

A new early Silurian prioniodontid conodont with three P elements from Iran and associated species

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A prioniodontid conodont *Arianagnathus jafari* gen. et sp. nov. from the late Llandovery part of the Niur Formation of the Derenjal Mountains, East Central Iran had an apparatus bearing 3 pairs of P elements. Pa elements of its apparatus are closest to those of *Icriodella sandersi* (Llandovery–Wenlock boundary interval, Wales, Great Britain) in the weak development of an icrion. Due to the small sample size not all S-elements have been identified but those present are similar to those described in the *Icriodella* and *Icriognathus* apparatuses. Based on similarities with previously described apparatus *Notiodella* we suggest that *Arianagnathus jafari* gen. et sp. nov. probably had an apparatus of 17 elements. *Arianagnathus* is therefore an important additional example that has potential for aiding the future revision of the palaeobiological arrangement of elements within and the phylogeny of conodont apparatuses with 3 P elements, one of which is icrion bearing. The completely known apparatus of associated *Ozarkodina derenjalensis* sp. nov. shows similarity to some unnamed *Ozarkodina* from Wales, Great Britain. Many of the conodonts found in the Llandovery part of the studied section are cosmopolitan; the new conodont species seem to have their possible closest relatives in Avalonia.

Key words: Conodonta, taxonomy, Llandovery, Silurian, Iran.

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