

A new, unusual rhynchonellide with a strophic shell from the Silurian of Iran

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A new, unusual rhynchonellide brachiopod *Jafarirhynchus alatus* assigned to the newly established family Jafarirhynchidae is described from the Silurian (Telychian) of the Boghu Mountains in east-central Iran. It forms a low diversity association with the spiriferide *Striispirifer ? ocissimus*, which exhibits well preserved calcified brachial supports. A strophic shell, well-developed ventral interarea and liberosessile mode of life make this taxon unique among Palaeozoic rhynchonellide brachiopods. In spite of a superficial similarity to spiriferides and the atrypide family Davidsonioidea, *Jafarirhynchus* retains the typical rhynchotrematoid cardinalia with a septalium supported by the median septum, a septiform cardinal process and long, raduliform crura. It is considered as an offshoot of the local lineage, which includes two successive species of *Stegocornu* (family Rhynchotrematidae) which proliferated in Central Iran and adjacent Afghanistan during Aeronian time.

Key words: Rhynchonellida, morphology, taxonomy, Silurian, Telychian, Iran.

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