

The affinities of *Isograptus*, *Glossograptus*, *Cryptograptus*, *Corynoides*, and allied graptolites

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Numerous well-preserved specimens referred to *Glossograptus ciliatus* Emmons and *Cryptograptus marcidus* (Hall), (= *C. schaejeri* Lapworth), have been isolated from limestones of the Middle Ordovician Athens Shale of Alabama. Early growth stages of both these species show an isograptid type of development. This, fact, together with new data from studies of the detailed thecal morphology, and re-interpretations of previously described species suggest that: 1) *Glossograptus* arose from an isograptid ancestor, possibly *Isograptus* itself; 2) the ancestry of the other genera of Glossograptidae can be found in *Glossograptus*; 3) cryptograptids evolved, from an early glossograptid or evolved independently from an isograptid ancestor; and 4) the, corynoidids evolved from *Glossograptus*. Flattened, non-isolated specimens of *Isograptus lyra* Ruedemann, which were also collected from the Athens Shale display a pericalycal arrangement of the proximal end and are referred to a new genus, which probably arose from *Glossograptus* through divergence of the stipes.

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