

Llandoveryan graptolite zonation in the northern Canadian Cordillera

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A number of well exposed and structurally simple, graptolite sections, ranging in age from latest Ordovician through Wenlockian strata are present in the northern Canadian Cordillera. Recent more detailed sampling permits much finer zonation, than previously possible. The following lower and middle Llandoveryan zones (following the zonal scheme of Hutt 1975) are recognized or tentatively recognized: *acuminatus* Zone, *atavus* Zone, *acinaces* Zone, *gregarius* Zone, *triangulatus* Zone, *magnus* Zone?, *argenteus* Zone, *convolutus* Zone, *sedgwicki* Zone, and *turricutatus* Zone. The *crispus*, *griestoniensis* and *crenulata* Zones are only tentatively and indirectly recognizable; instead, expanded and stratigraphically thick *spiralis* and *Cyrtograptus sakmaricus* - *C. taqueus* zones appear to represent biofacies equivalents. The latter zone is correlated with the *grandis* and *tapworthi* Zone of some writers. The earliest Wenlockian *centrifugus* Zone may be present in a single section. The lowest Llandoveryan perscutptus Zone is only tentatively recognized, but there appears to be no evidence for a stratigraphic break between the Ordovician and Silurian. Lower and middle Llandoveryan zones are thin, whereas those of the upper Llandoveryan are considerably thicker, a fact probably related to the temporal duration of the zones.

Key words: Graptolites, stratigraphy, Silurian, Llandovery, Canada.

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