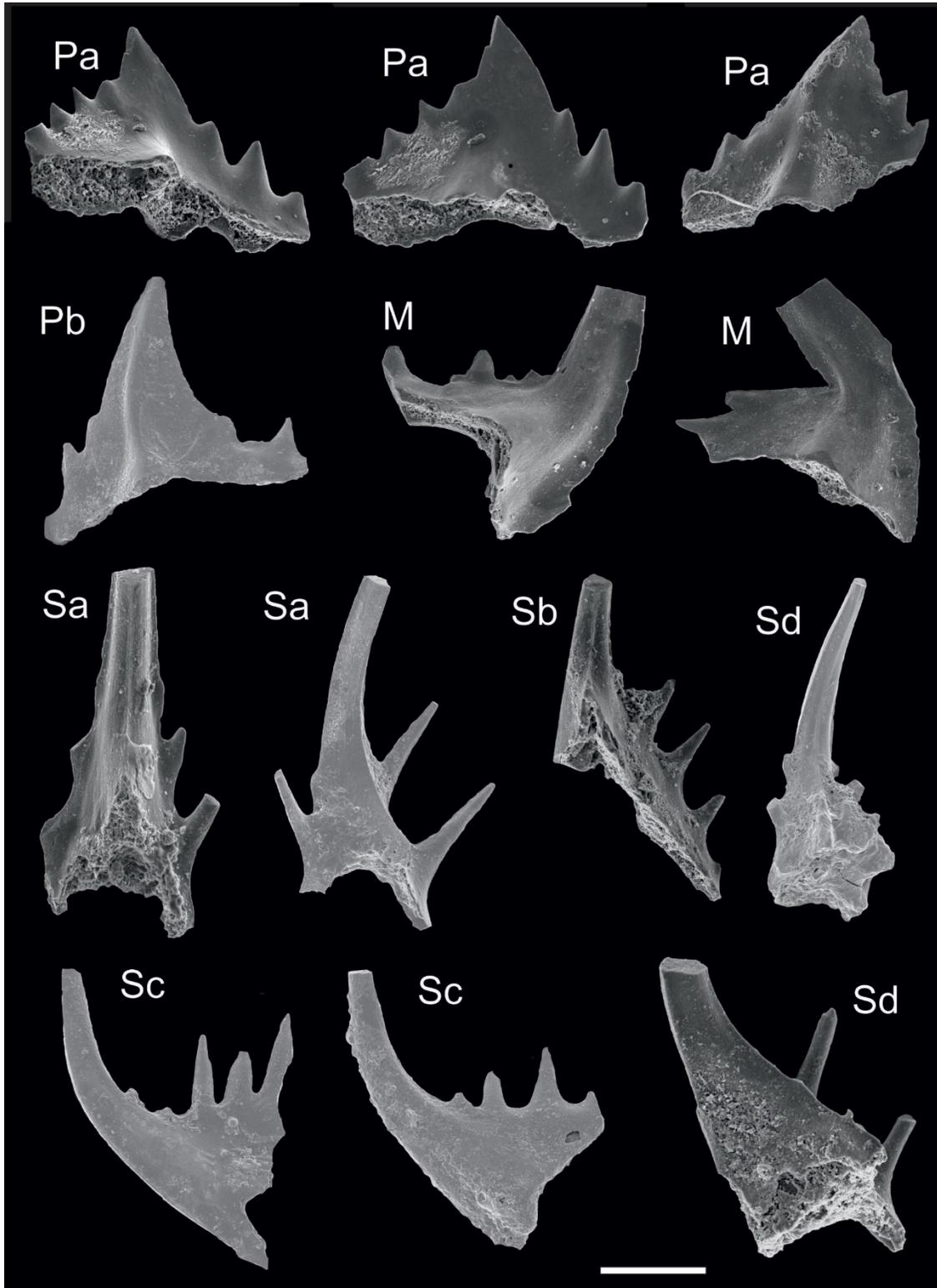
PLATE 1- Apparatus of the species *Baltoniodus* sp. nov. A. Elements recovered from de Santa Gertrudis Formation in the Mojotoro Range. Scale bar: 10 μm.

The *Pygodus Serra* Zone in Cuyania, Argentina

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INTRODUCTION

Middle Ordovician outcrops of the Cuyania terrane extend from latitude 29º S to 33º S, and correlative rocks appear near San Rafael City (35º S) in the south of Mendoza Province, Western Argentina (Fig. 1) (Keller et al. 1996). These upper Darriwilian deposits are known as Ponón Trehué Formation which has been studied from different scopes (see Heredia 2006). Also, upper Darriwilian deposits have been recognized in the Villicum range and Cauquenes Dam (Fig. 1).

A Greenville-type basement (Cingolani and Varela 1999) is present in the Ponón Trehué region and is partially covered by Ordovician carbonate-siliciclastic sedimentary rocks (complete references in Heredia 2006). The biostratigraphy of these deposits is based on conodonts, and constrained by *Pygodus serra* (Hadding)*, Pygodus anserinus* Lamont et Lindström*, Eoplacognathus robustus* Bergström and *Eoplacognathus lindstroemi* Bergström. These latter two species have been also recovered in Los Azules Formation and the first one in La Cantera Formation in the Precordillera basin (Fig. 1). The main goal of this contribution is to record the *Pygodus serra* Zone, and the *E. robustus* and *E. lindstroemi* subzones in Cuyania. Additionally, we also briefly compare the sedimentary successions that bear such key conodonts.
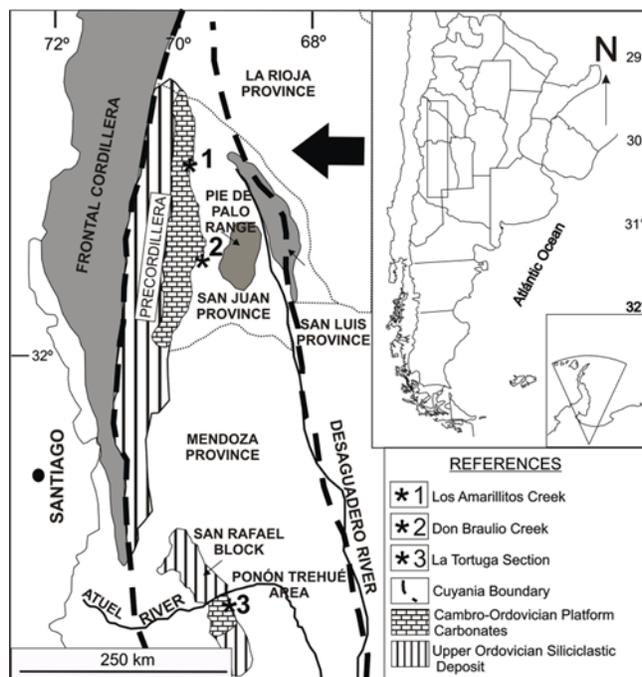
Figure 1. —Location map of sections mentioned in text.

The Ponón Trehué Formation (upper Darriwilian to lower Sandbian) in the La Tortuga section (Fig. 1) is composed of granite conglomerate, sandstone and thin-bedded, fossiliferous limestone, which represents a depositional cycle from shallower to deeper environments (complete references in Heredia 2006). The Don Braulio (Villicum range) and Los Amarillitos (Los Cauquenes Dam) sections: The siliciclastic units examined in this paper are the Los Azules and La Cantera formations that crop out in the Central and Eastern Precordillera.

These formations both represent the clastic input to the basin over the Cambrian- Middle Ordovician carbonate facies. The Ordovician siliciclastic rocks in the Cerro Viejo region (Los Azules Formation) is composed by dark claystone and siltstone, black shale, and yellowish calcareous siltstone and marly mudstone. A rich Darriwilian-Sandbian graptolite fauna occurs in the Los Azules Formation (complete references in Ortega et al. 2007). The Los Amarillitos section (Fig. 1) is located on the western flank of the Cauquenes Range. It is composed by black mudstone, chert and black shale beds alternating in the lower part; followed by folded black shale in the middle part which is covered in turn by black coarse massive siltstone with disperse carbonate nodules. To the top the succession is composed by yellowish calcareous siltstone.

The La Cantera Formation is a siliciclastic unit that outcrops at eastern flank of Villicum Range. This succession in Don Braulio section (Fig. 1) overlies the Los Azules Formation by an erosive surface and it is unconformably overlain by Hirnantian diamictites of Don Braulio Formation. The base of the La Cantera Formation is composed mainly of greenish, coarse siliciclastic deposits. The record of graptolites assemblages (Peralta 1993) indicates a Middle-Upper Ordovician age.

Figure 2. —Biostratigraphic chart comparing upper Darriwilian *Pygodus serra* Zone and subzonal key conodonts of Bergström (1971) and those recorded in Cuyania, Argentina.

CONODONTS

Numerous specimens of the conodont apparatuses of *Pygodus serra*, *Eoplacognathus robustus* and *E. lindstroemi* were recovered from the PonónTrehué Formation. The *E. robustus* was found in fossiliferous sandstone beds at the base of the conglomerates of La Cantera Formation (Heredia et al. 2014). Few and well preserved elements of *E. robustus* together with early forms of *E. lindstroemi* were recovered from Los Azules Formation in Los Amarillitos section from carbonate nodules.

CONCLUSIONS

The conodont species *E. robustus* and *E. lindstroemi* recovered from sections mentioned above are recording the *E. robustus* and *E. lindstroemi* subzones of the *Pygodus serra* Zone (Fig. 2). The upper part of the *Pygodus serra* Zone in Cuyania is recorded in La Cantera and Ponón Trehué formations by coarse clastic deposition followed by finer siliciclastic deposits. The first conclusion is that this coarse sedimentary change in the history of Cuyania occurs in the *E. robustus* subzone, followed by fine rich carbonate sedimentation during the *E. lindstroemi* subzone recording a rise of the sea level. Therefore, comparing the facies of these three studied sections allowed us to interpret them as controlled mainly by eustasy.

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Biostratigraphy of the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary beds at Kopet-Dagh, Iran

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ABSTRACT: A continuous succession comprising upper Cambrian (Furongian) to Lower Ordovician (Tremadocian) conodont biozones is reported for the first time from the Kopet-Dagh Region of northeastern Iran. Seven biostratigraphical units are recognized, including the *Proconodontus tenuiserratus* and *Proconodontus posterocostatus* zones; these two lowermost biostratigraphical units are defined by euconodont species which have not been previously reported from Iran and temperate latitude peri-Gondwana. The conodont diversity and abundance decreased significantly above the *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis* Zone; the conodont faunas of the succeeding *Cordylodus proavus*, *Cordylodus lindstromi* (*sensu lato*) and *Cordylodus angulatus* zones are characterised by oligotaxic to monotaxic associations dominated by species of *Cordylodus*. In the absence of diagnostic conodont species, the position of the lower boundary of the Ordovician System in the Kalat Valley Section can be placed somewhat below the first occurrence of the early planktonic graptolite *Rhabdinopora flabelliformis*, which approximately coincides with the onset of black shale deposition.

INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this paper is to review the available information on the conodont biostratigraphy of the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary beds in the Kuh-e Saluk Mountains, south of the city of Bojnurd, in the North Khorosan Province, northeastern Iran (Fig. 1a, b). This area was mapped (1: 250000) by Bolourchi and Mehr Parto (1987); however, the coverage of the Lower Palaeozoic rocks in this map is not adequately shown. Ahmadzadeh-Heravi (1983) proved the existence of the continuous succession from the Upper Cambrian to the Silurian exposed along the road connecting Bojnurd and Esfaraen, south of the Pelmis Pass and also presented the first and only published report on the occurrence of the Cambrian and Early Ordovician conodonts in the area.

The studied section, which is here referred as the Kalat Valley is situated on the western side of the Kalat stream, about 39 km south of Bojnurd. Geographical coordinates of the zero point at the base of the first limestone bed are 37°13′36″N; 57°23′2″E, altitude 1620 m. The underlying beds are covered by allochthonous, strongly weathered argillite and therefore cannot be observed. No formal lithostratigraphical subdivision can be applied to the Cambrian (Furongian) and Lower Ordovician deposits of Kopet-Dagh at present. Ghavidel-Syooki (2001) assigned this part of the succession to the
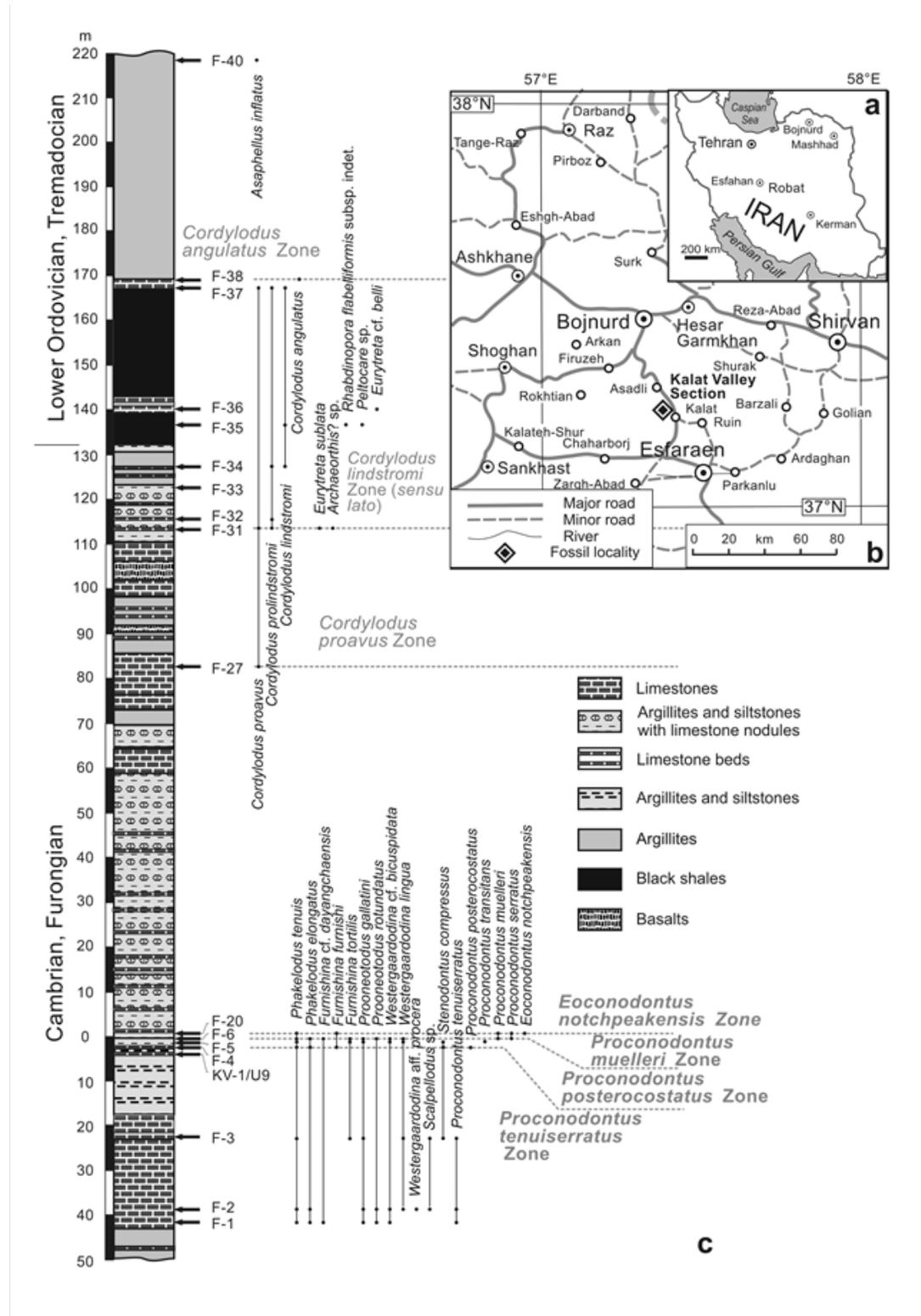
Figure 1. —a, simplified map of Iran showing location of Bojnurd situated north of the Kalat Valley Section; b, geographical map of the vicinity of Bojnurd showing geographical position of the Kalat Valley Section west of the road connecting Bojnurd and Esfaraen; c, stratigraphic column of the terminal Cambrian and Lower Ordovician (Tremadocian) deposits exposed in the Kalat Valley Section, showing position of sampled fossiliferous horizons and stratigraphic distribution of conodonts and selected species of brachiopods, trilobites and graptolites.

Lashkarak Formation; however, this formation was defined in Central Alborz within a completely different tectonostratigraphical unit. Moreover, as demonstrated by Ghobadi Pour et al. (2011), the Lashkarak Formation, as originally defined by Gansser & Huber (1962), is confined to Middle and Upper Ordovician deposits.

The Cambrian–Ordovician boundary beds in the Kalat Valley section comprise a monotonous succession of mostly siliciclastic sediments, which were deposited in the outer shelf environment, with some limestone units representing mostly shell beds formed by bioclasts transported across the shelf during occasional strong storm events. Carbonate nodules in argillites are relatively common in the Cambrian part of the observed succession, but completely disappear in the Tremadocian. Only the lowermost part of the studied section, corresponding to the *Proconodontus tenuiserratus* Zone, contains a significant amount of carbonates. The autochthonous benthic faunas are dominated by low diversity trilobite associations, while disarticulated shells of the rhynchonelliform brachiopods usually are displaced offshore. The lingulate brachiopods are relatively common and moderately diverse within the interval from the *Proconodontus tenuiserratus* to *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis* Zone, but decrease markedly in abundance and diversity up sequence.

CONODONT BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

The conodont yield in the studied samples is very low. Among 17 productive samples the content of conodont elements usually does not exceed 20 specimens per standard 1. 5 kg sample, and fewer than half of the sampled limestone horizons were productive for conodonts. Nevertheless, it is still possible to build conodont based biostratigraphical framework for the late Furongian to Tremadocian of the Kopet-Dagh Region, which is comparable to the conodont zonal schemes of the Cold Domain *sensu* Zhen and Percival (2003), and in particular, to the Baltoscandian province (Kaljo et al. 1986; Szaniawski and Bengtson 1998; Bagnoli and Stouge 2014). Seven successive conodont zonal assemblages can be recognised in the terminal Cambrian to Early Ordovician (lower Tremadocian) sedimentary succession of the Kalat Valley section. These include the *Proconodontus tenuiserratus* and *Proconodontus posterocostatus* zones, two lowermost biostratigraphical units defined by euconodont species, which have not been previously reported from Iran.

Proconodontus tenuiserratus Zone
The zone spans a 30. 6 m thick interval in the lowermost part of the measured section. In addition to the eponymous species, *Stenodontus compressus* Chen and Gong, 1986 is the only other euconodont in the assemblage, which is otherwise dominated by proto- and paraconodonts, including *Phakelodus tenuis* Müller, 1959, *Phakelodus elongatus* Müller, 1959, *Furnishina dayangchaensis* Chen & Gong, 1986, *Furnishina tortilis* Müller, 1959, *Furnishina furnishi* Müller, 1959, *Prooneotodus gallatini* Müller, 1959, *Prooneotodus rotundatus* (Druce and Jones, 1971), *Scalpellodus* sp., *Westergaardodina* cf. *bicuspidata* Müller, 1959, *Westergaardodina ligula* Müller, 1959, *Westergaardodina procera* Müller and Hinz, 1991.

Proconodontus posterocostatus Zone
Conodonts of this zone recovered from a condensed interval, which is only 2. 75 m thick. In addition, eponymous species of the associated assemblage includes *Proconodontus transitans* Szaniawski and Bengtson, 1998, which appears in the upper part of the unit (Fig. 1c), and proto- and paraconodonts

Phakelodus tenuis, *Phakelodus elongatus*, *Furnishina tortilis*, *Furnishina furnishi*, *Prooneotodus gallatini*, *Westergaardodina* cf. *bicuspidata* and *Westergaardodina ligula*, all of which are transitional from the *Proconodontus tenuiserratus* Zone.

Proconodontus muelleri **Zone**
This zone is only 0. 15 m thick in the studied transect. It is defined by the first appearance of eponymous taxon and *Proconodontus serratus* Miller, 1969, while taxonomic composition of the proto- and paraconodont taxa ranges unchanged from the underlying unit. A condensed interval, corresponding to the *Proconodontus posterocostatus* and *Proconodontus muelleri* zones, is closely followed by the termination of more or less continuous carbonate sedimentation, while influx of fine siliciclastic sediments significantly increased since the beginning of *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis* Zone. These together with basalt volcanism, which is evident from the overlying deposits, may suggest a development of extensional tectonic regime in the area and related subsidence of the basin about that time.

Eoconodontus notchpeakensis **Zone**
This zone is defined by the first appearance of the eponymous species, which co-occurs with transitional eoconodont taxa, including *Proconodontus muelleri* Miller, 1969 and *Proconodontus serratus*. The diversity and abundance of proto- and paraconodonts, which are represented by only two species (Fig. 1c) decreased considerably.

Conodont diversity and abundance decreased significantly up sequence. In the middle and upper parts of the Kalat Valley section, the conodont elements occur in a few horizons separated by thick barren intervals, yet successive appearance of *Cordylodus proavus* Müller, 1959, *Cordylodus lindstromi* Druce and Jones, 1971 and *Cordylodus angulatus* Pander, 1856, have been documented. All these species are the index-taxa of globally recognised conodont zones. Species of *Cordylodus* are the only common conodonts within that stratigraphical interval. They tend to form oligotaxic to monotaxic associations. A similar decline in diversity of the conodont fauna at the time of proliferation of *Cordylodus* species is also evident in the terminal Cambrian–early Ordovician (Tremadocian) conodont successions of other parts of Iran, and in particular from the Alborz Region (Müller 1973; Jahangir 2014) and the Tabas Region of Central Iran (Ghaderi et al. 2009).

THE CAMBRIAN–ORDOVICIAN BOUNDARY IN THE KALAT VALLEY SECTION

Only two conodont species, *Cordylodus lindstromi* and *Cordylodus prolindstromi* Nicoll, 1991, occur within transitional Cambrian–Ordovician boundary interval in the Kalat Valley section; however, their application for precise definition of the system boundary in the studied section is rather limited. Nevertheless, black shales just below the first documented occurrence of *Cordylodus lindstromi* (Fig. 1c; sample F-36) contain the biostratigraphically informative early planktonic graptolites. These graptolites occur in association with a few obolid brachiopods and the olenid trilobite *Peltocare* sp. probably representing a new species. Although the graptolite material from Kalat is not identified with certainty[, the regularity of the mesh is more suggestive of a subspecies close to *Rhabdinopora flabelliformis flabelliformis* (Eichwald, 1840) rather than *R. f. parabola* (Bulman 1954) or *R. f. canadensis* (Lapworth 1898), in which the mesh is less regular. If this is accepted, the age of these graptolites is likely to be close to that of "Assemblage 2" of Cooper *et al*. (1998 fig. 3) that is early but not earliest Tremadocian. Thus the lower boundary of the Ordovician System in the Kalat section may be close or somewhat below the first unit of the black graptolitic argillites, which contain the early planktonic graptolite *Rhabdinopora*

flabelliformis subsp. indet. It is probably the best approximation in definition of the system boundary presently achievable in Iran. Occurrence of *Rhabdinopora flabelliformis* subsp. indet. in the Kalat Section allows direct correlation with the GSSP section in Green Point, Newfoundland, where this graptolite appears just above the Cambrian – Ordovician boundary defined by FAD of *Iapetognathus fluctivagus*. A worldwide graptolite and conodont based correlation of the Green Point section was discussed in great details in the publication by Cooper et al. (2001) and there is no reason to repeat it here. In Baltica, Avalonia (Britain), western North America, North China and parts of Gondwana (Erdtmann, 1986, 1988; Buatois et al. 2006) the beginning of the Tremadocian Stage (upper *Cordylodus lindstromi* to *Cordylodus angulatus* zones) coincided with the extensive deposition of black shales and substantial sea-level rise.

In spite of a low diversity, the micromorphic acrotretide brachiopods also are of some value for biostratigraphical subdivision and correlation of the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary beds due to scarcity of other fossils. The members of *Quadrisonia→Eurytreta* lineage are particularly illustrative in that respect. Shells of *Quadrisonia* occur on the Kalat Valley section in the *Proconodontus tenuiserratus* Zone, but they require further study. *Eurytreta sublata* Popov, in Koneva and Popov 1988, is a geographically widespread taxon, which in Malyi Karatau (Karatau-Naryn terrane, Kazakhstan) is confined to the *Cordylodus proavus* Zone (Holmer et al. 2001), and in Laurentia (Utah) it ranges from the *Cordylodus proavus* to *Cordylodus intermedius* Zone (Popov et al. 2002). In Kopet-Dagh (Fig. 1c; sample F-31) this species co-occurs with *Cordylodus prolindstromi* at the base of the *Cordylodus lindstromi* Zone (*sensu lato*). *Eurytreta* cf. *belli* (Davidson, 1868) as revised by Sutton et al. (2000) appears in the Kalat Valley section together with *Cordylodus lindstromi* just above the black shale unit with *Rhabdinopora* (Fig. 1c). This brachiopod taxon is widespread globally within *Cordylodus lindstromi* and *Cordylodus angulatus* zones (Popov and Holmer 1994; Holmer et al. 2001, 2005; Popov et al. 2002).

The continuous character of sedimentation across the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary in the Kopet-Dagh Region is in sharp contrast with the sedimentary succession of the Alborz Region in northern Iran, where this interval corresponds to a widespread hiatus on top of '*Cruziana*' sandstones originally deposited in shoal complexes (Kebria-ee Zadeh et al. 2015), while the conodont record between the *Cordylodus proavus* and *Paltodus deltifer* zones is missing (Müller 1973; Jahangir et al. 2014). The trilobite species *Asaphellus inflatus* Lu, 1962, which usually occurs at the base of the Ordovician succession in Eastern Alborz (Ghobadi Pour 2006), appears in the Kalat Valley Section within the *Cordylodus angulatus* Zone, well above the base of the Ordovician System (Fig. 1c, sample F-40).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Kalat Valey section shows the most complete succession of conodont biozones, and includes the earliest euconodont species yet documented in Iran. The earliest euconodont taxa yet known in Alborz Region and in Central Iran are *Proconodontus muelleri* and *Proconodontus serratus* (Müller, 1973; Ghaderi et al. 2009; Jahangir 2014). Both appear in the middle part of the Furongian euconodont biostratigraphical succession of the Tropical Domain, e. g., Laurentia and Australasian segment of Gondwana (Druce and Jones 1971; Miller 1980; Miller et al. 2003). The early Furongian euconodont record is poor and incomplete in the faunas of the Cold Domain confined to the peri-Gondwanan Oaxaquia terrane (Landing 2007), Alborz and Central Iran (Jahangir 2014) and Baltica (Müller and Hinz 1991; Szaniawski and Bengtson 1998; Bagnoli and Stouge 2014). The Furongian conodont succession of Kopet-Dagh where *Proconodontus muelleri* and *Proconodontus serratus* zone are now documented represents a noticeable exception. Yet the Furongian faunas of Kopet-Dagh are characterised by a

proliferation of paraconodont taxa, while a few cosmopolitan euconodont species are of low diversity and abundance; these can be taken to indicate cold water faunas, and taken as the evidence that the region was located deep within temperate latitudes already in the Furongian. The first signs of a possible extensional tectonic regime in the Kopet-Dagh, as indicated by basin subsidence and associated volcanism, were already evident in the late Furongian, but if it was the first sign of rifting, or if the Kopet-Dagh remained an integral part of Gondwana Domain later through the Ordovician is not yet clear.

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A long-overdue systematic revision of Ordovician graptolite faunas from New South Wales, Australia

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ABSTRACT: A review of the history of systematic taxonomic and biostratigraphic studies of Ordovician graptolites from New South Wales demonstrates that these faunas have been neglected relative to those from Victoria which form the basis for the Pacific Province zonation. Research projects currently underway will alleviate this deficiency, with initial focus on (a) three localities yielding early Floian faunas, and (b) earliest Bolindian (late Katian) faunas from two areas. Many of these graptolites are illustrated for the first time from New South Wales in this interim report.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Ordovician graptolites of the Pacific Province have an extensive though discontinuous record in NSW (New South Wales). They are not nearly as well known as contemporaneous faunas from Victoria, which have benefitted from much more sustained scientific interest, due initially to their occurrence in siltstones and black shales associated with gold deposits and subsequently by providing the basis for biostratigraphic zonation of the Ordovician in Australasia (VandenBerg and Cooper 1992). Specimens from NSW were first described by T. S. Hall (1900, 1902) from the Junction Reefs area south of Orange, and from Tallong in the Shoalhaven River gorge west of Goulburn (Hall 1909, 1920). Further systematic study of Late Ordovician graptolites was carried out by Naylor (1936) in the Goulburn region, and by Sherrard (1943, 1949, 1954, 1962) who undertook an extensive documentation of graptolites from many parts of the Lachlan Orogen, concentrating on the Yass and Tallong areas. These publications unfortunately were poorly illustrated compared to today's standards, and the material is generally badly preserved, so that many of the species described are unrecognizable. A third phase of graptolite documentation commenced in the late 1960s and was focussed on the Macquarie Volcanic Province in the central west of the state, with papers by Moors (1969, 1970) on the Late Ordovician graptolite fauna of the Malongulli Formation. The first graptolites of definite Early Ordovician age from NSW were illustrated by Sherwin (1979, 1990) from west of Parkes. The Early Ordovician age postulated by Keble and Macpherson (1941) for graptolites in hornfels near Narrandera has not been confirmed by subsequent collecting which indicates this is a Darriwilian assemblage. Middle Ordovician (Darriwilian) graptolites from elsewhere in NSW had been widely reported (e. g. Sherrard 1954, Smith 1966) but it wasn't until the early 1980s that detailed systematic work (e. g. Jenkins 1982) and acceptable images (Sherwin 1983) were published. Subsequent studies have focussed on Late Ordovician forms, commencing with Jenkins et al. (1982) who described Eastonian (Katian) graptolites from Narooma on the NSW south coast. Identifications and age implications of a supposed Gisbornian (i. e. Sandbian) fauna from west of Orange (Rickards et al. 2001; Sherwin and Rickards 2000) were contested and corrected by VandenBerg (2003) who determined the age as early Bolindian. The most

recent publications on NSW graptolites involved documentation of a fauna of mid-Katian age from north of Canberra (Williamson and Rickards 2006), and description of near-contemporaneous dendroids
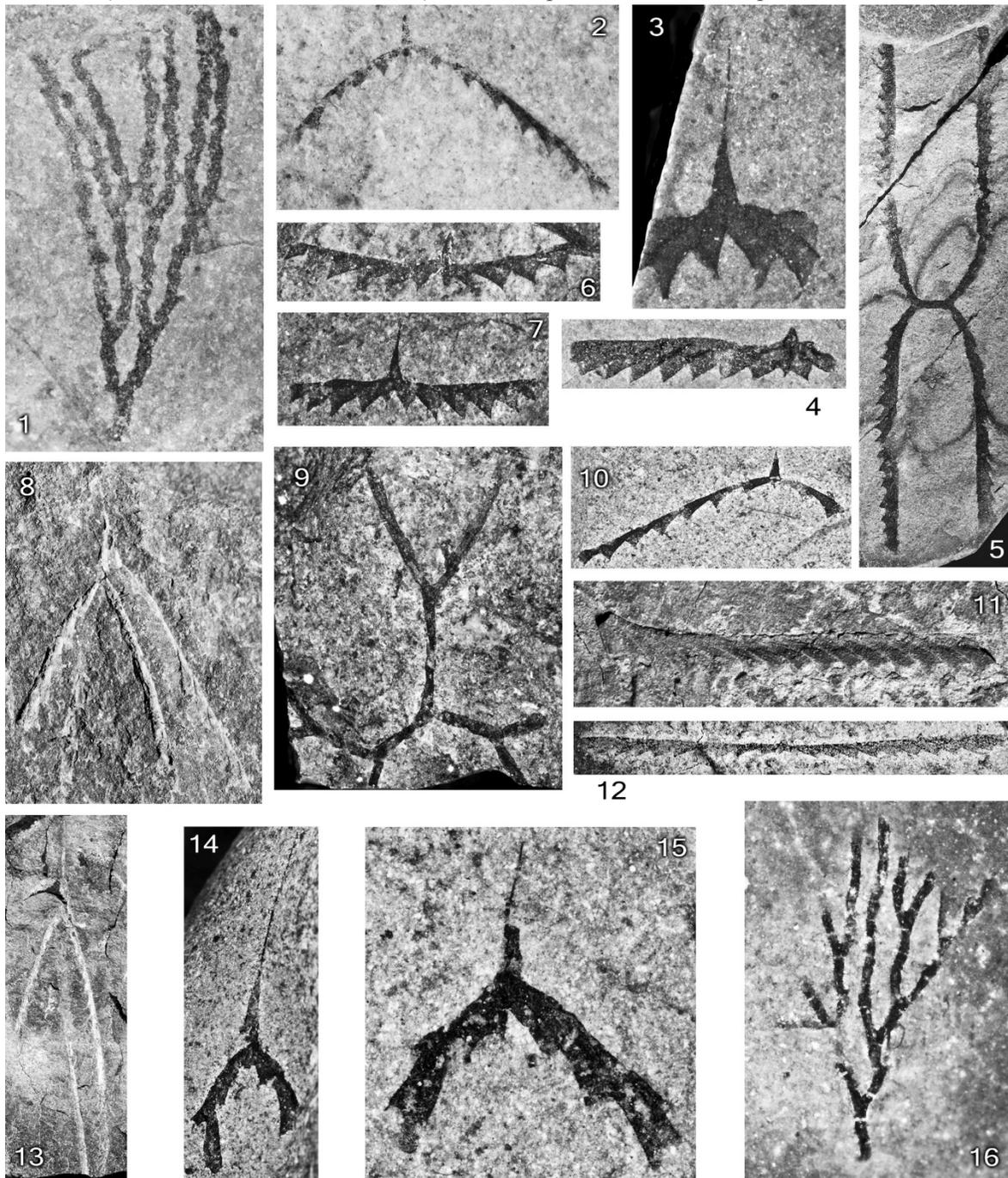
Figure 1. —Early Ordovician (Floian) graptolites from central NSW. 1. *Callograptus* **sp., X10. 2,** *Paradelograptus pritchardi* **(T. S. Hall), X6. 3.** *Cymatograptus* **cf.** *undulatus* **(Törnquist), X10. 4.** *Didymograptus* **(***Expansograptus***) cf.** *similis* **(J. Hall), X6. 5.** *Tetragraptus approximatus* **Nicholson, X2. 5. 6.** *Didymograptus***? sp., X8. 7.** *Didymograptus* **(***Expansograptus***) cf.** *asperus* **(Harris and Thomas), X8. 8.** *Pendeograptus pendens* **(Elles), X4. 9.** *Clonograptus* **sp., X8. 10.** *Acrograptus***? sp., X6. 11. wide ?tetragraptid stipe, X4. 12.** *Expansograptus elongatus* **(Harris and Thomas), X4. 13.** *Pendeograptus* **cf.** *pendens* **(Elles), X2. 14.** *Aorograptus victoriae* **(T. S.**

Hall), X8. 15. *Aerograptus* sp., X15. 16. *Dendrograptus* sp., X15. 1-5 from Yarrimbah Formation; 6-14 from Hensleigh Siltstone; 15-16 from "Trelawney Beds" (now Drik Drik Formation).
from west of Wellington (Percival and Quinn 2012). Current research projects, discussed below, aim to remedy the lack of up-to-date knowledge of Ordovician graptolites from NSW by providing systematic descriptions of several key faunas, including some of the oldest and youngest known Ordovician assemblages in the state.

EARLY ORDOVICIAN FAUNAS

Yarrimbah Formation
The oldest known NSW graptolites, of late Lancefieldian age (*approximatus* Zone), occur in Yarrimbah Formation cherty siltstones in a quarry about 16 km west of Parkes in central NSW (Sherwin 1979). The fauna includes *Callograptus* sp., *Cymatograptus* cf. *undulatus* (Törnquist), *Didymograptus (Expansograptus)* cf. *similis* (J. Hall), *Paradelograptus pritchardi* (T. S. Hall) and *Tetragraptus approximatus* Nicholson (Fig. 1. 1-5). Associated with the graptolites are deep water lingulate brachiopods, described by Percival and Engelbretsen (2007), and fragmentary caryocarids.

Hensleigh Siltstone
A slightly younger (Bendigonian) graptolite fauna is known from the upper Hensleigh Siltstone at Bakers Swamp, 26 km south of Wellington. This fauna comprises *Acrograptus*? sp., *Aerograptus victoriae* (T. S. Hall), *Clonograptus* sp., *Didymograptus (Expansograptus)* cf. *asperus* (Harris and Thomas), *Didymograptus* (*Expansograptus*) *elongatus* (Harris and Thomas), *Didymograptus*? sp. and *Pendeograptus pendens* (Elles) (Fig. 1. 6-14). None of these forms has previously been described or illustrated from this locality. Conodonts from autochthonous and allochthonous limestones lower in the formation indicate the *Prioniodus elegans* Zone (Zhen et al. 2003), consistent with the age of the graptolite fauna.

Drik Drik Formation
Formerly known as the "Trelawney Beds" (Packham 1969), the locality (about 20 km southeast of Tamworth in the New England region of NSW) is now known to include allochthonous blocks of late Ordovician limestone, and an Early Ordovician siltstone clast rarely yielding graptolites such as *Aerograptus* sp. and *Dendrograptus* sp. (Fig. 1. 15, 16), all reworked into an Early Devonian sedimentary unit called the Drik Drik Formation (Furey-Greig 2000). Age of the siltstone clast is imprecise, probably Bendigonian (early to middle Floian).

LATE ORDOVICIAN (LATE KATIAN) FAUNAS

Malachis Hill Formation
Outcrops of Malachis Hill Formation on the densely forested southern flanks of Mount Canobolas, southwest of Orange, contain an early Bolindian graptolite fauna (Fig. 2) that includes *Anticostia macgregorae* Stewart and Mitchell, *Anticostia tenuissima* (Ross and Berry), *Anticostia thorsteinssoni* (Melchin), *Dicellograptus* ex gr. *ornatus* (Elles and Wood), *Styracograptus* cf. *tubuliferus* (Lapworth) and *Styracograptus*? sp., associated with rare specimens of the trilobite *Triarthrus*. This fauna, comparable with that described from the Keenans Bridge locality west of Orange NSW (VandenBerg 2003), is roughly equivalent to the *Dicellograptus ornatus* Biozone in Nevada (Štorch et al. 2011), Zone 13 (*Rectograptus truncatus intermedius* Zone) in the Marathon region of Texas (Goldman et al. 1995), the *Amplexograptus prominens* Biozone of Anticosti, Quebec (Stewart and Mitchell 1997), the

Dicellograptus complanatus Biozone to lower *Dicellograptus complexus* Biozone in South China (Mu et al. 1993, Chen et al. 2000), and the *Dicellograptus complanatus* Biozone of Britain (Zalasiewicz et al. 2009).
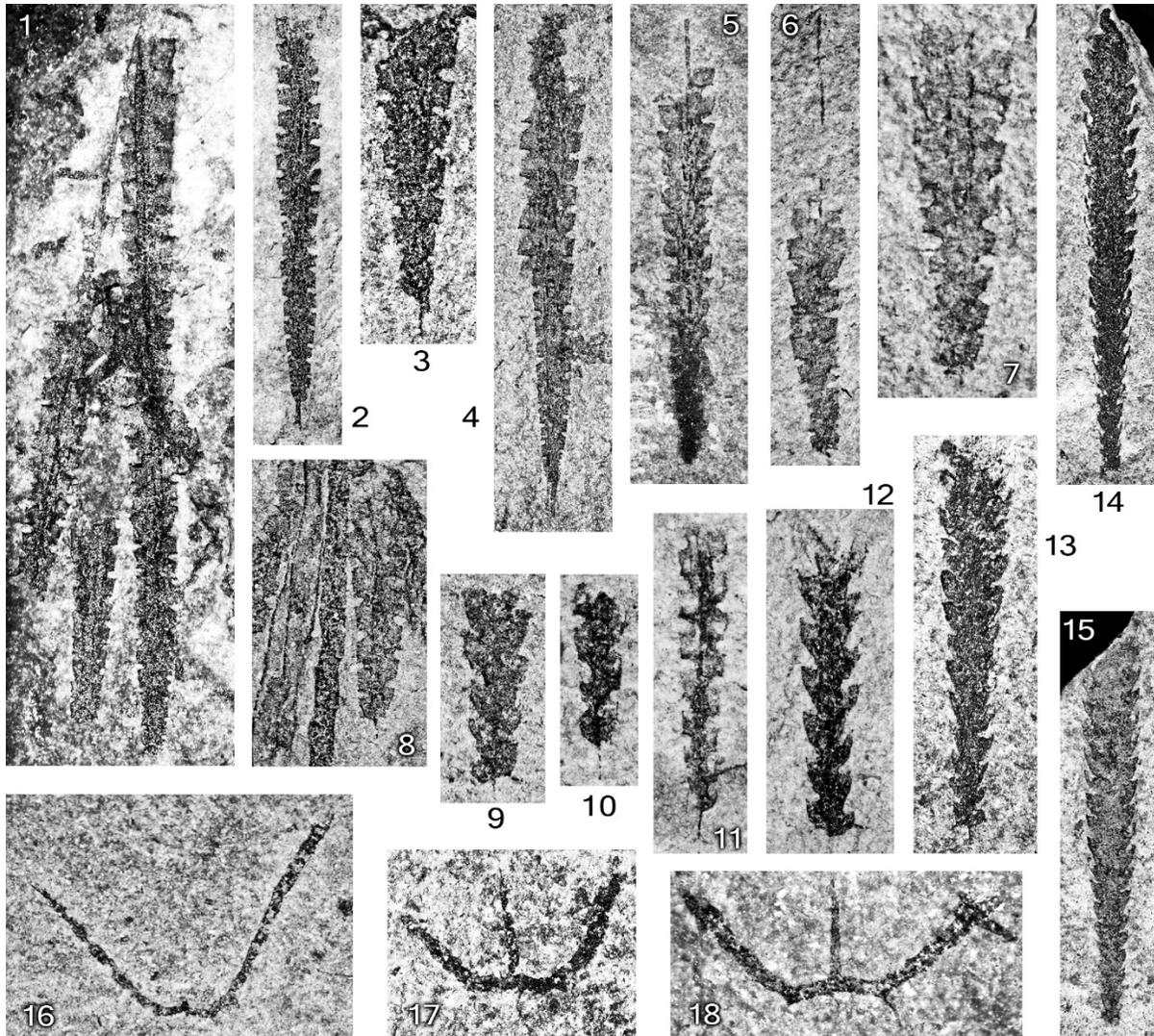
Figure 2. —Late Katian graptolites from Malachis Hill Formation, Charleville Road locality, Canobolas State Forest, south of Orange, NSW. 1-7, *Styracograptus* **cf.** *tubuliferus* **(Lapworth), 1. Several specimens, possibly current-aligned, X4. 2. X4, 3. X8, 4. X4, 5. X4, 6. X6. 7. X8. 8. Partial stipe of** *Dicellograptus* **(left-hand specimen) and** *Normalograptus* **(right-hand specimen), X8. 9.** *Anticostia tenuissima* **(Ross and Berry), X10. 10, 11.** *Styracograptus***? sp., 10. X10, 11. X8. 12.** *Anticostia macgregorae* **Stewart and Mitchell, X10. 13-15,** *Anticostia thorsteinssoni* **(Melchin), 13. X6, 14. X4, 15. X4. 16-18.** *Dicellograptus* **ex gr.** *ornatus* **(Elles and Wood), 16. X6, 17, 18. Juvenile specimens, both X10.**

Uppermost Malongulli Formation, Malongulli Trig

Black shale of the uppermost Malongulli Formation on the NE flank of Malongulli Trig (Percival 1976) is similar in age to the Malachis Hill Formation, being assigned to the earliest Bolindian (Bo1) *uncinatus* Zone (late Katian age) based on the presence of *Styracograptus uncinatus* (Keble and Harris), together with *Styracograptus tubuliferus* (Lapworth), *Acanthograptus* sp., *Anticostia thorsteinssoni* (Melchin),

Anticostia uniformis (Mu and Lin, in Mu et al.), *Dicellograptus flexuosus* Lapworth, *Leptograptus*? sp., *Normalograptus* sp., *Phormograptus* cf. *connectus* (Mu in Wang), *Pleurograptus* cf. *linearis* (Carruthers), *Rectograptus abbreviatus* (Elles and Wood) and *Sinoretiograptus mirabilis* Mu et al. (Fig. 3).
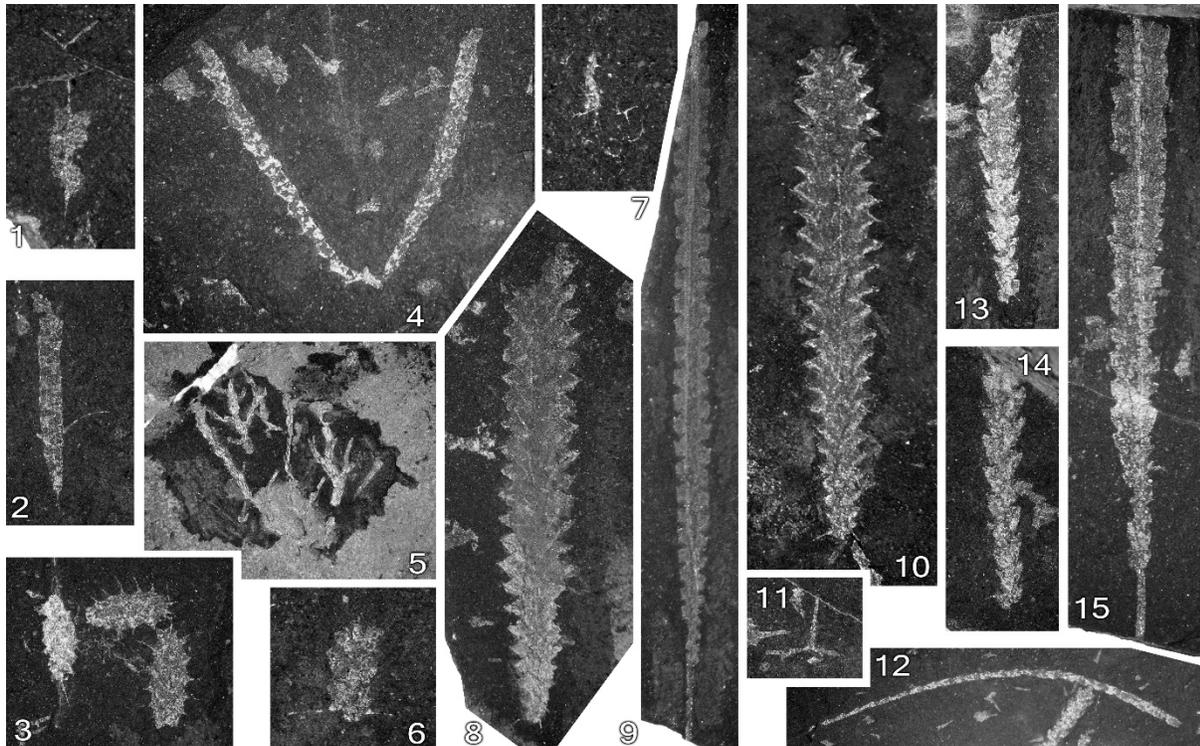
Figure 3. —Late Katian graptolites from uppermost Malongulli Formation, tributary of Sugarloaf Creek, NE flank of Malongulli Trig, NSW. 1, 2, *Styracograptus uncinatus* (Keble and Harris), 1. juvenile colony, X12, 2. X4. 3. *Sinoretiograptus mirabilis* Mu et al., X4. 4. *Dicellograptus flexuosus* Lapworth, X4. 5. *Acanthograptus* sp., X4. 6. *Anticostia thorsteinssoni* (Melchin), X8. 7. *Phormograptus* cf. *connectus* (Mu in Wang), X12. 8, 10. *Rectograptus abbreviatus* (Elles and Wood), both X4. 9, 15. *Styracograptus tubuliferus* (Lapworth), 9. X3, 15. X4. 11, 12. *Pleurograptus* cf. *linearis* (Carruthers), 11. X4, 12. X2. 13, 14, *Anticostia uniformis* (Mu and Lin, in Mu et al.), both X4.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Early Ordovician (Tremadocian) faunas and biostratigraphy of the Gerd-Kuh section, eastern Alborz, Iran

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ABSTRACT: The Tremadocian of the East Alborz Region is dominated by condensed fine clastic sediments. These beds have yielded low to medium diversity trilobite associations, which belong to the olenid, nileid and raphiophorid biofacies, characteristic of an outer shelf environment. Five successive trilobite biozones can be recognised in the Tremadocian succession of Alborz. The lower Tremadocian *Asaphellus inflatus–Dactylocephalus* and *Psilocephalina lubrica* zones are characterised by medium diversity trilobite associations with strong links to contemporaneous faunas of South China. Three upper zones are documented in the section at Gerd-Kuh, the successive *Vachikaspis insueta* and *Kayseraspis* zones represent a low diversity interval during a time of rapid changes in the sea level changes; the medium diversity fauna of the *Asaphellus fecundus–Taihungshania miqueli* zone shows strong links to the faunas of Mediterranean segment of Gondwana. Brachiopods in Gerd-Kuh are represented by the monotaxic *Tarfaya* Association and the low diversity *Paralenorthis–Xinanorthis* Association. The recurrent oligotaxic *Protambonites* Association invaded the area in the late Tremadocian during short term regressive episodes.

INTRODUCTION

The Gerd-Kuh area in the southern foothills of eastern Alborz, northern Iran (geographical coordinates N 36° 09′ 46″, E 54° 9′ 56″) is an isolated rocky mound, raised more than 200 m above its base The Cambrian and Ordovician deposits had not previously been reported from the area and on existing geological maps the exposed sedimentary rocks were referred to the Devonian. Nevertheless the exposures at Gerd-Kuh represent one of the most complete and easily accessible fossiliferous Lower Ordovician sections in the Alborz Mountains. The Tremadocian trilobites and brachiopods from Gerd-Kuh have not been previously a subject of detailed studies, although most of the taxa were documented by Ghobadi Pour (2006) from the Simeh-Kuh section, north-west of Damghan.

The Cambrian–Ordovician boundary in the Gerde-Kuh section is placed provisionally at the base of the monotonous unit of olive-green to dark grey mudstones. In the absence of diagnostic fossils it is made by comparison with the Simeh-Kuh and Deh-Molla sections situated eastwards, where the characteristic *Asaphellus inflatus–Dactylocephalus* trilobite association was reported at the lower part of the mudstone unit (Ghobadi Pour 2006, 2011a, 2011b).

Based on superficial similarities, in previous studies the Lower Ordovician deposits were usually assigned to the Lashkarak Formation; however, Ghobadi Pour *et al*. (2011c) recently demonstrated that

the Lashkarak Formation, as it was originally defined by Gansser and Huber (1962), is confined only to the Middle (Darriwilian) and Upper Ordovician and it is separated by the widespread disconformity from the underlying Ordovician sediments. The Ordovician age was inferred by some researchers for the Mila Formation Member 5 (Peng *et al*. 1999; Bruton *et al*. 2004); however, it remains informal unit, which has no defined boundaries. Therefore, pending a general revision of the early Palaeozoic lithostratigraphy of the Alborz Region, we presently do not refer the Lower Ordovician sediments exposed in Gerd-Kuh to any existing formal lithostratigraphical unit.

The Ordovician part of the studied succession is underlain by characteristic '*Cruziana* sandstones', which is the unit of horizontal and cross-laminated fine to medium grained quartzose and arkosic sandstones, up to 32 m thick, with a few beds of silty argillites in the lower part and billingsellid shell beds in the middle and upper part. The upper 10 m of the unit contain *Skolithos* and *Cruziana* trace fossils. The overlying Tremadocian succession comprises 93.3 m of dark-grey argillites and siltstones.

The faunal succession within the unit is represented by three distinct trilobite associations that define, in ascending order, the *Vachikaspis insueta*, *Kayseraspis* sp. and *Asaphellus fecundus—Taihungshania miqueli* zones. Brachiopods are represented by the monotaxic *Tarfaya* Association, which co-occurs with trilobites indicative of the *Vachikaspis insueta* and *Kayseraspis* sp. zones, and by the low diversity *Paralenorthis–Xinanorthis* Association, which occurs with trilobites that are characteristic of the *Asaphellus fecundus–Taihungshania miqueli* Zone. The recurrent *Protambonites* Association re-appears three times through the studied sequence (Fig. 1; 50.1–51.23 m, 63.3–64.8 m and 66.2–68.6 m above the top of *Cruziana* sandstones'). It occurs in sandstone units representing shoal complexes, which were deposited during episodes of the maximum shallowing of the basin. The Tremadocian argillites are overlain with a sharp, uneven boundary by quartzose sandstones with shell beds comprised broken, disarticulated valves of the organophosphatic brachiopod *Thysanotos multispinulosus* Popov *et al*., 2008, suggesting the Floian age (Figs. 1, 2).

BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND CORRELATION

The biostratigraphical study of the Tremadocian trilobite succession in the eastern Alborz enables us to develop formal biostratigraphic framework with five successive trilobite zones. The trilobite zones proposed below are based on the regional occurrences of well-characterised taxa, with the base of each zone defined by the first documented occurrence of the eponymous species and with the top placed at the base of the overlying zone (Fig. 2). Two lowermost trilobite biostratigraphic subdivisions, namely *Asaphellus inflatus–Dactylocephalus* and *Psilocephalina lubrica–Asaphopsis elhameae* zones, are not represented in the Gerd-Kuh section and they are characterised from the previously studied trilobite successions in Simeh-Kuh and Deh-Molla (Ghobadi Pour 2006, 2011a, 2011b).

The *Asaphellus inflatus–Dactylocephalus* Zone. This is the lowermost Ordovician biostratigraphical unit defined in the eastern Alborz. In the Deh-Molla and Simeh-Kuh sections *Asaphellus inflatus* Lu, 1962 appears in the lower part of the argillite unit, somewhat above the boundary with cross-bedded '*Cruziana* sandstones'. The characteristic trilobite assemblage includes also *Chashania chashanensis* Lu and Shu in Zhou et al., 1977; *Chungkingaspis sinensis* (Sheng, 1958); *Conophrys simehensis* (Ghobadi Pour, 2006); *Dactylocephalus mehriae* Ghobadi Pour, 2006 and *Geragnostus* cf. *yangtzeensis* Lu, 1975. Remarkably, except *Conophrys simehensis* (Ghobadi Pour, 2006) and *Dactylocephalus mehriae* Ghobadi Pour, 2006, which are endemic for Alborz, all other taxa also occur in South China where they are confined to the *Asaphellus inflatus—Dactylocephalus* Zone (Peng 1990a, Zhou and Zhen 2009).
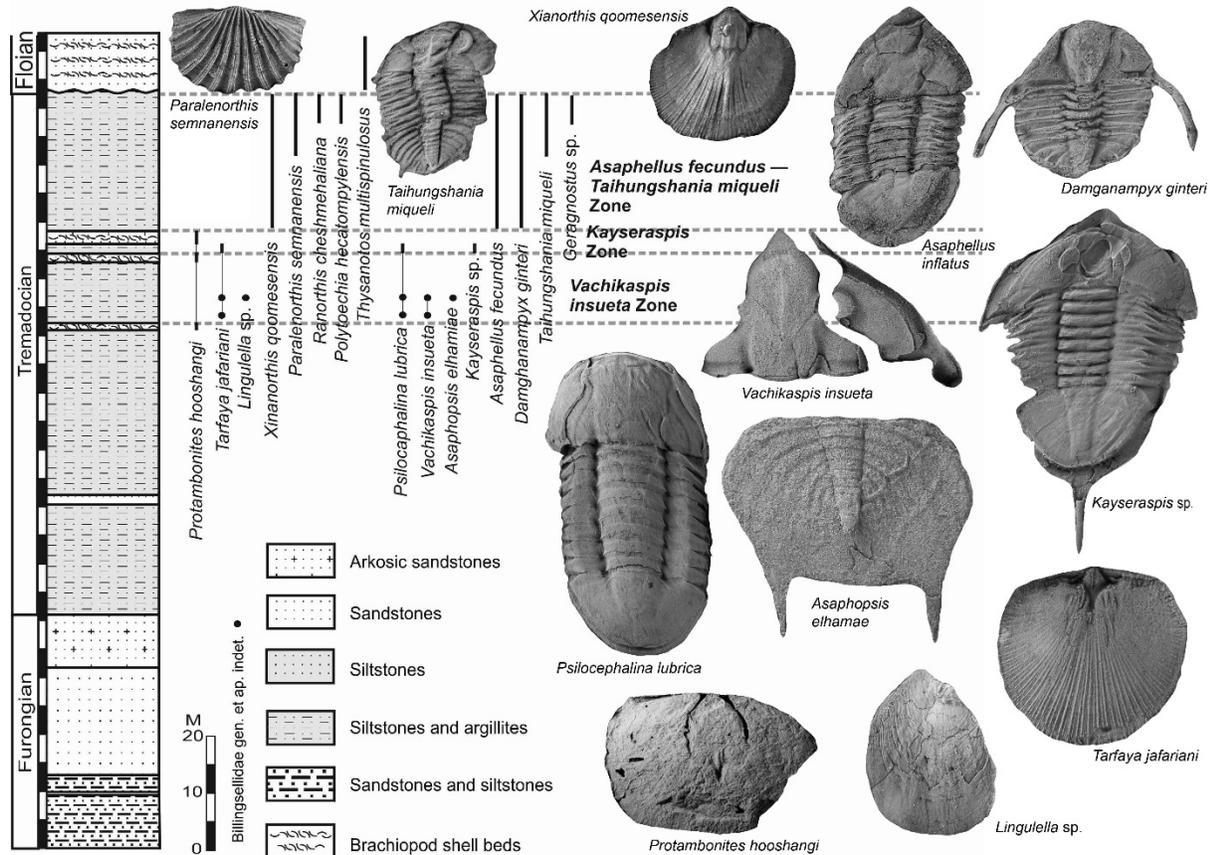
Figure 1. Stratigraphic column showing the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary beds in the Gerd-Kuh section, with sampled fossiliferous horizons, stratigraphic ranges of selected trilobite and brachiopod species and photographic images of characteristic trilobite and brachiopods species.

The *Psilocephalina lubrica* Zone. This zone contains the richest and most diverse trilobite fauna within studied stratigraphical interval. In addition to the eponymous taxa it includes *Geragnostus sidenbladhi jafari* Ghobadi Pour, 2006, *Apatokephalus* sp., *Asaphellus* sp., *Conophrys simehensis*, *Kayseraspis ghavideli* Ghobadi Pour, 2006 and *Presbynileus*? *biroonii* Ghobadi Pour, 2006. Only *Conophrys simehensis* is a holdover from the *Asaphellus inflatus—Dactylocephalus* Zone, whereas all other species are newcomers. *Psilocephalina lubrica* and species of *Asaphopsis* are common in the *Tungzuella* Zone of South China (Peng 1990b), where they are also associated with species of *Apatokephalus* and *Geragnostus*, while species endemic to the Alborz Region constitute a core of the assemblage. In the Deh-Molla section, *Asaphopsis elhamae* is present in abundance in the tempestite shell beds. Here it occurs together with conodonts characteristic of the *Paltodus deltifer* Zone (Ghobadi Pour 2011a, 2011b).

The *Vachikaspis insueta* Zone. This is the lowermost biostratigraphical unit recognised in the Tremadocian of the Gerd-Kuh section (Fig. 1; 54.1–65.8 m above the top of the '*Cruziana* sandstones'). In Gerd-Kuh, the eponymous species form an oligotaxic association with *Asaphopsis elhamae* and *Psilocephalina lubrica*, of which extend down into the *Psilocephalina lubrica–Asaphopsis elhamae* Zone. The zone is marked by a substantial decrease in trilobite diversity, with *Vachikaspis insuetis* forming a monotaxic association in the Simeh-Kuh section. The interval of the *Vachikaspis insueta* Zone coincides

also with proliferation of the brachiopod *Tarfaya jafariani* Popov *et al*., 2009, which occurs in abundance through the whole interval and is also present in the succeeding *Kayseraspis* Zone.
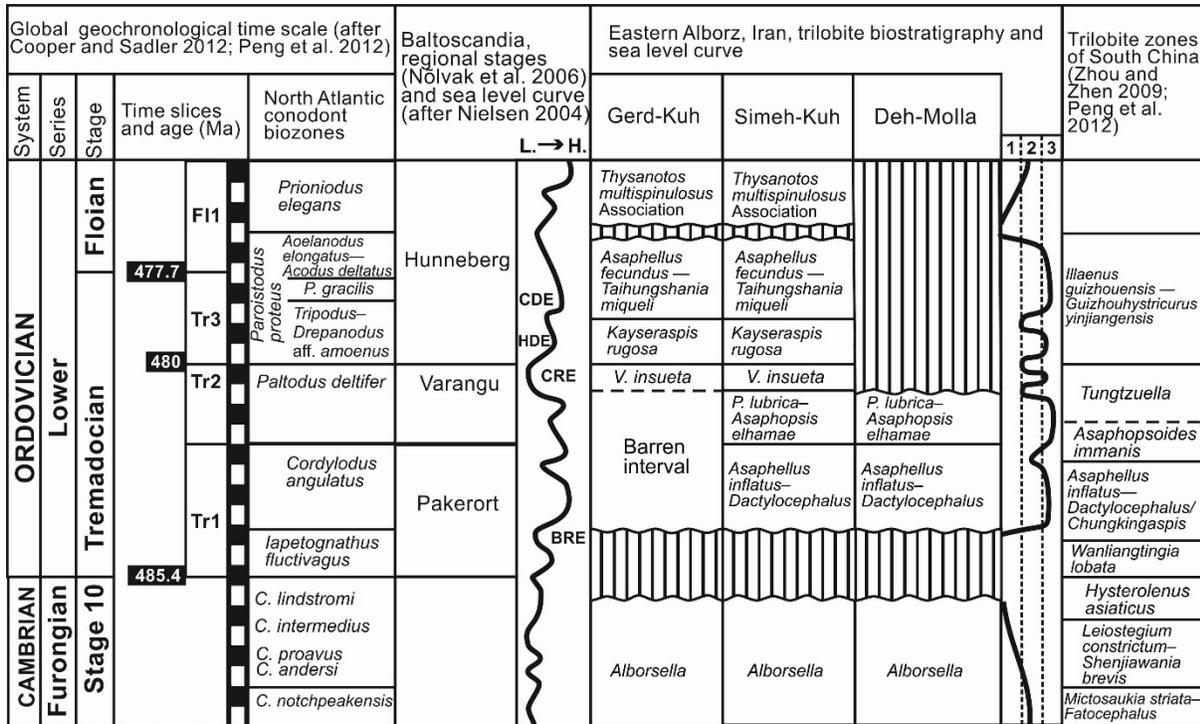
Figure 2. Chrono- and biostratigraphical chart of the uppermost Cambrian to Lower Ordovician (Tremadocian) strata of Eastern Alborz showing correlation with biostratigraphical trilobite succession of South China and North Atlantic conodont biozones. BRE, Black Mountain Regressive Event; CRE, Ceratopyge Regressive Event; HDE, Hagastrand Drowning Event; CDE, Copiosus Drowning Event; 1, peritidal zone; 2, inner shelf; 3, outer shelf.

The *Kayseraspis* Zone (65.8-69.6 above the top of the '*Cruziana* sandstones'). This zone coincides with the entire range of a new species of *Kayseraspis*, which is characterised by transverse ridges on the anterior part of the glabella. The assemblage also includes two holdovers from the underlying zone, *Psilocephalina lubrica* and *Vachikaspis insueta*. In Gerd-Kuh and Simeh-Kuh a substantial sea level drop resulted in formation of a shoal complex. In Simeh-Kuh the shell beds within this interval contain conodonts of the lowermost *Drepanoistodus* aff. *amoenus* Subzone of the *Paroistodus proteus* Zone (Ghobadi Pour *et al*. 2007).

The *Asaphellus fecundus–Taihungshania miqueli* Zone (69.6–93.3 m above the top of the '*Cruziana* sandstones'). In addition to the eponymous taxa, the characteristic zonal assemblage includes *Geragnostus* (*Geragnostella*) *lycaonicus*, *Damghanmpyx ginteri*, *Apatokephalus* sp. and *Euloma* sp. In Gerd Kuh, raphiophorid trilobite *Damghanmpyx ginteri* occurs in abundance and forms accumulations of isolated sclerites on the bedding surfaces. The uppermost Tremadocian age of the lower part of the *Asaphellus fecundus –Taihungshania miqueli* Zone is confirmed by the occurrence of the conodonts of the *Drepanoistodus* aff. *amoenus* Subzone of the *Paroistodus proteus* Zone (Ghobadi Pour *et al*. 2007) in

its lower part. However, it is likely that the upper part of the zone is of the Floian age. Outside Iran *Taihungshania miqueli* (Bergeron, 1894) was reported from the lower Floian of the Montagne Noire (Bergeron, 1894; Courtessole *et al*., 1981), the Seydişehir Formation of the eastern Taurus Mountains in central Turkey (Dean and Monod 1990) and the Rann Formation Lower Member of United Arab Emirates (Fortey *et al*. 2011). It seems that the first appearance of *Taihungshania miqueli* is slightly diachronous in various regions with the earliest documented occurrence in Iran (Ghobadi Pour *et al*. 2007).

TREMADOCIAN SUCCESSION OF GERD-KUH IN RELATION TO BASIN HISTORY

The latest Cambrian in the East Alborz Region was the time of a lowstand, characterised by deposition of cross-laminated quartzose sands with *Cruziana* and *Skolithos* trace fossils, as well as billingsellide brachiopod shell beds, within a nearshore shoal system. This sandstone unit can be widely recognised in eastern Alborz. The transition to the Ordovician coincided with a significant drowning event. In the absence of conodonts and graptolites, the precise timing of the initial flooding of the region cannot be defined, although correlation with the *Asaphellus inflatus–Dactylocephalus* Zone of the Tremadocian succession in South China suggests that it occurred during the *Cordylodus angulatus* Zone and was probably synchronous with the transgressive phase of the Black Mountain Eustatic Event of Miller (1984). In Gerd-Kuh, the background deposits through the entire Tremadocian interval are represented by dark-grey to olive-grey finely laminated mudstones and siltstones that were deposited with a net sedimentation rate c. 10 mm per millennium. No progradational or retrogradational patterns can be recognised, probably due to the extremely low supply of siliciclastic sediment. It is likely that in Gerd-Kuh, depositional sequences were controlled mainly by eustasy through the Tremadocian.

The magnitude of sea level rise at the beginning of the Tremadocian Age cannot be estimated based on the available data from the Gerd-Kuh section; however, it can be inferred from the occurrence of olenides and agnostides in the *Asaphellus inflatus–Dactylocephalus* Trilobite Association documented from the Deh-Molla and Simeh-Kuh sections. This association can be compared with the Olenid–*Asaphellus* biofacies as defined by Balseiro *et al*. (2011). In the Lower Ordovician of Cordillera Oriental, this biofacies occurs in the upper offshore to offshore-transition environments.

The succeeding trilobite associations of the *Psilocephalina lubrica—Asaphopsis elhamae*, *Vachikaspis*, *Kayseraspis* zones are dominated by nileid taxa and can be considered to be part of the open-shelf nileid biofacies (Ghobadi Pour 2006). A trilobite association of the *Asaphellus fecundus–Taihungshania miqueli* Zone was assigned to the raphiophorid biofacies (Ghobadi Pour *et al*. 2007), which were confined to an outer shelf environment between the distal part of the upper offshore and the proximal part of the lower offshore (Vidal 1998). Outer shelf background sedimentation was interrupted four times by increased influx of coarser clastics. These resulted in deposition of four distinct sandstone units about 1.5-2 m thick. The first unit is situated within the barren interval and does not contain indicative fossils, whereas three upper sandstone beds comprise medium to coarse, calcareous sandstones with a parallel and low angle cross-bedding, and with brachiopod shell beds formed mainly by disarticulated valves of *Protambonites*. Deposition of these sandstones took place in a turbulent environment near-shore, above the fair-weather wave base, probably within shoal systems.

Sedimentary facies and associated biofacies in Gerd-Kuh suggest that outer shelf environments well below the fair-weather wave base prevailed in the area during the Tremadocian Epoch. Three regressive

episodes with possible amplitudes of a few tens metres occurred in the late Tremadocian within a relatively short time interval from the base of the *Vachikaspis insueta* Zone to the base of the *Asaphellus fecundus–Taihungshania miqueli* Zone. The trilobite based correlation suggests that successive regressions occurred within the uppermost part of the *Paltodus deltifer* Conodont Zone and the lower part of the *Drepanoistodus* aff. *amoenus* Subzone of the *Paroistodus proteus* Conodont Zone. It is probable that deposition on the seafloor was inhibited for considerable time during lowstand intervals, which is supported by sharp and sometime erosional contacts with overlying argillites, while there is no evidence of aerial exposure of sediments.

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Ordovician temperature trends: constraints from $\delta^{18}O$ analysis of conodonts from New South Wales, Australia

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ABSTRACT: The argument that temperature change and biological change during the Ordovician are correlated and, perhaps, causally related has been advanced by measurements of $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values on conodont apatite, a phase more resistant to diagenetic alteration than carbonates. However, the available conodont $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ records are discontinuous and are biased towards North American samples. To test the generality of global patterns and to expand the geographical range of studied regions, we document $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values from conodont apatite as well as $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{18}O_{calcite}$ values from bulk carbonate from New South Wales, Australia. New results span most of the Ordovician and include the first Late Ordovician phosphate $\delta^{18}O$ values from the Australian continent. The data from New South Wales show an ~1. 5‰$_{VSMOW}$ increase in $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values during the Early and Middle Ordovician. This pattern matches previously documented trends from Laurentia and central Australia, but values in New South Wales are consistently ~2. 5‰$_{VSMOW}$ lower than those from other regions. We attribute these low $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values to local paleoceanographic effects on the seawater $\delta^{18}O$ value.

INTRODUCTION

Critical to recent advances in documentation of the history of Ordovician sea water surface temperatures is the fact that $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values in conodont apatite are more resistant to diagenetic overprinting than are carbonate $\delta^{18}O$ values. Currently available $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ data for the Ordovician are strongly biased towards North American studies, with only limited research conducted in Gondwana (e. g. Trotter et al. 2008). Data from both northern Gondwana and Laurentia, which were located in similar tropical to lower temperate zones but widely separated by the Paleo-Pacific Ocean, are important to recognizing and confirming global climatic trends. This study, for the first time, reports oxygen isotopic results for conodonts from Ordovician limestones in New South Wales. These limestones are part of the Tasmanides and form part of the eastern third of Australia, encompassing Paleozoic rocks accreted to the Precambrian cratons and overlying Early to Middle Paleozoic intracratonic basins of the Australian Plate. The dataset includes analyses of 25 samples ranging in age from Tremadoc limestones of the Delamerian continental margin in the far west of the state through Floian, Darriwilian, Sandbian and Katian limestones of the Macquarie Volcanic Province in the central west of New South Wales (Fig. 1A). The latter are the youngest Ordovician limestones sampled for conodont apatite in Australia and provide temperature constraints for an interval of proposed climatic cooling and glaciation.

SAMPLING AND ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

The oldest (mid-Tremadocian) sample and two samples from the Floian Stage are limestones from the Koonenberry Belt in far western New South Wales, between the city of Broken Hill and the town of Wilcannia. The Koonenberry Belt consists of latest Precambrian and early Paleozoic sedimentary rocks onlapping the Proterozoic cratonic margin of Australia in the vicinity of Broken Hill. The other 22 limestone samples are from the Macquarie Volcanic Province in the central part of New South Wales in the vicinity of the cities of Orange, Parkes, Wellington, and Cowra. These limestones represent flanking carbonate deposits around contemporaneous emergent and semi-emergent volcanic islands; most are in situ, but some are allochthonous blocks that were reworked from the shelf edge into deeper water slope sediments.

Oxygen isotope analyses were performed on monospecific samples of ~40 conodont elements (with a CAI ranging from 2- 4) while bulk carbonate carbon and oxygen isotopic ratios were measured from the limestones yielding these conodont elements. The ten conodont species analyzed include; *Belodina confluens, Bergstroemognathus extensus, Erraticodon patu, Juanognathus variabilis, Panderodus gracilis, Periodon macrodentatus, Phragmodus undatus, Protopanderodus*? *nogamii, Triangulodus emanuelensis,* and *Yaoxianognathus ani*. Conodont samples were prepared for oxygen isotopic analysis by isolating the PO_4^{3-} anion using techniques modified from O'Neil et al. (1994) and LaPorte et al. (2009) as described by Quinton and MacLeod (2014). Samples were analyzed on a continuous flow Thermo-Finnigan Delta Plus XL gas source mass spectrometer connected to a Thermo-Finnigan TC-EA high-temperature conversion-elemental analyzer set to 1400°C during analytical runs. Values for each run were corrected using the international NBS-120c standard. Corrected values correspond to a value of 22. 6‰$_{VSMOW}$ for NBS-120C and external precision is ±0. 3‰$_{VSMOW}$ (1 standard deviation) based on results for this standard. All values are reported on the VSMOW-scale.

Bulk carbonate carbon and oxygen isotopic ratios were measured from 24 micritic rock chips selected from 2-3 kg limestone samples collected in the field. Samples were analyzed on a Kiel III Carbonate device connected to a Thermo-Finnigan Delta Plus isotope ratio mass spectrometer. Bulk carbonate carbon and oxygen results are reported in standard δ–notation as per mil (‰) values on the VPDB-scale and are corrected to a nominal value of 1. 95‰ ($\delta^{13}C$) and -2. 20‰ ($\delta^{18}O_{calcite}$) for the within-run average of replicates of the NBS-19 standard run with the samples. External precision based on 1 standard deviation of the uncorrected values for NBS-19 run throughout the course of the study is ±0. 04‰$_{VPDB}$ for carbon and ±0. 06‰$_{VPDB}$ for oxygen.

RESULTS

Measured oxygen isotopic values from conodonts range from 13. 6‰$_{VSMOW}$ to 16. 5‰$_{VSMOW}$ with an average of 15. 1‰$_{VSMOW}$ and show an increase of ~1. 5‰$_{VSMOW}$ from the Early to Middle Ordovician, whereas $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values for the Late Ordovician range from 15. 4‰$_{VSMOW}$ to 17. 5‰$_{VSMOW}$ with an average of 16. 8‰$_{VSMOW}$ (Fig. 1B). No trends are evident in either the carbon or oxygen isotopic results from bulk carbonates (Table 1). Measured $\delta^{13}C$ values range from −6. 6‰$_{VPDB}$ to 1. 6‰$_{VPDB}$ with an average of −0. 4‰$_{VPDB}$. The $\delta^{18}O_{calcite}$ values range from −18. 3‰$_{VPDB}$ to −6. 1‰$_{VPDB}$ with an average of -10. 3‰$_{VPDB}$. As is common in early Paleozoic samples, oxygen isotope measurements from the bulk carbonate are quite low with wide fluctuations and likely reflect diagenetic overprinting. This concern about the fidelity of the $\delta^{18}O_{calcite}$ values is a primary justification for measuring phosphate $\delta^{18}O$ values.

DISCUSSION

Conodont apatite $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values from New South Wales record an increase of ~1. 5‰ through the Early to Middle Ordovician (Fig. 1B). Our results expand the Australian conodont $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ dataset considerably, not only in the much greater number of samples analyzed, but also in their age range. New samples analyzed range in age from the mid-Tremadocian to the late Katian. Additionally, our samples are from a paleogeographic location removed from Laurentia and allow for a global comparison of Ordovician $\delta^{18}O$ trends.

Table 1. —Bulk carbonate $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{18}O_{calcite}$ values from New South Wales, Australia.

Sample ID	Zone	Age (Ma)	$\delta^{13}C$	$\delta^{18}O_{calcite}$
MH23	Ea 4	448. 5	-6. 6	-11. 4
B4. 10	Ea 3 (Upper)	449. 0	1. 5	-8. 0
B4. 7	Ea 3	449. 6	1. 6	-7. 4
B4. 8	Ea 3	449. 6	1. 3	-7. 0
C861	Ea 3	450. 0	-0. 7	-6. 8
CH296. 7	Ea 2 (Upper)	450. 0	0. 0	-11. 6
CH299. 2	Ea 2 (Upper)	450. 0	-1. 8	-10. 7
CH269. 2	Ea 2 (Middle)	451. 0	-0. 1	-18. 3
TH2-1	Ea 2 (Middle)	451. 0	0. 0	-8. 6
CH57. 5	Ea 2	452. 0	-0. 3	-10. 3
DB42. 8	Ea 1 (Middle)	452. 5	1. 1	-7. 7
DB 45. 1	Ea 1 (Middle)	452. 5	-1. 9	-6. 7
DB 54. 1	Ea 1 (Middle)	452. 5	-1. 8	-7. 0
Top DB	Ea 1 (Middle)	452. 5	-4. 3	-6. 1
DB 16. 1	Ea 1 (Middle)	453. 5	1. 2	-7. 8
FH50. 5	Ea 1 (Lower)	454. 5	0. 7	-12. 4
FH115. 7	Ea 1 (Lower)	454. 5	1. 6	-10. 5
C1472	Gi 1	457. 0	0. 8	-11. 3
C1450	Gi 1	460. 0	1. 1	-12. 7
C1456	Gi 1	460. 0	-0. 4	-12. 4
C1458	Da 4	460. 5	-0. 7	-11. 7
C2346	Da 2	469. 0	-1. 5	-14. 1
C1481	Be 1	479. 0	-0. 3	-14. 7
C1481	Be 1	479. 0	-0. 3	-13. 3
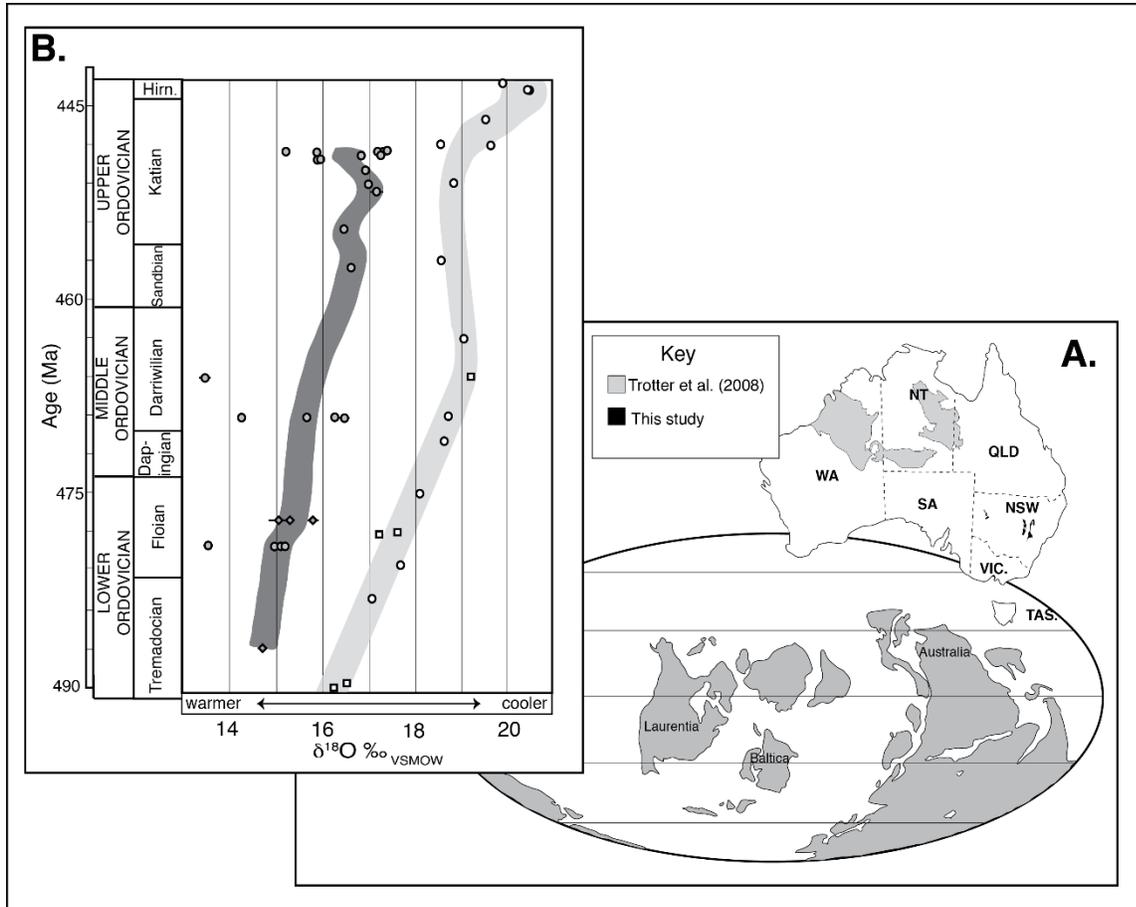
Figure 1. —**A. Global paleogeography of the Middle to Late Ordovician with a map of Australia showing sample locations from this study and Trotter et al. (2008). Australian state abbreviations are as follows; NSW= New South Wales, NT= Northern Territory, QLD= Queensland, SA= South Australia, TAS= Tasmania, VIC= Victoria, WA= Western Australia. B. New monospecific conodont apatite oxygen isotope ratios from the Koonenberry Belt (diamonds) and the Macquarie Volcanic Province (circles) and an average $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ curve for this study (dark gray) are plotted with previous single species and mixed conodont $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ results (light gray) from Newfoundland (open circles) and central Australia (open squares) from Trotter et al. (2008). Data from Trotter et al. (2008) renormalized to NBS 120c = 22. 6‰VSMOW.**

Although our sampling resolution is relatively coarse through the Lower and Middle Ordovician (due to the discontinuity of limestones within a volcanic-dominated succession, and the scarcity of conodonts), the size and direction of the shift towards higher average $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values agrees with the trends observed by Trotter et al. (2008). Those authors measured $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values using SIMS (secondary ion mass spectrometry) on single species and mixed conodont assemblages from three intracratonic basins in northern and central Australia (Georgina Basin – two samples, Canning Basin – two samples, and Amadeus Basin – one sample) spanning the Early to Middle Ordovician. That study, also incorporating analyses of younger Ordovician samples from Canada, revealed a progressive increase in $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values through the Early to Middle Ordovician which was interpreted as indicating cooling associated with, and possibly contributing to, the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event. That similar patterns are observed on separate continental blocks (Laurentia and Australia) and in distinct paleoceanographic settings: the epicontinental shallow carbonate platform of central Australia (Trotter et al. 2008) and in

fringing carbonates associated with volcanic islands of eastern Australia (this study), strengthens arguments that increasing $\delta^{18}O$ values through the Early and Middle Ordovician are global patterns.

There is significant scatter in $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values from New South Wales. For example, in the Katian where sampling density is highest, $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values fluctuate by up to 2. 1‰. The scatter could, in part, be a function of paleoecological differences among the conodont taxa analyzed, potentially due to depth partitioning within the water column. Paleoecological differences, however, cannot account for all of the scatter in the data as up to ~1. 5‰ differences are observed in $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values of conodont taxa within the same interval. A portion of the scatter among samples could reflect environmental differences (e. g. precipitation/evaporation rates) among sample localities or even intra- and interannual variability in temperature and/or salinity (Quinton and MacLeod, 2014). Alternatively, this variability could represent relatively rapid climatic fluctuations due to glacial and interglacial episodes (e. g. Elrick et al. 2013) though testing this possibility is beyond the resolution of samples available from the sections studied. The fact that up to ~2‰ variability around a relatively stable $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ average seems to be a common feature of high resolution $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ records from the Katian, even in studies where smaller scale climatic fluctuations could be resolvable (e. g. Buggisch et al. 2010; Quinton and MacLeod 2014), suggests that glacial influences on temperature and seawater $\delta^{18}O$ values is not the only explanation possible for scatter in results.

The $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values from New South Wales are consistently ~2. 5‰ lower than those reported for correlative samples from elsewhere (Bassett et al. 2007; Trotter et al. 2008, Buggisch et al. 2010; Herrmann et al. 2011; Elrick et al. 2013; Quinton and MacLeod 2014). All these samples represent carbonate deposition in tropical to subtropical latitudes, but those from New South Wales (except that from the Koonenberry Belt) differ in that they were deposited in an oceanic back-arc basin setting rather than from intracratonic basins. The reason for the offset in $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values is unclear. One possible explanation involves locality-specific differences in the balance of evaporation, precipitation, and runoff from adjacent land areas which would influence the $\delta^{18}O$ values of local seawater and, thus, the $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values of conodonts living in these waters. Specifically, either excess evaporation in the epicontinental seas covering Laurentia and central Australia would increase seawater $\delta^{18}O$ values resulting in higher conodont $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values or freshwater input from the emergent islands of the Macquarie Volcanic Province could have resulted in seawater $\delta^{18}O$ values of this region being lower than open ocean values.

CONCLUSIONS

Oxygen isotopic ratios analyzed from conodont apatite from Ordovician limestones in New South Wales confirm trends obtained from other Ordovician conodont isotopic studies over the same chronostratigraphic intervals in central and northern Australia and Laurentia (Trotter et al. 2008; Quinton and MacLeod 2014). The New South Wales dataset shows an ~1. 5‰$_{VSMOW}$ increase in $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ through the Early and Middle Ordovician consistent with decrease in average sea surface temperatures. These results strengthen the argument that biodiversification in the first half of the Ordovician was associated with cooling. Katian $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ averages are relatively stable but values from different separates from the same sample can differ by up to 2‰. Similar within sample differences in $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values are observed in Darriwilian and Floian aged samples. The cause of this variability cannot be determined at the resolution of this study, but possible explanations include rapid climatic shifts, paleoceanographic differences, environmental variability, paleobiological factors relating to the conodont taxa analyzed. Finally, the

consistent ~2. 5‰ offset between the new data and previous studies from other regions suggests paleoceanographic effects led to large differences in seawater $\delta^{18}O$ values among regions.

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Early-Middle Darriwilian graptolite and conodont faunas from the Central Precordillera of San Juan Province, Argentina

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INTRODUCTION

The Precordillera of western Argentina is characterized by lower Paleozoic carbonate rocks, which includes conspicuous Lower-Middle Ordovician deposits overlain by Middle-Upper Ordovician black shales involving a hiatus related to the global Sandbian transgressive event. The relative dating of the units indicate a diachronous deposition of the succession, which begins in the upper Dapingian (*Isograptus maximus* Zone) in the north and ranges to the lower Darriwilian (*Levisograptus dentatus* Zone) in the south. The study sections from the Central Precordillera of San Juan Province, located to the south west and north east of Jáchal City, involve the Las Aguaditas Creek, Las Chacritas River, Oculta Creek, Potrerillo Hill and La Chilca Hill (Figure 1A). In the Jáchal area, the Ordovician System is extensively represented and has been the subject of many paleontological and geological studies (references in Albanesi et al. 2013).

The present contribution deals with early Darriwilian graptolites and index conodonts recorded from units that overlie the calcareous San Juan Formation (upper Tremadocian-lower Darriwilian), spanning the lower part of the Las Aguaditas, Gualcamayo and Los Azules formations, and the Las Chacritas Formation in their respective areas.

GRAPTOLITE FAUNA

At the Las Aguaditas Creek section graptolites were recorded from the basal strata of the lower member (*ca*. 23 m) of the Las Aguaditas Formation. Incomplete specimens of *Levisograptus* sp., *Xiphograptus* sp., *Acrograptus* sp. and *Holmograptus* sp. were recovered from the base of the formation. Few meters above this level, the richness increases with a graptolite association that includes *Tetragraptus bigsbyi*, *T.* cf. *serra*, *T. quadribrachiatus*, *Pseudophyllograptus* sp., *Xiphograptus* sp., *Acrograptus* sp., *Holmograptus bovis*, *Jiangshanites* sp., *Arienigraptus angulatus*, *Paraglossograptus tentaculatus*, *Cryptograptus antennarius*, *Levisograptus primus* and *Levisograptus* sp. Although the specimens of *Levisograptus* do not show much detail for a specific identification, this fauna can be referred to as the upper *Levisograptus dentatus* Zone considering the presence of *A. angulatus*. Moreover, conodonts from the *Yangtzeplacongathus crassus* Zone were recorded in these strata. *Paraglossograptus* and *Tetragraptus* are the most abundant taxa in the lower part of this formation. In the calcareous Las Chacritas Formation at Las Chacritas River section, a scarce graptolite fauna was recorded in association with conodonts of the *Y. crassus* and *E. pseudoplanus* zones, suggesting an early-middle Darriwilian age.

A diverse graptolite fauna was collected from the Gualcamayo Formation exposed in the La Chilca Hill. *Pseudobryograptus parellelus* is abundant in the lower calcareous unit and decreases upwards to the top strata, where *Levisograptus* becomes dominant. Graptolites and conodonts correspond to the *L. dentatus*
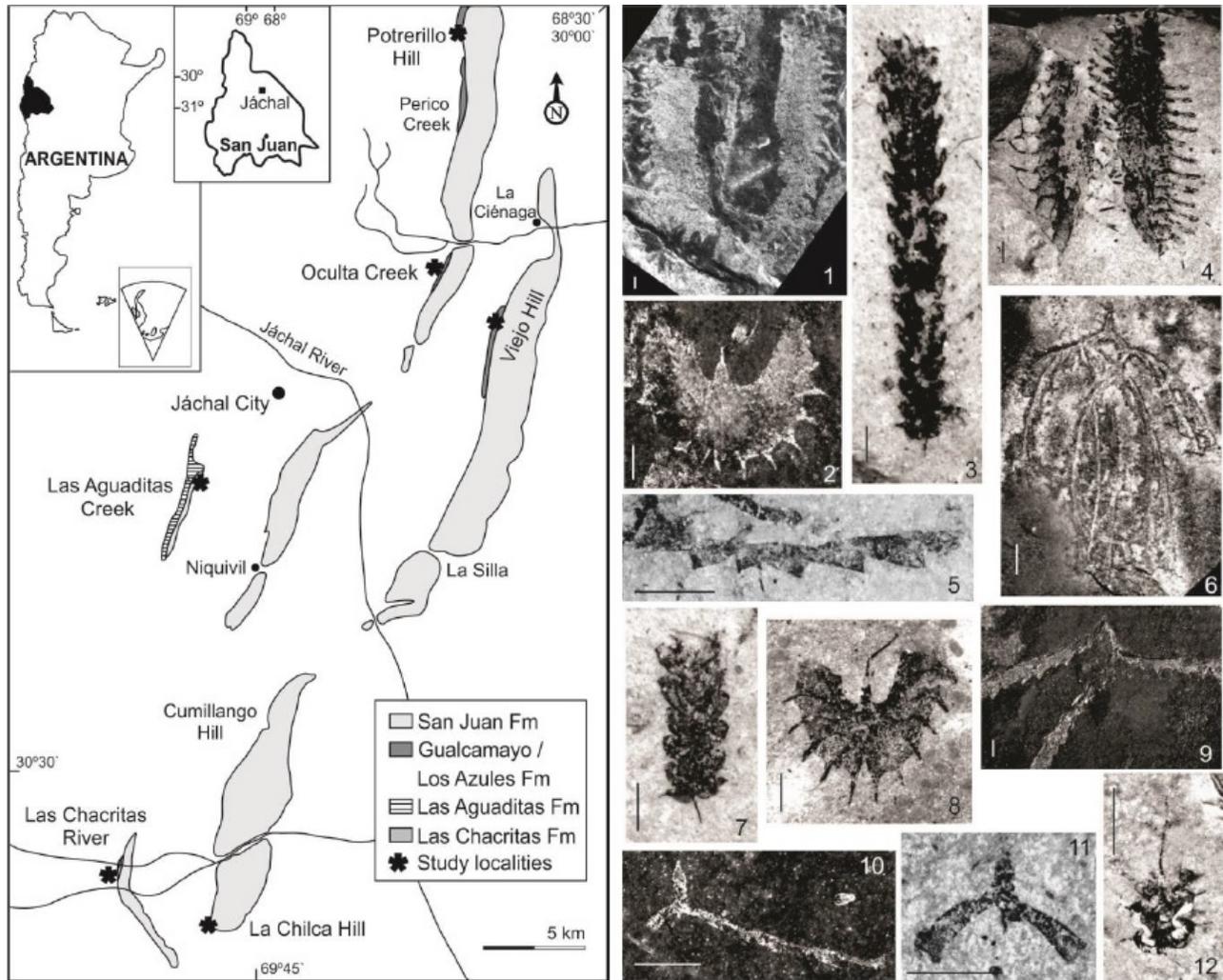
FIGURE 1. —A) Location map of the study areas. B) Early-Middle Darriwilian Graptolites. 1. *Tetragraptus* *bigsbyi* **(Hall), CORD-PZ 34533, Las Aguaditas Creek; 2.** *Arienigraptus angulatus* **Mu, CORD-PZ 25502, Las Aguaditas Creek; 3, 7.** *Levisograptus dentatus* **(Brongniart). 3. CORD-PZ 22347, La Chilca Hill, 7. CORD-PZ 22350, La Chilca Hill. 4.** *Paraglossograptus tentaculatus* **(Hall), CORD-PZ 22272, La Chilca Hill. 5.** *Xiphograptus* **sp., CORD-PZ 22292, La Chilca Hill. 6, 11** *Pseudobryograptus parallelus* **Mu. 6. CORD-PZ 14468, Potrerillo Hill, 11. CORD-PZ 22194, La Chilca Hill. 8.** *Parisograptus* **sp. CORD-PZ 22316, La Chilca Hill. 9.** *Tetragraptus acanthonotus* **(Gurley), CORD-PZ 23163, Potrerillo Hill. 10.** *Holmograptus bovis* **Williams and Stevens, CORD-PZ 25503, Las Aguaditas Creek. 12.** *Levisograptus sinicus* **(Mu and Lee), CORD-PZ 25664, Oculta Creek.**

and *Y. crassus* zones. In the lower Gualcamayo Formation at the Potrerillo Hill, a relatively poor graptolite assemblage of the *L. austrodentatus* Zone is followed by shales with abundant and diverse graptolites from the *L. dentatus* Zone (Ortega and Albanesi 2000). Conodonts from the *Y. crassus* Zone were also recovered; particularly, the presence of *Tetragraptus acanthonotus*, *P. parallelus*, and *Zygograptus* cf. *abnormis* suggests the lower *L. dentatus* Zone.

The lower member of the Los Azules Formation in the Oculta Creek contains a diverse graptolite assemblage that includes *T. quadribrachiatus*, *T. acanthonotus*, *Pseudotrigonograptus ensiformis*,

Acrograptus sp., *H. bovis*, *Xiphograptus lofuensis*, *Pseudobryograptus* sp., *Isograptus* cf. *divergens*, *Arienigraptus* sp., *Parisograptus caduceus, P. tentaculatus*, *L. sinicus*, *L. primus*, *L. austrodentatus*, and *L. dentatus*. This fauna could be referred to the lower *L. dentatus* Zone, early-middle Darriwilian in age. Typical conodonts of the *Y. crassus* Zone were recorded at the top of the San Juan Formation, immediately underlying the Los Azules Formation (Voldman, Albanesi, and Ortega 2013). In the Viejo Hill, the lower member of the Los Azules Formation contains a rich graptolite assemblage referred to the upper part of the *L. dentatus* Zone according to the presence of *A. angulatus* and *L. pungens*. Selected graptolites are illustrated in Figure 1B. The mentioned graptolite faunas are related with transgressive events that correspond to outer-platform facies, which suggests that these units represent a deep-outer shelf depositional environment.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the graptolite-conodont records, the black shales at different study areas can be referred to the early-middle Darriwilian *L. austrodentatus-L. dentatus* zones and the *Y. crassus* Zone. The occurrence of particular taxa, such as *P. parallelus*, *T. acanthonothus*, and *Z.* cf. *abnormis* suggests that the lower *L. dentatus* Zone is present in some localities of the Central Precordillera; e. g., the Oculta Creek, La Chilca Hill, and Potrerillo Hill. At the Las Aguaditas section, the upper *L. dentatus* Zone is identified by *A. angulatus*.

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Life on the edge in eastern Alaska: basal Ordovician (Tremadocian), platform-margin faunas of the Jones Ridge Formation

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INTRODUCTION

As the most fossiliferous and least deformed succession of unequivocally Laurentian lower Paleozoic strata in Alaska, the Jones Ridge Limestone has provided critical data for numerous stratigraphic studies (e. g. Palmer 1968; Harris et al. 1995; Dumoulin et al. 2002; Dumoulin and Harris 2012) focused on the Cambrian and Ordovician of northwestern North America/northeastern Laurentia (Figure 1). The Jones Ridge faunas are also significant in having provided the type material for some of the widespread and biostratigraphically useful latest Furongian and (perhaps) earliest Tremadocian species described by Kobayashi (1936) and Palmer (1968). Unfortunately, some of those taxa were based on very limited material for which, in the earlier study in particular, no detailed information regarding locality or stratigraphic horizon was provided. The limited amount of information and material available for study from Jones Ridge results largely from its remote location on the Yukon-Alaska boundary approximately 25km north of Eagle, Alaska, which renders it accessible only by helicopter. Parts of three field seasons (2010, 2011, and 2014) were invested in re-description and intensive sampling of the type section of the Jones Ridge Formation in order to produce an integrated and greatly refined set of biostratigraphic, chemostratigraphic, and sedimentological data. The new data support the interpretation offered by Palmer (1968) of the Jones Ridge strata as the product of deposition in outermost platform to upper slope environments offered by Palmer (1968) on the basis of taxonomic content of the faunas and close proximity of deep water units of equivalent age a very short distance to the southwest.

PREVIOUS WORK

Brabb (1967), in naming the formation, divided the Jones Ridge Limestone into two informal members of greatly unequal thickness. His lower member comprises nearly 900m of Cambrian to Lower Ordovician limestone and dolomite; the upper member consists of less than 20m of Upper Ordovician bioclastic grainstone. The unconformity at the base of the upper member, which omits the entire Middle Ordovician and at least some part of the Lower Ordovician, marks the top of the Sauk Megasequence (Harris et al. 1995; Dumoulin and Harris 2012). Palmer (1968) dealt almost exclusively with the Cambrian trilobite faunas, but his stratigraphic columns for the Jones Ridge Limestone also include the Lower Ordovician strata at the top of the lower member, and show at least the approximate stratigraphic position of all collections archived by the U. S. Geological Survey and Canadian Geological Survey at the time of his study.

In his correlation diagram, Palmer (1968, figure 2) shows more than 90m of Lower Ordovician strata. At that time, however, the top of the *Saukia* trilobite Zone served as the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary in Laurentian North America (Winston and Nicolls 1967). The faunas assigned to the Lower Ordovician at
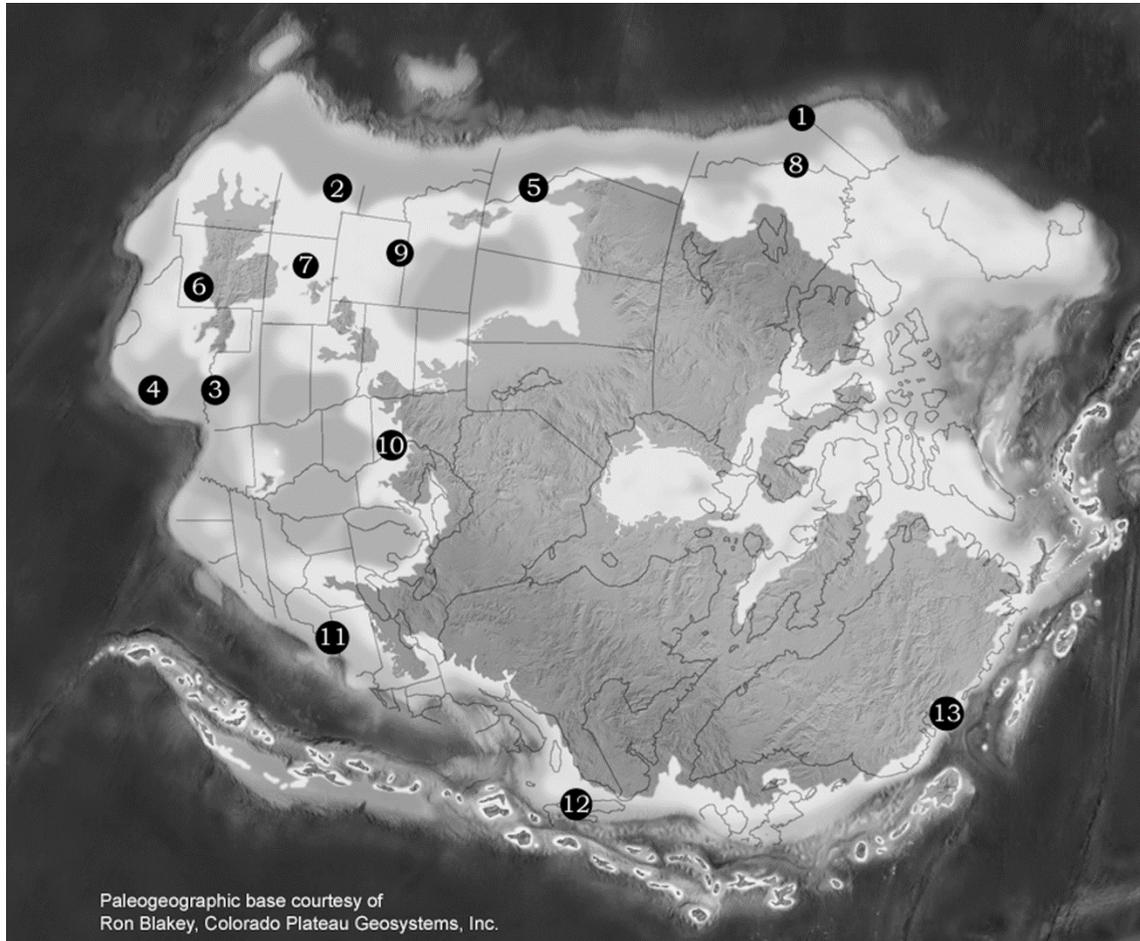
Figure 1. —Paleogeographic map showing locations in Laurentian North America where faunas of the Lower Ordovician *Symphysurina* Zone have been reported. 1 – Jones Ridge Formation, eastern Alaska, 2 – House Formation, Ibex area, western Utah, 3 – Mckenzie Hill Formation, southern Oklahoma, 4 –Wilberns Formation, central Texas, 5 – Survey Peak Formation, southern Alberta, 6 – Bliss Formation, New Mexico, 7 – Manitou Formation, Colorado, 8- Rabbitkettle Formation, District of Mackenzie, 9- Snowy Range Formation, northern Wyoming, 10- Oneota Dolomite, southern Minnesota, 11 – Stonehenge Formation, Maryland, 12 – Shallow Bay Formation, western Newfoundland, 13 – Antiklinalbugt Formation, northeast Greenland.

Jones Ridge represented the overlying *Missisquoia* and *Symphsurina* Zones. Relocation of the systemic boundary to the base of the *Iapetognathus* conodont Zone with ratification of the GSSP at Green Point Newfoundland (Cooper et al. 2001) raised the base of the Ordovician to the middle of the *Symphysurina* Zone, rendering the lower part of that zone and all of the underlying *Missisquoia* Zone as Cambrian. At that point, even the strata from which Kobayashi and Palmer reported *Symphysurina* could not confidently be assigned to the Ordovician. Harris et al. (1995) provided the first conclusive evidence of Lower Ordovician strata in the Jones Ridge Formation, reporting conodont faunas at least as young as the *Cordylodus angulatus* conodont Zone. The Jones Ridge column in their correlation chart, replicated in Dumoulin and Harris (2012), showed the Lower Ordovician part of the formation spanning the entire Tremadocian Stage and extending up into the basal Arenig, although no faunal collections were shown to support that broad a temporal range. Consequently, one of the primary objectives of the current project

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was to establish the thickness and age range of the Lower Ordovician strata preserved at the top of the lower member.

LITHOSTRATIGRAPHY

Detailed lithologic information recovered in recent years allows delineation of several new members within the original lower member of the Jones Ridge Formation. Although formal description of these new units falls outside the scope of this paper, three are introduced and treated briefly herein to provide context for the new faunal data. We propose the name Nimrod member for the package of Upper Ordovician limestone previously referred to only as the upper member of the Jones Ridge Limestone (Brabb, 1967; Rigby et al., 1988). These strata consist of medium- to thick-bedded, locally silicified, coarse-grained bioclastic grainstone. The contact between these strata and the overlying Road River Formation is poorly exposed and consists of a sharp transition from bioclastic limestone of the Nimrod member into mid-Wenlock interbedded chert, siltstone, and graptolitic shale (Blodgett et al., 1984). . The uppermost 200m of Cambrian and lowermost Ordovician strata that directly underlie the Nimrod member consist largely of fine-grained, nodular lime mudstone and wackestone that was deposited at, or just seaward of the platform margin. This interval is herein set apart as the Hi-Yu member. An interval roughly 125 meters thick, with abundant microbial reefs directly underlies the Hi-Yu member and is designated the Harrington Creek member. The Harrington Creek member consists of interbedded wackestone and minor packstone with m-scale microbial reefs that locally host *Girvanella* and *Epiphyton* fabrics. We propose the name Squaw Mountain member for the next subjacent package, which comprises approximately 120 meters of barren, burrow-mottled dolomicrite and massive recrystallized dolomite. The Squaw Mountain member is separated from an underlying ~400 m thick package of massive, thick-bedded dolostone by a profound paleokarst horizon. We tentatively refer to these underlying strata as the Funnel Creek Formation and separate them from the lower Jones Ridge Formation.

CONODONT BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

Conodonts were recovered from more than 15 horizons (Figure 2), 8 of them within the uppermost part of the Hi-Yu member that yields *Symphysurina*. So far, more than 500 elements have been recovered, documenting the presence at least part of three Furongian and two Tremadocian conodont zones. These collections, combined with the trilobite data, constrain the position of the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary to within less than 1. 5m and confirm that nearly 70m of Lower Ordovician strata are preserved below the unconformity that separates the Hi-Yu and Nimrod members. All of the recovered faunas thus far are dominated numerically by cosmopolitan taxa, most notably the species of *Cordylodus* and *Proconodontus*, as well as *Teridontus nakamurai* and *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis*.

 The recovery of a single element of *Granatadontus ani* 244m above the base of the section confirms an age at least as young as the *Proconodontus posterocostatus* Zone for that horizon. Four specimens of *Proconodontus muelleri* at 262. 5m and a single element of *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis* from 291m placed the bases of the *P. muelleri* and *Eoconodontus* Zones at least as low as shown in Figure 2. Perhaps significantly, 291m is also the lowest documented occurrence of Palmer's "Trempealeauan-2" trilobite fauna suggesting that the appearance of *E. notchpeakensis* coincided with the replacement of the "Trempealeauan-1" fauna with the "Trempealeauan-2" fauna. If this is the true FAD of *E. notchpeakensis* (which is far from certain given the recovery only 13 elements from lower horizons),
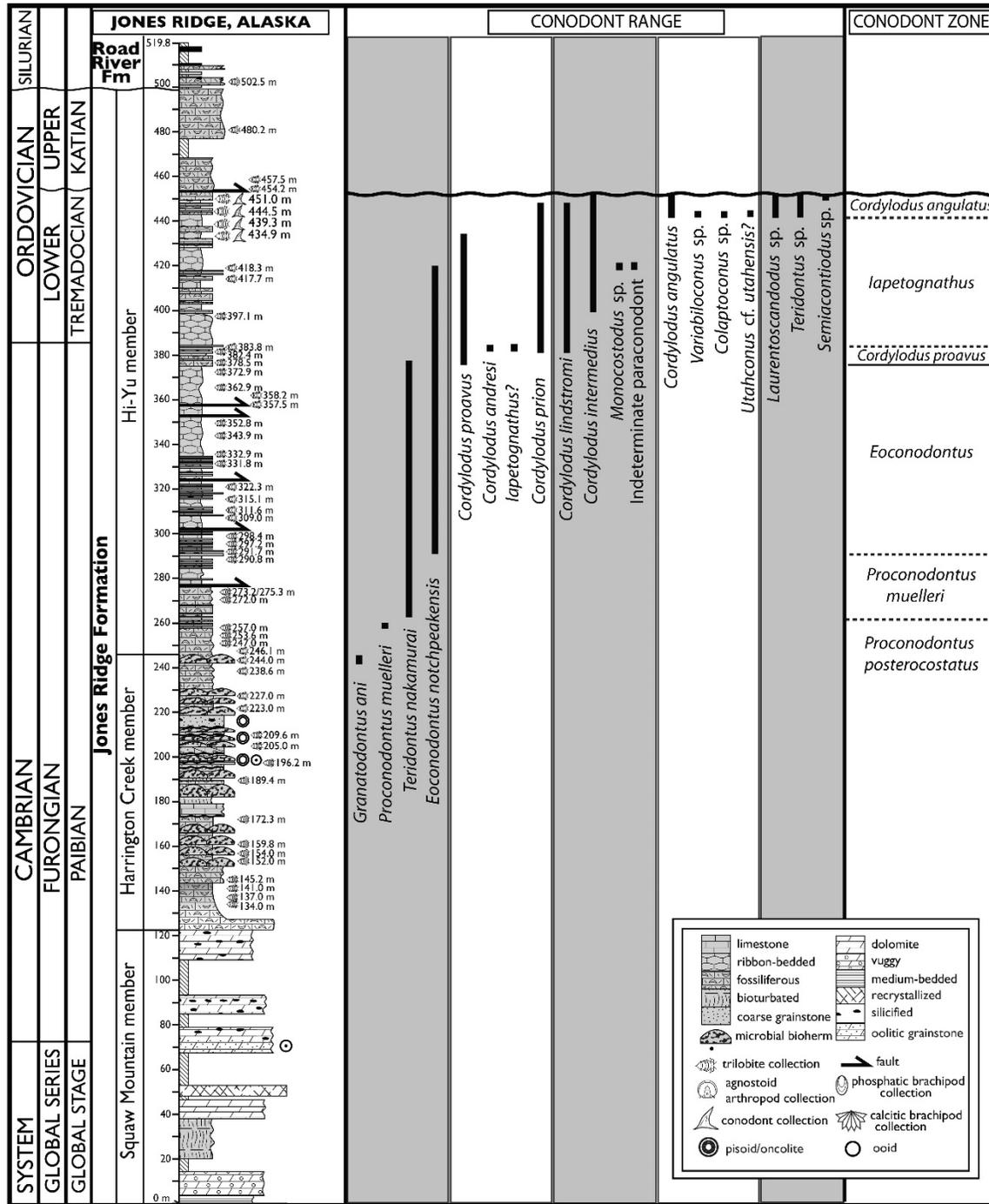
Figure 2. —Stratigraphic column and range chart showing new, informal member stratigraphy proposed for the uppermost 500m of the Jones Ridge Formation, the stratigraphic distribution of conodont species recovered, and conodont zones documented. *C. = Cordylodus. Procono. = Proconodontus.*

then the situation on the northern Laurentian slope is similar to that reported from the southern (Appalachian) slope by Miller et al. (2011) in advocating designation of the base of the *Eoconodontus* Zone for the base of the uppermost global stage (Stage 10) of the Cambrian System. There the FAD of *E. notchpeakensis* appears to coincide with the turnover between the *Kiethiella subclavata* and *Kiethiella schucherti* trilobite Faunas of Ludvigsen et al. (1989).

Conodont collections from the upper 70m of the Hi-Yu member (Figure 2) represent three Ibexian conodont zones and reveal a significant gap in the zonal succession. A large (more than 100 element) collection from 383.8m is provisionally assigned to the *Iapetognathus* Zone on the basis of two small specimens identified here as *Iapetognathus?* sp. The presence of several specimens of *Cordylodus lindstromi* confirms that the collection is no older than the underlying *C. lindstromi* Zone. The trilobite genus *Ptychopleurites* dominates the fauna from 382.4, assigning that horizon to the uppermost Cambrian *Tangshanaspis* trilobite Zone (formerly known as the *Missisquoia depressa* Subzone of the *Missisquoia* Zone), a unit that lies entirely within the basal, *Hirsutodontus hirsutus* Subzone of the *Cordylodus proavus* Zone. Consequently, the upper two zones of the *C. proavus* Zone, the entire *C. intermedius* Zone, and (most likely) the *C. lindstromi* Zone are not represented in the Jones Ridge succession. The two highest collections from the Hi-Yu member (444.5m and 451 m) contain *Cordylodus angulatus* and are assigned to the *C. angulatus* Zone, apparently the youngest Tremadocian biozone at Jones Ridge.

TRILOBITE BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

Spacing of macrofossil collections through the Furongian was improved nearly an order of magnitude over the reconnaissance-level resolution of earlier studies, reducing the spacing of productive horizons from every 50-60 meters on average (Palmer 1968) to approximately every 6-7 meters (Figure 3). All Furongian faunas identified by Palmer (1968) were recovered and supplemented with additional taxa that were not present in his collections. The refined sampling also documented a fauna that Palmer did not report from Jones Ridge in the interval between his "Dresbachian-2" (Paibian) and "Trempealeauan-1" (Jiangshanian?) faunas. The focus of this paper, however, is the Ibexian faunas assigned to the Ordovician in earlier work. As previously noted, the *Ptychopleurites*-bearing, *Tangshanaspis* Zone fauna of Kobayashi (1936) was resampled and its range established (Figure 3). All younger collections from the Hi-Yu member are assigned to the *Symphysurina* Zone and are dominated by the eponymous genus. Some collections also contain a few specimens of other taxa known from the *Symphysurina* Zone elsewhere, including *Highgatella* and at least two hystricurine genera.

The new collections reveal a much higher species diversity for *Symphysurina* than reported by Kobahayashi (1936), who reported only two species: *S. spicata* and *S.* cf. *S. woosteri*, two of the many species within this genus that display a prominent pygidial spine. At least five different species of *Symphysurina* with spinose pygidia are represented in the new collections. One strongly resembles *S, spicata,* but is more likely to represent a somewhat younger species. None compare favorably with *S. woosteri.* At least three other species of the genus without a pygidial spine are also present , two of which are very similar to (although probably not conspecific with) *S. elegans* and *S. porifera* from basal Ordovician strata in northeast Greenland (McCobb et al. 2014). Although no conodont data have been recovered from the interval where *S. elegans* occurs, its association with such very basal Ordovician trilobite genera as *Tulepyge* and *Chasbellus* indicates close age equivalence with *S.* cf. *S. elegans* from the Jones Ridge. Conodonts were recovered from the beds that yield *S. porifera* in northeast Greenland and confirm that, like *S.* cf. *S. porifera* at Jones Ridge, it occurs in the *Cordylodus angulatus* Zone. The striking morphologic similarity and stratigraphic position of the two species from Jones Ridge and the two Greenland species suggests that a distinct sub-province of the Laurentian faunal province existed at the easternmost margin of that paleocontinent during deposition of the upper part of the *Symphysurina* Zone. Continued work on the Jones Ridge *Syphysurina* Zone collections may provide a rigorous test of that hypothesis, particularly as the associated hystricurine taxa are described and compared with the unique hystricurines of the Greenland succession.
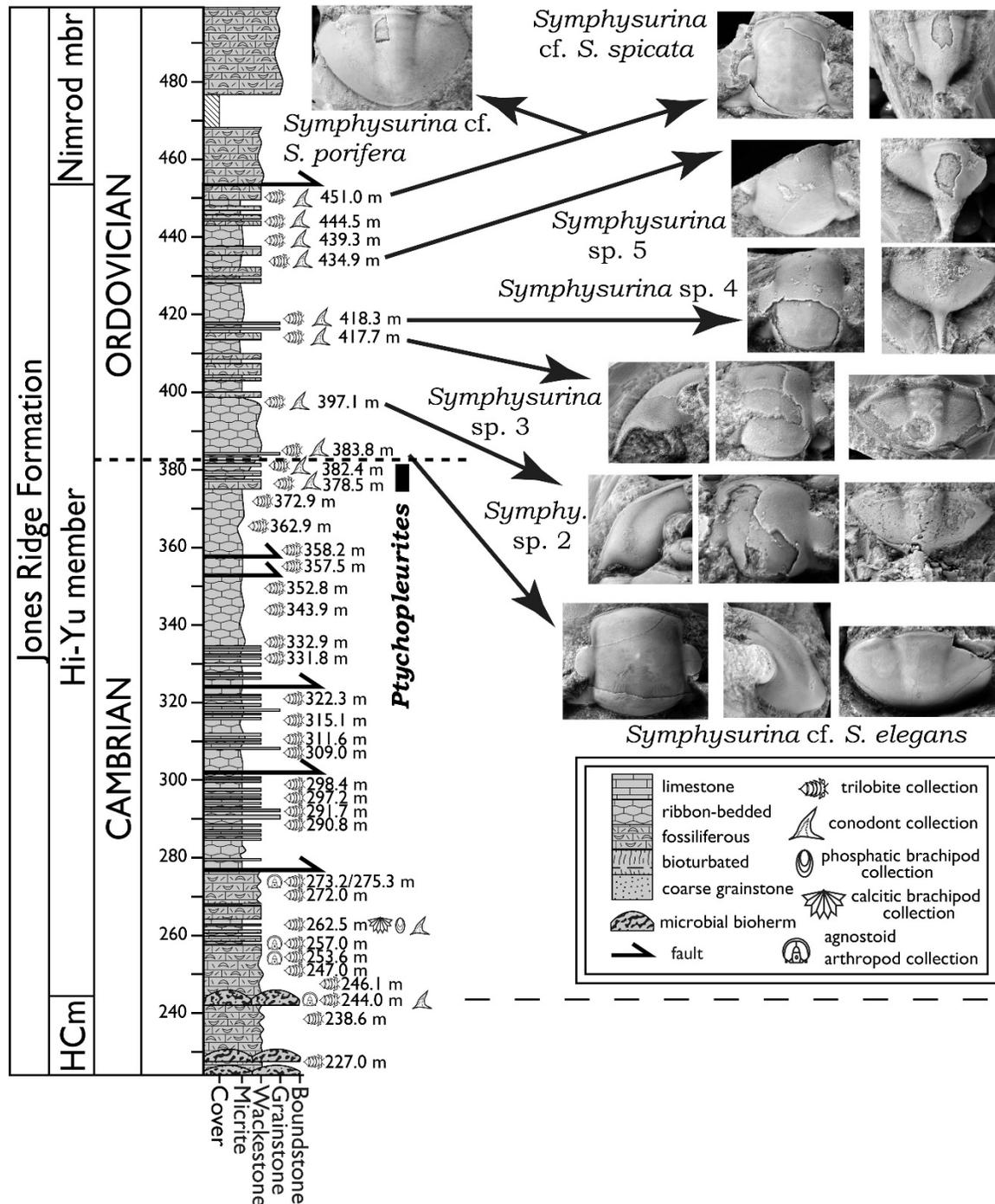
Figure 3. —Stratigraphic column showing lithologies and selected horizons from which new faunal collections were recovered in the uppermost Harrington Creek and Hi-Yu members of the Jones Ridge Formation. HCm identifies uppermost beds of Harrington Creek member. Black bar denotes vertical range established for uppermost Cambrian trilobite genus *Ptychopleurites*. Large arrows link photos of the six species of *Symphysurina* recovered from Tremadocian strata at the top of the Hi-Yu member with the specific horizons where they occur.

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New conodont records from the Rinconada Formation, eastern margin of the Argentine Precordillera: Tectono-stratigraphic implications

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INTRODUCTION

The Rinconada Formation is a *ca*. 3750 m-thick mélange that records a period of instability in the Lower Paleozoic basin of the Argentine Precordillera; nevertheless, its origin and geological setting are a matter of debate (Heim, 1948; Amos, 1954; Peralta, 1993; Gosen *et al.,* 1995; Peralta, 2013a). The mélange crops out along the eastern flank of the Villicum, Zonda and Pedernal ranges (Fig. 1) and is mainly made of mudstones, locally containing sandstone-mudstone alternations, conglomerates and up to km-scale blocks. The age of the formation is controversial because of the inherent reworked character of its components and the difficulty to detect autochthonous (coeval) fossils amongst the reworked material. In order to improve the understanding of the sedimentary history and the provenance of the mélange, we conducted an integrated study of the Rinconada Formation consisting of a systematic conodont sampling coupled with detailed structural and sedimentological studies. Twenty-four conodont samples obtained from carbonate-cemented sandstones, conglomerates and olistoliths were processed following standard laboratory techniques. All the conodont samples present a CAI around 3, which corresponds to burial temperatures of about 110-200 °C (Epstein *et al.,* 1977), and commonly display sugary textures with scarce mineral overgrowths and common fractures. For the conodont zonation of the Precordillera and its global correlation, we followed the recent biostratigraphic schemes of Benedetto *et al.* (2007), Cooper and Sadler (2012), Albanesi *et al.* (2013) and Serra *et al.* (2015) (Fig. 2).

PREVIOUS WORK

On the basis of the Potrerillos section, Peralta and Medina (1986) distinguished three members in the Rinconada Formation: a late Darriwilian - early Sandbian lower pelitic (mudstone dominated) member which includes carbonate blocks, a Silurian psammitic (sandy) middle member and an Early Devonian upper siltstone member. Cuerda (1981) described a graptolitic association composed of *Climacograptus* cf. *minutus*, *Diplograptus* sp. and *Monograptus* sp., whose referred age, Early Silurian age (Llandovery), is consistent with previous reports. Benedetto and Franciosi (1998) described from the upper levels of the Rinconada Formation Wenlock brachiopods, which correlated with specimens recovered from the Tambolar Formation at Pachaco. Peralta (1993) and Gosen *et al.* (1995) assigned a Silurian age to the Rinconada Formation, although the latter authors did not rule out an Ordovician age for parts of the unit. In the El Martillo Creek section (Rinconada area), Dorn (1993) obtained a total thickness of 2100 m for the Rinconada Formation, and distinguished a lower olistostromic unit, 1600 m in thickness, of uncertain age, and an upper 500 m-thick interval of alternations of greenish and purplish sandstones, mudstones,

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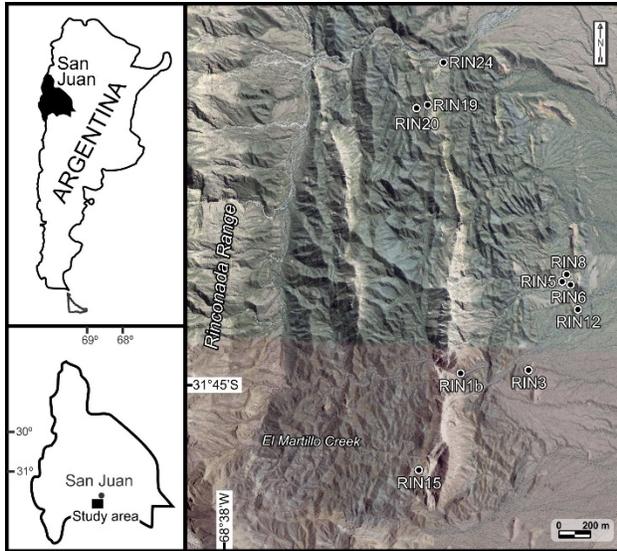
Figure 1: Location map and Google Earth satellite image of the study area.

ferruginous intervals and olistoliths, which would correspond to middle member of Peralta and Medina (1986). Sarmiento *et al.* (1986) studied a conodont fauna from the top of the San Juan Formation and the base of the Rinconada Formation, which they attributed to the middle Darriwilian (early Llanvirn). Peralta and Uliarte (1986) supported this age with graptolites from the base of the Rinconada Formation and interpreted that a gradual transition exists with the underlying San Juan Limestones, yet those carbonates correspond to allochthonous blocks. Also, in the Rinconada area, Lehnert (1995) obtained an early Darriwilian conodont assemblage (*Histiodella sinuosa* Zone) from the top of the San Juan Formation. This author also reported early-middle Darriwilian conodonts from the limestone pebbles of carbonate conglomerate olistoliths, and less biostratigraphycally constrained, early to middle Darriwilian conodont specimens from three limestone olistoliths, with younger ages to the east. Following these data, Gosen *et al.* (1995) interpreted that the Rinconada Formation is a sedimentary mélange, whose internal stratigraphy mirrors the stratigraphic sequence of the source area located to the west after its progressive erosion.

RESULTS

At the Rinconada type locality (Fig. 1), isolated carbonate blocks of decametric size yielded conodont assemblages of variable ages. The sample RIN24 beared *Bestroemognathus extensus, Oelandodus costatus, Periodon flabellum, Tropodus australis, Tropodus comptus, Reutterodus andinus, Rossodus barnesi,* which probably represent the *Prioniodus elegans* Zone of early Floian age. The major carbonate slice (sample RIN1b) produced a conodont fauna from the *Oepikodus evae* Zone of late Floian age, which includes its zonal marker. The samples RIN6 and RIN8 that include a conodont fauna referable to the early Darriwilian were taken from two closely located blocks. In particular, RIN6 yielded *R. barnesi*, *Semiacontiodus potrerillensis*, *Scolopodus rex*, *Protopanderodus* sp., *P. flabellum,* and *Histiodella sinuosa*, which is an index species according to the North American biostratigraphic zonations (*e. g.,* Bauer, 2010; Stouge, 2012). The sample RIN8 produced *Ansella jemtlandica*, *Drepanodus arcuatus, Paltodus*? *jemtlandicus*, *Parapaltodus simplicissimus* and *S. potrerillensis*, without well-known key species. The southernmost productive sample (RIN15) comes from a limestone block that contains a slightly younger conodont fauna, integrated by *Drepanoistodus* sp., *Histiodella holodentata*, *H. sinuosa*, *Erraticodon alternans*, *Juanognathus serpaglii*, *Paltodus*? *jemtlandicus*, *Paroistodus horridus*, *P. macrodentatus*, *R. barnesi* and *S. potrerillensis*. This species association can be referred to the *Yangtzeplacognathus crassus* Zone from the middle Darriwilian.

Another type of block is represented by giant slabs up to tens of meters in size of grey, quartzitic sandstones, some of them with carbonate cement, with their internal bedding mostly parallel to the

System	Series	Stage	Precordillera conodont zonation	
Ordovician	Middle	Darriwilian	*Eoplacognathus pseudoplanus*	
			Yangtzeplacognathus crassus	
			Lenodus variabilis	*P. horridus* *P. gladysae*
		Daping.	*Microzarkodina parva*	
			Paroistodus originalis	
			Baltoniodus navis	
			Tripodus laevis	
	Lower	Floian	*O. intermedius*	
			Oepikodus evae	*Scolcolop. oldstock.*
				Juanog. variabilis
			Prioniodus elegans	*Oepik. communis*
				Tropodus sweeti
			Paroistodus proteus	*Oelandodus elongatus - Acodus deltatus*
		Tremad.		*Stiptognathus borealis*
				Paltodus deltifer

Figure 2: Conodont biostratigraphic chart of the Lower-Middle Ordovician of the Argentine Precordillera. The gray intervals correspond to the analyzed conodont samples.

regional bedding (Gosen *et al.,* 1995). From these blocks, sample RIN20 provided *H. minutiserrata*, *R. barnesi*, *P. macrodentatus* and *S. potrerillensis*, which are representative of the *L. variabilis* Zone.This way, we record for the first time thick sandstone packages in the lower Darriwilian strata of the Precordillera. Instead, this time interval is represented in the platform by diachronous black shales, which overlie the limestones of the San Juan Formation.

Limestone clasts incorporated in polymyct conglomerates provided valuable information as well. For instance, sample RIN3 produced a conodont association consisting of *A. jemtlandica*, *Baltoniodus* sp., *Costiconus costatus*, *Periodon macrodentatus*, *Pteracontiodus cryptodens* and *Scolopodus rex*, which is typical of the *Lenodus variabilis* Zone (early Darriwilian). A limestone boulder (RIN19) from a conglomerate olistolith yielded a conodont fauna consisting of *Drepanodus arcuatus, Gothodus* sp., *S. krummi, T. sweeti, Paltodus deltifer, P. primus, Variabiloconus variabilis*. This conodont association represents the *Acodus deltatus* Subzone from the basal Floian.

The upper part of the Rinconada Formation displays lenticular reddish calcareous sandstones with iron oolites that alternate with debris-flow deposits. Two conodont samples RIN5 and RIN12 provided specimens ranging through the early Pridoli, such as *Dapsilodus obliquicostatus, Decoriconus fragilis*, *Pseudooneotodus beckmani*, *P. bicornis* and *Zieglerodina*? cf. *zellmeri*. A contemporaneous association was recognized by Mestre (2009), who also reported conodonts from coquinas of the Tambolar Formation (the Pachaco facies) near the San Juan River (*cf.,* Peralta 2013b).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The conodont data here presented suggest that the Rinconada Formation mélange comprises deposits that range in age from Early Ordovician to late Silurian. The limestone blocks appear to have derived from Floian and Darriwilian levels of the San Juan Formation. Noticeably, this is also the age yielded by the limestone clasts of the conglomerate blocks that form some olistoliths (no Dapingian conodonts were recovered so far). This indicates that the Rinconada mélange was also fed from some conglomerate

deposits that, in turn, had been fed from the erosion of the San Juan Formation. It is also interesting to note that the blocks of Ordovician quartzitic sandstones immersed in the Rinconada mélange reveal a kind of deposit not reported in the Argentine Precordillera so far, as were laid down in this basin.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Biostratigraphy and paleoecology of Late Ordovician (Ka2) conodonts and microbrachiopods from north Queensland, Australia

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ABSTRACT: Late Ordovician conodont fauna from allochthonous limestones in the Wairuna Formation of the Broken River Province, north Queensland, contains 23 species typical of the deeper water *Protopanderodus* biofacies. Many of these species also occur in allochthonous limestones in the Malongulli Formation and correlative units of the Macquarie Volcanic Province in central New South Wales, and are also recognized in North and South China, which supports assignment of the Wairuna Formation conodont fauna to the *Taoqupognathus tumidus-Protopanderodus insculptus* Biozone of middle Katian age. Associated linguliformean brachiopods include species of *Acrosaccus*, *Atansoria*, *Biernatia*, *Conotreta*, *Elliptoglossa*, *Hisingerella*, *Nushbiella*, *Paterula* and *Scaphelasma*, which are identical to those known from the Malongulli Formation. Subtle paleoecological differences between faunas of the Malongulli Formation limestones (interpreted as forming in a deeper water peri-platform and upper slope environment) and those of the Wairuna Formation limestones imply that the latter were likely originally deposited on the shelf edge and subsequently reworked downslope. This study provides compelling paleontological evidence of strong affinity between Late Ordovician limestones of the Macquarie Volcanic Province and the Broken River Province, suggesting these regions (today separated by 1600 km) were linked by a volcanic island chain characterized by identical geochemical signatures in volcanic rocks associated with the limestones.

INTRODUCTION

Late Ordovician faunas are known from just two localities in eastern Queensland. Palmieri (1978) described conodonts from the Fork Lagoons beds of the Anakie Inlier in central Queensland. The second locality is within the Wairuna Formation of the Broken River Province of north Queensland, about 200 km west of Townsville (Fig. 1), from which heliolitine corals were described by Dixon and Jell (2012) and a few conodonts have been illustrated (Talent et al. 2002, 2003). Our contribution documents the diverse conodont and linguliformean microbrachiopod fauna recovered from allochthonous limestone within the Wairuna Formation exposed along Kaos Gully (Fig. 1). Conodont species include *Aphelognathus* sp., *Belodina confluens*, *Belodina* sp., *Besselodus* sp. nov., *Coelocerodontus trigonius*, *Drepanodus arcuatus*, *Drepanoistodus suberectus*, Gen. et sp. nov., *Panderodus gracilis*, *Panderodus nodus*, *Panderodus* sp., *Paroistodus*? *nowlani*, *Paroistodus* sp., *Periodon grandis*, *Phragmodus undatus*, *Pseudooneotodus mitratus*, *Protopanderodus insculptus*, *Protopanderodus liripipus*, *Scabbardella altipes*, *Strachanognathus parvus*, *Spinodus spinatus*, *Taoqupognathus tumidus* and *Yaoxianognathus* sp. (Fig. 2). This fauna is typical of the *Protopanderodus* biofacies found in shelf margin to slope settings, and is dated as middle Katian (Fig. 3). Associated brachiopods include species of *Acrosaccus*, *Atansoria*, *Biernatia*, *Conotreta*, *Elliptoglossa*, *Glossella*, *Hisingerella*, *Nushbiella*, *Paterula* and *Scaphelasma* (Fig. 4). The fauna is highly significant in demonstrating strong paleoecological affinity to contemporaneous deeper water assemblages flanking volcanic islands of the Macquarie Volcanic Province of central NSW (New South Wales), separated today by more than 1600 km from the Broken River Province.
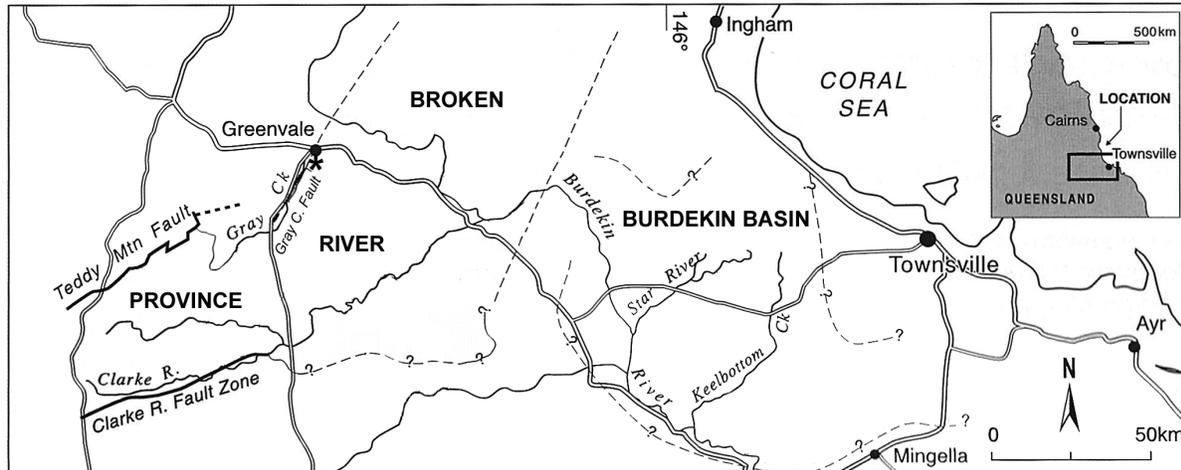
Figure 1. —Map showing the study area in the Townsville hinterland, north Queensland (modified from Talent et al., 2003). Locality of the Kaos Gully section, just south of Greenvale, is indicated by a star. Major tectonic elements of the region are shown, including the Broken River Province and the Burdekin Basin.

BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

Zhen (2001) established three successive Late Ordovician conodont zones in eastern Australia and China based on species of *Taoqupognathus*, from oldest to youngest *T. philipi*, *T. blandus*, and *T. tumidus*. Biostratigraphically important conodonts recognized in the Wairuna Formation include *T. tumidus* (Fig. 2. 19)*, Protopanderodus insculptus* (Fig. 2. 9)*, P. liripipus* (Fig. 2. 8)*, Periodon grandis* (Fig. 2. 5), *Belodina confluens* (Fig. 2. 1) and *Phragmodus undatus* (Fig. 2. 10). This fauna correlates with the *T. tumidus* fauna, widely reported from the Macquarie Volcanic Province of NSW and elsewhere in eastern Gondwana and peri-Gondwana (Fig. 3). More specifically, the north Queensland fauna is almost identical at species level with that previously documented from allochthonous limestone clasts in the lower part of the Malongulli Formation in central NSW (Trotter and Webby 1995). Its middle Katian age (Eastonian 3, possibly extending into Eastonian 4) is further constrained by graptolites of late Katian (earliest Bolindian) age occurring higher in the Malongulli Formation (Percival et al. this volume).

In the Ordos Basin of North China, *T. tumidus* was reported from the top of the Taoqupo Formation (Zhen et al. 2003), which is considered to be of middle Katian age and correlated with the *pygmaeus* to *complexus* graptolite Biozones (Chen et al. 1995). *Taoqupognathus blandus* first appears in the upper part of the Yaoxian Formation (which underlies the Taoqupo Formation), hence the *T. blandus* Biozone recognized in eastern Australia can be correlated with the uppermost *Tasmanognathus gracilis-Tas. multidentatus* Biozone (upper part of the Yaoxian Formation) and the *Y. neimengguensis* Biozone (spanning the lower part of the Taoqupo Formation) of the Ordos Basin in North China. The succeeding *T. tumidus* Biozone of eastern Australia correlates with the *Y. yaoxianensis* Biozone of North China (Zhen 2001) and with the *Protopanderodus insculptus* Biozone in South China (Fig. 3). In eastern Australia, *P. insculptus* was reported only in the *T. tumidus* Biozone in association with *P. liripipus*, and it is absent from the underlying *T. blandus* Biozone. Similarly in South China, *P. liripipus* is common in the entire Pagoda Formation (both *H. europaeus* and *P. insculptus* biozones) and its time equivalent units, but only occurs in association with *P. insculptus* at the top of the Pagoda Formation and the Linhsiang Formation in the *P. insculptus* Biozone.
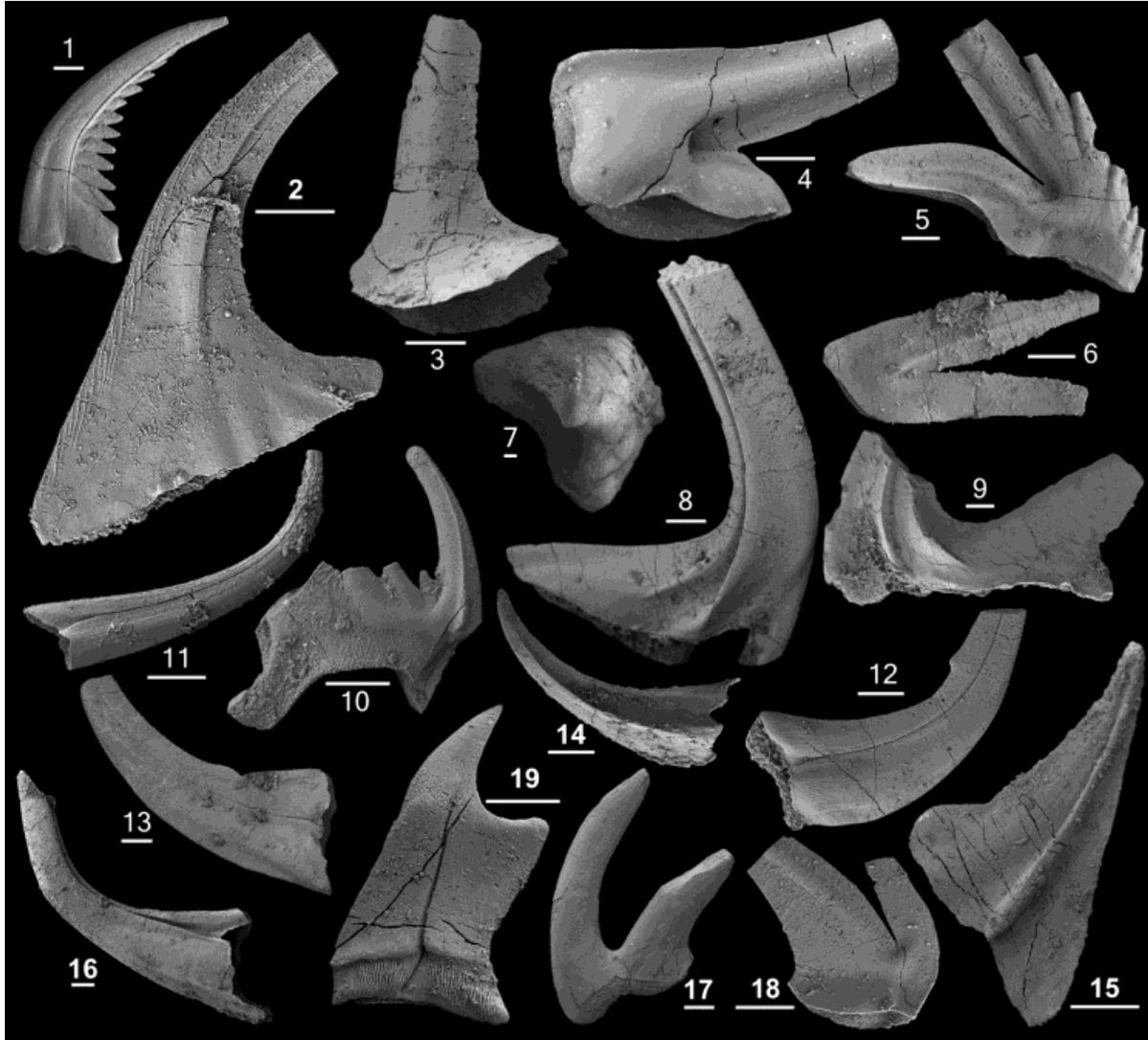
Figure 2. —Late Ordovician (Ka2) conodonts from allochthonous limestone within the Wairuna Formation. 1, *Belodina confluens* **Sweet, S2 (grandiform) element, view of furrowed side. 2,** *Besselodus* **sp. nov. Sc element, inner-lateral view. 3,** *Drepanoistodus suberectus* **(Branson and Mehl), Sa element, lateral view. 4,** *Paroistodus* **sp. M element, posterior view. 5,** *Periodon grandis* **(Ethington), M element, posterior view. 6,** *Paroistodus***?** *nowlani* **Zhen, Webby and Barnes, M element, anterior view. 7,** *Pseudooneotodus mitratus* **(Moskalenko), upper view. 8,** *Protopanderodus liripipus* **Kennedy, Barnes and Uyeno, Sb element, outer-lateral view. 9,** *Protopanderodus insculptus* **(Branson and Mehl), Sc element, inner-lateral view. 10,** *Phragmodus undatus* **Branson and Mehl, Sb element, outer-lateral view. 11,** *Panderodus gracilis* **(Branson and Mehl), similiform element, outer-lateral view. 12,** *Panderodus nodus* **Zhen, Webby and Barnes, long-based element, outer-lateral view. 13,** *Panderodus* **sp. outer-lateral view. 14,** *Coelocerodontus trigonius* **Ethington, asymmetrical tetragoniform element, outer-lateral view. 15, Gen. et sp. nov. Pa element, inner-lateral view. 16,** *Scabbardella altipes* **(Henningsmoen), Sb (long-based acodiform) element, outer-lateral view. 17,** *Spinodus spinatus* **(Hadding) Sc element, outer-lateral view. 18,** *Strachanognathus parvus* **Rhodes. short-based element, inner-lateral view. 19,** *Taoqupognathus tumidus* **Trotter and Webby, Sb3 element, outer-lateral view. Scale bars 100 μm.**

Series	Stage	Conodont zones North American Midcontinent	Conodont zones Baltoscandia	Conodont zones Australia	Conodont zones North China	Conodont zones South China
Late Ordovician	Hirnantian	Aphelognathus shatzeri	O. hassi (lower part)	?	?	Aphelognathus ordovicicus
			Noixodontus fauna			
			Amorphognathus ordovicicus		Aph. zuoquensis	
	Ka4	Aph. divergens			Aph. divergens	
	Ka3	Aph. grandis			Aph. grandis	
	Ka2	Oulodus robustus	Amorphognathus superbus	Tao. tumidus - Pro. insculptus *	Yaoxianognathus yaoxianensis	Protopanderodus insculptus
		O. velicuspis				
	Ka1	Belodina confluens		Tao. blandus	Yaoxianognathus neimengguensis	Hamar. europaeus
		Plectodina tenus	Baltoniodus alobatus	Tao. philipi	Tas. multidentatus Tas. gracilis	Baltoniodus alobatus
	Sandb.	Ph. undatus		Tas. careyi		

Figure 3. —Conodont-based correlation of the allochthonous limestone (indicated by *) within the Wairuna Formation with other Late Ordovician conodont successions established in Australia, North China (An and Zheng 1990; Wang et al. 2011), South China (Wang et al. 2011), Baltoscandia and North American Midcontinent.

PALEOECOLOGY

The Kaos Gully conodont assemblage is quantitatively dominated by four species – *Scabbardella altipes* (Fig. 2. 16)*, Besselodus* sp. nov. (Fig. 2. 2), *Protopanderodus liripipus* (Fig. 2. 8) and *P. insculptus* (Fig. 2. 9) – which together constitute over three-quarters of all specimens recovered. This assemblage represents a typical *Protopanderodus* biofacies found in shelf margin to slope settings, and supports interpretation of an allochthonous origin for the limestone in the Wairuna Formation (Talent et al. 2002, 2003) which probably formed on the shelf edge before being redeposited downslope. Associated linguliformean microbrachiopods in the limestone include *Elliptoglossa adela*, *Paterula malongulliensis* and *Hisingerella hetera* together with new species of *Acrosaccus*, *Atansoria*, *Biernatia*, *Nushbiella* and *Scaphelasma* which also occur in allochthonous limestones of the Macquarie Volcanic Province in central NSW (Percival et al. in review). The fauna of those limestones from NSW, characterized by a distinctive siliceous sponge component not seen in the Broken River Province, is interpreted to indicate original deposition in an outer shelf edge to upper slope periplatformal setting (Webby 1992; Percival and Webby 1996), probably in deeper water than the limestones in the Wairuna Formation.

CONCLUSIONS

Late Ordovician deeper water limestones preserved as allochthonous clasts in the Wairuna Formation of the Broken River Province represent the last known vestige of a probable chain of volcanic islands that stretched for 1600 km or more (present day) offshore to the eastern margin of Gondwana. The conodont and microbrachiopod fauna comprises identical species to those in the contemporaneous Malongulli Formation of the Macquarie Volcanic Province in central NSW. This paleontological evidence provides additional and independent support for linkages previously recognised between the two regions, based on significant similarities in the geochemical signature of volcanic rocks associated with the Ordovician limestones in both provinces (Henderson et al. 2011).

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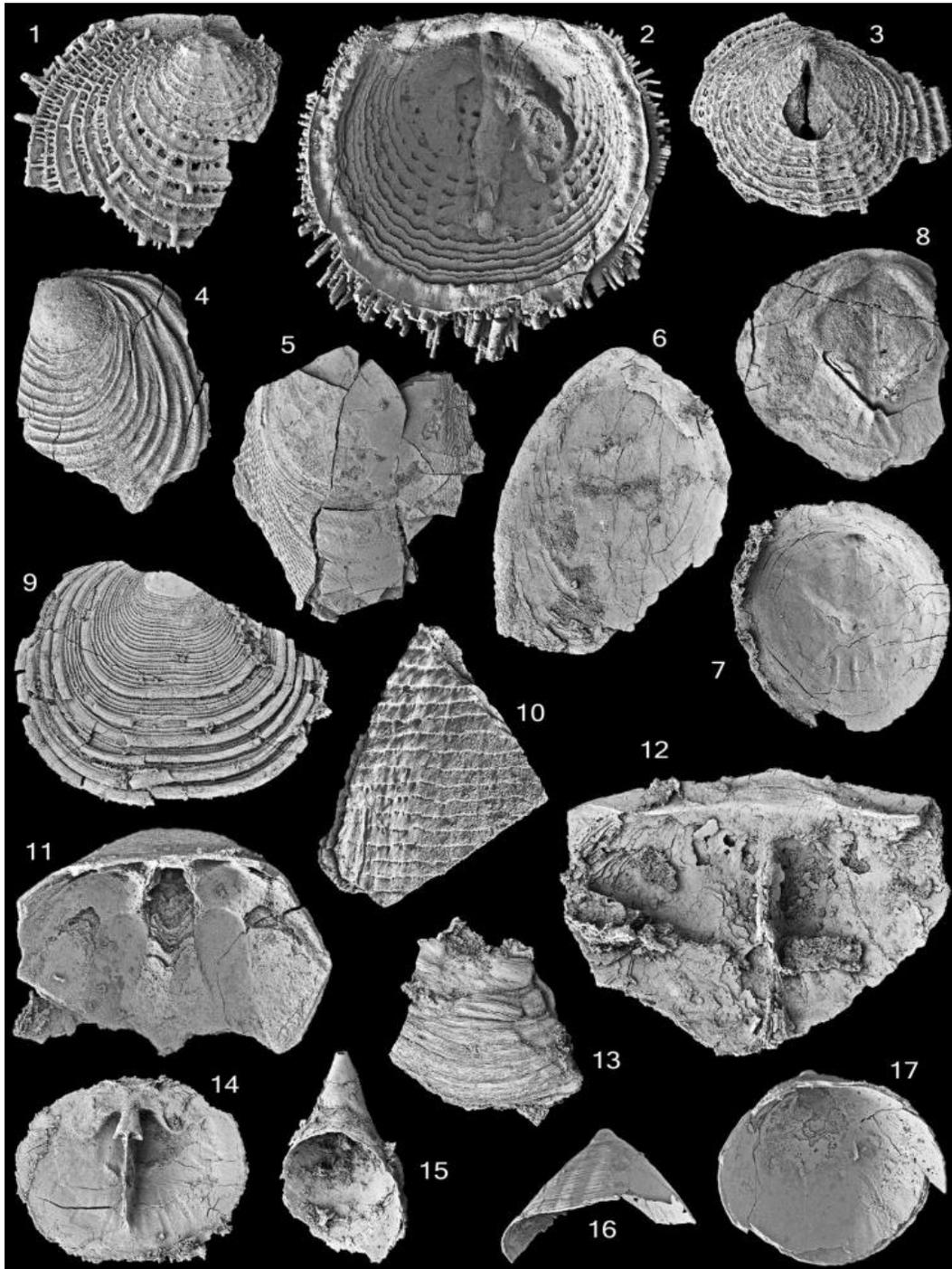
Figure 4. —Late Ordovician (Ka2) linguliformean microbrachiopods from allochthonous limestone within the Wairuna Formation. 1-3, *Nushbiella* **sp. nov., 1, exterior of dorsal valve, x30; 2, interior of dorsal valve, 20; 3, exterior of ventral valve, x30. 4,** *Acrosaccus* **sp. nov., exterior of dorsal valve, x30. 5.** *Glossella* **sp., indeterminate valve exterior, x15. 6,** *Elliptoglossa adela* **Percival, interior of ventral valve, x25. 7,** *Paterula malongulliensis* **Percival, interior of dorsal valve, x50. 8,** *Atansoria* **sp. nov., interior of dorsal valve, x30. 9,** *Scaphelasma* **sp., exterior of dorsal valve, x40. 10,** *Westonia***? sp., fragment of shell exterior showing**

distinctive ornament, x15. 11, 12, *Conotreta*? sp., 11, interior of ventral valve, x30; 12, interior of dorsal valve, x30. 13, *Undiferina* sp., fragment of shell exterior, x30. 14, 15, *Biernatia* sp. nov., 14, interior of dorsal valve, x40; 15, oblique view of ventral valve showing partial interior, x40. 16, 17, *Hisingerella hetera* (Percival), 16, posterior view of ventral valve to show pseudointerarea, x30; 17, interior of ventral valve, x30.

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Deciphering the movement of the Argentine Precordillera from tropical to higher latitudes, Late Cambrian–Late Ordovician, through conodont δ^{18}O paleothermometry

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The Cambrian-Middle Ordovician succession in the Precordillera of north-central Argentina is in several respects unique in South America. It is largely composed of richly fossiliferous carbonates whose lithology and diverse shelly and conodont faunas differ conspicuously from those of coeval poorly fossiliferous clastic successions in adjacent parts of Gondwana. Because of these differences, the Precordillera has during recent decades been regarded as an allochthonous tectonic unit of the exotic Cuyania Terrane whose geographic origin has been controversial. Hence, in some models, the Precordillera has been interpreted to be originally derived from a low-latitude segment of Gondwana and later in the Ordovician moved southward toward higher latitudes during periods of major faulting. In another, and perhaps more common model, the Precordillera is interpreted to have moved during the Late Cambrian-Early Ordovician from the southern margin of Laurentia across the Iapetus Ocean to finally dock at higher latitudes with Gondwana as suggested by the end of carbonate deposition and the presence of Late Ordovician glaciogenic sediments. However, many details in the Precordilleran drift history remain unclear.

The Late Cambrian-Early Ordovician shelly faunas in the Precordillera are of general Laurentian type but stratigraphically slightly younger faunas have a paleogeographically mixed character where during the Dapingian-Darriwilian there is a gradually increasing number of colder-water taxa typical of the Avalonian and Baltic Provinces. This faunal change is exhibited in several fossil groups.

Obviously, changes in ocean temperature are likely to reflect latitudinal changes of a moving microcontinent such as the Precordillera. In order to test if such temperature changes could be used for tracing the drift of the Precordillera, we used the oxygen composition ($\delta^{18}O_{phos}$) from well-preserved conodonts from Precordilleran and Laurentian successions. The objective was to test the possibility of a general temperature trend toward colder ocean water during the late Furongian (Late Cambrian)-early Sandbian (Late Ordovician) time that could reflect a latitudinal drift of the Precordillera. We used biostratigraphically well-dated samples from the Precordillera and two Laurentian control sites in Texas and Alberta. The δ^{18}O composition in conodonts was measured *in situ* at high spatial resolution (30μ spots) using the sensitive high resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP II) at the Australian National University. The conodont δ^{18}O values range from 16.9 in the Tremadocian to 19.5 in the Sandbian for the Precordillera, whereas this degree of change is not seen in the values obtained from the conodonts of Texas and Alberta representing Laurentia.

The resulting data show that there is a progressive change toward colder sea water temperatures in the Precordilleran samples after the early Darriwilian. This change can be correlated with the period of increased influx of colder-water faunal elements. Unfortunately, the virtual absence of conodont-bearing carbonates in the Upper Ordovician of the Precordillera makes it impossible to continue these studies into the Late Ordovician. However, we conclude that the new isotope data support the model of a drift of the Precordillera from tropical to higher latitudes across the Iapetus but further detailed studies in the Precordilleran and North American successions are needed to clarify unequivocally whether or not the Precordillera originated from southern Laurentia (Ouachita Embayment) as advocated by many authors.

A CONOP9 quantitative stratigraphic model of Baltic Ordovician and Silurian chitinozoan distribution and K-bentonites

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The Baltic Ordovician-Silurian sedimentary succession is rich in well-preserved microfossils and contains numerous altered volcanic ash beds, both of which are valuable tools for regional stratigraphy. Over decades large amounts of data on the distribution of chitinozoans and conodonts have been collected in the Baltic region, and the corresponding biozonations are well established. Also, new methods have allowed much improved fingerprinting of individual K-bentonite layers. Such large integrated data sets can be efficiently analyzed and interpreted by the help of quantitative stratigraphic tools. One of these, CONOP9, has proved especially useful for automatic correlation as well as for high-resolution biodiversity analysis (Sadler 2012). We have previously applied CONOP9 to analyze diversification history of Ordovician and Silurian chitinozoans (Hints et al. 2011 and Paluveer et al. 2014). Here we extend these approaches by combing the Ordovician and Silurian data sets, including data from additional sections and incorporating the K-bentonite database in order to provide independent test for biostratigraphy and examine possible links between volcanic activity and chitinozoan diversity. The combined Ordovician-Silurian data set includes 80 sections from Baltoscandia, and 319 chitinozoan species and 50 geochemically fingerprinted K-bentonites (Kiipli et al. 2013). The composite model was created after several consecutive runs of CONOP9; good results were achieved using level penalty with ca 1200 steps and 6000 trials. Secondary penalty of TEASER and STACKER were applied to avoid placing an event in a section where it was not observed and to penalize taxon ranges from extending too far.

The CONOP9-derived diversity curve shows that chitinozoans thrived during the Darriwillian and Sandbian with standing diversity reaching 40 species in Baltoscandia. A small crisis coincided with the basal Katian, followed by a major late Katian-Hirnantian decline and extinction, with ca 10 species crossing the system boundary. The Silurian diversity peaks in the Telychian and late Sheinwoodian – early Homerian reached standing diversity of ca 30 species. The main Silurian biotic crises for chitinozoans correspond to the Ireviken and Mulde events and associated environmental changes. However, the Lau Event is not clearly expressed in the model suggesting that it might have been less severe for chitinozoans compared to the Hirnantian, Ireviken and Mulde events. A best-fit CONOP9 composite has strong local range support in the Ordovician, where the model revealed excellent or above-average fit of most conventional index species. In the Silurian the zonal taxa generally showed larger misfit values. Incorporation of K-bentonites did not alter chitinozoan succession, but helped to more precisely correlate the CONOP9 composite with regional stages.

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Recurring taphofacies in the Upper Ordovician (Katian) of the Cincinnati Arch: A predictive model based on sequence stratigraphy

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   The Upper Ordovician (Katian: Cincinnatian Series) in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana tristate is known for its diverse fossil assemblages. These include several distinct recurring tapho- and biofacies, including: A) shell-rich, often slightly phosphatic, fossil fragmental packstones and grainstones; B) nodular shaly packstones rich in relatively well preserved bryozoans and brachiopods; C) blue-gray claystone deposits commonly referred to as 'butter shales', generally with few interbeds; these are typically rich in bivalves and may contain articulated trilobites. These facies form meter to decameter scale cycles, some of which have been traced for over 150 km, indicating that these do not represent simple localized events, but rather broad scale depositional intervals. Type B shelly mudstones appear to reflect somewhat less storm reworked, fully oxic facies with higher input of terrigenous sediment. Finally, Type C taphofacies also referred to as 'trilobite shales' contain relatively abundant, articulated trilobites and well-preserved mollusks, including uncrushed and commonly *in situ* bivalves. These beds may pass upramp into sparse greenish gray mudstones that contain a mixture of mollusks and opportunistic bryozoans.

   Here we present the occurrence of these facies in the context of eustatic fluctuations at multiple scales, resulting in a predictive model for development of such bodies based on the coincidence of specific systems tracts of different orders. Type A shelly limestones are composed of disarticulated and/or fragmented brachiopod, crinoid, and bryozoan debris, frequently with minor impregnation of grains by phosphate. These deposits record prolonged reworking of shelly debris and probably time averaging during intervals of low sedimentation, which promoted shell build-up by reworking and taphonomic feedback. Such facies are widespread during times of early transgression when nearshore sequestering was coupled to offshore sediment starvation. Storm winnowing further concentrated skeletal accumulations. They are probably best developed when short-term transgressions were superimposed on overall deepening trends. Under conditions of somewhat greater sediment input, mixed mud and shell accumulations of Type B developed; largely in the highstands of small scale cycles superimposed on longer term stable to slightly falling sea level trends. In contrast Type C butter shales represent low-energy environments with a moderate background influx of mud-dominated sediment, which favored vagrant trilobites and infaunal deposit- and suspension-feeding annelids and mollusks. Rapidly deposited mud layers up to several centimeters thick episodically smothered benthic communities. These conditions generally occur in the late transgressive to early highstand systems tracts (HSTs) of certain sedimentary cycles. We suggest that the most persistent trilobite-bearing butter shales form preferentially where the HST of a higher-order sequence is superimposed upon a longer-term HST to falling state systems tract, amplifying offshore mud sedimentation.

   A model combining the effects of offshore sediment starvation during base level rise, and offshore mud sedimentation during highstands provides the basis for understanding three tapho- and biofacies of skeletal accumulation. Superimposition of the different phases of small and larger scale cycles can produce weakening or amplification of these effects yielding mixed shelly mudrocks, or the more extreme end members: TST-TST pairings produce especially sediment starved conditions and condensed beds; HST-HST pairings produce distinctive thicker mudstone intervals. This generalized model explains many of the features of the classic Cincinnatian and similar mixed siliciclastic-carbonate systems.

Correlation of Upper Ordovician K-bentonites in the East Baltic – A combined approach of chitinozoan biostratigraphy and sanidine geochemistry

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Ordovician K-bentonite beds have a long history of investigation and by now have been reported on most major paleocontinents. As the corresponding volcanic eruptions represent instantaneous events in the geological record, the K-bentonites are invaluable for local and regional correlations as well as for radiometric dating and for building up a global numeric time scale. About a hundred K-bentonites have been identified in the Upper Ordovician mudstones in Scania, southern Sweden. However a vast majority of these are thin (less than 1 cm) and are difficult to identify in the coeval carbonate-dominated successions of the Baltoscandian basin, which obviously limits the usage of K-bentonites in regional chronostratigraphy. In this study we analyse the potential of chitinozoan biostratigraphy combined with fingerprinting sanidine phenocryst composition to aid correlation of Sandbian and Katian K-bentonites in the Paleobaltic basin. The high evolution rate of chitinozoans and their planktic behavior makes them a valuable correlation tool for Lower Paleozoic rocks. They are among the most useful microfossils in the Upper Ordovician strata of Baltoscandia, providing biostratigraphic resolution which far exceeds of that of conodonts.

The Kukruse K-bentonite (more appropriately termed as a feldspathic tuff) is encountered in drillcores of Central Estonia can be confidently traced outside of oil shale accumulation area in the Paleobaltic basin by the presence of *Conochitina tigrina*. Up to 17 thin K-bentonites (Grefsen and Sinsen K-bentonite complexes) have been recorded in the variably argillaceous wackestones of the Haljala Stage, although the usual number encountered in a single drill core is three to seven ones. The Grefsen and Sinsen K-bentonite complexes, erected in Norway, can not be reliably separated in the East Baltic sections neither by chitinozoans nor by conodonts. The Kinnekulle K-bentonite at the base of the Keila Stage is the thickest and the most widely studied Upper Ordovician K-bentonite in Baltoscandia. As for chitinozoan biostratigraphy, this bed is located just below the findings of extremely short-ranged *Angochitina multiplex* encountered at least in 10 East Baltic and 2 Swedish drillcore sections. Five Katian K-bentonites of Pirgu age have been distinguished in the East Baltic sections. The lower two occur in the *Tanuchitina bergstroemi* Zone, while three others can be found in the overlying *Conochitina rugata* Zone. *Bursachitina umbilicata* is another chitinozoan key species which occurrence is strictly restricted to the *Conochitina rugata* Zone.

The Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Technology has successfully applied a little used XRD method to determine the (Na+Ca) component in sanidine phenocrysts that can be useful for discriminating individual K-bentonite beds. The Na+Ca content in sanidine $(K,Na,Ca)AlSi_3O_8$ solid solution was calculated using a linear relationship between K-sanidine (d = 4.233 Å) and albite (d = 4.033 Å). In favourable cases (a sharp sanidine 201 reflection and a low content of authigenic potassium feldspar) the precision of the method is ± 1%, in less favourable cases – the precision is ± 2%. The studies accomplished in recent years have shown a good potential of this method for discriminating the Katian K-bentonites of Pirgu age in the East Baltic with the following results: BIV – 47–48; BIII – 34-36; BII – 42–44, BI – 37–38, BI – 25 mol%. The corresponding values for the Kinnekulle K-bentonite of Sandbian age range between 24–26 mol%. The same method has been successfully applied for discrimination of Silurian K-bentonites in the East Baltic sections.

Detailed chitinozoan biostratigraphic studies, combined with XRD fingerprinting of sanidine composition, could be a promising cost-effective and time-wise supplementary method in discriminating individual K-bentonite beds in other Lower Paleozoic paleobasins as well.

Lithologies, ages, and provenance of clasts in the Ordovician Fincastle Conglomerate, Botetourt County, Virginia, USA

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The Fincastle Conglomerate is a Middle or early Late Ordovician polymictic, poorly sorted, matrix- and clast-supported cobble-rich conglomerate that has limited outcrop in the overturned Pine Hills syncline just north of Fincastle, VA. The Fincastle has been treated as a member of the Liberty Hall, Bays, or the Martinsburg Formation, and this controversy is not solved, to date, by this study. The Fincastle Conglomerate is the most northeastern of at least six coarse conglomerates located in a similar stratigraphic position that extend to Georgia from Virginia west of the Blue Ridge structural front. All except the Fincastle are dominated (>95%) by carbonate clasts; Fincastle clasts are much more varied and siliceous. It is this clast diversity that provides increased value for provenance and related studies. We have used a multidisciplinary approach that involves conodont analysis, sandstone petrography, *in-situ* outcrop clast characterization, optical and electron-beam petrography, and X-ray diffraction to provide data on lithologies, ages, and provenance.

We examined samples from three Fincastle localities, the Dixon construction site along US Route 220, and east and west of Big Gulch, a ravine northeast along strike. The size, roundness, and lithology of 1,656 clasts (> 1 cm) were measured in the field. Average clast size was 4.4 cm; the largest clast found in this study was 21 cm and all were well- to sub-rounded. Although, the clast lithology varies among the different localities, the average lithology is sandstone and siltstone 12%, vein quartz 17%, limestone 31%, quartzite and meta-sandstone 31%, chert 6%, and others 3%. Neither dolomite, igneous, nor high-grade metamorphic clasts were identified either in field study or in detailed laboratory analysis.

The lithologies, textures, and sedimentary structures of the Fincastle conglomerate indicate deposition in a submarine channel fan near the outer shelf edge of a foreland basin. Variability and relatively small-scale, discontinuous coarse conglomerate lenses suggest lateral migration of the channel. The roundness of the cobble-sized clasts indicates that they were re-deposited from another environment rather than eroded during canyon formation. The coarse, well-rounded clasts suggest a relatively near but, high relief source area.

Quantitative estimates of framework constituents in 23 sandstones and 6 matrix samples were made using the point-counting technique (1000 counts) and petrographic modes were plotted on the ternary QFL diagram of Dickinson et al. (1983). Data for the Fincastle sandstones plot close to the Q-rich Q-F side and indicate tectonic environments from passive margin to transitional continental uplift. Matrix modes have considerably less feldspar and plot in the foreland basin tectonic environment region. The Fincastle sandstone modes are similar to those described from the Chilhowee suite by Simpson and Eriksson (1989, 1990).

Paleogeographic and tectonic reconstruction, and facies distribution suggest that the Fincastle conglomerate was sourced from Taconic orogeny highlands to the southeast. The lack of dolomite clasts is curious even though the Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician succession in the vicinity is dominantly dolomite. This may suggest that the source of the carbonate clasts was to the east of the dolomitic shelfal carbonate facies of, e.g, the Upper Cambrian to Lower Ordovician Knox Group. Furthermore, the erosional level sampled by the Fincastle did not reach down to the underlying basement of igneous or high-grade metamorphic rocks. Several limestone clasts yielded sparse numbers of proto- and paraconodonts, indicating a most likely age of Late Cambrian or, less likely, earliest Early Ordovician for those clasts. Bits of matrix adhering onto those clasts produced a few euconodont fragments of taxa that range from Middle through Upper Ordovician; but do not confirm the identity of the host formation.

An integrated scheme for δ^{13}C chemostratigraphy and conodont biostratigraphy in the Ordovician of Sweden and useful tie-points for global correlation

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The Ordovician strata of Sweden and adjacent areas form a thin veneer of a cool-water type of limestone with subordinate fine-grained siliciclastic strata. Deeper subtidal mud mounds are locally important but true, shallow subtidal reefs with wave-resistant frameworks are absent. Carbonate skeletal grains and facies indicating tropical conditions first appear in the Hirnantian when Baltica has drifted northwards from middle latitudes into the southern hemisphere tropics. In the Early and Middle Ordovician the basin subsidence was extremely slow and adjacent relief was very small due to widespread peneplanation of the underlying basement rocks in the latest Precambrian. This lack of higher relief source areas and the cool climate result in exceptionally low carbonate sedimentation rates and the upper Tremadocian through Hirnantian succession is only slightly more than 100 metres thick in the Swedish parts of the Baltoscandian Basin. The evolving Caledonian Orogeny changed this pattern along the margins of the basin from about Mid Ordovician times during continental collision of Baltica with Laurentia-Greenland and Avalonia and emplacement of thrust sheets resulted in the development of foreland basins along the western and southern margins of Baltica, respectively. Over the last few years we have performed a series of detailed studies on Ordovician δ^{13}C chemostratigraphy and conodont biostratigraphy of core sections from southern and central Sweden (Bergström et al. 2011; 2012; Calner et al. 2014; Lehnert et al. 2014; Wu et al. 2015). These studies now provide a means of correlation of the Swedish Ordovician on regional and global scales. Most of the important tie-points for global chemostratigraphic correlation are identified (MDICE, GICE, KOPE, WHITEWATER, and HICE), suggesting that the stratigraphic completeness of the preserved Ordovician is surprisingly high and that the very minor thickness of strata is due to stratigraphic condensation rather than erosion. Of particular importance is the identification and characterization of several minor δ^{13}C excursions in the Floian, Dapingian and Darriwilian. Among these are both positive (BFICE) and negative excursions (BDNICE, LDNICE), which seem to be reliable correlation tools for the Baltoscandian Basin. Their potential for intercontinental correlation, however, has to be verified by future chemostratigraphic studies.

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Carbon isotope stratigraphy of the Ordovician-Silurian boundary interval and associated oolites in southern Norway

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Oolitic limestone appears to form a time-specific sedimentary facies across Baltoscandia and much of the North American continent during a brief time interval in the latest Hirnantian. The North American oolites are known from e.g., Oklahoma and Texas panhandle (Keel/Pettit oolites), Arkansas (Cason oolite), and from Missouri and Illinois (Leemon oolite; all names following Amsden and Barrick 1986). In Baltoscandia, a similar, few metres thin suite of oolites is known from outcrops and core sections over a distance of at least 800 km across southern Norway (top of Langøyene Formation), southern Sweden (Skultorp Member of the Loka Formation) and Estonia (Saldus Formation). In China, the Kuanyinchiao oolitic bed appears to be of the same age. This circum-tropical distribution of Hirnantian oolites is of major significance in respect to environmental and biotic changes associated with the latest Ordovician mass-extinction. In a first step it is necessary to constrain the stratigraphic position of these oolites in order to evaluate their synchroneity in time. New and previously published δ^{13}C records across the stratigraphic range of several of the oolites show that they correspond in time with the late peak interval and early falling limb of the Hirnantian Isotope Carbon Excursion (HICE), i.e. in the late *extraordinarius* Zone (cf. Harper et al. 2014). We present the first δ^{13}C records from sections exposing the Ordovician-Silurian boundary interval in the Oslo-Asker district of southern Norway (see Calner et al. 2013 for a recent summary of the local geology). Here, oolites that are 2-9 m thick occurs at several localities; for instance quartz-rich oolitic limestone at Hovedøya (the Norwegian type locality for the Ordovician-Silurian boundary), and limestone conglomerates and oolites at Brønnøya, Konglungen, and at Vettre road-cut. At all localities the δ^{13}C values of the oolites scatters around 5‰ with a peak value of 5.90‰ recorded in a reworked clast in a conglomerate on southern Brønnøya, proving their Hirnantian age. At most localities the oolites are overlain by black shales of the Early Silurian Solvik Formation, marking the post-Hirnantian transgression. At the Ordovician-Silurian type locality at Hovedøya, however, the quartz-rich oolitic limestone and the black shales of the Solvik Formation are interlayered by a 0.6 m thick brown siltstone followed by a 0.6 m thick limestone-marl alternation. The δ^{13}C data scatter between 2-3‰ in the limestone-marl alternation confirming its Hirnantian age and the position of the Ordovician-Silurian boundary as defined by Worsley (1982).

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Trilobite biofacies and sequence stratigraphy: an example from the Upper Ordovician of Oklahoma

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There have been surprisingly few empirical investigations of the fundamental principle that the architecture of depositional sequences exerts considerable control on observed patterns of faunal distribution and replacement. We examined trilobite associations in two sequences of the Upper Ordovician (Sandbian) Bromide Formation of southern Oklahoma. Cluster analysis and ordination of genus abundance data identified five lithofacies-related biofacies that are also differentiated by diversity patterns. Biofacies of the transgressive system tract (TST) of successive sequences are more similar to each other than they are to biofacies in the highstand systems tract (HST) of the same sequence. This similarity likely records dominance of large, robust convex sclerites in taphonomically degraded samples from condensed, strongly winnowed grainstone and rudstone. Horizons with articulated exoskeletons of isoteline trilobites preserved by obrution deposits occur most commonly in the early HST and recordbehavioral aggregations. Grainstone and rudstone of the later HST are less winnowed than those of the TST, and show less fragmentation and sorting of sclerites. These changes in taphonomic conditions preserve ecological patterns more clearly. In most biofacies, rarefied alpha diversity (samples) and gamma diversity (biofacies) of middle and outer ramp HST deposits are greater than in the TSTs, and biofacies replace each other downramp. Diversity patterns do not agree with model predictions and other data sets that indicate low beta and high alpha diversity in the TST, likely because of taphonomic degradation. Vertical replacement of biofacies is expressed by the appearance of peritidal facies in which trilobites are rare. Biofacies shifts also characterize sequence boundaries, and are most profound in the inner ramp successions characterized by sharp facies offsets. Comparison with bathymetrically similar deposits in the Taconic Foreland Basin showed similar diversity trends along environmental gradients, with some differences in shallow water settings attributed to taphonomic differences.

Geographic distribution and dynamics of the graptolite biodiversity during the end-Ordovician mass extinction in South China

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As part of palaeobiodiversity study, the research on geographic dynamics of fossil biodiversity goes a further step than the traditional cataloguing work based on fossil occurrences, because the former can reveal not only the temporal patterns but also the spatial dynamics of macroevolution. In the present study we focused on the geographic distribution and dynamics of graptolite biodiversity in South China during the end-Ordovician mass extinction.

The study area lies between latitude 24°-34° north, longitude 101°-121° east in South China, and the study time interval ranges from the *Dicellograptus complexus* Biozone (late Katian) to the *Akidograptus ascensus* Biozone (earliest Rhuddanian). Forty-nine sections with precise biostratigraphic classification

and detailed fossil lists were collected from the Geobiodiversity Database. The taxonomic classifications of the graptolites were revised based on a unified systematic classification scheme. Those species found in only one section, or with open nomenclature were omitted from the dataset.

First we divided the study area into two regions, the shallow-water region and the deeper-water region. We calculated the total diversity of the graptolite fauna in each graptolite biozone in each region, and found that the duration and intensity of the extinction event were considerably different between these two environmental regions. The mass extinction event influenced the graptolite fauna in the shallow-water region first and then the deeper-water region. Second, we divided the study area into 2°×2° geographical cells and measured the similarity of graptolite fauna between any two cells by using Cluster Analysis with Jaccard Index. It can be found that the graptolite fauna showed moderate geographic differentiation from near-shore to off-shore before the extinction event. However, during and after the extinction event, most of those stenotropic species were eliminated, and only those eurytopic species survived and occupied most of the preferred habitat.

Taphonomic comparisons of two Laurentian Upper Ordovician epeiric sea "small shelly faunas"

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The Elgin Member of the Upper Ordovician (Katian) Maquoketa Formation of Iowa contains phosphorite beds consisting of millimeter-scale phosphatic fossils, primarily steinkerns. Similar beds occur in the coeval strata of the classic Cincinnatian Series around the Cincinnati, Ohio area. Initial sampling of the phosphate-rich beds of the Maquoketa allows comparison between the faunal composition and taphonomy of these beds and collections from the more extensively sampled Cincinnatian strata. We isolated these fossils by dissolution of bulk samples in acetic acid and examined the same strata in thin section to study the fossils in context.

The Maquoketa diminutive phosphatized fossils have been interpreted as evidence of dwarfed faunas indicative of environmental stress, such as anoxia, which may have also contributed to phosphogenesis. An alternative explanation for the small size is that phosphogenesis was size-selective and that phosphatic particles were concentrated by reworking as less-durable shell material was destroyed. These hypotheses can be tested by examining the fauna for "normal" sized elements.

Insoluble residue from sampled phosphate-rich strata in both field areas yields abundant molluscan steinkerns, as well as crinoid columnals, conodonts, scolecodonts, bryozoan zooecia steinkerns and other fossils associated with a normal marine fauna. In Cincinnatian occurrences, the composition of the phosphatic assemblages is variable but is a reflection of the variability of faunal composition seen in these strata rather than an indication of an unusual fauna associated with extreme conditions; most are associated with diverse marine assemblages. Insoluble residues from both areas yield steinkerns that precipitated in small pores within larger skeletons. This phenomenon can be seen in thin section, where phosphate is present within certain parts of the larger preserved skeletons. The maximum size of the steinkerns of the Maquoketa is larger than those of most Cincinnatian occurrences, although size is variable in Cincinnatian occurrences. In Cincinnatian strata the abundance of small phosphatic fossils correlates with evidence for reworking; heavily reworked beds yield the most residue. Examined in thin section, the sampled strata of the Maquoketa appear to be heavily reworked and represent an extreme end-member of this concentration of durable phosphatic material.

Detailed examination using an SEM and associated XRF elemental mapping reveals that the phosphatic steinkerns of both localities are very similar in their taphonomy. Both consist of botryoidal growths of

carbonate fluorapatite (CFA). The botryoidal growth appears to have nucleated on the walls of the original shell, first forming a lining of variable thickness. Some steinkerns have secondary botryoidal growths on the outside of the steinkern indicating continued precipitation of CFA after destruction of the original shell. This secondary precipitation suggests that reworking played a role not only in concentrating the phosphatic material but also in encouraging continued precipitation of CFA.

The size of the available pore space appears to have played a role in encouraging the precipitation of CFA. In thin section the CFA is limited to smaller parts of larger shells, such as the apices of gastropods and did not precipitate on the inside of the larger, more open spaces within the shell. Many of the phosphate-filled spaces are also sediment-filled, suggesting that subdivision of the larger space into smaller pores enhanced the precipitation of CFA. The difference in the maximum size of the steinkern achieved in the different assemblages suggests that geochemical factors affected size limits.

The most distinctive aspect of phosphate-rich Ordovician strata of mid-Laurentia is the degree of reworking that concentrated the durable small fossils. Details of taphonomy also suggest that phosphate precipitation was an iterative process enhanced by reworking, and that small pore spaces enhanced this mineralization, thus selectively preserving certain sizes and parts of the larger fauna.

Field and petrographic evidence for late diagenetic silicification of Cambrian and Ordovician carbonates of the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia

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A number of isolated hills and ridges of erosionally-resistant Cambrian-Ordovician carbonate bedrock are evident throughout the Shenandoah Valley. A common feature of many of these hills is the local abundance of silicified carbonate rock residuum that is derived from and mantles the overlying the bedrock. Occasionally, outcrops of silicified bedrock provide an opportunity to sample the rock *in situ*. These "cherts", and other silica-rich rocks reveal several common factors of silica replacement of original carbonate rock. While most models of chert formation in carbonates favor early (eogenetic) diagenesis within the sedimentary environment, the model proposed here is one of late (mesogenetic) diagenesis associated with hydrothermal fluid migration induced by tectonic deformation, or associated with the intrusion of igneous dikes and plugs of Mesozoic or Eocene age, or both. Several lines of commonly observed petrographic evidence favoring mesogenetic silicification of these carbonate rocks include: 1) progressive replacement of anhedral to subhedral dolomite grains with microcrystalline quartz and growth of authigenic K-feldspars; 2) zoned quartz overgrowths on euhedral quartz grains that likely formed as primary chemical precipitates, possibly within voids; 3) clasts of brecciated chalcedony-bearing chert floating in a matrix of dolomite that has been altered to microcrystalline quartz; 4) co-occurrence of iron oxides accompanying silica precipitation. Field evidence also supports a model of late diagenetic silicification associated with deformation or hydrothermal alteration. Nodular siliceous masses in carbonates more commonly occur in isolated zones found along or adjacent to faults rather than as stratigraphically-bedded chert. In these zones, silica replacement of carbonate is often associated with outcrops showing evidence of intense local deformation, and the replacement likely results from localized pressure solution of siliceous minerals in the carbonate matrix being re-precipitated as microcrystalline quartz, or as replacement due to migration of hydrothermal fluids. Further geochemical characterization of these samples may shed light on the compositions of diagenetic fluids that resulted in the silicification of the original carbonate rocks.

A New Type of Cool-water Carbonate Buildups: Middle Ordovician *Moyeronia-Angarella* "Reefs" of the Siberian Platform

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Stromatolite bioherms and biostromes are typical organic buildups for the Lower and the lowermost Middle Ordovician of the Siberian platform. However, closer to the end of the Middle Ordovician for a very short time a new and very specific type of organic buildups appears in the succession. The buildups are so far known only from a single locality on the right bank of the Moyero River about 0,5 km upstream of the mouth of its right tributary Bugarikta River on the northeastern part of the Tungus basin near the Anabar Land. The buildups are represented by 8 individual bioherms up to 2-2.5 m high and about 5-12m in diameter, forming a kind of a barrier system. Surrounding rocks are well-bedded marls and bioclastic wackestones of the Moyero Formation (Mukteian Regional Stage that corresponds roughly to the Late Darriwilian). The main reef-building organisms are *Moyeronia*, *Angarella,* and solenoporacean algae. Calcareous green algae have not been found. *Moyeronia* is a problematic fossil of an up to a few cm size with a complex shell structure and is interpreted as a mollusk. *Angarella* is also a problematic endemic fossil of Siberia of up to 1 dm size that usually is assigned to inarticulate brachiopods. Fragments of trilobites, ostracods, brachiopods, echinoderms, and algae rhodoliths represent the main bioclasts in the surrounding rocks. Both, small-scale, symmetrical wave ripple marks in the surrounding rocks as well as the high abundance of solenoporacean algae point to very shallow-water conditions.

The bioherm-containing rocks of the Mukteian regional stage form a single depositional sequence. It is underlain by pure quartz sandstones that correspond to the Baykit depositional sequence, and is overlain by bioclastic limestone of the Volgino depositional sequence with a regional unconformity at the base. Pattern of long-term lithological changes in the Ordovician of the Siberian Tungus basin demonstrates striking similarities with contemporaneous basins of Laurentia. The Ordovician succession of the Tungus basin starts with the Lower and the lower part of the Middle Ordovician represented by warm-water tropical carbonates. These carbonates are overlain by the upper Middle Ordovician unit of well-washed siliciclastic sandstones (Baykit Sandstone) similar to the Eureka quartzite of Laurentia. The Upper Ordovician carbonates in this area have been interpreted as temperate-water carbonates, and thus the Late Middle Ordovician *Moyeronia*/*Angarella* bioherms can be considered as the very beginning of the temperate-water carbonate series. Together with the Hecker-type mud mounds of Baltoscandia they probably represent a second type an unusual Middle Ordovician cool-water reefs.

Ordovician sequence stratigraphy of the Siberian Platform revised

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Ordovician succession of the Siberian Platform was previously subdivided into nine depositional sequences based mainly on analysis of regional unconformities developed in the Irkutsk basin and in the southern and western margins of the Tungus basin (Dronov et al., 2009; Kanygin et al., 2010). Recent

investigations in the central part of the Tungus basin and in its northeastern margin in a proximity of the Anabar Land allow introducing some corrections into the scheme. 1) The former Baykit sequence that correspond to the Baykitian and Mukteian regional stages could be subdivided into Baykit *s.stricto* and Muktey depositional sequences. Muktey sequence is well represented in the outcrops along the Moyero River valley where it bounded by well-developed erosional surfaces and contain *Moyeronia/Angarella* bioherms. 2) The former Kirensk-Kudrino depositional sequence also turned out to be compiled of two cycles of deposition separated by an unconformity. The unconformity and the two cycles could be observed on the left bank of the Moyero River in the outcrop No 70. The lower cycle (Kirensk depositional sequence) is represented by intercalation of limestone and marl beds while the upper cycle (Kudrino depositional sequence) consists of pure quartz sandstone with phosphate conglomerate at the base. 3) The former Kety sequence composed of the Nirundian and the Burian regional stages should be subdivided into two depositional sequences corresponding to the Nirundian and to the Burian stages respectively. In the outcrops along the Nizhaya Chunku River valley, the unconformity between these two sequences stressed by conglomerate with limestone and siltstone pebbles.

The revised sequence stratigraphic scheme of the Ordovician of the Siberian platform consists of 12 depositional sequences. From the base to the top they are as follows: (1) Nya; (2) Ugor; (3) Kimai; (4) Baykit; (5) Muktey; (6) Volgino; (7) Kirensk; (8) Kudrino; (9) Mangazea; (10) Dolbor; (11) Nirunda; (12) Bur. Having in mind that two Hirnantian depositional sequences are not represented in the Siberian succession the number of the Siberian Ordovician sequences coincides with the number of the Baltoscandian ones (Dronov et al., 2011). That could be regarded as an indicator for eustatic origin of sea-level fluctuations responsible for developments of these sequences. Precise correlation of some of the individual sequences however remains obscure due to lack of reliable biostratigraphic, chemostratigraphic and absolute age data.

Lower-Middle Ordovician carbon and sulfur isotope stratigraphy at Shingle Pass, Nevada, USA: Changes in the carbon and sulfur cycles and a link between oxygen levels and biodiversity

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The Ordovician seawater sulfur isotopic record (δ^{34}S) remains relatively poorly known compared to the well-studied carbon isotopic record (δ^{13}C). Primary seawater δ^{13}C and δ^{34}S trends measured from carbonate rocks are used as proxies for changes in organic and pyrite burial, respectively, and provide a proxy for redox conditions. Here we report paired carbon and sulfur isotopic data from well-preserved carbonate rocks from the Great Basin region of North America measured from the Lower-Middle Ordovician carbonate strata of the Pogonip Group at Shingle Pass, NV, USA. Preserved near the base of the North American Stairsian Stage (Tremadocian global Stage) are positive isotope excursions in the δ^{13}C (1.5‰) and δ^{34}S (10‰) records. These excursions have been interpreted as having been caused by the expansion of anoxic waters into shallow environments with increased burial rates of organic matter and pyrite with concomitant oxygenation of the atmosphere. The onset of these excursions appears to be coincident, but the recovery to baseline values for δ^{13}C is more rapid compared to δ^{34}S and suggests that the seawater sulfate reservoir was larger than previously thought. High-resolution sampling throughout this interval using methods thought to ensure the measurement of the most pristine seawater isotopic

value confirms that these excursions are coincident and coupled, but that the methods used to extract carbonate-associated sulfate (CAS) can impart up to an 8‰ shift in the overall δ^{34}S trend.

   The timing of these excursions and interpreted anoxic event corresponds to a major extinction of a group of trilobites (Symphysurinid "biomere") and represents a major biogeochemical event. After the extinction and excursion events the strong coupling between δ^{13}C and δ^{34}S trends weakened, indicating that oxygen levels may have increased enough to prevent major expansion of ocean anoxia globally compared to similar episodes thought to have occurred during the late Cambrian and earliest Ordovician. The suppression of recurrent anoxic conditions into nearshore environments is interpreted here to be a central cause in fostering the increase of biodiversity rates locally and globally that makes up the earliest pulses of biodiversity associated with the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE).

Was the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE) caused by increased atmospheric oxygen?: Evidence from paired carbon isotopes from bulk carbonate (δ^{13}C$_{carb}$) and organic matter (δ^{13}C$_{org}$) from North America

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   The Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE) represents one of the greatest radiations of marine faunas in the Phanerozoic, but identifying the causes of this diversification event remains unknown but actively pursued. Recent studies focused on identifying a causal link between the first pulses of biodiversity and increasing oxygen levels from organic/pyrite burial have shown promise that such a relationship exists but fail to explain long-term trends. A recent compilation of paired measurements from bulk carbonate (δ^{13}C$_{carb}$) and organic matter (δ^{13}C$_{org}$) from published reports from North America shows an overall increase of 3‰ in the isotopic difference (δ^{13}C) of these paired measurements throughout the Ordovician, which we use here to test whether this could be caused by increased atmospheric oxygen levels. The measured δ^{13}C value is controlled in part by the isotopic depletion associated with dissolved CO_2 and the formation of carbonate minerals (Δ_{carb}), the summation of secondary biological and geological processes (Δ_2), but mostly by the biological fractionation effect (ε_p) imparted during the formation of biomass. Experimental work has shown that ε_p is also a function of both biological processes (growth rate and cell surface area/volume), the amount of dissolved CO_2 ([CO_2]), or the partial pressure of O_2 (pO_2). Using estimates from modern and ancient environments for Δ_2 and Δ_{carb} (in place of any fossil or geologic evidence that suggests otherwise) we use the long-term δ^{13}C trend as a proxy for ε_p. Mass-balance isotope model estimates for [CO_2] broadly constrain the atmospheric CO_2 control on ε_p, which we can then use to calculate a pO_2 trend throughout the Ordovician assuming there were not fundamental changes in the dominant biomass producing phytoplankton. pO_2 levels were low during the Early Ordovician (~10%), but increased steadily throughout the late Early and Middle Ordovician to near-modern levels (19-23%). The timing and rate of this increase matches the major pulses of global biodiversity up until the end Ordovician mass extinction. This relationship may indicate that there was a strong relationship between atmospheric oxygen levels and global biodiversity levels during the early Paleozoic. Once atmospheric oxygen levels reached high enough levels that were near modern levels (21%), global biodiversity levels appear to have peaked and plateaued at relatively high levels for nearly 200 million years throughout the Paleozoic prior to the end Permian mass extinction.

Evolution of the Darriwilian to Katian graptolites from NW China

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   The Darriwilian to Katian graptolite fauna from northwestern China has been systematically studied by the present authors and their colleagues, which provides a unified taxonomic framework for the evolutionary analysis. All the range data of the seven available sections, the Dawangou (Kalpin, Xinjiang, taken as the reference section), Sishichang (Aksu, Xinjiang), and Subashigou (Kalpin, Xinjiang), Guanzhuang (Pingliang, Gansu), Longmendong (Longxian, Shaanxi), Dashimen (Wuhai, Inner Mongolia), and Gongwusu (Wuhai, Inner Mongolia) were compiled into the Geobiodiversity Database and reformatted for quantitative biostratigraphy. After removing those names of open nomenclature, a total of 121 species or subspecies from seven sections were ready for graphic correlation analysis. An updated version of the graphic correlation program – SinoCor 4.0 was used to produce the composite sequence (CS). The CS spans a duration from early Darriwilian to early Katian in age, including eight graptolite biozones, the *Cryptograptus gracilicornis*, *Pterograptus elegans*, *Didymograptus murchisoni*, *Jiangxigraptus vagus*, *Nemagraptus gracilis*, *Climacograptus bicornis*, *Diplacanthograptus caudatus*, *and Diplacanthograptus spiniferus* biozones, in ascending order. The precise graptolite richness curve based on the counting of boundary-crossers demonstrates two major diversity peaks during the study interval, one in the basal *D. murchisoni* Biozone and the other in the basal *N. gracilis* Biozone (Fig. 1).
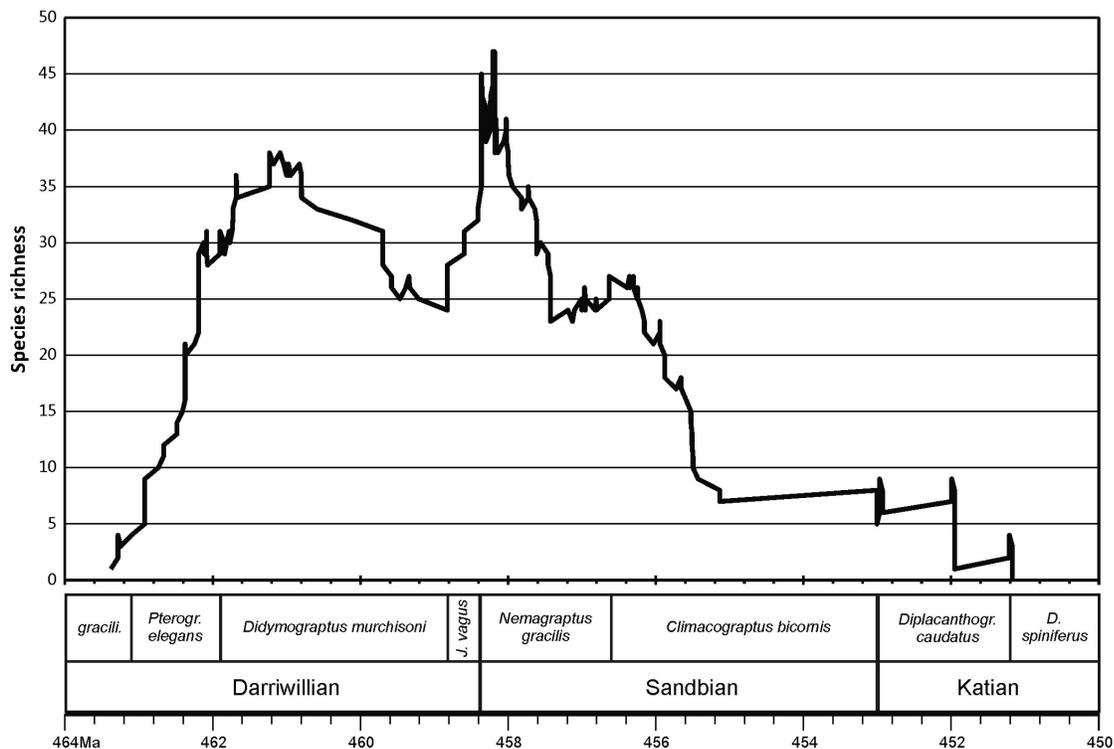
Fig. 1.—Richness curve of graptolites from Darriwilian to Katian

Upper Ordovician carbon isotope chemostratigraphy on the Yangtze Platform, South China: Implications for the correlation of the Guttenberg δ¹³C Excursion (GICE)

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Samples of Upper Ordovician marine carbonates from four sections on the Yangtze Platform (1, the Liangcun section northeast of Xishui County Town, Guizhou Province; 2, the Zhuazhuayan section southwest of Leibo County Town, Sichuan Province; 3, the Xiaogangwan section east of Wulong County Town, Chongqing Municipality; 4, the Shatan section north of Nanjiang County Town, Sichuan Province) have been analyzed for carbon isotope (δ¹³C) chemostratigraphy. A distinct positive δ¹³C excursion (δ¹³C$_{max}$ >2) is observed in all sections which ranges through the *Hamarodus brevirameus* Conodont Zone, and locally into slightly younger strata. The base of this zone is the First Appearance Datum (FAD) of *H. brevirameus* and its top coincides with the FAD of the conodont *Protopanderodus insculptus*. Based on its position in the *H. brevirameus* Zone, this excursion is identified as the well-known Guttenberg Excursion (GICE) confirming the global significance of this paleoceanographic event. The fact that in the Black Knob Ridge section in the USA, the GSSP of the base of the global Katian Stage, the beginning of the GICE is just below the base of the Katian makes it possible to locate this key level in our study sections even in the absence of the diagnostic graptolite *D. caudatus*. Our carbon curves through the GICE interval show three minor secondary peaks reflecting paleoceanographic changes or selective preservation of the isotope signal. However, because a global review of the GICE shows that such minor peaks, which are often based on a single elevated δ¹³C value, are of irregular occurrence, they are interpreted as local, rather than global, phenomena. The suggested global cooling in the early Katian might have favored the generation of methane hydrates and hence the reduction of the amount of ¹²C in the marine carbonates.

Palaeobiogeographic distribution of Lituitidae cephalopods in late Dapingian to early Katian (Ordovician) and its implications

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Lituitidae cephalopods are among the most significant fossil groups in late Dapingian to early Katian globally, which were extensively distributed in South China, North China, Sibumasu, Tarim, Tibet, Baltica and Laurentia, etc. Based on latest taxonomic studies, the family comprises nine genera, including *Lituites*, *Trilacinoceras*, *Ancistroceras*, *Sinoceras*, *Holmiceras*, *Angelinoceras*, *Rhynchorthoceras*, *Cyclolituites* and *Tyrioceras*, apparently in four groups. The global palaeobiogeographic distribution of the Lituitidae cephalopods through Dapingian to early Katian display a progressively-reducing distribution with time, and become restricted in the northeastern peri-Gondwana region in early Katian with a low diversity, until the group became extinct suddenly in mid Katian globally. In South China, Lituitidae cephalopods displays a continuous biofacies gradient from Yangtze Region (platform) to Jiangnan Region (slope), and a progressive expansion of its ecological habitats with time from shallow water into deeper waters until mid Katian. The palaeobiogeographic distribution and biofacies gradient pattern of lituitids may be related with worldwide sea-level changes during the Ordovician.

Risk and resilience during and after the Late Ordovician extinctions

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The Late Ordovician Mass Extinction (LOME) coincided with major global climate changes, but there are numerous mechanisms that could have caused marine invertebrate extinctions. Determining which were most important requires dissecting extinction patterns across time, space, environments, and taxa. Here we use a large and taxonomically standardized global database of the local stratigraphic ranges of rhynchonelliform brachiopods to examine extinction selectivity patterns through the Late Ordovician-Early Silurian interval and to evaluate which potential extinction mechanisms are best supported by these data. During the first pulse of the Late Ordovician Mass Extinction predictors with the greatest marginal influence on extinction risk were paleolatitudinal range and paleobathymetric distribution: genera with absolute paleolatitudinal ranges < 25° or bathymetric ranges limited to deeper waters suffered most. Neither of these predictors are associated with extinction risk during other intervals, suggesting that they are indicative of extinction mechanisms unique to the latest Katian interval. Preferential extinction of exclusively deep-water genera suggests that changes in the vertical distribution of water mass quality such as dissolved oxygen content were important drivers. The importance of paleolatitudinal range suggests that interactions between changing seawater temperature and paleogeography also played a prominent role in driving extinctions. To test this latter hypothesis, we estimated thermal tolerance ranges of latest Ordovician species based on their known occurrences and temperature gradients extracted from paleoclimatic models. We extracted estimates for two distinct climate modes: a 'greenhouse' state with high sea levels and high CO_2 and an 'icehouse' state with relatively low sea levels and low CO_2. We then estimated whether each genus would have been expected to survive a cooling (greenhouse-icehouse) scenario or a warming (icehouse-greenhouse) scenario based on whether any of its constituent species would have been able to access water temperatures within their tolerance range. Models that include expected survival under a cooling scenario are strongly favored, advocating a direct role for ocean cooling in driving the first pulse of the mass extinction. We argue that the LOME, long regarded as relatively nonselective, is in fact strongly selective with respect to biogeographic and bathymetric parameters that themselves are not closely correlated with taxonomic identity.

High-resolution stratigraphic correlation and biodiversity dynamics of Middle and Late Ordovician marine fossils from Baltoscandia and Poland

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The Middle and Upper Ordovician rocks of Baltoscandia have been divided into spatially distinct, composite litho- and biofacies units called confacies belts. A precise regional correlation of outcrops and boreholes located in different confacies belts has always been problematic due to the pronounced biogeographical and lithofacies differentiation. Correlation between sections in the graptolite-rich black shales of the Scanian confacies and the carbonate-rich North Estonian confacies belts has been

particularly difficult. To overcome these problems we used Constrained Optimization (CONOP9, Sadler et al., 2003) and Horizon Annealing (HA, Sheets et al., 2012) to construct a high resolution correlation model and composite range chart compiled from the stratigraphic range data of 554 chitinozoan, conodont, ostracod, and graptolite species from 38 drill cores and outcrops in Poland and Baltoscandia. We also used the CONOP composite as a timescale in which to calculate biodiversity, extinction, and origination rates through the Middle and Late Ordovician. Our data show that overall biodiversity forms a broad but uneven plateau from the base of the Uhaku to the late Kukruse Baltic stages, followed by a distinct drop in the Haljala Stage mainly due to a steep decline in conodont diversity. Two distinct diversity peaks occur in the Keila and Rakvere Baltic stages, with a dramatic decline at the basal Oandu Stage associated with the δ13C isotope excursion that correlates with the North American GICE event. Fossil diversity declines from the Nabala through Vormsi stages, with a slight rebound in the middle Pirgu. The main Late Ordovician extinction begins in the mid – late Pirgu Stage. Chitinozoan diversity exhibits peaks in the Lasnamagi and lower Keila stages, drops through the Oandu, and then gradually declines across the rest of the Ordovician. Conodonts have a main diversity peak in the lower Uhaku, a smaller peak Kukruse, and then decline gradually through the Late Ordovician with a slight rebound in the Mid to Late Katian global Stage. Graptoloid diversity exhibits a main peak in the Kukruse (Sandbian) followed by decline, a smaller peak in the late Keila, a decline thereafter. Our ostracod data indicate an uneven climb in diversity through the mid Pirgu followed by a very steep decline. These patterns are similar to other published diversity curves but also differ in some important aspects.

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A biostratigraphic reappraisal of Tremadocian graptolites from SW Europe and NW Africa

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Tremadocian graptolites are rare fossils in the whole peri-Gondwanan Europe, northwestern Africa and the Near and Middle East. This is in part due to the absence of suitable marine facies, which are largely dominated by shallow-water siliciclastic sediments such as green shales and coarse sandstones, but also owing to the general lack of a distinctive sedimentary record. The Cambrian/Ordovician boundary involves, regionally, major erosive unconformities (excepted in SW Sardinia) and diachronic stratigraphic gaps, mainly associated to the denudation of rift shoulders during a multistage rifting through the Furongian and the Lower Ordovician epochs. This rifting was connected to the opening of the Rheic Ocean, which also generated thick volcano-sedimentay sequences and plutonism related to the

long-lived Ollo de Sapo Magmatic Event, ranging in age between *ca*. 490 and 465 Ma, with a maximum at about 477 Ma and a youngest age of approximately 479 Ma for the massive metavolcanic sequences.

Early Tremadocian (Tr1) graptolites are represented in North Africa (Morocco, Algeria) and in scattered localities in Sardinia, southeastern France and northern Turkey. They compose a low-diversity assemblage of quadriradiate pendent *Rhabdinopora* (*R. flabelliformis* and its ecological subspecies *R. f. socialis, R. f. anglica* or *R. f. norvegica*, adapted to shallow and mid-shelf environments), without *Staurograptus* and with very few *Anisograptus*? (a triradiate genus). Representatives of the early biradiate development (*Adelograptus* or *Aorograptus* Zone) have been rarely recognized in the Algerian Sahara and in northern Mauritania, with the extremely rare occurrence of *Adelograptus* "*tenellus*" and remains of other branched species (*Paradelograptus*?, *Aorograptus*? spp.). Slightly above these beds, a single Saharan borehole yielded the enigmatic anisograptid *Choristograptus louai*, a graptolite recently recorded also in the Fezouata Formation of Morocco, probably from a horizon of middle Tremadocian (Tr 2) age. In the same unit the occurrence of *Bryograptus* has been cited from one locality, but is pending revision.

In contrast with the few graptolite records from early to middle Tremadocian beds, late Tremadocian green shales, with locally abundant graptolites, are widely distributed over the entire area, but with little lateral continuity. This is the case of the *Araneograptus murrayi* Zone that has been recognized in NW Africa (Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria), as well as in the Ossa Morena Zone of the Iberian Massif, SW Sardinia (Fluminese area), SE France (Montagne Noire), and Germany (Thuringia). Besides the large conical rhabdosomes of *A. murrayi*, that locally occur in massive monospecific concentrations (maybe reflecting mass mortality caused by toxic events?), the zonal assemblage yielded other anisograptids (*Kiaerograptus, Paratemnograptus*), sigmagraptids (*Paradelograptus*) and early dichograptines (*Clonograptus, Tetragraptus* s.l., *Didymograptus* s.l.). Finally, the latest Tremadocian *Hunnegraptus copiosus* graptolite Zone has been identified in SW Spain, the Moroccan Anti-Atlas and in a single locality in the Central Taurus (Turkey). Apart of the rare record of its nominal form, most of the associated graptolites may range from the previous biozone into the earliest Floian strata. The assemblage includes multiramous horizontal forms (*Clonograptus, Paradelograptus*) and two- to four-stiped rhabdosomes (*Kiaerograptus*, *Didymograptus* s.l., *Tetragraptus* s.l.). These two late Tremadocian (Tr3) graptolite zones bear not only planktic graptolites, but also remains of benthic dendroids of the genera *Dictyonema, Callograptus, Aspidograptus, Desmograptus* and *Ptilograptus*, most of them occurring as transported elements.

Iberian Ordovician and its International Correlation

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The regional chronostratigraphy of the British Ordovician, established mainly for shelly facies, is hard to correlate in the Iberian Peninsula, especially after the separation and drift of Avalonia from Gondwana by the early Middle Ordovician. The same applies to the Ordovician global scale, whose stratotypes involve deeper-water facies and faunas not recorded in the high-paleolatitudinal settings of southern peri-Gondwana. In order to solve the problem, an alternative regional scheme for the "Mediterranean" Ordovician was proposed in the 1970s. This comprises five regional stages plus the global Tremadocian and Hirnantian, which are largely based on the distribution of endemic shelly fossils combined with some graptolites and a good palynological record. This Ordovician scale presents precise correlation potential for southwestern and central Europe (Ibero-Armorica, Sardinia, Bohemia, Bulgaria) and the vast area from northern Africa to Saudi Arabia and part of the Middle East. Sporadic occurrences of graptolites and shelly faunas of Baltic or Avalonian affinities allow for indirect correlation with the global stages through their own regional scales. Despite the advantages of such a regional "Mediterranean" scale, the terms "Ordovician Oddyssey" and "*Quo vadis* Ordovician?", used as titles for the books that arose from the Ordovician symposia of 1985 (Las Vegas) and 1990 (Prague), are still applicable to the Iberian Ordovician chronostratigraphy. Some authors prefer to use the global scale directly, without valid references to precise correlation, whereas others use the old British scale without acknowledging the redefinition by British authors between 1972 and 2010.

In Iberia, as well as in other peri-Gondwanan areas lying in high paleolatitudes close to the Ordovician South Pole, the general scarcity of graptolites and conodonts in the Lower and Middle Ordovician, and the largely endemic nature of the shelly faunas, impose serious difficulties for correlating the successions in this region with the new global chronostratigraphy. This is illustrated by the fact that only two of the taxa used for the definition of the global stages and series have been recorded in paleogeographically southern peri-Gondwana (*Levisograptus austrodentatus* in Turkey and *Metabolograptus extraordinarius* in Bohemia). The situation is similar with the taxa defining the base of the *stage slices*, were only Dw2's (*Didymograptus artus*) and Ka3's (*Amorphognathus ordovicicus*) diagnostic species are recognizable where appropriate litho- and biofacies are developed, and may be distant from their respective FADs. Single records of the graptolites *Tetragraptus azkharensis* (a form closely allied to *T. approximatus*, Fl1) and *Dicellograptus complanatus* (Ka4) are known from France, but come from Ordovician olistoliths within Carboniferous mélanges in Montagne Noire and south Armorican Massif.

The paleontological record from the Iberian Ordovician includes low diversity benthic assemblages of trilobites, ostracods, brachiopods, echinoderms, molluscs, etc., regarded as cold-water faunas, later shifting to more temperate types, and even relatively warm-water faunas due to the Boda event that preceeded the Hirnantian glaciation. Faunal affinities suggest strong links within a single paleogeographical realm (equivalent to the "Mediterranean", "*Selenopeltis*" or "Calymenacean-Dalmanitacean" provinces of previous authors). Within this common scenario, faunal differences are strongly conditioned by the development of different biofacies defined by the type of substrate, inshore-offshore gradients and even paleocurrents.

The Ibero-Bohemian Ordovician scheme allows regional correlations within the southern peri-Gondwanan areas and can be regarded of similar rank and suitability as other regional scales used in Australasia, Baltoscandia, Avalonia, North America or China. According to the current policy of the International Ordovician Subcommission, a fundamental contribution to the development of a global chronostratigraphy will be the detailed cataloguing of as many as possible of these commonly distinctive regional Ordovician sections.

Late Ordovician, deep-water *Foliomena* brachiopod fauna from the island of Bornholm, Denmark

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The deep-water brachiopod *Foliomena* fauna is one of the most widespread, Phanerozoic marine assemblages. Distributional data for the *Foliomena* and related biotas from over 30 localities, globally, through the early Sandbian to late Katian interval, are now available from deeper-water, marginal biofacies. The fauna was first described in detail from the Lindegård Mudstone in Scania, southernmost Sweden, in the early 1970s and this association of small, thin-shelled brachiopods has since then been recorded from the Avalonian, Gondwanan and Laurentian margins together with its most diverse and extensive development in South China. A hitherto unpublished assemblage collected in the 1800s from the upper Katian Lindegård Mudstone of Bornholm, Denmark, including *Christiania*, *Cyclospira*, *Dedzetina* and *Foliomena* itself together with species of *Glyptorthis*, *Leptestiina*, *Nubialba*, *Proboscisambon* and *Sowerbyella* confirms the persistence of this deep-water biofacies in southern Scandinavia and develops further the evolutionary and geographical patterns of the *Foliomena* fauna around the margins of Baltica, prior to its extinction at the end of the Katian. Deep-water facies persisted into the Hirnantian on Bornholm where the shelly fauna is characterised by sparse *Aegiromena,* indicative of the deepest-water associations of the terminal Ordovician *Hirnantia* fauna.

Milankovitch cycles in the Juniata Formation, Late Ordovician, central Appalachian basin, USA

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The Juniata Formation is a thick succession of prevalently red, cyclically bedded arenites, wackes, and mudrocks found in the Upper Ordovician of the Central Appalachian Basin, USA. Its thickness exceeds 1600 ft in western Maryland, and is thicker in Pennsylvania. The typical cycle ranges from less than 1 to more than 15 feet in thickness, and has three facies: (1) a lower cross-bedded arenite with a channeled basal contact and upper burrowed surface, (2) interbedded mudstone and vertically burrowed arenite to wacke, and (3) an upper bioturbated mudstone to shale with occasional pedogenic structures. In some outcrops, the cycles predominantly have the characteristics of regressive tidal flat deposits, however elsewhere the Juniata cycles have been described as fluvial. Regionally, the Juniata was probably deposited in various environments.

Long and continuous well logs of the subsurface Juniata provide an unparalleled opportunity to investigate Milankovitch controls on the cyclic deposition. In the Preston 119 well, northern West Virginia, a particularly long 2700 ft gamma-ray log provides a high-resolution proxy of terrigenous siliciclastic flux to the northern Central Appalachian Basin shoreline, from the early Maysvillian (Reedsville Shale) to the Ordovician/Silurian transition (Tuscarora Sandstone). This log records multiple-scale gamma-ray cycles with spectrally determined thicknesses of 316 ft, 70 ft, 23 ft, 12.2 ft, 11.5 ft and 8.4 ft. After the 316 ft cycle, the 23 ft cycle has the highest magnitude. Adopting GTS2012 as a preliminary timescale indicates that the log is approximately 4 million years long (from ~448 Ma in the early Maysvillian to 443.8 Ma at the Ordovician/Silurian boundary). This indicates an average accumulation rate for the logged section of 2700 ft/4 myr = 675 ft/myr. The 316 ft cycle therefore calibrates to a periodicity of 316 ft/(675 ft/myr) = 0.468 myr, which is close to the Earth's long

eccentricity cycle period of 405 kyr. Readjusting gives an average accumulation rate of 316 ft/405 kyr = 0.78 ft/kyr; from this the shorter cycles calibrate to: 90 kyr (short eccentricity?), 30 kyr (obliquity), 15.6 kyr, 14.7 kyr and 10.8 kyr (precession index). Tuning to control for variable accumulation rates leads to further adjustments that can be compared with theoretical predictions for Ordovician-age obliquity and precession index periodicities. In sum, the gamma-ray cycles provide strong evidence for sea level oscillations forced by Milankovitch cycles with a dominant obliquity component.

The strong obliquity signal captured by the Preston 119 log is reminiscent of the obliquity forcing of Oligocene climate and sea level following the glaciation of Antarctica. The Late Ordovician world analogously experienced glaciation of Gondwana, which straddled the South Pole; this may have led to ice sheet dynamics that generated obliquity-paced sea level oscillations that affected Late Ordovician shorelines. This Milankovitch-forced glacio-eustatic record from eastern North America joins other suspected Milankovitch-forced coeval successions reported in northern Africa and northwestern Australia.

Ordovician (Darriwilian-Sandbian) linguliform brachiopods from the southern Cuyania Terrane of West-central Argentina

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The first Ordovician micromorphic linguliform brachiopods are described from the southern part of the Cuyania Terrane in the Province of Mendoza of west-central Argentina. The focus of the study is on carbonate successions exposed in Block of San Rafael, south of the famous Precordillera of San Juan, La Rioja and Mendoza representing the largest area of the so-called Cuyania terrane. Because of its origin which is exotic to this part of western Gondwana based on sedimentological, paleontological, and geochemistry evidence as well as the regional geological development, this terrane became over more than two decades one of the most discussed regions in South America. As summarized by Keller (1999, 2012), many aspects of the Precordillera and, therefore also of the thin carbonate cover resting on the Grenvillian San Rafael basement, point to an origin of this large crustal segment from Ouachita Basin of west-central Texas, even when there are controversial discussions and models favouring a par-autochthonous origin in some tropical peri-Gondwana area. The common record of major Cambrian through Lower/Middle Ordovician sedimentary events with this southern part of the Laurentian margin displays that the tropical platform carbonates exposed in this extensive Cuyania Terrane could be interpreted to represent a part of the "Great American Carbonate Bank" (Keller 2012).

In the San Rafael region to the south, the lingulate brachiopod faunas occur in two successive assemblages. The older assemblage was recovered from the uppermost part of the Ponon Trehue Formation (*Lenodus variabilis* Biozone; Darriwilian), and is dominated by *Numericoma rowelli* sp. nov. It shows affinity to contemporaneous faunas from Whiterockian, Antelope Valley Limestone at Meiklejohn Peak in central Nevada. The second, and younger assemblage was recovered from the lower Lindero Formation (Peletay and lower Los Leones Members; upper Darriwilian-basal Sandbian; *Pygodus serra* and *P. anserinus* Biozones; Lehnert et al. 1999) and is mainly dominated by the new genus *Mendozotreta*, with its type species *M. devota* (Krause & Rowell), *Conotreta* cf. *multisinuata* Cooper, *Rhysotreta corrugata* Cooper, *Scaphelasma septatum* Cooper, *Ephippelasma minutum* Cooper, and *Biernatia minor* Cooper. In addition, the fauna includes also *Elliptoglossa sylvanica* Cooper, *Rowellella margarita* Krause & Rowell, and *Paterula* cf. *perfecta* Cooper. This second lingulate microbrachiopod assemblage is closely comparable to the coeval microbrachiopod fauna from the Pratt Ferry Formation of Alabama.

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Traces of explosive volcanic eruptions in the Upper Ordovician of the Siberian Platform

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   In recent years more than a dozen K-bentonite beds have been discovered in the Upper Ordovician of the Tungus basin on the Siberian Platform. All the beds were identified in the outcrops of the Baksian, Dolborian and Burian regional stages, which correspond roughly to the Upper Sandbian, Katian and probably lowermost Hirnantian Global Stages (Bergström et al., 2009). The 4 lowermost beds from the Baksian and Dolborian Regional Stages were studied in detail. They are represented by thin beds (1-2 cm) of soapy light gray or yellowish plastic clays and usually easily identifiable in the outcrops. The beds were traced in the outcrops over a distance of more than 60 km along the Podkamennaya Tunguska River valley.

   All K-bentonite beds have been found within the Upper Ordovician cool-water carbonate succession. The four lowermost K-bentonite beds, which were sampled, have been studied by powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electron microscopy (ESEM) together with energy dispersive X-ray analysis. Modeling of the XRD tracings using NEWMOD showed the samples consist of R3 ordered illite-smectite with 80% illite and 20% smectite plus a small amount of corrensite, which is a regularly interstratified chlorite-smectite. A minor amount of quartz is indicated by peaks at 4.21Å and 3.33Å. The presence of a chlorite phase indicates a primary magma rich in Fe & Mg. And the low percent of smectite in both mixed-layer phases reflects a high degree of burial metamorphism since the time of their origin. The K-bentonites provide evidence of intensive explosive volcanism on or near the western (in present day orientation) margin of the Siberian craton in Late Ordovician time.

   The K-bentonite beds from the Baksian and Dolborian regional stages (Katian) of the southwestern part of the Tungus basin in Siberia are thus derived from the alteration of volcanic ash falls. All four beds contain volcanogenic euhedral zircon and apatite phenocrysts. Zircon crystals from the uppermost K-bentonite bed within the Baksian regional stage provides a $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ age of 450.58±0.27 Ma. The timing of volcanism is surprisingly close to the period of volcanic activity of the Taconic arc near the eastern margin of Laurentia. It looks like Taconic arc has its continuation along the western continental margin of Siberia and both of them constitute a single Taconic-Yenisei volcanic arc. Field studies of the Upper Ordovician succession along the Moyero River in the vicinity of the Anabar shield demonstrate an absence of K-bentonite beds along the eastern margin (in present day orientation) of the Siberian Platform. This contradicts popular palaeogeographic interpretations (www.scotese.com) and points to the position of a subduction zone along the western but not the eastern margin of the Siberian palaeocontinent at this time.

Paired $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ - $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ records from the Laurentian margins during late Katian glaciation

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A growing body of evidence suggests that continental ice sheets existed on Gondwana during a prolonged Ordovician-Silurian icehouse, with peak glacial conditions in the Hirnantian Stage. Here we use paired inorganic ($\delta^{13}C_{carb}$) and organic ($\delta^{13}C_{org}$) carbon isotope stratigraphy to investigate potential oceanographic and climatic changes during the late Katian phase of the icehouse. The lower Beaverfoot Formation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains (Pedley Pass, British Columbia) and the Pabos Formation in the Gaspé Peninsula (Percé, Quebec) each host a pronounced negative $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ excursion in uppermost Katian strata, with isotope ratios declining ~2‰ below baseline values before rising beneath the Katian-Hirnantian boundary. At Percé, the ~35 m thick Côte de la Surprise Member of the White Head Formation contains a Hirnantian fauna; a positive $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ excursion in this unit reaches +1.5‰. We tentatively correlate the Côte de la Surprise excursion to the earliest Hirnantian excursion in the lowermost Ellis Bay Formation on Anticosti Island. Exposure of the Côte de la Surprise Member at Percé is truncated by faulting above this excursion.

The late Katian negative $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ excursion is broadly paralleled by a negative excursion in $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ at Pedley Pass, but not at Percé. The covariant isotope data from Pedley Pass suggest that both $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ and $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ record primary changes in ocean chemistry. Cyclical $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ oscillations with magnitudes < 1.0‰ are superimposed on the rise below the Katian-Hirnantian boundary, during a time when independent evidence suggests the presence of continental ice on Gondwana. In this context, we speculate that the $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ cycles in the Beaverfoot may be a manifestation of Milankovitch type forcing of the climate during the Ordovician-Silurian icehouse, although the absence of cycles in the parallel $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ record may point to a diagenetic origin of the $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ cycles. The lack of $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ - $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ covariation at Percé may be explained by several factors, including contamination of $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ by exogenous organic matter shed from the Taconic Mountains.

The Early-Middle Ordovician acritarch assemblage from eastern Yunnan

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Since 1926, Zhu first studied Ordovician rocks from eastern Yunnan, the Ordovician stratigraphic sequence of eastern Yunnan have been set up progressively, which is the Tangchi, Hungshihyen, Qiaojia and Daqing formations in ascending order (Zhang and Zhang, 2013). Several studies on Ordovician acritarch assemblages in eastern Yunnan have been carried out since 1980s, such as Fang (1986), Gao (1991), Li (1991), Li and Yuan (1995, 1997), and Li et al. (2004). Their studies show variety in diversity and systematic of the acritarch assemblage from eastern Yunnan. Recently Zhang and Zhang (2013) restudied graptolite from this area, which give us more stratigraphic information.

The samples were collected from the Tangchi and Hungshihyen formations of the Liujiang section and the Qiaojia Formation of the Guihuaqing Reservoir Bank section in the Luquan for acritarch analysis.

A total of 31 species assigned to 25 genera have been recognized from the Tangchi Formation and 33 species attributed to 27 genera from the Hungshihyen Formation in the Liujiang section, and 25 species assigned to 19 genera from the Qiaojia Formation in the Guihuaqing Reservoir Bank section. The

acritarch assemblage is dominated by *Leiosphaeridia*, *Dactylofusa velifera*, *Rhopaliophora* and *Pterospermella* from the Tangchi Formation, *Ploygonium*, *Cymatiogalea/Stelliferidium*, *Coryphidium* and *Striatotheca* from the Hungshihyen Formation, and *Polygonium*, *Cymatiogalea*, and *Leiosphaeridia* from the Qiaojia Formation.

Zhang and Zhang (2013) identified the *Baltograptus varicosus* graptolite Zone in the Hungshihyen Formation, which referred to the interval of the middle Floian. The present of *Arbusculidium filamentosum*, *Aureotesta clathrata* var. *simplex*, *Coryphidium* cf. *elegans*, *Cristallinium cambriense*?, *Dactylofusa velifera*, *Dasydorus cirritus* and *Rhopaliophora* indicate that the Tangchi Formation probably represent the sediment of the Upper Tremadocian (1d)-Middle Floian (2b). The Hungshihyen Formation represents the middle-upper Floian strata because of the present of *Ampullula erchunensis*, *Barakella felix*, and *Coryphidium bohemicum*. Most acritarch taxa identified from the Qiaojia Formation in the Guihuaqing Reservoir Bank Section are widely distributed in the Floian-Darriwilian South China, so that the Qiaojia Formation probably represents the sediments of the Dapingian or Darriwilian age. More detailed studies are need on the Ordovician biostratigraphy, palaeoenvironment, and palaeogeography in eastern Yunnan.

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A new tube-like enigmatic animal and its burrows from the Upper Ordovician of the Siberian Platform

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Numerous conical-shaped, trace fossils similar to "Jõhvilites" from the Jõhvi regional stage of Estonia and northwestern Russia were found, during 2013, in the Upper Ordovician (Katian) cool-water carbonate succession of the Dzherom Formation (Dolborian regional stage) in northeastern part of the Tungus basin on the Siberian platform (Moyerokan and Moyero River valleys). The fossils are represented by vertically oriented conical or bulbous accumulations of bioclastic material (bioclastic packstone) surrounded by carbonate rocks with much lower concentrations of bioclasts (mudstone or wackestone). The dominant bioclasts are fragments of trilobite carapaces, brachiopod and ostracods shells. The regular conical shape of the trace fossils is similar to *Conichnus conicus* Männil, 1966 from the Upper Ordovician of Baltoscandia but is usually larger (10-15 cm high and about 7-12 cm in diameter). Closely spaced conical

or bulbous burrows sometimes overlap each other. In several conical detrital accumulations, calcite tubes of about 1-2 cm in diameter were found in an axial or slightly tilted position in the cones.

During 2014, outcrops of the Dolbor Formation (Dolborian regional stage) along the Nizhnaya Chunku River in the southern part of the Tungus basin yielded numerous large (up to 1,5 m long and up to 5 cm in diameter) tube-like organisms of unknown affinity were studied. Where *in situ* the lower end of the tube is vertically oriented (perpendicular to bedding planes) and surrounded by a detritic envelope of conical shape. Detritic cones are thus closely connected with the calcite tubes and represent trace fossils for which the tube-like animals were trace-makers. It seems that the sessile animal burrowed into the sediment and accumulated bioclastic debris around its lower end in order to construct a kind of anchor preventing it from being plucked out by storm events. The tube-like animal has a uniform skeleton consisting of fibrous calcite. It appears to represent an undescribed cnidarian, probably similar to [Sphenothallus](). The tube-like animals and their traces are abundant in the Dolborian regional stage deposits of the Tungus basin.

Biogeographic origins and dispersal pathways of invasive taxa: The Late Ordovician (Katian) Richmondian invasion, Cincinnati area, Ohio

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The Late Ordovician Richmondian Invasion involved the immigration of over 60 genera into the Cincinnati Basin. Multiple competing hypotheses about the geographic origin of the invaders and the processes that facilitated the faunal migration event have been articulated over the past century. To clarify pathways and processes of the invasion, a suite of quantitative biogeographic methods were employed. These analyses compared biogeographic patterns using either all invader genera (Parsimony Analysis of Endemicity [PAE]) or brachiopod and trilobite clades with resolved species-level phylogenetic hypotheses (Fitch Parsimony, Lieberman-modified Brooks Parsimony Analysis [LBPA], and BioGeoBEARS) during two timeslices—the T1 (Cincinnati depositional sequences M5-C3) and T2 (C4-C6 sequences).

Biogeographic patterns recovered from BioGeoBEARS analysis and Fitch optimization of four brachiopod and trilobite clades that speciated during the focal intervals produced congruent results. During the T1 timeslice, several dispersal paths operated among interior Laurentian basins as well as cool-water marginal basins. During the T2 timeslice, dispersal occurred among the Upper Mississippi Valley, Northern and Southern Laurentia, the Southern Appalachian Basin, and the Cincinnati Basin. Furthermore, BioGeoBEARS analysis indicated a prominent role for founder event speciation in the evolution of these clades.

General area cladograms of geodispersal and vicariance patterns produced via LBPA were identical for the T1 timeslice, indicating that cyclical processes controlled speciation processes during this time. Both areagrams indicate that the Upper Mississippi Valley, Western Midcontinent, Southern Laurentia and areas north of the Transcontinental Arch share a close area relationship. The Scoto-Appalachian Basin and Cincinnati Basin also share a close area relationship. The T2 time slice vicariance and geodisperal areagrams are incongruent and indicate that non-cyclical events primarily structured biogeographic patterns during this interval. Notably, Baltica became separated from the Southern Appalachian Basin and connected to Northern Laurentia during this time interval. The Western Midcontinent, Upper Mississippi Valley, and areas North of the Transcontinental Arch also exhibit close area relationships within both vicariance and geodispersal areagrams during this interval.

Results of PAE based on occurrence data for over 60 genera of Richmondian invaders across the C1 to C5 depositional sequences indicates that several dispersal paths operated during the invasion interval.

Three separate dispersal events were hypothesized to occur from Baltica into Laurentia. In addition, several of the paths uncovered using parsimony and maximum likelihood methods are echoed in the PAE analysis, such as the close area relationship between the Upper Mississippi Valley, Western Midcontinent, and areas north of the Transcontinental Arch.

The equatorial Iapetus current would have facilitated dispersal between Laurentia and Baltica with volcanic island arcs providing stepping-stones between paleocontinents. Dispersal among Laurentian basins, particularly midcontinent basins, during the T1 timeslice was aided by counter-clockwise circulation patterns created by the influx of cool water into the Laurentian craton via the Sebree Trough. In addition, upwelling zones within the western midcontinent region facilitated dispersal of planktic larvae into surrounding basins. Dispersal among Laurentian basins during the T2 timeslice was likely influenced by a major transgression which took place at the C5 sequence boundary, hypothesized to have broken down preexisting physical barriers and allowing dispersal across deep-water areas acting as thermal barriers. Strong storm activity and surface currents aided in dispersal of larvae among western and eastern basins.

When combined, these results indicate that several multidirectional dispersal paths were operational before and during the Late Ordovician Richmondian Invasion, thus supporting several prior hypotheses about the biogeographic origin and immigration pathways used by invasive taxa. Maximum likelihood analyses reveal that founder-event speciation was an important speciation type among benthic Paleozoic taxa.

Early Ordovician lithistid sponge-*Calathium* reefs on the Yangtze Platform and their paleoceanographic implications

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Lithistid sponge-*Calathium*-microbial reefs were widespread on the Yangtze Platform during the Early Ordovician and are well studied. However, the biological affinity and the role of *Calathium* in these reefs have remained unclear up to now. We document lithistid sponge-*Calathium* reefs from the Upper Hunghuayuan Formation (early Floian) at Huanghuachang in Hubei, South China. These reefs have a three-dimensional skeletal framework that is mostly produced by *Calathium* and lithistid sponges.

Calathium had a critical role in reef construction, as demonstrated by well-developed lateral outgrowths, which connected individuals of the same species and with lithistid sponges. Bryozoans, stromatoporoids and microbial components were secondary reef builders.

Morphological, constructional and functional analyses provide evidence that *Calathium* was a sponge-grade metazoan rather than a receptaculitid alga as previously thought. Lithistid sponge-*Calathium* reefs of early Floian achieved a comparable ecological complexity as Cambrian archaeocyathan-dominated reefs. At the dawn of the Ordovician Radiation, these lithistid sponge-*Calathium* reefs as well as the oldest bryozoan reefs in the same area show that a suite of calcifying metazoans began to take control over reefs individually or in concert, indicating an initial rebound for metazoan-dominated reefs after the late-Early Cambrian metazoan reef crisis.

Distributional data of *Calathium* were extracted from the Paleobiology Database (PaleobioDB, http://paleobiodb.org). After sampling standardization, an equatorward shrinkage of the latitudinal range has been found from the Early through Middle Ordovician. And we compiled body size data of *Calathium* based on our own material and the literature. A significant increase of body size from the Early to the Middle Ordovician is evident (W=3.5, p=0.01005, two-tailed Wilcoxon test). Both latitudinal distribution and body-size trend of *Calathium* supported that gradual global cooling through the Early Ordovician may have been a key driver for the return of metazoan reefs.

The first sphinctozoan-bearing reef from an Ordovician back-arc basin

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Compared to the Permian and Triassic, there were just sporadic and limited reports of reef-building sphinctozoans (multi-chambered sponges) in the Early Paleozoic. Here we document the oldest sphinctozoan-coral-microbial reef from the Upper Sanqushan Formation (late Katian) of southeast China, which is also the first report of Ordovician sphinctozoans from South China. The studied site (29° 00'15"N, 118°32'17"E) is located next to Wu'ai village, some 11 km to the north of the Changshan. Paleogeographically, this site belongs to the north margin of Zhe-Gan platform. The sponges occur in a >120m thick reef that is mainly constructed by calcimicrobes (*Kordephyton*, *Renalcis* and *Epiphyton*) with a low abundance of *in situ* metazoans, predominantly sphinctozoan sponges (*Corymbospongia*) and rugose corals (mostly *Palaeophyllum* and *Streptelasma*). Only a few centimeter-scale fragments of massive tabulate corals and stromatoporoids are found in thin sections. *Tetradium* is the only genus of tabulate corals which is preserved in growth position. Crinoids and brachiopods are common reef dwellers. Stromatactis is abundant. Bio- and litho-facies in this area as well as the characteristics of the microbialite show that the reef developed in a deeper subtidal setting that was unfavorable for most metazoan reef builders. In contrast to the high-energy stromatolite-sphinctozoan reefs from the Late Silurian, our case represents a low-energy community, indicating that the first reef-building sphinctozoan (*Corymbospongia*) might have originated in a relatively deep environment on seamounts of a back-arc basin during the Late Ordovician.

Early-Middle Ordovician chitinozoan biodiversification of Upper Yangtze Platform, South China

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As an extinct group of organic-walled, planktonic microfossils, chitinozoans are widely preserved in many types of marine deposits from Early Ordovician (late Tremadocian) to Late Devonian (latest Famennian). Recently, chitinozoans are becoming more and more important in biostratigraphy and the stratigraphic correlation because of the short stratigraphical range and the wide distribution of their species. For more than 10 years, paleontologists in China have conducted many case studies particularly on the Great Ordovician Biodiversification event (GOBE), i.e. the Ordovician radiation, and many of their preliminary achievements on the macroevolution of graptolites, trilobites, brachiopods and conodonts have obtained a lot of attention from their international colleagues. But, up to now, there are very few studies particularly on the Ordovician chitinozoan radiation in China, which becomes the main theme of our investigation.

Altogether, 264 samples from 5 Lower-Middle Ordovician sections in the Upper Yangtze Platform have been collected and processed for the study of chitinozoans. The rocks yielding these samples include the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary strata to the lower Darriwilian at the Xiangshuidong section (Songzi, southwestern Hubei, central China), the uppermost Darriwilian to the lower Sandbian at the Jieling section (northern Yichang, western Hubei, central China), the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary strata to the lower Floian at the Xishui section (northern Guizhou, SW China), the upper Tremadocian to the lower Sandbian at the Tongzi section (northern Guizhou, SW China), and the Darriwilian at the Shizipu section (Zunyi, northern Guizhou, SW China), representing different paleogeographic settings on the Upper

Yangtzer Platform.

According to our preliminary systematic study, about 112 species of 21 genera have been identified, indicating a significantly higher chitinozoan diversity than that of those previous data, such as the diversity curve of Paris et al. (2004), the only reference revealing the Ordovician chitinozoan diversity of China. Unfortunately, data are far from enough to investigate the chitinozoan macroevolution in China about ten years ago. For example, the taxonomic diversity of early Sandbian indicated by Paris et al. (2004) is only 15 species including taxa of open nomenclature. Our preliminary investigation shows that there are 21 species of chitinozoans could be recognized from the Miaopo Formation (lower Sandbian) of Jieling, northern Yichang, while those taxa of open nomenclature, about 22 species, are excluded (Liang et al., 2014, 2015). Some more material has also obtained from the Saergan Formation (lower Sandbian) of Dawagou, northern Tarim (Hennissen et al., 2010), and the materials documented by Zhang and Chen (2005) for this particular period. Besides, our investigation shows an apparent taxonomic diversity acme for the first time during late Tremadocian and early Floian, representing the first pulse of the Ordovician chitinozoan radiation in South China, which coincides with that of graptolites (Chen et al., 2006).

Further systematic study and related macroevolutionary analyses are in progress.

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The Stairsian-Jeffersonian Stage boundary in southern New Mexico and westernmost Texas, USA

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The Hitt Canyon Formation (El Paso Group) in the southwestern USA contains trilobite faunas that tightly constrain the position of the Stairsian – Jeffersonian Stage boundary in close association with a marked negative carbon isotope ($\delta^{13}C$) excursion referred to as the 'José Event.' This conjunction of stratigraphic markers facilitates detailed correlation to contemporaneous successions.

The informal middle member of the Hitt Canyon, referred to as the "Cookes member," is characterized by numerous microbial bioherms interstratified with nodular lime mudstone and bioclastic rudstone. The overlying Jose' Member comprises dark, oolitic limestone with locally coquinoid concentrations of trilobite sclerites. The succeeding McKelligon Formation marks a return to lighter gray interstratified lime mudstone with bioherms that include Calathium and Archaeoscyphia.

Sparse trilobite faunas from the Cookes and lower part of the Jose include Hyperbolocheilus, Hystricurus, Flectihystricurus, Pseudoclelandia and other genera restricted to the Stairsian Stage in the standard Ibexian succession of western Utah. The Stairsian collections from the El Paso Group include some species with restricted stratigraphic ranges in Utah and southern Idaho, allowing recognition of several of the eleven new trilobite-based biozones recently delineated within the Stairsian Stage in the Great Basin. The uppermost collection in the Cookes Member at Cable Canyon in southern New Mexico is assigned to the Bearriverops loganensis Zone, while the next higher collection in that section, from the lower third of the Jose, represents the Pseudohystricurus obesus Zone. Four other zones that lie between these units in the new zonation are likely absent due to an unconformity at the Cookes-Jose member contact in this area.

The appearance in the upper part of the Jose member of multiple species of the asaphid Aulacoparia, and the less abundant bathyurid Cullisonia (formerly Jeffersonia), marks the transition into the overlying stage. Although Aulacoparia characterizes the base of the Tulean Stage in Utah, we assign the strata in the upper Jose and overlying McKelligon Formation to the eastern Laurentian Jeffersonian Stage on the basis of the abundance of bathyurids and the absence of hystricurids from these units -- a faunal composition more similar to the trilobite faunas of the North American mid-continent.

Carbon isotope profiles through the preserved Sauk Sequence carbonates of the El Paso Group reach their maximum negative value immediately below the Cookes – Jose' member boundary. The 'José Event' punctuates a distinctive pattern of δ13C variation through the Cookes and José members extending into the lower McKelligon Formation and allows detailed correlation of the Stairsian-Jeffersonian stadial boundary into the Ibexian rocks of Utah and the sparsely fossiliferous Jefferson City Formation of Missouri. The characteristic sharp fall in δ13C values, within the Macerodus dianae conodont Zone, is easily recognized in the uppermost units of the lowest informal member of the Fillmore Formation in the Ibex region, just above the informal 'Hintze's Reef' unit.

New cryptostome *Prophyllodictya* (bryozoa) from the Nantzinkuan Formation (early Tremadocian, Lower Ordovician) of Liujiachang section, western Hubei, China and its phylogenetic implications

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Bryozoa is the only phylum having a biomineralized skeleton that is lacking in the Cambrian, their fossil record goes back to the early Ordovician (Hu and Spjeldnaes, 1991; Taylor and Ernst, 2004; Xia *et al*. 2007). New cryptostome *Prophyllodictya* has been identified from the Nantzinkuan Formation (Early Tremadocian, Lower Ordovician) of Liujiachang, central China. Colony morphology and the phylogenetic position of *Prophyllodictya* within Cryptostomata are explored. And the results of phylogenetic analysis suggest that *Prophyllodictya* appears at a basal position in the cryptostome tree, which accords with the simplicity of its morphology and chronostratigraphical occurrence among early bryozoans. This new *Prophyllodictya* bryozoa from the Nantzinkuan Formation antedates the previously oldest known bryozoan from Fenghsiang Formation by several million years and shed light on the origination of bryozoa.

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Graptolite faunas and biostratigraphy of the Hulo Formation (Ordovician) in the Anji area, SE China

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The Jiangnan Region is located to the southeast of Yangtze Region, and is generally regarded as representing a slope environment of South China Plate during the Ordovician (Zhang et al., 2007). Anji area is located in the northeastern Jiangnan Region and adjacent to northwestern Majin-Wuzhen Fault. In this region, graptolite sequences are complete or nearly complete, providing a good case for studying the graptolite diversification in Ordovician geographically and temporally (Zhang et al., 2006, 2007, 2008). Some 1100 samples were collected from the Hulo Formation of the Jiumulong section in Anji area, SE China. A total of 32 species assigned to 19 genera have been recognized from the Hulo Formation and can be divided into three graptolite biozones : the *Acrograptus ellsae* Biozone, the *Nicholsonograptus fasciculatus* Biozone and the *Pterograptus elegans* Biozone. The graptolite assemblage is dominated by three zone fossils above as well as *Tylograptus geniculatus*, *Tylograptus intermedius*, *Cryptograptus tricornis, Phyllograptus uniformis, Xiphograptus norvegicus, Kalpinograptus ovatus, Archiclimacograptus angulatus* etc.

In the Early to Middle Ordovician in the Jiangnan Region, the graptolite diversification is prominent and can be divided into three stages and one peak based on the trajectory and the faunal composition, and the third stage ranges from the early Darriwilian to the end of Middle Ordovician. During this stage, graptolites' ecosphere dominated in large-scale expansion, and graptolite diversity fluctuated in high level, and significant replacements of graptolite faunas took place (Chen et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2008, 2010). Evolutionary-radiation study is based on three aspects: taxonomic diversity, ecologic diversity and disparity or morphological diversity (Chen et al., 2006). The graptolite fauna of the Hulo Formation in Anji area can provide excellent evidence to explore the relationship of the environment changes and the graptolite evolutionary-radiation.

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A taxonomic restudy of *Ningxiagraptus* Geh, 2002

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Yang Jingzhi and Mu Enzhi (1954) first reported the graptolite fauna from the black shale of Miaopo Formation (Sandbian, Upper Ordovician) in Yichang, South China, in which they identified a peculiar species, *Leptograptus* sp. nov. The specimens of this species were later studied and identified by Geh (1963a) as a known species, *Leptograptus yangtzensis* Mu.

However, Ge (in Mu et al., 2002) later regarded that the species did not belong to *Leptograptus*, and assigned it to *Ningxiagraptus* Ge, a new genus he erected in the same publication and designated *Janograptus reclinatus* Ge, 1990 as its type species. The new genus included three species: *Ningxiagraptus reclinatus* (Ge), *Ningxiagraptus yangtzensis* (Mu) and *Ningxiagraptus*? *yuani* (Sun). Based on our restudy of the type specimens of *Janograptus reclinatus* stored in NIGPAS and new specimens of *Ningxiagraptus yangtzensis* (Mu) collected in recent years by some of the present authors, herein we regard *Ningxiagraptus reclinatus* (Ge) (=*Janograptus reclinatus* Ge, 1990) as a junior synonym of *Ningxiagraptus yangtzensis* Mu (in Geh, 1963a) (=*Leptograptus yangtzensis* Mu (in Geh, 1963a)). Thus, the type species of the genus *Ningxiagraptus* should be changed to *Ningxiagraptus yangtzensis* (Mu), and accordingly we revise the diagnoses of the genus *Ningxiagraptus* as follows: 1. Two stipes are reclined with simple, straight thecae. 2. The sicula is commonly inclined towards and pressed tightly against th2^1 , with a noteworthy bend. 3. Virgella and mesial spines on the first thecal pair are present in the proximal end. 4. The proximal development resembles that of *Dicellograptus* except for the origination of the second theca, which turns upward at the sicular aperture and tends to be "U"-shaped in the former (v. "L"-shaped in the latter). Despite of the different theca types from that of *Dicellograptus*, *Ningxiagraptus* is very similar to *Dicellograptus* in the development and the morphology of the proximal end, especially to the coeval *Dicellograptus rectus* (Ruedemann, 1947), and accordingly we put *Ningxiagraptus* also under the Superfamily Dicranograptoidea.

Neodymium isotopes and the Late Ordovician evolution of the North American mid-continental seaway

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Study of neodymium isotopic ratios in Late Ordovician samples has good potential to advance understanding of interactions among climate, paleoceanography, and patterns of sedimentation in the North American mid-continental seaway. Well documented Late Ordovician events include loss of tropical character in limestones after the Turinian, changes in facies distribution within the seaway, large carbon isotopic excursions, and a Period-culminating glaciation and mass extinction. However, an increasingly well resolved dataset of conodont oxygen isotopic measurements provides no evidence for progressive regional cooling over the last 10 million years of Ordovician. Attempts to integrate these different observations into coherent paleoenvironmental scenarios often result in explicit or implicit predictions about the source and circulation of water in the seaway. Neodymium isotopic studies could be used to test these predictions as neodymium isotopes are a quasi-conservative water mass tracer and an indicator of the age of source regions contributing sediment to the basin.

Possible insights from and challenges for neodymium studies will be discussed relative to data from the Richmondian-aged Dubuque/Maquoketa transition in NE Iowa and SE Minnesota. In much of the upper Mississippi Valley, the limestone-rich Dubuque Formation is disconformably overlain by the shalely Maquoketa Formation. The contact coincides with one or more phosphatic hardgrounds, and the lower

Maquoketa is phosphate-rich. This lithologic progression has been explained by invoking upwelling of cool, nutrient-rich waters from the Sebree Trough during a time of sea level rise resulting in enhanced local productivity and the deposition of phosphatic, low oxygen Maquoketa Shales over the Dubuque Limestones. Conodont oxygen isotopic ratios at several locations do not support contemporary cooling, and the values are similar to Late Ordovician conodont oxygen isotopic values across the mid-continent. However, neodymium isotopes measured on phosphatic brachiopod shells collected at the Webber Quarry in Dubuque, IA do support a paleoceanographic change across the Dubuque/Maquoketa contact. The lowest neodymium isotopic values are at the base of the measured section. These values are ~4 units higher than values measured in older (Turinian/Chatfieldian) samples from the same area indicating significant change between the Turinian and the Richmondian. Across the lower 8 m of the Webber Quarry section, values increase by an additional 3 to 4 units. Couched relative to previous Nd studies, all Webber Quarry neodymium isotopic values are too high to be considered part of the Mid-continent aquafacies, and data do not exist to determine the timing or rate of the Turinian to Richmondian increase. During the Dubuque/Maquoketa transition, values increase from those similar to the low end of Taconic aquafacies to values transitional between Taconic aquafacies and the Open Ocean aquafacies. Such a shift is consistent with an increased influence of waters from the south and/or the east as invoked in the upwelling model. Alternatively, the shift could be explained by an increased input of young Taconic volcanics and subsequent boundary exchange. Parallel measurement of detrital material and phosphatic fossils are needed to distinguish between these possibilities, and better geographic and stratigraphic coverage will be required to maximize the contribution of Nd-based constraints on circulation and source regions to the development of paleoceanographic models spanning the Late Ordovician.

The Sandbian (Upper Ordovician) raphiophorid trilobite Ampyxina powelli: New insights on its description and taphonomy

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Ampyxina powelli is a small (~1 cm long) trilobite commonly found in Upper Ordovician (Sandbian) deep-water shales and limestones in the Liberty Hall facies (lower Edinburg Formation) of southwest Virginia. Though this trilobite has been used as a biostratigraphic index fossil for the region, due to its relative sparseness and limited range, A. powelli has been subject to very few studies in the last half-century. Recently one of the few active localities where A. powelli has been found, the Tucker Farmhouse locality in southwest-most Roanoke County, VA, is again being sampled with A. powelli specimens sampled. To better understand the evolutionary placement of A. powelli within the greater Raphiophorid group, its developmental history, and taphonomy, these newly collected specimens have been analyzed using modern techniques. These include an updated description, new information on its biostratigraphic correlation, taphonomy, and geometric morphometric, statistical, and micro-beam analyses. New data on the stratigraphic relationships of A. powelli, graptolite faunas, and recent GSSP data allow for a better constraint on the age of the supporting shales. The updated description includes new insights into its morphology and phylogenetic relationships. Geometric morphometric analysis does not show any sub-groups present in the newly collected specimens. The presence or absence of cephalic spines does not seem to correspond to any dimorphic or ontogenetic groups. The taphonomy of A. powelli is simple, there is rarely any organic material associated with the fossils, which supports a molt-based origin for the concentration of trilobite carapaces at this locality. Where there is evidence for organic remains it is mostly in the form of relatively small Pyrite framboids attached or within the calcitic carapace. Overall, this is an intriguing species that requires further investigation and will continue to contribute to the understanding of this region's Ordovician paleoecology.

Proposed auxiliary stratigraphic section and point (ASSP) for the base of the Ordovician System at Lawson Cove, Utah, USA

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The base of the Ordovician System was defined to coincide with the lowest occurrence of the conodont *Iapetognathus fluctivagus* in Bed 23 of the Green Point section in the Cow Head Group of western Newfoundland. That horizon was intended to provide a reliable marker for a wide range of depositional environments, in recognition of strong differences between high-latitude Acado-Baltic and tropical environments such as in western Laurentia. However, intercontinental correlations based on associated taxa and non-biological stratigraphic markers at Green Point have proven to be problematic, in part because the depositional environment of the Cow Head Group is so different from shallow-water carbonates in western Laurentia and elsewhere.

We propose establishing an Auxiliary Stratotype Section and Point (ASSP) at the lowest occurrence of *Iapetognathus fluctivagus* in the Lawson Cove section in the Ibex Area, Utah, USA to provide a more robust framework for a variety of stratigraphic markers that are poorly constrained in the existing GSSP. Lawson Cove was the alternative section considered for the base of the Ordovician GSSP.

Three papers in *Ordovician Odyssey*, the proceedings volume of the 1995 Ordovician Symposium, reported close associations of *Iapetognathus* n. sp. 1 with the basal Tremadocian trilobite *Jujuyaspis* in Texas, New Mexico, and Utah. In the Utah paper, Miller and Taylor summarized known occurrences of *Iapetognathus* n. sp. 1 in various sections. Nicoll et al. (1999 BYU Geology Studies) named *I.* n. sp. 1 as *I. fluctivagus* and listed 21 occurrences of that species globally (their Table 2).

The Ibex Area is an ideal location for a basal Ordovician ASSP. Cambrian–Ordovician strata in the region are ~5300 m thick and were deposited on a shallow carbonate platform. The Lawson Cove section comprises 243 m of limestone that is without known unconformities. The section is on public land that is administered by a U.S. government agency and is always accessible. An ordinary passenger car can be driven to the base of the section. These strata have yielded many kinds of data that provide a broad context within which the system boundary can be correlated.

Faunal relationships at Lawson Cove and nearby sections provide the basis for precise global correlation using several fossil groups. Nearly 65,000 identified conodont elements have been used to delineate ten conodont zones or subzones below the proposed ASSP, and four above, that are recognized throughout Laurentia and on other paleo-continents. Important species level ancestor–descendant relationships have been identified. *Iapetonudus ibexensis*, the ancestor of *Iapetognathus fluctivagus*, occurs at the base of the 4.9-m *Iapetognathus* Zone. *Iapognathus sprakersi* and *Iapetognathus aengensis* occur higher in the section. Calcareous and phosphatic brachiopods have been documented in the Ibex sections. Tightly spaced trilobite collections through the boundary interval at Lawson Cove document rapid turnover in species of such biostratigraphically useful Laurentian genera as *Symphysurina*, *Chasbellus*, *Highgatella*, *Clelandia*, and *Millardicurus*. The cosmopolitan genus *Jujuyaspis* occurs less than one meter above the proposed ASSP. *Jujuyaspis* also occurs ~30 cm above the base of the *Iapetognathus* Zone at the nearby Lava Dam North section, where the zone is 4.3 m thick and contains a 15-cm shale band that yielded *Anisograptus matanensis*, a widespread lower Tremadocian planktic graptolite.

Carbon-isotope stratigraphy and sequence stratigraphy are non-biological tools that are useful for characterizing the proposed ASSP. The most prominent positive excursion peak on the carbon-isotope profile is only ~15 cm below the proposed ASSP. Miller et al. (2003 BYU Geology Studies) documented detailed sequence-stratigraphic and biostratigraphic frameworks at Lawson Cove, and one of their sequence boundaries coincides with the occurrence of *Jujuyaspis*. These diverse correlation tools would make the Lawson Cove section a useful ASSP.

Preferential extinction of mesopelagic species and disruption of graptolite community structure during the Late Ordovician mass extinction

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Pelagic graptolites provide a unique window into the habitat changes and ecological disruptions that accompanied the Late Ordovician mass extinction (LOME). Although climate changes are a source of stress in ecological communities, few paleobiological studies have systematically addressed the impact of global climate changes on the fine details of community structure. We present here a detailed study of habitat selectivity and changes in the within-community species abundance distribution patterns of the late Katian and Hirnantian graptolite faunas during the LOME.

Using a Bayesian likelihood model, we employ the distribution of graptolite species among a set of well-studied localities of known depositional setting to infer whether those species were most likely members of the near-surface, epipelagic biotope or the deeper and exclusively oceanic, mesopelagic biotope. Deep sites: Dob's Linn, Vinini Creek (NV) and Trail Creek (ID). Shallow sites: Mirny Creek (Siberia) and three sites in the Canadian Arctic (Eleanor Lake, Truro Island and Cape Manning). Among the 40 species present in the *P. pacificus* Zone at these sites, 10 had posterior probabilities of being epipelagic > 0.9, 14 appear to have been mesopelagic (p{mesopelagic} > 0.9) and 16 remained indeterminate (p's < 0.9). We then used these biofacies affiliations to assess the biofacies composition of a set of 303 samples from 15 sections from Laurentia (5), South China (5), Siberia (4) and Kazakhstan (1) that span the late Katian to early Hirnantian. Eleven of these sections were not part of the original Bayesian biofacies inference process and consequently provide a cross validation test – a test that strongly supports the biofacies model. Shallow shelf sites were dominated by epipelagic species (average proportion of mesopelagic species was 20-30%), whereas at mid to outer shelf sites 40-50% of species were mesopelagic. Slope to ocean floor sites were dominated by mesopelagic species (50-60% mesopelagic). Differences were even more pronounced in the species relative abundances at ocean floor (Vinini Creek) and outer shelf (Blackstone River, Yukon) sites.

Structural changes within graptolite communities Vinini Creek and Blackstone River exhibit significant decreases in community complexity and evenness as a consequence of the preferential decline in abundance of mesopelagic species. At both sites, the decline of mesopelagics took place during an interval of eustatic sea-level rise. The observed changes in community complexity and evenness commenced well before the dramatic loss in species diversity and population depletions that mark the tipping point of the extinction event. Environmental isotope and biomarker data suggest that the extent of the oxygen minimum zone in the paleotropical oceans, upon which these species relied, decreased sharply during the latest Katian time, with a consequent change in phytoplankton community composition. Most deep-water species became rare as populations were depleted in step with this habitat loss and extinction risks rose correspondingly.

Similar preferential loss of mesopelagic species occurred during the latest Katian in China, Siberia and Kazakhstan – i.e., throughout the paleotropics. Although many of the affected species persisted in ephemeral populations for hundreds of thousands of years, the toll of enhanced extinction risk depleted the diversity of paleotropical (diplograptine) graptolite species during the latest Katian and early Hirnantian. Our results support previous interpretations of the depth-related biotope structure of graptolite communities. In contrast these results contradict both the hemispheric asymmetry and depth susceptibility predictions of the gamma ray burst hypothesis of LOME causation. Finally, and most significantly, these results indicate that the effects of long-term climate change on habitats can degrade populations in ways that cascade through communities, with effects that persist for geologically significant intervals of time and culminate in mass extinction.

Chronostratigraphic correlation of the North American Upper Ordovician standard: The 2015 edition

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Regionally endemic faunas and complex facies relations in the Late Ordovician succession of the Black River to Utica Group succession in New York State (NY) and the Tyrone to Fairview Formation succession in the Cincinnati region (type areas of the Mohawkian and Cincinnatian series, respectively) have impeded correlation of these rocks – both with one another and globally. Recent biostratigraphic work tied to geochemically correlated K-bentonites offer some new insights.

First, graptolite faunas from Core 75NY2 (Ballston Spa area) provide new details about the age of the base of the Utica Shale. A K-bentonite in the uppermost Glens Falls Limestone within the core corresponds to a bed in the lower Martinsburg Shale in West Virginia above the widespread Millbrig K-bentonite, within the upper part of the *Climacograptus bicornis* Zone and at the top of the falling limb of the GICE. The lower 7 m of the Utica Shale in 75NY2 contains a fauna dominated by *Diplograptus? rugosus.* This fauna, although not previously recorded in the region, is also present in the basal Utica Shale in the central Mohawk Valley. It is followed by the incoming of the *C. americanus* Zone assemblage, and two meters higher in the core, by the FAD of *Diplacanthograptus caudatus*. This succession closely matches that at the Katian Stage GSSP. The Sherman Falls K-bentonite occurs at 26.1 m above the base of the Utica Shale in 75NY2. Thus, the base of the Katian Stage lies slightly above the base of the Utica Group and is likely approximately equivalent to the age of the base of the Sugar River Limestone.

The standard correlation from NY into the Cincinnatian succession requires substantial revision. The Millbrig K-bentonite is present in the uppermost Black River Group, Selby Limestone in NY and the M4 sequence, Tyrone Limestone in Kentucky (KY). The overlying M5-M6 Lexington Limestone to Point Pleasant Formation succession has typically been equated to the entire Trenton Group, with the basal Cincinnatian Kope Formation, highstand of the C1 sequence, as the midcontinent expression of the upper Utica Group, Indian Castle Shale. The presence of a *D. spiniferus* Zone graptolite fauna in both units supported this correlation, but relations of the graptolites to the *Amorphognathus tvaerensis-A. superbus* conodont zone boundary was remarkably different in the two regions. In the KY the FAD of *A. superbus* within the lower part of the M6, mid-Lexington Limestone succession lies above the FAD of *D. spiniferus* (based on occurrences in the Stamping Grounds Member and the Middletown Core). In the NY succession the FAD of *A. superbus* can be traced via K-bentonite correlations to a level in the lower Utica Shale (lower part of the *C. americanus* Zone, between the Sherman Falls and Kayohoura-1 K-bentonites). This is a similar graptolite/conodont zonal tie position as occurs at Black Knob Ridge. The recent discovery that the Brannon K-bentonite (highstand of M6A sequence) is a geochemical match for the Paradise K-bentonite of lower-most Indian Castle Shale in NY (Sell et al., *in press,* GSA Bulletin), suggests that the graptolite FAD's are of similar age in both regions and that *A. superbus* appears at a markedly younger level in KY than it does in NY. Accordingly, the Indian Castle highstand is M6A rather than C1, and the base of the Cincinnatian Series in NY must lie in the upper part of the Utica Shale succession, likely that overlying the "Honey Hill Discontinuity" of Baird and others. The Brannon-Paradise K-bentonite correlation is supported by a prominent episode of fault-induced soft-sediment deformation that can be traced from core 75NY2 to the Thruway Discontinuity that caps the Dolgeville Formation and through the upper Rust Formation in NY to the Brannon Member seismites in KY.

Middle Ordovician strata of western Inner Mongolia: Depositional and tectonic history

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Ordovician strata in the western margin of the North China Block (NCB), one of China's main tectonic provinces, make up a thick succession of mixed carbonate and siliciclastic sedimentary rocks. The oldest strata, Middle Ordovician rocks of the lower Sandaokan Formation, are transgressive systems tract deposits with retrogradationally stacked parasequences that include lowstand shoreline quartz sandstone deposits and shallow marine carbonate facies dominated by bioturbated wackestone. Chemostratigraphic data indicate that the lower part of the Sandaokan Formation records the rising limb of MDICE, the middle Darriwilian positive isotopic excursion, recognized for the first time in the western North China Block. The contact between the Sandaokan and the thick massive-weathering carbonate of the overlying Zhuozishan Formation may represent the Sauk–Tippecanoe megasequence boundary. The Zhuozishan and overlying Kelimoli Formation may represent a megasequence with the Kelimoli representing highstand deposits with deep-marine facies. The Kelimoli, which contains abundant slumps and slides, consists primarily of fine-grained carbonate turbidites and graptolite-bearing black shale. It is capped by a sequence boundary marked by meters-thick beds of coarse breccia, which might be linked to a eustatic lowstand associated with the Middle–Upper Ordovician boundary interval. The Kelimoli may record the falling limb of MDICE.

The Sandaokan Formation rests unconformably on the Cambrian Series 3 Abuqiehai Formation, a mixed siliciclastic–carbonate deposits similar in character to those of the Laurentian inner detrital belt. The unconformity in our section in Inner Mongolia records a hiatus of similar timing and duration to a regionally extensive unconformity recorded along the ancient northern Indian continental margin in the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary interval. We interpret the western margin of the NCB to have been affected by a regionally significant tectonic event at this time that occurred on the northern margin of east Gondwana, the Kurgiakh or Bhimphedian orogeny. The Inner Mongolian region was, therefore, likely an along-strike continuation of northern Indian margin, in contrast to most recent paleogeographic reconstructions.

Lower Silurian "hot shales" in Poland as a response to Late Ordovician climatic changes

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Late Ordovician to early Silurian was time interval of significant paleogeographic, palaeoclimatic and sea-level changes reported in marine ecosystems. The switch from the icehouse to greenhouse climate during this time is easily readable in the East European Platform – EEP (NE Poland) and the Holy Cross Mountains – HCM (SE Poland). In Late Ordovician and early Silurian time both regions as a part of Baltica were positioned in 30°S at the northern margin of the Rheic Ocean (Nawrocki et al., 2007).

Sedimentary record of the Ordovician/Silurian boundary in the EEP is represented by regressive succession made up of the upper Katian mixed siliciclastic-carbonate facies grading upwards into sandy mudstones, sandstones and marls developed during the early Hirnantian sea-level fall (Podhalańska, 2009). Their correlation with Late Ordovician icehouse climate is supported by C isotope data and the

Hirnantian fauna (*op.cit*). The post-glacial transgression initiated in the latest Ordovician *persculptus* Chron facilitated deposition of black graptolite shales predominating in the Lower Llandovery sedimentary record. They are represented by the Jantar Bituminous Claystone Member, which refers to as organic-rich and condensed "hot shale" unit. The TOC values, increased amounts of radioactive elements and trace metals indicate on deposition of this shales beneath anoxic bottom waters due to increased export of organic matter and sediment starvation during the post-glacial transgression (Podhalańska, 2009). Numerous graptolites recognized in the Jantar Member are indicative for the Rhuddanian *ascensus–acuminatus–cyphus* Biozones. These rocks – marked on wireline logs by increased gamma ray records (PG) – are the most perspective hydrocarbon source rocks and shale gas resources in the Llandovery succession of the EEP. They are coeval to "hot shales" deposited on the Gondwana shelf, which are the most important petroleum source rocks in N African and Arabian Peninsula (Lüning et al., 2000).

   The sedimentary succession across the Ordovician/Silurian boundary in the HCM can also be interpreted in relation to climate and sea-level changes. The uppermost Ordovician is made up of mudstones and sandstones of the Zalesie Formation interpreted as regressive deposits related to Hirnantian glacioeustatic event (Trela and Szczepanik, 2009). They yielded acritarch assemblage predominated by species of *Veryhachium* accompanied by exotic peri-Gondwanian species of *Frankea* redeposited from zone of collision between Avalonia and Baltica located westward of the HCM (*op. cit*). The overlying Rhuddanian black shales and radiolarian cherts of the Bardo Formation are interpreted as transgressive deposits documenting marine flooding initiated in the late Hirnantian. The starvation of coarse-grained siliciclastics during the early Silurian post-glacial flooding increased organic carbon burial and facilitated development of suboxic bottom waters produced by short-lived anoxic events. Sedimentary environment in the southern HCM was strongly influenced by upwelling driven by the SE trade winds responsible for increase of primary productivity and massive appearance of radiolarians recorded in chert-rich unit of the Bardo Formation.

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Clast research in northern Germany – How erratics contribute to the Ordovician picture

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   Clast research as defined by Schallreuter (1998) also encompasses the research on geschiebes (glacial erratic boulders). The geschiebes have been transported from Baltoscandia (mainly Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Estonia) during one of the three major glaciations (Elster, Saale, Weichsel) in Northern Europe. Collecting geschiebes has a long history and tradition in the northern part of Germany and the neighboring countries. Current research on clasts (e.g. geschiebes and other erratic boulders) is carried out in northern Germany with the main goal to trace back the clasts to their source area but also to provide information about the geology of Baltoscandia from these scattered 'archives'. But sometimes these clasts are the only remains of strata, which had been eroded completely in the source area.

Despite the Rhenish Slate Mountains and the Harz, northern Germany is lacking outcrops of Ordovician strata. But Ordovician geschiebes found in this part of the country show a great variety of lithologies and (stratigraphic) units. The most important lithologies are limestones and (graptolite) shales, but also the 'brick limestone' (or 'Backstein limestone', mid Sandbian age), a silicified and later de-calcified limestone is a common geschiebe in northern Germany.

While the classical geschiebes are known to be transported during one of the glaciations, there are other clasts believed to be transported much earlier (during late Paleogene – early Quarternary) by the 'Baltic river system'. The latter clasts are today concentrated in spots, scattered over the northern and eastern parts of Germany, the Netherlands and Poland. One of these 'hot spots' of occurrence is found in the border area between the Netherlands and Germany. Here not only a high concentration of isolated Ordovician sponges can be found but also a variety of silicified and also de-calcified limestones, similar to the 'brick limestone' (late Sandbian), and cherts (so called 'Lavender Blue Hornsteins') of late Katian age. These erratic boulders cannot yet be easily linked to their source area, which is suspected to lie in the eastern part of the Baltic area or beyond.

The limitation from the clasts' dimensions can be advantageous, because the investigation is more focused on all its information, such as lithology and faunal content. New genera and species and other palaeontologic information (palaeobiology, palaeoecology, palaeobiogeography) were derived from clasts in northern Germany and provided valuable insights to the Ordovician world of Baltica.

Unfortunately, today the scientific research on this topic decreases and is mainly carried out by amateurs, being rarely recognized by professional scientists.

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Latest Ordovician-earliest Silurian chitinozoans from Puna, western Gondwana

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Chitinozoans from Late Ordovician-early Silurian Upper Member of the Salar del Rincón Formation from Puna of northwestern Argentina are analyzed. This area belongs to the Central Andean Basin situated on the western Gondwanan margin during the early Palaeozoic. The Upper Member of the Salar del Rincón Formation could include the postglacial stage of the late Hirnantian glaciation, even when direct evidence of the glacially-related deposits are not recorded in this part of the basin. Although its contact with the Lower Member has been considered transitional, the marine to mixed Upper Member deposits could represent a transgressive event developed on conglomerate and cross-beded sandstones of the Lower Member deposits that involves an erosive contact. Strongly bioturbated grey to greenish-grey shales characterize the lower and middle part of the Upper Member of the unit. This part of the section (around 20 m thick) contains a chitinozoan association, mainly composed of *Spinachitina verniersi* Vandenbroucke in Vandenbroucke et al., 2009, *Cyathochitina kuckersiana* (Eisenack, 1934) and *Cyathochitina latipatagium* (Jenkins, 1969). *Spinachitina oulebsiri* Paris et al., 2000, *Eisenackitina* sp. cf. *ripae* Soufiane & Achab, 2000, *Ancyrochitina corniculans* Jenkins,

1969, *Angochitina* spp. and *Ancyrochitina* spp. are present in a lower proportion. The chitinozoan association indicates a late Hirnantian age for these deposits. A different chitinozoan association is observed in the base of a lenticular coarse-grained sandstone bed (15 m thick) upward in the section (around 20 m above the preceding chitinozoan-bearing sample), which is deposited over the shaley to silty part of the member. *Spinachitina* is practically absent in this level. A single incomplete specimen bearing comparatively longer processes is observed. *Cyatochitina caputoi* group Da Costa, 1971, *Belonechitina pseudarabiensis* Butcher, 2009, *Angochitina hansonica* Soufiane and Achab, 2000, *Ordochitina* sp. cf. *nevadensis* Soufiane and Achab, 2000 and *Plectochitina* spp. are the main components. *Cy. caputoi* and *B. pseudarabiensis* indicate the earliest Rhuddanian age. The last chitinozoan-bearing sample is from a shaley level deposited above the coarse- grained sandstone bed. These specimens are poorly-preserved. *Cy. kuckersiana* group, *Cy. caputoi* group, *O*. sp. cf. *nevadensis*, *A. hansonica*?, *Angochitina* spp. and *Ancyrochitina* spp. are observed. The upper part of this section shows an increasing sediment grain size and finishes with a ferruginous and chitinozoan-barren level. All chitinozoan-bearing levels also contain acritarchs and cryptospores. The Salar del Rincón Formation is succeeded by Late Carboniferous deposits (Cerro Oscuro Formation) through an angular discordance. According to palynomorphs the Upper Member of the Salar del Rincón unit records latest Ordovician-earliest Silurian deposits, which are usually absent in other parts of the Central Andean Basin. Latest Hirnantian-earliest Rhuddanian chitinozoan associations from western Puna allow correlating these western Gondwanan deposits with other glacially- related regions of northern Gondwana, such as North Africa and Arabian Peninsula, where the records of the glacial and postglacial events, which occurred in the Ordovician-Silurian boundary, are well-known.

Evidence of warming during the early Katian conodont apatite δ^{18}O and bulk carbonate δ^{13}C records from the Upper Mississippi Valley, US

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The Sandbian-Katian boundary is marked by major environmental changes in Laurentia's epicontinental seaway that are often related to the onset of Late Ordovician cooling culminating in the Hirnantian glaciation. Early Katian cooling is supported by a shift from warm-water to cool-water carbonate deposition coinciding with the M4/M5 sequence boundary, an ~3‰ positive δ^{13}C excursion (GICE), and an increase in phosphate and chert deposition. Whereas these lithological and geochemical observations do indicate environmental change, they are not uniquely associated with cooling. To further examine the nature of the environmental changes at the Sandbian - Katian boundary, especially the temperature history, we measured δ^{18}O values from conodont apatite and bulk carbonate δ^{13}C values from two sections in the Upper Mississippi Valley, US. The sections at Decorah, IA and Rochester, MN are ideal for this study because they are well exposed, contain the Deicke and Millbrig K-bentonites, and yield high abundances of excellently preserved conodonts.

Results from Decorah show an ~1‰ positive excursion in δ^{13}C values confined to the Guttenberg Member; $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values show an ~0.5‰ decrease above the Guttenburg Member. Bulk carbonate δ^{13}C values range from -3.9‰ to 1.0‰ with an average of -0.4‰. Average $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values for conodont apatite range from 17.7‰ to 19.8‰ with an average of 19.0‰. Preliminary results from Rochester, MN suggest that bulk carbonate δ^{13}C values and $\delta^{18}O_{phos}$ values are on average ~1‰ lower than those at Decorah. The δ^{13}C excursion observed at Decorah is small in magnitude but occurs within the correct interval and is likely the local manifestation of the GICE.

Contrary to predictions of early Katian cooling, the slight decrease in $\delta^{18}O$ values at Decorah suggest that, if anything, temperatures increased following the GICE. This result is consistent with previous results from the Upper Mississippi Valley and Kentucky and further support the proposition that early Katian environmental changes in Laurentia's epicontinental seaway are more complicated than previously appreciated.

New data on the Late Ordovician acritarchs and cryptospores from the Moyero and Moyerokan River sections, northeast of the Siberian Platform

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In the year 2013 two Upper Ordovician sections in the Moyero and its right tributary Moyerokan River valleys were sampled for acritarchs for the first time. The sections are located in a remote place in northeastern part of the Siberian Platform in a close proximity of the Anabar Land. The studied sedimentary succession is represented by rhythmic intercalation of greenish-grey and cherry-red siltstones and bioclastic limestone related to the Dzherom Formation. The formation embraces two regional stages (the Baksian and the Dolborian) which correspond to the upper Sandbian and Katian stages of the Global Scale.

Almost all of the 65 processed palynological samples contain acritarchs and cryptospores of moderate preservation. The lower part of the Dzherom Formation, correlated to the Baksian stage, contain abundant *Dicommopalla macadamii, Gorgonisphaeridium* sp*., Buedingisphaeridium* sp*.,* and less numerous *Peteinosphaeridium accinctulum, Peteinosphaeridium septuosum, Peteinosphaeridium aff. P. indianaense, Sacculidium tenuibarbatum*, *Sacculidium inornatum, Sacculidium* spp, *Multiplicisphaeridium irregulare*, *Solisphaeridium* spp. and others. In the upper part of the formation, corresponding to the Dolborian regional stage, some additional taxa such as *Veryhachium lairdii, ?Petaloferidium* sp*.,* Gen. indet. A, sp.1, 2 and Gen. indet. B, sp. 1, 2, 3 occur. The latter two taxa were recently discovered in the Dolbor Formation cropping out along the Nirunda River located far to the southwest of the Siberian Platform (Raevskaya, Dronov, 2014).

The cryptospores are relatively abundant at several levels of the studied interval in both regional stages. They are represented by different morphotypes including naked and enveloped monads, dyads and tetrads. Among the most common taxa *Sphaerasaccus glabellus, Tetrahedraletes medinensis, Velatitetras laevigata, Segestrespora laevigata, Abditusdyadus laevigata, Dyadospora murusdensa, Pseudodyadospora laevigata* have been identified.

Comparison of the new data with those from the type Upper Ordovican Kulumber River section (Raevskaya, 2006) and recently obtained from the Nirunda River section (Raevskaya, Dronov, 2014) show uniformity of late Ordovician acritarch and cryptospore assemblages within the large epicontinental Tungus basin of the Siberian Platform. This supports inner-regional correlations.

Future taxonomic investigations are required to estimate the variety of the discovered acritarchs and cryptospores. The remarkable percentage of the widespread acritarchs in Siberian assemblages as *Dicommopalla, Peteinophaeridium, Sacculidium,* etc. supplies the obtained palynological material with a good potential for possible improvement of interregional biostratigraphic correlations and for possible biogeographic implications.

In search of the elusive Hirnantian Stage in the High Arctic: A preliminary report from North Greenland

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Sedimentary rocks along the North Greenland coastline can, almost exclusively, be ascribed to the evolution of the Lower Palaeozoic Franklinian Basin. Within an approximately 200 kilometer wide, predominately ice free zone between the Inland Ice and the coastline of the Arctic Ocean, a shallow-water carbonate facies is exposed in the southern part of the basin but clearly separated from turbiditic siliciclastics to the north. The carbonates are near horizontal, often yielding abundant fossils. Systematic reconnaissance along this coastline was first conducted during the last century. Since the pioneering expeditions of Dr. Lauge Koch, who single-handedly completed the first cartographical and geological surveys of the region, from dog sledge, several mapping campaigns have been conducted in the region. Spanning the late 1970s to early 1990s systematic mapping was conducted by the Geological Survey of Greenland. However, as the strata belonging to the Franklinian Basin are exposed along a 850 kilometers transect in one of the most remote and least accessible regions on the planet, focus has primarily been on identifying lithological units that can be mapped at broad scales in order to produce maps covering a 1:500,000 scale.

Almost two kilometers of Ordovician – Silurian strata are exposed along the entire transect, mostly in carbonate facies. During the Late Ordovician – early Silurian interval, North Greenland was positioned within the tropical belt, on the north-facing margin of Laurentia. Extensive carbonate deposition had already commenced by the Mid-Late Ordovician with the formation of small mud-mounds on the platform, towards the end of the Ordovician. Silurian strata are characterized by large reef complexes.

The Upper Ordovician – lower Silurian strata is assigned to the Morris Bugt Group; more specifically the Ordovician – Silurian boundary lies within the Turesø Formation, which crops out in the central and eastern part of North Greenland and within the Alegatsiaq Fjord Formation which crops out in the western part. Thus, potentially, Hirnantian strata are well exposed. Recognition of the terminal Ordovician stage has though proved elusive as previous research, based primarily on conodonts, has highlighted a barren interval spanning the boundary. The most detailed studies have been conducted in the Børglum Elv region in central North Greenland and near Centrum Sø in eastern North Greenland. Here the ranges of biostratigraphically important conodonts of Late Ordovician and early Silurian age are separated by an approximately 30 meter barren interval.

In recent years focus has been on macrofossils, notably the pentamerid brachiopods, which are unusually abundant and diverse in North Greenland. Commonly they occur in easily-recognizable coquinas which can be tracked over vast distances ranging from the Franklinian Basin in North Greenland to the great interior basins of North America. These macrofossil studies have allowed for easy recognition of the Upper Ordovician – lower Silurian interval in the field which again has facilitated more focused studies through the boundary succession. In the Børglum Elv region, identification of key pentamerid coquinas in the field has informed further sedimentological studies which now reveal a succession of repeated shallowing-upwards sequences within the barren interval. In order to further shed light on the possible occurrence of Hirnantian strata we present the first δ^{13}C curve based on bulk rock data through this interval. This does not yet show unequivocal evidence of the occurrence of the Hirnantian Stage in central North Greenland. However, it does indicate that at least part of this elusive terminal Ordovician stage occurs within the extensive carbonate deposits of central North Greenland.

Chitinozoan biodiversity in the Ordovician of Gondwana using the quantitative stratigraphic correlation program CONOP9

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The regional and global biodiversity patterns of Ordovician chitinozoans have been examined in detail, but typically within the traditional biostratigraphic temporal frameworks of unequal duration biozones or time slices (e.g., Paris et al., 2004). Recently, Goldman et al. (2008, 2013) and Hints et al. (2011) used the quantitative stratigraphic correlation program CONOP9 (Sadler et al., 2003) to examine Ordovician Baltoscandian chitinozoan biodiversity with both equal duration bins and interval-free approaches to temporal standardization. In this study we used CONOP9 to construct an Ordovician composite range chart from the stratigraphic range data of 167 chitinozoan species from 65 boreholes and outcrops across Gondwana. These data were gathered from the published ranges of species in sections from Argentina, North Africa, the Middle East, Australia, and southern Europe. The CONOP9-derived results differ from previously published results in some significant and interesting ways. The global and N. Gondwana curves of Paris et al. (2004) exhibit two peaks, in the upper Darriwilian and the mid Katian, with a Sandbian decline in between (the trough and second peak are slightly younger in the N. Gondawana curve than in the global pattern). The CONOP9-derived pattern lacks the very pronounced upper Darriwilian peak in the Paris et al. (2004) curves, instead exhibiting climbing diversity straight through the mid Sandbian. After a mid Sandbian peak there is a distinct decline followed by a strong lower Katian rebound. Additionally, unlike the global pattern the youngest peak in the CONOP9-derived curve is uppermost Katian to early Hirnantian, not mid Katian. Chitinozoan diversity curves from Baltoscandia tend to have an upper Darriwilian to lower Sandbian diversity plateau followed by a long upper Sandbian to Hirnantian decline, a decline which is delayed and steeper in the CONOP9 Gondwana curve. These differences, particularly with the previous N. Gondwana curve could be attributable, in part, to CONOP-produced range extensions or perhaps from the substantial amount of post-2004 data in our analyses that tended to focus on the late Katian - Hirnantian interval.

We also compared the CONOP9 Gondwana chitinozoan diversity curve to changes in sea level (Dronov et al. 2011) and a generalized carbon isotope curve (Bergström et al. 2009). Our diversity curve matches the Dronov et al. (2011) sea level curve remarkably well with diversity peaks matching sea level highs and extinctions corresponding to regressions. With respect to the Ordovician carbon isotope record, the sharp decline in upper Sandbian chitinozoan diversity is approximately coincident with the globally recognized GICE excursion, and the very steep Hirnantian decline is coincident with the HICE (with the admittedly coarse precision of comparing curve inflections within stages). The climbing chitinozoan diversity through the Darriwilian appears unaffected by the MDICE excursion.

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Coupled carbon and strontium isotope stratigraphy of a Middle Ordovician Bahamian-type carbonate platform at Clear Spring, Maryland

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Carbon isotope stratigraphy has a unique role in the interpretation of Earth history as one of the few geochemical proxies that have been widely applied throughout the geologic time scale. However, in addition to consideration of the role of diagenesis, numerous studies have raised awareness of the fact that C-isotope trends derived from ancient carbonate platforms may not be representative of dissolved inorganic carbon from a well-mixed global ocean reservoir. Both of these variables (diagenesis, water mass residence time) may change in response to sea level, producing trends in C-isotopes on ancient carbonate platforms that are unrelated to the global carbon cycle.

Studies of C-isotopes in modern carbonate platform settings such as the Great Bahama Bank (GBB) provide important analogues. Carbonate sediments of the GBB may have elevated C-isotopes relative to open ocean waters reflecting differential photosynthetic fractionation and precipitation of calcium carbonate (which lowers pH and converts bicarbonate into 12-C enriched carbon dioxide, leaving residual bicarbonate heavier). Few studies of ancient carbonates have attempted to explicitly compare C-isotope trends in both restricted platform settings and open marine settings. We studied a restricted Bahamian-type carbonate platform of Middle-Late Ordovician (Darriwilian-early Sandbian) age included in the St. Paul Group of Maryland, notable for sedimentologic evidence of severe restriction and a general lack of open marine macrofauna.

We are able to correlate the C-isotope curve from the St. Paul Group to other sections globally by using a combination of conodont microfossils and measurement of Sr isotopes on conodont apatite. Coeval C-isotope trends from open marine settings in the western United States and Estonia are comparable to the restricted platform in Maryland. In our Ordovician example, local factors appear to have modified the magnitude of the global trends, but not the timing and direction. A remaining question is whether magnitude differences are a function of sedimentation rate and completeness. We continue to test hypotheses of global correlations of C-isotope trends in the Middle-Late Ordovician by utilizing the rapidly changing Sr isotope curve at that time. Ongoing studies not yet completed involve collaboration with Olle Hints and Stig Bergstrom to study conodont Sr isotopes in Estonia and Sweden, respectively.

Determining absolute depths of Ordovician (Katian) benthic assemblages in the upper Cincinnatian (Maysvillian to Richmondian) of the Cincinnati Arch region, USA

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Recent correlations of Upper Ordovician (upper Cincinnatian: Maysvillian to Richmondian) strata using a combination of marker beds, faunal epiboles, and carbon isotope stratigraphy has revealed consistent patterns of changes in facies and biotic composition along a gently south sloping ramp in the Cincinnati Arch region. The Rowland Member of the Drakes Formation in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana provides an excellent opportunity to quantify biotic gradients in relation to absolute depth zones along a gently dipping carbonate ramp. Recent correlations permit recognition of transects that range from deep subtidal (30 to 40 m depth range) to shallow subtidal and shoal settings (5 to 15 m depth range) to supratidal (~ 0 to 2 m above sea level) within single small-scale cycles, and have a gradient of only a few cm per km [Brett et al., 2014]. Cycles within the Rowland Member display four well-defined lithofacies, each containing a distinct biofacies. Distal to proximal facies include: (A) offshore mudstones rich in brachiopods and bryozoans; (B) shoal carbonates containing corals and stromatoporoid sponges; (C) shallow subtidal mollusk-rich carbonate mudstones (micrites) interbedded with dark algal-rich shales; and (D) inter- to supratidal shaly lime mudstones with glauconite-filled burrows, sparse ostracode and lingulid faunas and scattered desiccation cracks.

The distinct facies present within this depositional system provide a rich temporal and environmental framework in which to study ecological-evolutionary patterns. Marine benthic assemblages arrayed gradationally along these environmental gradients were quantified using ordination techniques to provide proxies of ecological parameters, particularly those related to water depth. While it is commonly possible to determine the relative position of a given facies or fossil community, it is far more difficult to assign absolute depths in terms of meters below sea level. Absolute depth estimates were made using a variety of exposure-related sedimentary structures, including indicators of shoreline, normal wave base, and storm wave base, as well as biologic evidence of light-related zones. The configuration of depth-related facies and biotic gradients within this interval thus provides a unique opportunity to assign fossil assemblages to quantitatively defined depth zones along a gently dipping carbonate ramp.

The onset of the 'Ordovician plankton revolution' in the Late Cambrian

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The Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE) comprises the diversifications of all groups of marine organisms during the Ordovician Period. It is now clear that this adaptive radiation was initiated by some fossil groups earlier in the Cambrian and continued for others beyond the end of the Ordovician, making the GOBE part of a long-term early Palaeozoic radiation that also includes the Cambrian Explosion. It is likely that environmental changes triggered the diversification of the phyto- and zooplankton during the late Cambrian, permitting an increase in diversity and abundance of plankton-feeding groups during the Ordovician. In addition, molecular clock and fossil data indicate evidence for a late Cambrian to Ordovician switch to planktotrophy in invertebrate larvae. Here we analyse in detail the onset of the diversification of the different groups of the plankton in the late Cambrian - Early Ordovician interval leading up to the subsequent 'Ordovician Plankton Revolution'. Our analyses include the

changing diversities of the phytoplankton (acritarchs), diverse groups of zooplankton (e.g. chitinozoa, graptolites, radiolarians, etc.) and the switch to a planktonic mode of life of metazoan fossil groups (e.g. arthropods, etc.) that were part of the Cambrian benthos. The possible causes of the 'plankton revolution' are discussed. They include changes in palaeoclimate, palaeogeography or tectonic and volcanic activity, sea-water chemistry, as well as increased nutrient supply.

Ordovician chronostratigraphy changes through time as recorded in the USGS Geologic Names Lexicon

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Modifications to the geologic time scale have been significant, particularly in recent decades owing in part to more precise biostratigraphic zonations and advances in isotopic dating techniques. Because the definitions of geologic time intervals have been modified as more information is gathered, interpreted, and published, the geologic age of a unit as stated in a report published, for example in 1950, may be different according to today's time scale. Many changes have occurred to chronostratigraphic units throughout the geologic column, and particularly in the Ordovician, Carboniferous, Permian, and Quaternary. The U.S. Geologic Names Lexicon ("Geolex", http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Geolex/), is a standard reference for the Nation's stratigraphic nomenclature. Geolex's content is built from literature published from the late 1800's to today.

Geolex uses the modern time scale and age estimates. This has required updating the age estimates for many geologic units. These updated age estimates are shown in Geolex's "Unit Summary" pages; the ages as originally determined are preserved in the synopsis for each publication.

The Ordovician System has seen many changes over the last several decades. For example, the Upper Cambrian to Middle Ordovician Beekmantown Group, of wide areal extent in the central and northern Appalachians, is subdivided into 39 formations. Many of the formations have been the subject of recent studies, but several have not. The general ages of many of the "not-recently-studied" formations can be updated to today's time scale by using the fossils identified in reports published long ago. We tested our methodology on the Axemann Limestone of the Beekmantown Group.

Until recently the Axemann Limestone of the Beekmantown Group in central Pennsylvania was considered simply as Lower Ordovician (Canadian), based on fossils reported in previous (e.g., between 1911 and 1967) publications. The Axemann includes the gastropod *Ophileta* and trilobite *Jeffersonia* (Butts and Moore, 1936, USGS Bulletin 855, p. 29), brachiopods *Diparelasma* and *Tritoechia* (Lees, 1967, Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th Series, General Geology Report, no. 52, p. 26), and conodonts of the upper *Acodus deltatus-Oneotodus costatus* to lower *Oepikodus communis* zones (Collamer, 1985, University of Maryland, unpublished M.S. thesis, 257 p.). Applying today's chronostratigraphy, these fossils indicate the Axemann is Tulean (upper Tremadocian to lower Floian), which is in agreement with recently published studies (e.g., AAPG Memoir 98, chapters 4 and 15, 2012). Examples like this demonstrate how Geolex can be used to not only correlate current chronostratigraphic units from North America to Great Britain, and even globally, but can also be used as a history of changes to the chronostratigraphy of a system.

Immigration, speciation, and biodiversity in Ordovician seas of Laurentia

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Biotic immigration events (BIMEs), the dispersal of taxa from one biogeographic area to another, facilitate changes in biodiversity dynamics both today and throughout geologic time. Whether biotic immigration has a long-term positive or negative effect on ecosystem structure is context dependent. For example, BIMEs have been associated with biodiversity increases linked to ecologic and evolutionary processes such as niche partitioning, species packing, and higher speciation rates. Yet substantial biodiversity decline has also been documented following introductions of extrabasinal taxa within ecosystems due to elevated extinction and/or reduced speciation rates. In these instances, greater competition/predation from ecologically dominant invasive species may have acted to suppress the process of species formation and/or increase extinction rates among incumbents.

In this contribution, we explore the relationships among BIMEs, the rate and biogeographic mode of speciation events, and overall patterns of biodiversity change during the Middle through Late Ordovician interval in the epicontinental seas of Laurentia. The focal interval spans the Dapingian to Katian Stages, beginning with the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE) and ending after the Richmondian Invasion. Substantial tectonic, oceanographic, and paleoclimatic events occurred during this interval including the Blountian and Taconic tectophases of the Taconian Orogeny, the Guttenberg Carbon Isotope Excursion (GICE), the Boda Event, and the influx of nutrient-rich waters into the Sebree Trough of southern Laurentia. BIMEs during this temporal interval include both long-distance dispersal between paleocontinents, such as Baltica and northern Laurentia, and within-craton dispersal occurring between geographically adjacent depocenters, such as the Nashville Dome and Cincinnati Arch. The distance, magnitude, and timing of BIMEs were constrained for a suite of taxa comprising mainly articulated brachiopod and trilobite clades and augmented by other marine invertebrate taxa common in Ordovician seas. Speciation rate and mode were characterized via phylogenetic biogeographic methods, and biodiversity levels were determined from published faunal lists and data extracted from the Paleobiology Database.

Results of speciation mode analyses indicated that two primary macroevolutionary regimes occurred during the study interval: one in which speciation occurred primarily via passive vicariance and the other in which speciation occurred primarily by population range expansion followed by subsequent vicariance (i.e., "dispersal" speciation). These two macroevolutionary regimes alternated through time, and shifts between regimes correlate with changes in tectonic and oceanographic conditions as well as immigration intensity. Vicariance speciation prevailed during intervals of high tectonic activity and increased physical separation between marine basins, which limited the frequency of BIMEs. In contrast, intervals characterized by high levels of BIMEs were associated with mainly speciation by dispersal. Thus, the processes by which diversity accumulated under these two regimes correspond to different macroevolutionary dynamics. During high vicariance/low immigration intervals, diversity was maintained or increased by high speciation rates. If speciation rates were high, as during the GOBE, diversity increased rapidly. Conversely, low vicariance/high immigration intervals were characterized by comparatively low speciation rates. Biodiversity increases during these intervals, such as the Richmondian Invasion, were primarily due to niche partitioning between incumbent and immigrant taxa and greater β-diversity.

The alternation of the vicariance and dispersal-dominated macroevolutionary regimes establishes a "taxon-pulse" for generating diversity. In the first phase, the high frequency of BIMEs increase regional β-diversity via niche partitioning, although this may not substantially increase γ-diversity because speciation rate declines. This high β-diversity is then transformed into higher γ-diversity in the second phase as earth system events facilitate high rates of speciation by vicariance, which may reduce β-diversity as α-diversity increases. The repetition of the two-phase diversification system occurred at least twice during the Middle to Late Ordovician study interval and forms a useful hypothesis against which to examine diversification in other Ordovician clades.

A revised biostratigraphic framework for the near-field Hirnantian deposits of the central Anti-Atlas (southern Morocco) and their correlation to the Wangjiawan GSSP (Yichang, China)

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The Hirnantian Stage has a short duration, less than 2 My, but it records one of the largest global extinctions in Earth history, and an important glaciation. Evidence for the Hirnantian glaciation is widespread in western Gondwana, and an extensive glacial record exists in several sedimentary basins in Morocco. Our study areas are located in the Central Anti-Atlas, between Zagora and western Maider/Tafilalt region (southern Morocco).

Our methodology consists of sampling sections within a highly resolved sequence stratigraphic framework (Ghienne et al. 2014), and using palynological data (mainly chitinozoans) to correlate these pre-, syn-, and post-glacial deposits across various locations. Moreover, this also identifies and tracks the Katian-Hirnantian limit, which remains obscure in some areas. An additional challenge comprises the palaeogeographical disparity in chitinozoan data, causing difficulties in establishing an efficient global biostratigraphical correlation framework for the Upper Ordovician (Vandenbroucke et al., 2010). In this presentation, we explore two aspects of our research program, which is part of an ANR project (French national research foundation) that re-investigates the sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy of these glacial deposits:

(1) In the Central Anti-Atlas, the Upper Ordovician outcrops between Zagora and western Maider/Tafilalt areas are characterized by sedimentary gaps and large incisions caused by the waxing and waning of the ice sheets. This complicates long distance correlation, and one of our targets is the biostratigraphic correlation of two key areas; (i) the western Maider/Tafilalt (Clerc et al. 2013) and (ii) the Bou Ingarf section and neighbouring sections around Tazzarine (Loi et al. 2010).

(2) We will also present our preliminary biostratigraphic data from the Wangjiawan River Section (south-eastern China), which is immediately adjacent to the GSSP of the base-Hirnantian (Chen et al., 2006), and how these data can be correlated to the near field sections in southern Morocco.

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Agglutinated benthic foraminifera in Upper Ordovician black shales from the northern Holy Cross Mountains (Poland)

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Black/dark shales reported worldwide in Upper Ordovician sedimentary records provide insight into understanding of climate changes and palaeooceanographic conditions prior to the Hirnantian glaciation. In the northern Holy Cross Mountains black/dark shales of the Jeleniów Formation form as thick as 120 m succession spanning the latest Darriwilian to early Katian time interval. They are subdivided into two horizons by thin interval of bioturbated mudstones corresponding to the upper *foliaceus* graptolite zone. The Jeleniów black shales grade upwards into the upper Katian greenish-grey limy mudstones of the Wólka Formation (up to 70 m), which are intensely bioturbated at the base and homogenous in the upper part of the unit. The Hirnantian strata are represented by sandy mudstones and marls of the Zalesie Formation (up to 6 m), dated by trilobite fauna of *Mucronaspis*.

The characterized mudrock-dominated succession has been studied extensively, including stratigraphic, sedimentologic and geochemical approaches concentrated lately on reconstruction of water column oxygenation level (Trela, 2007; Zhang et al., 2011). Detailed analyses of TOC, S isotopic signature, V/(V + Ni) ratio and pyrite content for the Jeleniów black shales indicate their deposition was beneath anoxic/dysoxic waters (Zhang et al., 2011). A major shift into oxic bottom waters has been reported in the Wólka mudstones, which coincides with the rebound of marine animal diversity during the Late Ordovician (*op. cit.*).

Microscopic examination of the Jeleniów black/dark shales from the Wilków IG 1 and Daromin IG 1 wells revealed lenticular and oval structures composed of cherty rims surrounding residual infill material. The oval bodies are up to 200 μm in diameter, while the lenticular ones are up to 700 μm in length and up to 80 μm thick and show collapse features. The cherty rim is made up of angular and well sorted micron-size quartz grains bounded by cryptocrystalline silica cement. The considered structures strongly resemble remains of benthic agglutinated foraminifera from modern and ancient (Mississippian and Devonian) muds deposited in oxygen deficient conditions (Pike and Kemp, 1996; Milliken et al., 2007; Schieber, 2009). In the Jeleniów Formation they are common constituents of black shales showing more or less continuous sub-millimetre lamination; however, some examples were also reported in discretely bioturbated dark shale intervals and laminae. Noteworthy, the bioturbated greenish-grey Wólka mudstones are devoid of foraminifera remains.

The presence of agglutinated benthic foraminifera reported in modern and ancient sediment deposited under suboxic bottom waters indicates that they can thrive in environments affected by short-lived anoxia produced by seasonal thermoclines (Schieber, 2009). Their occurrence in the Jeleniów Formation showing both sub-millimetre lamination and bioturbational mottling suggests that the sedimentary environment was affected by intermittent anoxic and oxic/dysoxic conditions providing a minimum amount of oxygen for the survival of benthic foraminifera.

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Brachiopod Community Response to the Ordovician Mass Extinction on Anticosti Island

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The Ordovician Mass Extinction receives much attention because of its taxonomic impact (second largest) contrasted by a lesser ecological impact. To better understand the ecological impact of the Ordovician extinction, we need to examine both local dynamics and global patterns. Here, we investigated brachiopod community response before, during, and after the Ordovician extinction in the Anticosti Basin, Canada. The strata exposed on Anticosti Island are one of the most complete shallow water, fossiliferous records of the Ordovician-Silurian boundary. In addition, the basin deepened towards the west, providing an ideal setting to test community response along a depth gradient during the Ordovician extinction.

Brachiopod communities, based on material from the Paul Copper collection at the Geological Survey of Canada-Ottawa, were surveyed across the island through the late Ordovician-earliest Silurian. Samples (n = 133) were collected only from limestone surfaces that did not show evidence of taphonomic overprinting; taxa were identified to the species level. Stratigraphic coverage included the Vaureal (5 members of Katian age), Ellis Bay (3 members of Hirnantian age), and Becscie Formations (2 members of Rhuddanian age). The boundaries of the Ellis Bay Formation mark the first and second pulses of the mass extinction, coinciding with the rapid transition from greenhouse to icehouse conditions and back respectively. We used evenness and rank-abundance curve kurtosis (RAC-K) to measure community structure, and ordinations to visualize the changes in community composition. Community metrics were compared to stratigraphy (time), lithology (Dunham carbonate classification, depositional environment), and geography (depth).

During the late Katian, evenness increased through time while RAC-K decreased. An inverse correlation often occurs between these metrics as both measure community structure; however RAC-K is more sensitive to communities with extremely low evenness. In ecological terms, low evenness and high RAC-K have often been equated with more unstable communities. The high variance observed in RAC-K indicates that Katian community stability was highly variable through time, which may be an ecological warning sign before the first pulse of the extinction. Ordination revealed that community composition changed through time but was only slightly related to depth. Throughout the entire section, community metrics had little association with lithology. Geographically, eastern communities (shallow) showed higher values and variance of RAC-K, suggesting the 'deeper water' communities might have been slightly buffered from the effects of the extinction. After the first extinction pulse and through the Hirnantian, evenness fell as RAC-K increased, suggesting increasing instability. Taxonomic turnover occurred at the start of the Hirnantian linked to the first pulse of extinction, but there was also an increase in diversity (due to expanding ranges of 'cool water taxa'). The high evenness and low RAC-K might indicate that the survivors and invaders formed stable communities. However, there was no pattern in the community ordination, indicating that community composition was in a state of flux during the Hirnantian. In the early Rhuddanian, evenness continued to drop as RAC-K rose, before both reversed. This suggests an initial unstable fauna in the aftermath of the second, final pulse of the mass extinction. However, the communities with high evenness and low RAC-K in the uppermost member may hint at the start of an ecological recovery. The ordination again revealed a weak relationship between community composition and depth, similar to the Katian.

The results of this study reveal distinct trends and changes in brachiopod communities related to the two pulses of the Ordovician Mass Extinction. The Anticosti Basin was greatly impacted during the extinction; this analysis provides a nuanced record of the effect of a global event on a local ecosystem.

Foreland basin formation, environmental change and trilobite paleoecology, Late Ordovician of eastern Laurentia

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Trilobite distribution, abundance and diversity in the Late Ordovician of Laurentia are influenced by environmental changes associated with the Taconic Orogeny. Establishment and infilling of the Taconic foreland basin led to profound changes in the distribution of lithofacies and biofacies across the eastern half of the continent. Here we report on trilobite faunas of the late Sandbian to Katian interval. In the late Sandbian, mid-continent regions such as Oklahoma, and foreland basin regions share similar deep-water faunas, dominated by raphiophorid and isoteline trilobites. Later, in the Katian, regions in the mid-continent, such as central Oklahoma, have a relatively continuous record of carbonate deposition, and diverse platformal biofacies that pass down-ramp into deeper subtidal, low-diversity cryptolithine faunas. In the foreland basin, cryptolithine biofacies became widespread in the Katian, and expanded geographically as the clastic wedge prograded westward. Sedimentary evidence indicates that cryptolithines have a broader bathymetric range in the foreland basin and emerged at least locally into shallow subtidal, storm-influenced settings. Up-ramp, around the margins of the basin in such regions as southern Ontario, more diverse biofacies lack cryptolithines and share taxa with mid-continent faunas. Preliminary data also indicate that the distribution of trilobite biofacies reflects patterns in the carbonate isotope stratigraphy, suggesting a relationship with various water masses recorded by aquafacies. The emerging patterns of biofacies distribution demonstrate the influence of regional processes on trends in diversity, faunal turnover and replacement over a broad area of Laurentia.

The more the merrier? Reconciling sequence stratigraphy, chemostratigraphy and multiple biostratigraphic indices in the correlation of the Katian reference section, central Oklahoma

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The auxilliary stratotype section of the Katian Stage (Upper Ordovician) is a roadcut through the Viola Springs Formation near Fittstown, Oklahoma. Work by Bergström and colleagues on condont biostratigraphy and carbon isotope stratigraphy led to the novel interpretation that this section is entirely older (M5 sequence of eastern Laurentia) than the well-known Viola Springs succession of the south flank of the Arbuckle Mountains exposed along I35 (M6 and younger sequences). Studies of the sequence stratigraphy and trilobite biostratigraphy of the Viola Springs and the coeval Kimmswick Limestone of Missouri challenge this view. At the reference section, much of the Viola Springs is composed of shallow subtidal facies with diverse trilobite faunas. At least nine trilobite species are shared with the Kimmswick,

which post-dates the GICE excursion in the St. Louis region and represents sequence M6 and possibly younger strata. The lower 0.5 m of the Viola Springs contains graptolites that indicate an uppermost Sandbian age, and a collection at 0.55 yielded graptolites that also occur in Katian strata. The occurrence of *Diplacanthograptus spiniferus* at 35 m and other characteristic *D. spiniferus* Zone graptolites higher up in the carbon isotope excursion interval also seem to indicate that the upper half of the section is no older than M6. Under this new interpretation, the carbon isotope excursion reported from the upper half of the Katian reference section as the GICE may in fact be the same excursion, identified as the Kope Excursion near the base of the Viola in the I-35 section. The GICE may prove to lie within a distinctive, unconformity-bounded, graptolitic interval at the base of the Viola Springs Formation that likely represents sequence M5A. Our interpretation also implies that the conodonts *Plectodina tenuis* and *Belodina confluens* make relatively "late" entries into the succession at the reference section. The base of M6 at this section is marked by a TST of coarse, cross-bedded bioclastic grain- to rudstone facies and appears to correlate with the base of Kimmswick Limestone in the St. Louis area. The apparent presence of Kope in the reference section also implies that it extends into strata correlative with sequence C1 of the Cincinnati region. Although the I35 section overlaps with the Fittstown section, there remains a larger break beneath the Viola in the former, with cut-out of part of M4 and most, if not all, of M5. The differing interpretations of these sections underscore the need to consider all lines of evidence in determining the age and correlation of isotope excursions, using sequence stratigraphy and biostratigraphy, preferably with multiple faunal groups.

Characterization of a platform to basin transistion in a mixed siliclastic-carbonate basin: Upper Ordovician of central, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio

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Correlation of shallow marine limestones into deeper shale-dominated settings remains a challenge in sedimentary basin analysis. The Upper Ordovician (lower Katian Stage) "Point Pleasant-Utica" interval is a succession of dark shales and fine-grained carbonates, largely restricted to the subsurface. The offshore basinal facies were deposited in the Sebree Trough, a NE-SW trending region of subsidence from central Kentucky through northeastern Ohio. The seemingly monotonous dark shale facies of the trough have prevented detailed correlation and study of its paleoenvironmental history. The Lexington Platform-Sebree Trough crosssection represents a well-preserved Upper Ordovician example of a carbonate ramp to muddy basin transition.

In this study drill cores from Cincinnati, Ohio were logged using facies analysis, and litho- and biostratigraphy to develop detailed profiles and interpretations of packages across a major facies transition from a the carbonate-dominated Lexington Limestone platform succession to the dark, mudrock-dominated deposits at the center of the Sebree trough. A number of facies-crossing markers provide useful, first-order controls on stratigraphy: these include abrupt facies offsets, carbon isotope curves, K-bentonites, fossil epiboles (e.g., *Prasopora* bryozoans), and deformed beds, probably representing regional seismites. This research expands the regional correlation of the Lexington Formation and its members from the outcrop belt of the Cincinnati Arch into the correlative dark shales of more distal settings and provides strong evidence that depositional sequences, and distinctive faunal epiboles are of regional extent.

The development of two transects across the Sebree Trough documenting lithologic gradients, package geometries, and faunal density mapping allows for an integrative approach to sequence stratigraphy providing a high-resolution stratigraphic framework. As predicted by sequence stratigraphic models, highstand systems tracts (HSTs) thicken and become more mud-rich toward the basin and transgressive systems tracts (TSTs) become thinner and more condensed approaching the basin. The degree of facies

change across this gradient varies strongly with stratigraphic levels. Thus, lower units (Curdsville, Logana members) persist across most of the profile with relatively little change. In contrast, the upper Lexington units display much more abrupt northward change to shaly facies, suggesting increasing rates of subsidence in the Sebree trough through deposition of the Lexington sediments. In addition, there appears to be a distinct submarine erosion/corrosion surface that crosscuts lower Lexington units and dies out in an upramp direction near Cincinnati. This surface is overlapped by black shale and may record submarine erosion by bottom currents during an interval of sediment starvation and a rising pycnocline/oxycline.

   Comparison of stratigraphic sequences in different transects was used to test whether isopach maps for the Point Pleasant-Utica of the Sebree Trough are an accurate predictor of facies belt strike. In general, there appears to be parallelism between isopachs and isoliths (e.g. proportion of limestone vs. shale at particular levels). Thus, it may be possible to map facies belts along strike on the scale of fourth-order sequences (100 to 400 kyr). This will aid in development of a refined three-dimensional model of the Sebree Trough-Lexington Platform and its evolution through the Katian from platform to deep, sediment starved basin to filled trough.

Middle–Late Ordovician (Darriwilian–Sandbian) paired δ^{34}S and δ^{13}C records reveal dynamic cycling through the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event

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   Major phases of the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE) occurred during the Darriwilian Stage (468 to 460.5 Ma), and roughly coincided with a globally documented perturbation of the carbon cycle. This unprecedented change in biodiversity and biocomplexity of marine life has been previously linked to an L-chondrite asteroid breakup event in addition to sea surface temperatures that cooled to modern equatorial ranges. Ocean oxygenation events, associated with major perturbation of the carbon and sulfur cycles, have also been linked to large diversification events of marine life, from the Neoproterozoic (Ediacaran) Period to the late Cambrian in which pulses of oxygen progressively ventilated marine environments. Recent sulfur and carbon isotope studies of Early to Middle Ordovician sequences in Newfoundland and the Argentine Precordillera have highlighted evidence for persistent widespread euxinic (anoxic, sulfidic) deep marine waters that were intermittently oxidized. There is, however, very limited amount of sulfur isotope data from the Darriwilian Stage of the Ordovician, even though a positive δ^{13}C excursion (MDICE) has been recognized globally in the middle Darriwilian Stage. Here we present carbonate-associated sulfate (δ^{34}S$_{CAS}$) and pyrite (δ^{34}S$_{pyrite}$) S-isotopic measurements, paired with carbonate (δ^{13}C$_{carb}$) and organic matter (δ^{13}C$_{org}$) C-isotopic analyses from expanded Middle to Upper Ordovician sequences from the Appalachian Basin and Arbuckle Mountains regions of North America (Laurentia). Two major negative shifts in δ^{34}S$_{CAS}$ of 12‰ are documented, the oldest occurring within the *Histiodella holodentata–Phragmodus polonicus* Conodont Zones and the younger drop occurring within the *Cahabagnathus sweeti–Amorphognathus tvaerensis* (*Baltoniodus gerdae* subzone) Conodont Zones. These negative shifts in δ^{34}S$_{CAS}$ have antithetical relations with positive shifts in δ^{34}S$_{pyrite}$ (~+10‰) and δ^{13}C$_{carb}$ (~+3‰) values from the same samples. The older negative δ^{34}S$_{CAS}$ shift is coincident with the widely documented MDICE, and the younger negative δ^{34}S$_{CAS}$ shift is coincident with another positive shift in δ^{13}C$_{carb}$ values in the early Sandbian Stage. Geochemical box modeling of these sulfur isotope shifts suggest that a decrease in the global rate of pyrite burial for approximately a million years would lead to the negative δ^{34}S$_{CAS}$ trends.
   Additionally, a substantial increase in the weathering flux of pyrite to the global oceans could also

induce these secular sulfur isotope trends. Increased weathering from exposed terranes is broadly consistent with a sea-level lowstand, and the seawater $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ isotope record of change in continental weathering in the late Darriwilian Stage of the Ordovician. However, there is no geologic evidence for distinct pulses of continental weathering on such rapid time scales required (< 1 million years) to generate the negative shifts in $\delta^{34}S_{CAS}$. Syndepositional sediment reworking could also be an important factor on regional expressions of our documented sulfur and carbon isotopic fractionations as the MDICE and associated negative $\delta^{34}S_{CAS}$ shift coincide with a major Ordovician eustatic sea-level lowstand (Sauk-Tippecanoe sequence boundary). These antithetical isotope trends may be best explained by changes in the marine redox state forcing the chemocline deeper into the sediments and restricting porewater sulfate exchange with overlying water masses A change to a more oxygenated ocean would have further ventilated marine environments and allowed for the major phases of biodiversification in the Darriwilian Stage of the Ordovician.

Carbonate microfacies analysis of the Middle-Upper Ordovician succession of the Moyero River section, northeast of Siberian Platform

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Ordovician outcrops along the Moyero River valley compose one of the most complete and best-exposed Ordovician sections on the entire Siberian Platform. In the year 2013, a special expedition was organized in order to re-investigate this key Ordovician section. Here we present a preliminary result of the carbonate microfacies analysis of the upper Volginian, Kirensko-Kudrinian and lowermost Baksian regional stages (uppermost Darriwilian and Sandbian Global Stages) in the outcrops along the Moyero River valley. Using the model introduced by E. Flügel (Flügel, 2004), the following facies zones of the carbonate ramp could be distinguished in the studied interval of the section:

The tidal deposits of the inner ramp are well developed in the Volginian and the lower and middle parts of the Kirensko-Kudrinian regional stage. These rocks are represented by mudstone and bioclastic wackestone and with admixture of algae and tiny quartz grains.

The sand shoals and banks of the inner ramp include two microfacies: 1) oolitic grainstone with concentric ooids and bioclastic packstone. This microfacies could be found in the upper part of Volginian and the lower part of Kirensko-Kudrinian regional stages; 2) fine-grained quartz sandstones with phosphate grains comprise the upper part of the Kirensko-Kudrinian regional stage deposits.

Restricted-marine settings of the inner ramp are represented by the bioclastic packstone with numerous echinoderms and wackestone with ostracods. These facies develop locally and underlie the quartz sandstones of the sand bank in the upper part of the Kirensko-Kudrinian regional stage.

The open-marine settings of the inner ramp (packstone and wackestone with various bioclasts) compose stratigraphic intervals of the Chertovskian and the lower part of the Baksian regional stages. These facies directly overlie the quartz sandstones of the Kirensko-Kudrinian regional stage. The sharp boundary between these two contrasting facies is interpreted as a marine flooding surface and sequence boundary.

The sediments of the mid-ramp settings are represented by intercalation of non-bioturbated mudstones and highly bioturbated bioclastic wackestone with ostracods and trilobites as main components. These facies are typical for the lower part of the Baksian regional stage.

The general distribution of the carbonate ramp facies zones in the studied succession reflects development of marine transgression interrupted at the base of Kirensko-Kudrinian regional stage, at the middle of Kirensko-Kudrinaian regional stage (base of the Kudrinian substage) and at the base of the Chertovskian stage by regressive events.

Geographic differentiation of the Middle and Upper Ordovician strata in South China

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South China Plate is a key area for studying the evolution of the Earth in the Ordovician. From the Cambrian to the Middle Ordovician, the South China maintained the "Platform - Slope - Basin" geographic pattern (Fig. 1), which was representative by the distribution of the Yangtze Platform, Jiangnan Slope and Zhujiang Basin from northwest to southeast. On the whole, the water depth gradually increased towards the southeast. The platform was mostly deposited with the carbonate rocks, while the slope deposited with clastic rocks interbedded with carbonate rocks, and the basin mainly deposited with the black shales. Meanwhile, it's clear that different regions in South China were deposited with the Middle and Upper Ordovician strata of varying thicknesses, which formed the particular topography of the South China sea floor at that time.

In order to examine the geographic differentiation and depositional history of South China during the Middle - Late Ordovician, the paleogeographic maps and isopach maps of the Ordovician rocks in South China were reconstructed in successive time intervals by using the Geobiodiversity Database and ArcGIS software. The Middle and Late Ordovician were divided into six time units: 1) Dapingian to early Darriwillian, 2) middle Darriwillian, 3) late Darriwillian to middle Sandbian, 4) late Sandbian to middle Katian, 5) late Katian to early Hirnantian, 6) middle Hirnantian. For each time unit, the paleogeographic distributions of the strata were quantitatively illustrated and the distribution area of each sedimentary belt can be recognized precisely. The present results indicate that the "Platform - Slope - Basin" pattern was maintained until the middle Katian, when the Kwangsian Orogeny originated along the southeastern coast of China and stepwise influenced the South China Plate in a northwestward direction.
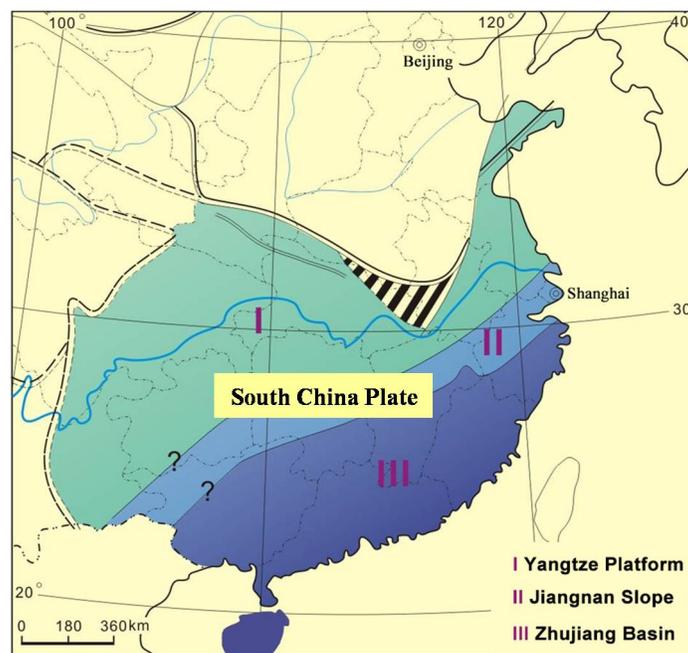

Fig. 1.—The "Platform - Slope - Basin" paleogeographic pattern of South China

Lithofacies differentiation of the Late Ordovician Lianglitag Formation limestones on the central part of the central Tarim Uplift, Tarim Block, northwest China

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    Limestone sequences of the Katian (Late Ordovician) Lianglitag Formation are partly composed of sessile biota with a potential for forming of reef complexes, which extend from outcrops of the Bachu area to the Tazhong Oil Field, in the Central Uplift. The fossil components of reefal units are diverse ranging from a microbial-dominated realm in the northwest ramp to a metazoanl-dominated realm in the southeastern margin, respectively. To outline the biogeographical boundary between these reefal facies, six well loggings covering the medial region between Bachu and Tazhong were employed for the litho- and biofacies correlation. Calcimicrobial components are frequently present in the wells of the inner platform part, such as the Fang 1, Badong 2 and He 4 wells. Thus, the benthic biota herein is quite similar to that of the microbial mounds of the Bachu outcrop. However, reefal bindstones formed by coral, stromatoporoid, and sponge taxa are abundant along the platform margin examplified by the He 3, Ma 401 and Ma 5 wells. They are typical frameworks typical of metazoanl reefs. Thus, their biotic compositions are essential analogues of the Tazhong Oil Field. Such a palaeoecological differentiation suggests that the evolutionary pattern of metazoan reef communities was not uniformly developed in the Late Ordovician. More advanced metazoan reefs were concentrated along the platform margin belt; in contrast, more primitive microbial communities inhabited in the inner platform.