

Special Issue:

Recent approaches to Devonian conodont zonation

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PREFACE

This special issue arose from the session on Devonian conodont biostratigraphy held during ICOS I (the First International Conodont Symposium) in Leicester, July 2006. Although the title of the session is rather general, it focussed on specific aspects of Devonian conodont biostratigraphy: constraints on the application of the Devonian conodont standard zonation, alternative zonations in shallower-water and deeper-water facies, and graphic correlation. The authors are from Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Great Britain, Italy/Belgium, Morocco and Poland. They bring new analyses of Upper Silurian, Lower Devonian, Givetian and Frasnian conodont successions from Bulgaria, Morocco, Poland and Russia.

The limitations of correlation inherent in the concept of a Devonian conodont standard zonation are discussed in the first contribution. The following contribution by Z. S. Aboussalam and R. T. Becker brings new conodont data from upper Givetian-basal Frasnian pelagic successions in the Tafilalt (Eastern Moroccan Anti-Atlas). The authors introduce new conodont zones and bring the dengleri Zone to new life. S. Gouwy, J. Haydukiewicz and P. Bultynck produced a graphic correlation of several Frasnian pelagic-neritic successions from the Tafilalt–Mader region. El. Benfrika, P. Bultynck and A. El Hassani established for the first time an Upper Silurian, Lower Devonian, Eifelian and lower Givetian conodont succession for the northwestern Moroccan Meseta. I. Boncheva, V. Sachanski, I. Lakova and M. Yaneva analysed the succession of Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian conodont faunas from two different depositional shelf environments in West Bulgaria. K. Narkiewicz and P. Bultynck were successful in constructing a valuable conodont zonation for shallow marine Givetian deposits of the Radom–Lublin area in southeastern Poland. C. G. Miller improves the use of early Ancyrodella species for correlating the Middle–Upper Devonian boundary. His study is based on the analysis of ontogenetic series of Pa-elements of uppermost Givetian–basal Frasnian Ancyrodella species from the Sub-Polar Urals (Russia).

In this volume is also included a contribution by H. Gholamalian on Frasnian–Famennian boundary conodonts from Central Iran. It was not presented at the ICOS I Devonian session but meets the aims of the present issue. A manuscript on Givetian and lower Frasnian conodonts from the Spanish Central Pyrenees submitted by J.-C. Liao and J. I. Valenzuela-Rios and presented as a talk at the Devonian session in Leicester could not be included in the present volume for reasons of timing. It will be published in the first Geological Quarterly issue of 2008.

We would like to thank especially M. A. Purnell, organiser of the ICOS I Symposium for bringing together the authors of the papers published in the present issue.

Finally we are grateful to all those who agreed to act as reviewers: C. Corradini, S. Garcia-Lopez, C. Girard, B. Kaufmann, W. T. Kirchgasser, G. Klapper, L. Milaczewski, D. J. Over and T. T. Uyeno. Without their efforts this volume could not have been published.

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