

Late Ordovician brachiopods from the Selety river basin, north Central Kazakhstan

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A medium-diversity fauna of late Ordovician rhynchonelliform brachiopods occurs in the Tauken Formation (upper Caradoc-lowermost Ashgill) of north Central Kazakhstan. It demonstrates close similarity to the approximately contemporaneous faunas characteristic of shallow clastic shelves (BA 2-3) of the Chingiz and Chu-Ili ranges (both in Kazakhstan) and South China, but is characterized by a high proportion of endemic new species, including *Tetraphalerella bestiubensis* sp. nov., *Glyptomena kaskolica* sp. nov., *Dinorthis taukensis* sp. nov., *Rhynchotrema seletensis* sp. nov., and *Nalivkinia* (*Pronalivkinia*) *zvontsovi* sp. nov. The abundance of *Rhynchotrema* is somewhat unusual by comparison with faunas from other Kazakhstanian terranes, where rhynchonellides of the family Ancistrorhynchidae are usually dominant in near-shore biofacies. The occurrence of the atrypides *Sulcatospira* and early *Nalivkinia* demonstrates a clear biogeographical linkage with approximately contemporaneous faunas of South China.

Key words: Brachiopoda, Upper Ordovician, taxonomy, biogeography, Kazakhstan.

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