2015 WORK PLANS OF THE TASK GROUP TO ESTABLISH A GSSP CLOSE TO THE EXISTING BASHKIRIAN-MOSCOVIAN BOUNDARY

Chairman Alexander Alekseev
Alexander Alekseev[1] and Task Group
[1]Department of Paleontology, Geology Faculty, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
e-mail: aaleks@geol.msu.ru

General activities

The task group plans to continue evaluating conodont lineages suitable for definition of the Bashkirian-Moscovian boundary and it is anticipated that during the 2015 fiscal year a lineage and taxon suitable for boundary definition will be selected. The group also plans to continue its search for suitable GSSP candidate sections particularly in South China and the southern Urals.

A major effort will be devoted to the continued study of the conodonts within the Bashkirian-Moscovian transitional interval in the Naqing (Nashui) section and nearby sections in southern Guizhou Province, South China. Special attention will be directed toward the study of the lineage containing *Diplognathodus ellesmerensis* Bender, 1980, the taxon considered to have the best potential for boundary definition. Qi Yuping, Tamara Nemyrovska, and Lance Lambert are doing the detailed taxonomy work on the conodonts from the Bashkirian-Moscovian boundary interval in the Naqing section. In former years, it was thought that *Diplognathodus coloradoensis* Murray & Chronic, 1965 was the immediate ancestor of *D. ellesmerensis*; instead, the ancestor is likely to be a new species and its taxonomic status needs to be proven. *D. ellesmerensis* appears a little above the FAD of *Declinognathodus donetzianus* Nemirovskaya, 1990 in the Donets Basin, Ukraine. If the ancestry of *D. ellesmerensis* is established in time, the group will plan to prepare a proposal for using this taxon for boundary definition and hold discussions and possibly a vote during the business meeting at the XVIII International Congress on the carboniferous and Permian in Kazan, Russia in 2015.

Another priority for the task group is to make preparations for the showing of the Basu River section (Kulagina *et al*., 2009) in the South Urals of Russia on a fieldtrip for the XVIII International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian in Kazan, Russia in August 2015. Kulagina *et al.* had proposed the Basu River section as potential candidate section for the GSSP at the base of the Moscovian Stage.

Work on the sedimentology, stable-isotope geochemistry, and geophysical characteristics of the boundary interval in the Naqing and nearby sections are less advanced than the paleontological investigations and need to be a focus of the team's work in 2015.

References

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