

Strophomenide and orthotetide Silurian brachiopods from the Baltic region, with particular reference to Lithuanian boreholes

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Epeiric seas covered the east and west parts of the old craton of Baltica in the Silurian and brachiopods formed a major part of the benthic macrofauna throughout Silurian times (Llandovery to Pridoli). The orders Strophomenida and Orthotetida are conspicuous components of the brachiopod fauna, and thus the genera and species of the superfamilies Plectambonitoidea, Strophomenoidea, and Chilidiopsoidea, which occur in the Silurian of Baltica are reviewed and reidentified in turn, and their individual distributions are assessed within the numerous boreholes of the East Baltic, particularly Lithuania, and attributed to benthic assemblages. The commonest plectambonitoids are *Eoplectodonta* (*Eoplectodonta*) (6 species), *Leangella* (2 species), and *Jonesea* (2 species); rarer forms include *Aegiria* and *Eoplectodonta* (*Ygerodiscus*), for which the new species *E. (Y.) bella* is erected from the Lithuanian Wenlock. Eight strophomenoid families occur; the rare Leptaenoidea only in Gotland (*Leptaenoidea*, *Liljevallia*). Strophomenidae are represented by *Katastrophomena* (4 species), and *Pentlandina* (2 species); *Bellimurina* (*Cyphomenoidea*) is only from Oslo and Gotland. Rafinesquinidae include widespread *Leptaena* (at least 11 species) and *Lepidoleptaena* (2 species) with *Scammomena* and *Crassitestella* known only from Gotland and Oslo. In the Amphistropiidae *Amphistropia* is widespread, and *Eoamphistropia*, *Eocymostropia*, and *Mesodouvillina* are rare. In the Leptostropiidae *Mesoleptostropia*, *Brachyprion*, and *Protomegastropia* are common, but *Eomegastropia*, *Eostropheodonta*, *Erinostropia*, and *Palaeoleptostropia* are only recorded from the west in the Baltica Silurian. In the Eopholidostrophidae, *Mesopholidostropia* is common and *Eopholidostropia* rare, and within the Shaleriidae the genus *Shaleria* is revised and found to be the only genus within the family Shaleriidae and to contain three subgenera, *S. (Shaleria)*, *S. (Shaleriella)* and *S. (Janiomya)*. In the Strophonellidae *Strophonella* was widespread and *Eostrophonella* rare. Within the Orthotetoidea, *Coolinia* and *Morinorhynchus* (with the new Ludlow and Pridoli species *M. rubeli* from the Lithuanian boreholes erected) are common, and *Fardenia*, *Saughina*, and *Valdaria* again only known from the west Baltic. Most of the genera and many of the species reviewed were very widespread and many found in the adjacent Avalonia and Laurentia: a few were even more cosmopolitan.

Key words: Brachiopoda, Silurian, Lithuania, Baltic, Strophomenoidea, Plectambonitoidea, Orthotetoidea.

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