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Palaeobiogeographic and evolutionary meaning of an early Late Tournaisian ammonoid fauna from the Tafilalt of Morocco

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An early Late Tournaisian (Early Carboniferous/Mississippian) ammonoid fauna is described from the Tafilalt of south-eastern Morocco. Twelve genera, four of which are new, and eleven new species are represented: *Becanites africanus* sp. nov., *Triimitoceras epiwocklumeriforme* gen. et sp. nov., *Irinoceras minutum* sp. nov., *Muensteroceras quadriconstrictum* sp. nov., *Eurites bouhamedensis* sp. nov., *Ouaoufilalites ouaoufilalensis* gen. et sp. nov., *Helicocyclus fuscus* sp. nov., *Pericyclus mercatorius* sp. nov., *Orthocyclus*(?) sp., *Bouhamedites enigmaticus* gen. et sp. nov., *Winchelloceras antiatlanteum* sp. nov., and *Progoniatites maghribensis* gen. et sp. nov. Palaeogeographic analysis of Late Tournaisian ammonoid assemblages shows strong endemism at the species-level, but genera and families had a nearly global distribution in the equatorial seas. The new fauna contains the stratigraphically oldest known representatives of the important Carboniferous goniatite families Girtyoceratidae and Goniatitidae.

Key words: Ammonoide, palaeobiogeographya, Carboniferous, Tournaisian, Morocco.

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