

Brachiopods from the uppermost Lower Ordovician of Peru and their palaeogeographical significance

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The studied brachiopod assemblages from the uppermost Lower Ordovician beds of Peru are of very low diversity and are among the northernmost known strata of that age in South America. They have been collected at the Carcel Puncco canyon of the Inambari River, near San Gabán in the easternmost Eastern Cordillera. Of the six species described, *Euorthisina orthiformis* and *Paralenorthis immitatrix* were already known from the Bolivian outcrops of the same Andean Eastern Cordillera; two species are new: *Ahtiella zarelæ Villas* sp. nov. and *Paralenorthis carlottoi Villas* sp. nov. The new species of *Ahtiella*, of late Floian age, represent the oldest record of the genus characteristic of Celtic assemblages. During the early Mid Ordovician the genus migrated eastward from this region into the north margin of proto-Avalonia and after that, in Llanvirn times, into Baltica. During the early Llanvirn *Ahtiella* also migrated westward reaching the Precordillera Argentina region. Brachiopod faunal affinities suggest that there was a closer proximity of Avalonia with the Central Andean Basin, in similar temperate latitudes, than with the Southwestern European Platform, placed in very high latitude. *Paralenorthis* does not give any palaeogeographical signal, since it is known from all latitudes and palaeocontinents. Nevertheless, the occurrence of *Euorthisina* reinforces the Gondwanan signature of the region, since this genus spread during the Arenig throughout the middle latitude belt at the Gondwana margins, although it also colonised sub-polar latitudes, coinciding with the Llanvirn transgression over North Gondwana.

Key words: Brachiopoda, palaeogeography, Ordovician, Arenig, Gondwana, Celtic Province.

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