

The curvature-transition series: integral part of some simple-cone conodont apparatuses (Panderodontacea, Distacodontacea, Conodontata)

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Elements of species of *Drepanoistodus* Lindstrom, *Panderodus* Ethington, and *Protopanderodus* Lindstrom systematically vary from symmetrical to pronouncedly asymmetrical (symmetry-transition series) within each species, and a group of elements with systematic increase in curvature of the cusp can be recognized for each element type; each such group is named a curvature-transition series. *Panderodus* and *Protopanderodus*, both of the Panderodontacea, have essentially identical apparatuses with regard to symmetry and curvature-transition series whereas *Drepanoistodus*, of the Distacodontacea, differs in type of symmetry-transition series and number of curvature-transition series. The curvature-transition series is considered to represent a taxonomically distinct character at the suprageneric level.

Key words: conodont apparatuses, Ordovician, classification

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