

LOWER AND MIDDLE CAMBRIAN BRACHIOPODS FROM THE IBERIAN CHAINS AND SIERRA MORENA (SPAIN)

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ABSTRACT

Brachiopods from the Lower and Middle Cambrian of the Iberian Chains and Sierra Morena are described. The following taxa occur in the Iberian Chains: “*Lingulella*” sp., *Redlichella* cf. *bohemica* (Barrande), *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n., *Micromitra* sp., *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel), *Trematobolus borobiensis* sp. n. and *Jamesella* sp. The taxa “*Lingulella*” sp. and *Sibiria* ? sp. are reported from the Lower Cambrian of Sierra Morena. Brachiopods constitute several distinct associations: the relatively shallow water *Trematobolus* assemblage near the Lower-Middle Cambrian boundary interval is followed by the deeper *Dictyonina-Redlichella* assemblage. The alternation of these assemblages permit us to interpret the response of brachiopod communities to sea level changes.

Keywords: Brachiopoda, Lower Cambrian, Middle Cambrian, Spain.

RESUMEN

Se revisan los braquiópodos del Cámbrico Inferior y Medio de las Cadenas Ibéricas y de Sierra Morena. En las Cadenas Ibéricas están presentes los siguientes taxones: “*Lingulella*” sp., *Redlichella* cf. *bohemica* (Barrande), *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n., *Micromitra* sp., *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel), *Trematobolus borobiensis* sp. n. y *Jamesella* sp., mientras que “*Lingulella*” sp. y *Sibiria* ? sp. se citan en el Cámbrico Inferior de Ossa-Morena. Se reconocen dos asociaciones de braquiópodos: la asociación de *Trematobolus*, que es típica de aguas someras, y la asociación de *Dictyonina-Redlichella*, que es típica de aguas más profundas. Ello permite interpretar la alternancia de asociaciones como una respuesta de las comunidades de braquiópodos a los cambios del nivel del mar acaecidos.

Palabras clave: Brachiopoda, Cámbrico Inferior, Cámbrico Medio, España.

INTRODUCTION

The Cambrian System in Spain is one of the most widespread of Europe and contains a diversified fossil record where the brachiopods are present from Lower to Upper Cambrian rocks.

The objective of this work is to revise from a taxonomic and palaeoecological point of view the inarticulate brachiopod assemblages from selected Lower-Middle Cambrian sections in Sierra Morena and the Iberian Chains.

In Sierra Morena (Fig. 1), we study brachiopods from two localities: the Arroyo Tamujar and Río Viar, all of them in the Capas de Benalija Formation, sensu Lotze

(1961). The palaeontological site named Arroyo Tamujar is located in the crossing between the Tamujar stream with the Guadalcanal-Cazalla road. Fossils from Río Viar are located in the crossing between the Viar river and the Llerena-Pallarés road. Both localities have the same trilobite assemblage. It is represented by *Andalusiana* sp., *Aldonaia* sp. and *Termierella* sp. suggesting a Middle Marianian age (mid Lower Cambrian).

In the Iberian Chains (Fig. 2), the studied brachiopods are from Jarque 1 section (Liñán *et al.*, 1996a), Mesones 3 section (Valenzuela *et al.*, 1990), Rambla de Valdemiedes 1-4 sections in Murero locality (Liñán and Gozalo, 1986, Gozalo *et al.*, 1996) and Villafeliche 1 section (Gozalo *et al.*, 1993, 1996) and Borobia 1 section

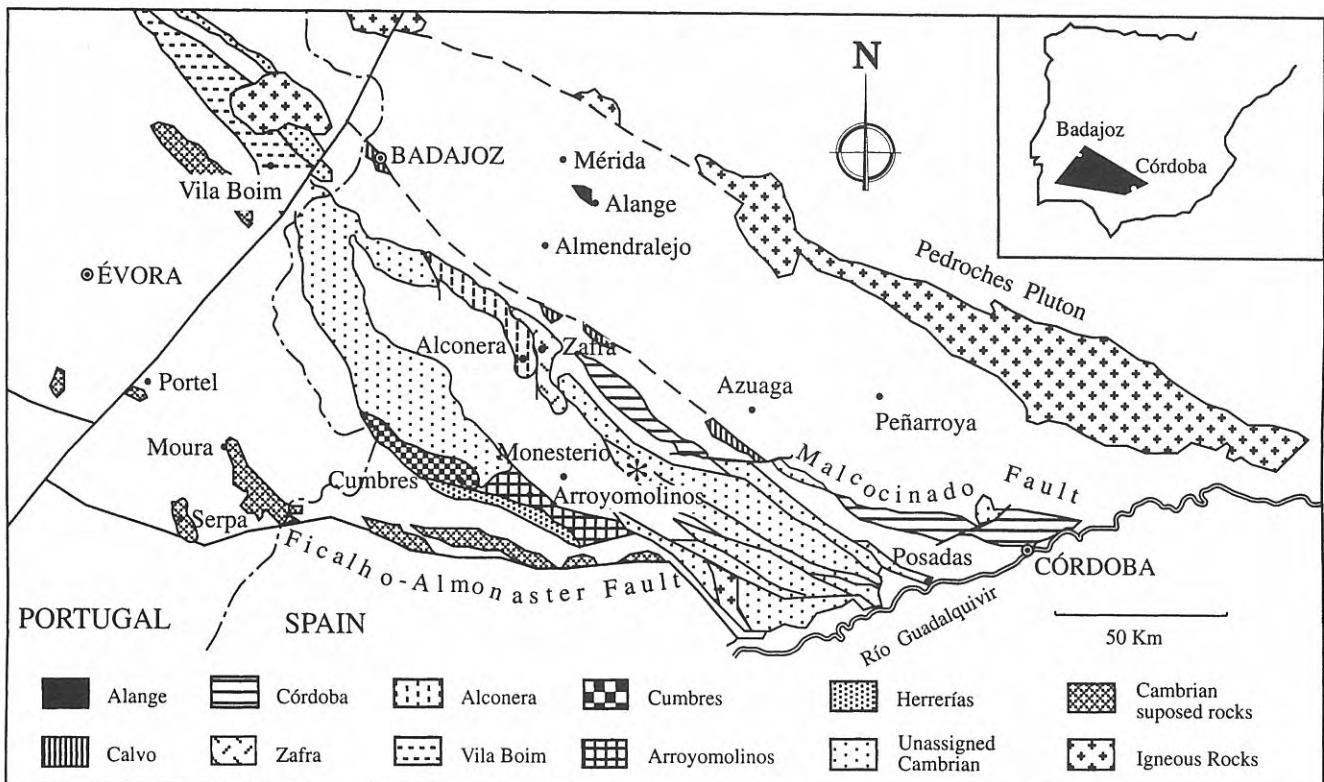


Figure 1. Geological map of Sierra Morena showing the fault-bounded troughs proposed by Liñán and Quesada (1990) with the location of the nearest Río El Viar and Arroyo Tamujar brachiopods localities mentioned in the text (*).

(Gámez *et al.*, 1991). The associated trilobites permit us to have a good chronostratigraphical control of the brachiopoda occurrence from the Bilbilian (Lower Cambrian) to Caesaraugustan (Middle Cambrian) rocks of the Iberian Chains. Finally, the study of a precise stratigraphical distribution of brachiopoda will provide us with a better environmental knowledge of the brachiopoda assemblages through the ecological facies analysis suggested by Liñán (1995).

From a chronostratigraphical point of view, we will use here the Spanish Stages nomenclature sensu Liñán *et al.* (1993a) to present the stratigraphical distribution of the studied taxa (Fig. 3).

PREVIOUS WORK

Brachiopods from the Cambrian rocks of the Iberian Chains were probably observed in Murero by Palacios (1893) and Dereims (1898) where they cited but did not figure *Leperditia* sp. and *Discina* sp., respectively. Sampelayo (1935) figured, although he did not describe, probably the first brachiopoda from Murero as *Fordilla marini* which is considered herein a *nomen nudum*. Brachiopods from Murero have been described by Vogel (1962) who interpreted the presence of the obolellid *Trematobolus* Matthew as a bivalve. Havliček and Kříž (1978) re-evaluated the systematic position of the supposed bivalve *Lamellodon simplex* Vogel and assigned this species to the brachiopod genus *Trematobolus*. Other detailed studies of the brachiopods from Iberian Chains and Sierra de la Demanda can be found in Mergl and Liñán (1986), and a short note on

Mediterranean *Trematobolus* species which is present in Geyer and Mergl (1995). Cambrian brachiopods from Sierra Morena have been studied by Liñán and Mergl (1983) who found *Paterina* sp., *Acrothele* sp. and *Obolella* sp. in Lower Cambrian rocks (Ovetian and Marianian) and by Gil Cid and Melou (1988) who found the new species *Yorkia zafrensis* and *Jamesella iberica* in Middle Cambrian rocks (Caesaraugustan).

STRATIGRAPHY

In the Iberian Chains, the Lower-Middle Cambrian sequence overlie the proterozoic Paracuellos Group (Lotze, 1961) and it is composed of the Bámbola, Embid, Jalón, Ribota, Huérmeda, Daroca, Mesones, Valdemiedes, Mansilla, Murero and Borobia formations. The brachiopods studied here are from Huérmeda to Murero formations.

The Ribota Formation (Lotze, 1929) is a 25 to 130 m thick succession composed of yellow and grey dolostones, minor limestones and interbedded shales and marls containing trilobites, brachiopods, echinoderms, hyoliths and trace fossils. Gámez *et al.* (1991) cited oncolites, cryptalgal and stromatolitic laminations and gypsum pseudomorphs in dolostones from the lower part of this formation. Two successive trilobite assemblages are recorded in the shales; the lower is characterised by *Lusatiops ribotanus* Richter and *Strenuaeva incondita* Sdzuy and the upper contains *Kingaspis velatus* Sdzuy, *Redlichia* and *Strenuaeva* species (Sdzuy, 1971a). The

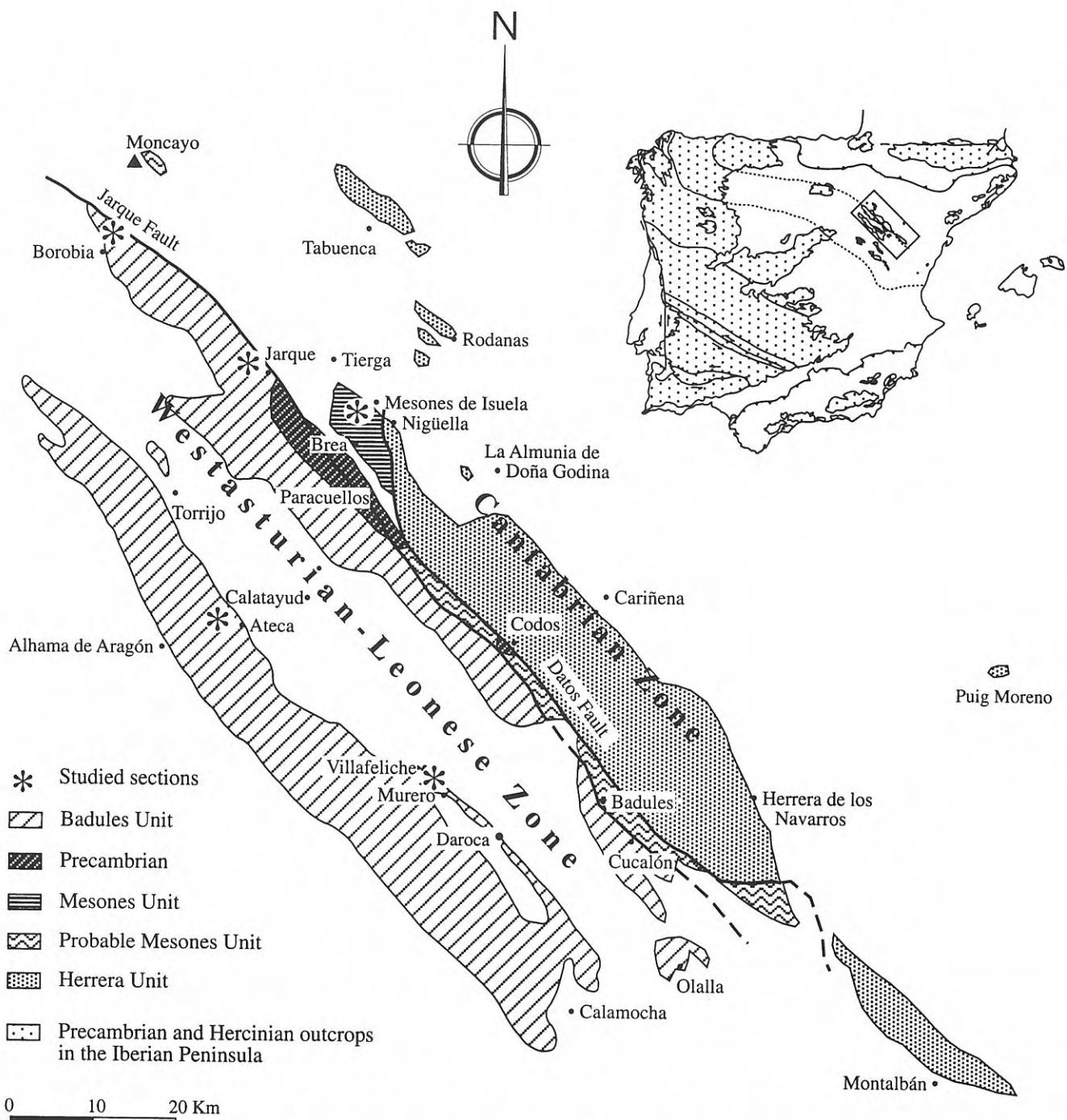


Figure 2. Geological setting of the Iberian Chains (modified after Gozalo and Liñán, 1988). Studied localities (*).

genera *Strenuaeva* and *Lusatiops* are typical of the Marianian stage. Acritarchs are also reported from the upper part of this formation (Gámez *et al.*, 1991; Liñán *et al.*, 1996b). This formation was deposited under oscillating littoral to shallow sublittoral conditions (Schmidt-Thomé, 1973; Álvaro *et al.*, 1995). The Ribota Formation is the thickest Cambrian carbonate succession in the Iberian Chains.

The Huérmeda Formation (Lotze, 1929) is 45 to 80 m thick and comprises green to dark blue shales with yellow dolostones deposited under sublittoral conditions (Álvaro *et al.*, 1995). This unit contains scattered trilobites,

brachiopods, echinoderms, hyoliths, acritarchs and ichnofossils. Trilobites are present both at the base and at the top of the Huérmeda Formation. The lower trilobite assemblage with *Micmacca*, *Andalusiana*, *Strenuaeva*, *Redlichia* and *Triangulaspis* (Sdzuy, 1961, 1971a) suggests a Marianian age. The upper trilobite assemblage with *Strenuaeva* sp. and protolenids (Sdzuy, 1971a) documents the disappearance of the trilobite olenellids in Spain and indicates a Bilbilian age. Recently, acritarch assemblages have been found in the North of the Iberian Chains (Liñán *et al.*, 1996b, Palacios and Mockzylowska, 1998). They confirm a Bilbilian age.

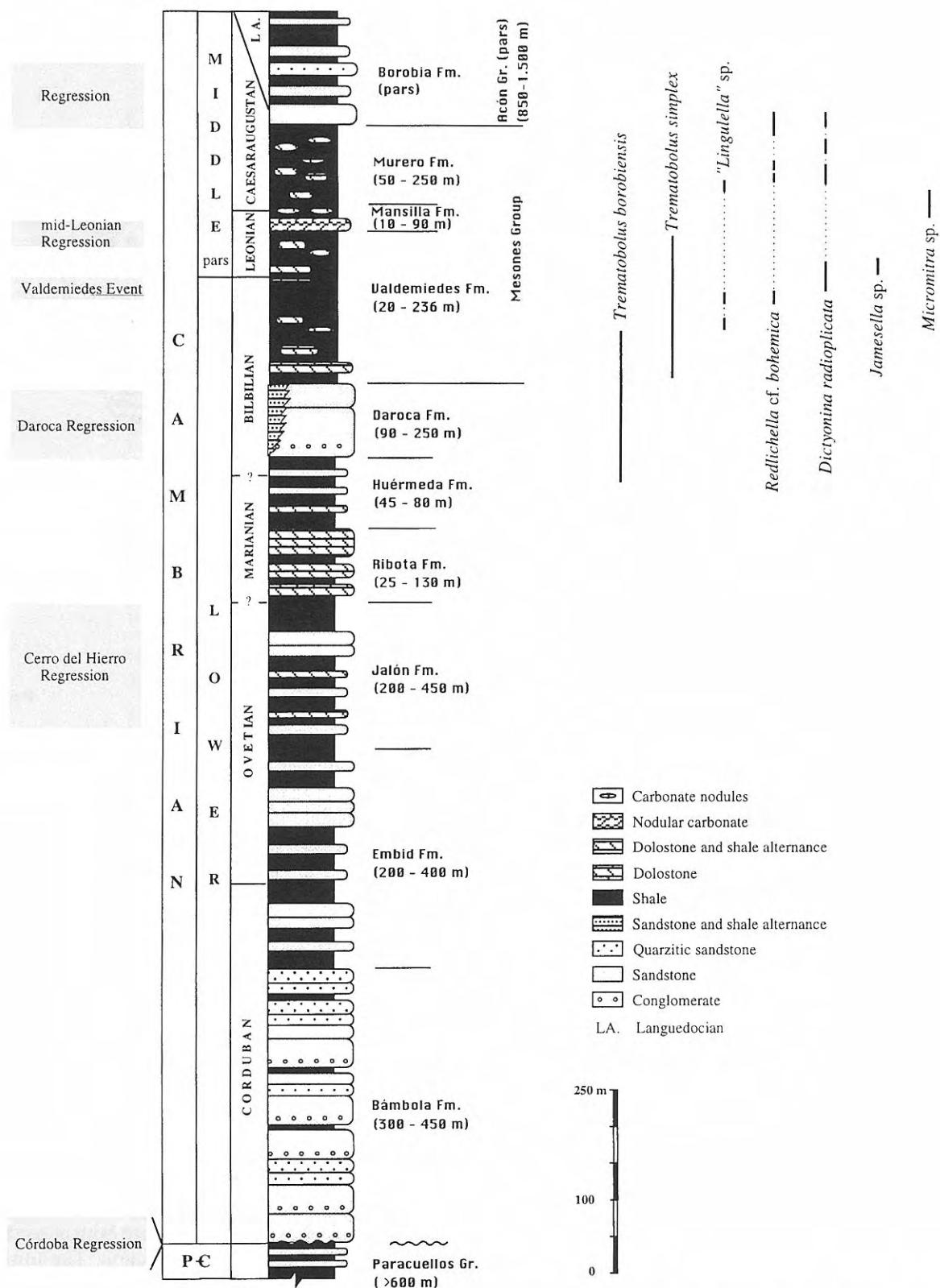


Figure 3. Synthetic Lower-Middle Cambrian stratigraphy (Gozalo, 1995) and brachiopod distribution of the Iberian Chains.

The Daroca Formation (Lotze, 1929) is a terrigenous sequence 90–250 m thick with very heterogeneous lithologies among its outcrops (Sdzuy and Liñán, 1993). All the southern outcrops of the Iberian Chains are mainly composed of sandstones with scarce

conglomerates. In the central outcrops, shale forms 60–75% of the components, and the amount of sandstone decreases when approaching the northwestern part of the Iberian Chains. In some northern localities, the trilobite *Protolenus* (*Hupeolenus*) Geyer has been found in the

Daroca Formation (Álvaro and Liñán, 1997) together with the acritarch assemblage described previously for the Huérmeda Formation (Liñán *et al.*, 1996b). Thus, a Bilbilian age can also be inferred for the Daroca Formation.

The Mesones Group (Liñán *et al.*, 1992) is subdivided into three formations (Valdemiedes, Mansilla and Murero), and is essentially composed of shales with carbonate nodules, dolostones and limestones interbedded. These materials were mainly deposited in sublittoral environments (Sdzuy and Liñán, 1993).

The Valdemiedes Formation is 20-236 m thick, and has yielded trilobites, brachiopods, hyoliths, sponges, algae, annelids? and ichnofossils. The trilobite genera can be separated into a lower assemblage with *Protolenus* (*Hupeolenus*), *Hamatolenus* (*Hamatolenus*), *Hamatolenus* (*Myopsolenus?*), *Kingaspis*, *Alueva*, *Tonkinella*, *Sdzuyia* and *Onaraspis* (Upper Bilbilian) and an upper assemblage represented by *Eoparadoxides*, *Paradoxides* (*Eccaparadoxides*), *Hamatolenus*, *Alueva*, *Protolenus* (*Hupeolenus*), *Asturiaspis*, *Peronopsis* and *Condylopyge* (Sdzuy, 1961; Liñán and Gozalo, 1986; Liñán *et al.*, 1993b; Gozalo *et al.* 1993; Gozalo and Liñán, 1995). This findings suggest a Lower to early Middle Leonian ages. Both assemblages are separated by the Valdemiedes event (Liñán *et al.*, 1993b), which has been interpreted to produce the trilobite turnover at the Lower-Middle Cambrian boundary in Iberia (Sdzuy 1971a, b, 1995; Liñán and Gozalo, 1986, Álvaro *et al.*, 1993b; Gozalo *et al.*, 1993). This event may be the last expression of the uppermost Lower Cambrian mass extinction, which was followed by a trilobite diversification at the early Middle Cambrian.

The Mansilla Formation, 10-90 m thick, is made up of an alternance of brown dolostones and limestones and purple and violet shales containing trilobites, brachiopods, sponges, algae, hyoliths, monoplacophoran and ichnofossils. Trilobites have been found only in the upper part and their assemblages are composed of *Paradoxides* (*Eccaparadoxides*) *sulcatus* Liñán and Gozalo, 1986, *Paradoxides* (*Ecc.*) *asturianus* Sdzuy, 1968, *Paradoxides* (*Ecc.*) *sdzuyi* Liñán, 1978, *Cornucoryphe schirmi* Sdzuy and Liñán, 1997, *Conocoryphe* (*Parabailiella*) sp., *Holocephalina?* *leve* Gozalo and Liñán, 1996, *Asturiaspis inopinatus* Sdzuy, 1968, *Acadolenus* sp. and *Peronopsella prokovskajae* Sdzuy, 1968, thus suggesting a late Leonian age (Liñán and Gozalo, 1986; Gámez *et al.*, 1991; Gozalo *et al.* 1993; Gozalo and Liñán, 1995, 1996; Sdzuy and Liñán, 1997).

The Murero Formation, 50-250 m thick, is composed of green lutites with carbonate nodules interbedded with very fine sandstones. It has yielded trilobites, brachiopods, annelids? (palaeoscolecid worms), algae, hyoliths, sponges and ichnofossils of Caesaraugustan age.

The Acón Group (Acón Formation, Schmitz, 1971) is a succession up to 1,500 m thick of white and grey sandstones and green shales with isolated carbonate nodules. The Acón Group conformably overlies the regionally diachronous top of the shaly green Murero

Formation (Gámez *et al.*, 1991). Álvaro (1995) subdivided this group into five formations, in ascending order, Borobia, Valdeoreta, Torcas, Encomienda and Valtorres formations. This group yields trilobites, brachiopods, echinoderms, acritarchs and ichnofossils of Caesaraugustan to Upper Cambrian.

The Borobia Formation (Álvaro, 1995) consists of alternating sandstones and shales. Minor carbonate nodules are also present. It reaches a maximum thickness of 250 m. Schmitz (1971), Josopait (1972) and Shergold and Sdzuy (1991) recognised three fossil assemblages composed of trilobites, echinoderms and brachiopods: 1) the *Ctenocephalus bergeroni* assemblage; 2) the *Chilidorthis tecta* and *Bailiella levyi* assemblage; and 3) the *Bailiella cf. levyi*, *Conocoryphe ferralsensis*, *Paradoxides macrocercus*, *Brahimorthis cf. antiqua* and *Sucocystis melendezi* assemblage across the Borobia/Valdeoreta transition. Because of the presence of *C. ferralsensis* Courtefoille and *P. macrocercus* Courtefoille the third assemblage probably correlates with the H1 palaeontological level of the Montagne Noire (Courtefoille *et al.*, 1988).

The stratigraphical distribution of the studied brachiopoda results as follows. The top of Huérmeda Formation and the Daroca Formation has yielded *Trematobolus borobiensis* sp. n., all specimens from the Borobia locality. The Valdemiedes Formation (latest Early-early Middle Cambrian) contains the brachiopods: *Trematobolus cf. borobiensis* sp. n., *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel), *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n., *Redlichella cf. bohemica* (Barrande), "Lingulella" sp. and *Jamesella* sp. Since *Trematobolus simplex*, *Dictyonina radioplicata* and *Redlichella cf. bohemica* are all included in Lower and Middle Cambrian strata, it could be considered that brachiopoda are not affected by the Lower-Middle Cambrian extinction, although the Valdemiedes event produced a decrease in the size of the specimens and some changes in the structure of the brachiopod communities. The Mansilla Formation has yielded the brachiopods: *Micromitra* sp., *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel), *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n. and *Redlichella cf. bohemica* (Barrande). Finally, the Murero Formation contains *Micromitra* sp., "Lingulella" sp., *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n. and *Redlichella cf. bohemica* (Barrande).

The specimens from Sierra Morena are from Lower Cambrian rocks of Sevilla Province where Fricke (1941) distinguished as being in a stratigraphical order: the Estebayanes Beds, the Agua Limestone and the Benalija Beds (Lotze, 1961; Liñán and Mergl, 1983). The last unit contains the brachiopod *Sibiria?* sp. which is now studied.

BRACHIOPOD ASSEMBLAGES

The data about the brachiopod palaeobiogeography and benthic communities of the Early and Middle Cambrian ages are poor, when compared with the data about benthic communities of younger ages. This is

caused by a dominance of the lingulates and other less studied groups of brachiopods (paterinids, obollellids) among the fossil records, while the rhynchonellate ("articulate") brachiopods are generally less common. Quantitative and distributional information on these faunas is generally missing in published data.

The brachiopod species derived from the Lower and Middle Cambrian of the Iberian Chains belongs to two distinct brachiopod assemblages. These assemblages can be respectively included inside the calcareous and phosphatic brachiopod biofacies, defined by Liñán *et al.* (1993b).

The *Trematobolus* assemblage is characterized by a total prevalence of the large, thick-walled and calcareous-shelled *Trematobolus*. This genus possesses a dorsibiconvex shell and a large pedicle opening protruded by a wholly functional pedicle.

Taphonomy of the valves, that often form densely packed clusters (especially in the Borobia section) as well as associated fossils, indicate a shallow sublittoral environment affected by a wave and current activity, as was previously suggested by Gámez *et al.* (1991), Sdzuý and Liñán (1993), Gámez Vintaned and Mayoral Alfaro (1992), Liñán *et al.* (1993b) and Álvaro *et al.* (1993a). The abundant occurrence of *Trematobolus* around the Lower-Middle Cambrian boundary (the Huérmeda, Daroca, Valdemiedes and Murero formations) coincides with an increase of the supply of detritic material (Daroca Regression and Valdemiedes event; Liñán *et al.* 1993b, Álvaro *et al.* 1993b).

Despite the different, mainly volcanoclastic development, the similar environment and habitat are indicated by the taphonomy of the *Trematobolus*-bearing beds in Morocco. Their valves are also thick walled, being densely and randomly packed together, often crushed and abraded. There the sediments were also deposited under a shallow subtidal environment (Geyer and Mergl, 1995).

The *Dictyonina-Redlichella* assemblage is the second distinct brachiopod assemblage in the Iberian Chains. The *Dictyonina-Redlichella* assemblage is characterized by a prevalence of small, phosphatic-shelled brachiopods which belong mainly to genera *Dictyonina* Cooper and *Redlichella* Walcott. Minute obolid-like brachiopods are very scarce and they are represented only by minute forms. Commonly bivalved, rarely fragmental shells indicate a quiet, deeper basinal environment as is also suggested by the trilobite assemblages. Some preserved shell clusters may even represent the original live, abruptly buried associations. Genera *Dictyonina*, *Redlichella*, as well as *Micromitra* in the lower part of the

Middle Cambrian sequence, belong to the epibenthic brachiopods. The functional pedicle penetrated the ventral apex in the acrothelid *Redlichella*, while the pedicle protruded between the homoeodeltidium and the homoeochilidium in the paterinid genera.

The absence of minute obolids in the associations with abundant paterinids is also reported by Rowell (1980) from Nevada. Rarity of lingulellids in associations with acrothelids is also known in other places with Middle Cambrian sequences in Europe (Termier and Termier, 1974; Mergl and Šlehoferová, 1990).

BRACHIOPOD ASSEMBLAGES OF MIDDLE CAMBRIAN IN SOUTHWESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE, AND NORTH AFRICA

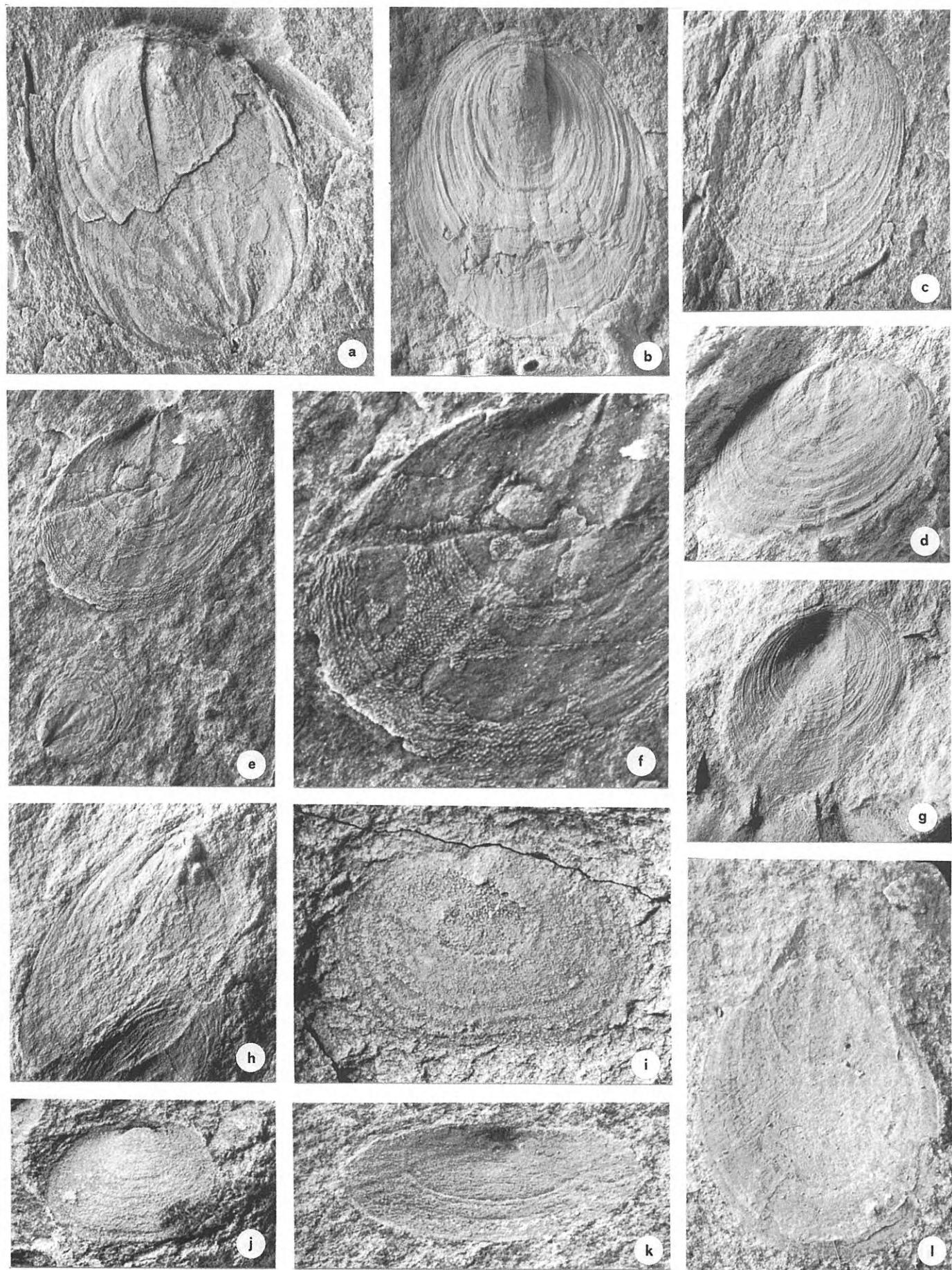
Although our present knowledge of the benthic brachiopod faunas of the Early to Middle Cambrian ages in Western and Central Europe and Northern Africa is not sufficient, some general conclusions may be inferred from the available data.

The Spanish brachiopod assemblages are quite different from the Middle Cambrian brachiopod assemblages of the Central Bohemia. The latter ones are mainly dominated by large obolids (genera *Westonia*, *Lindinella* and *Lingulella*), which dwelled in shallow and sandy bottom environments. In Bohemia, the deeper, basinward *Acrothelidae* assemblage is characterized by the scarce occurrence of *Redlichella* and *Acrothelidae*, rare minute lingulellids, the fairly abundant acrotretid brachiopod *Vandalotreta* and the locally numerous orthid *Bohemiella* (Havlíček, 1971; Mergl and Šlehoferová, 1990). However, the paterinids and *Trematobolus* are usually absent in Central Bohemia. The absence of *Trematobolus* may only reflect an inappropriate environment, because the oldest marine trilobite-bearing fauna (Fatka *et al.*, 1992) in the lowermost part of the Jince Formation in Bohemia is surely lower than the upper stratigraphical range of *Trematobolus* in Spain (Mergl and Liñán, 1986).

Brachiopod assemblages of Montagne Noire are little known, but common occurrence of acrothelids (*Acrothelidae*, *Redlichella*) indicates the presence of the *Acrothelidae* assemblage and deeper conditions in Middle Cambrian rocks in this area. Unlike Bohemia, the paterinid brachiopods are present but poorly described from that area (Termier and Termier, 1974).

Moroccan late Early Cambrian to early Middle Cambrian transition is characterized, as concerning the

Figure 4. **a-h.** *Redlichella* cf. *bohemica* (Barrande). **a.** ventral and dorsal valves, internal mould, MPZ97/476, x5. **b.** ventral valve, latex cast of exterior, MPZ97/477, x5. **c.** dorsal valve, composite mould, MPZ97/478, x5. **d.** dorsal valve interior, MPZ97/479, x5. **e.** **f.** two dorsal valves, internal moulds partly with original shell, and detail of pustulose ornamentation, MPZ97/480, x8, x15. **g.** ventral valve, external mould, MPZ97/481, x5. **h.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/482, x8. **i-k.** *Sibiria* (?) sp. **i.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/554, x10. **j.** dorsal valve, internal mould, MPZ97/555, x10. **k.** ventral valve, external mould, MPZ97/556, x10. **l.** "Lingulella" sp. ventral valve interior, MPZ97/483, x8.



brachiopods, by a local dominance of *Trematobolus* (Geyer and Mergl, 1995). The typical deeper *Acrothele* assemblage is not reported from the area, although some of its elements, such as minute lingulellids, the acrotretid *Valdalotreta*, and *Botsfordia* are known from a few localities (Mergl, 1988). Diverse ceratretids, recently described from the basal Middle Cambrian of Morocco (Streng, 1997) have been unknown in Spain up to now. Locally numerous orthid brachiopods near the base of the Middle Cambrian rocks in Morocco (Havlíček, 1971; Geyer and Mergl, in prep.) occur only rarely in the Iberian Chains.

SYSTEMATIC

If not stated otherwise, the material used in the study is deposited in the Museo Paleontológico de la Universidad de Zaragoza (DPZ 176, 179; MPZ96/500-1032; MPZ97/454-505), Spain. Descriptive terminology follows Rowell (1965).

CLASS LINGULATA Gorjansky and Popov, 1985
 ORDER LINGULIDA Waagen, 1885
 Superfamily **Linguloidea** Menke, 1828
 Family **Obolidae** King, 1846
 Subfamily **Obolinae** King, 1846
 Genus *Lingulella* Salter, 1866

Type species: *Lingula davisii* M'Coy, 1851.

“*Lingulella*” sp.
 Fig. 41

Material: Five specimens. MPZ96/1029-1032; MPZ97/483.

Remarks

A few poorly preserved small valves of lingulellid appearance are present in the collection. Valves are 4-6 mm long with a prominent, acuminate beak. They differ from all lingulellids known from the Middle Cambrian of Bohemia (Mergl and Šlehoferová, 1990) but are similar to minute lingulellids from Morocco (Mergl, 1988) and Montagne Noire, France (Termier and Termier, 1974). A similar shape with an acuminate beak also has the lingulate genus *Eobolus* Matthew, recently re-defined by Holmer *et al.* (1996), but fine morphological details are unknown in the Spanish specimens.

Occurrence

Sporadic levels in Lower and Middle Cambrian. In the Ossa-Morena zone it is from the Capas de Benalija Formation (mid Marianian, Arroyo Tamujar locality). In the Iberian Chains it is present in the Valdemiedes and Murero Formations (Upper Bilbilian and Caesaraugustan; Rambla de Valdemiedes 1, Jarque 1 and Mesones localities).

Superfamily **Acrotheloidea** Walcott and Schuchert, 1908
 Family **Acrothelidae** Walcott and Schuchert, 1908
 Subfamily **Acrotheliniae** Walcott and Schuchert, 1908
 Genus *Redlichella* Walcott, 1908

(Synonymy: *Glyptacrothele* Termier and Termier, 1974).

Type species: *Acrotreta granulata* Linnarsson, 1876.

Discussion

As noted by Mergl and Šlehoferová (1990), the species *Acrotreta granulata*, assigned by Termier and Termier (1974) to *Glyptacrothele*, is the type species of *Redlichella* Walcott. We follow here the opinion, that the genus *Glyptacrothele* Termier and Termier, with the type species *Glyptacrothele courtefolei* Termier and Termier, is a subjective synonym to the genus *Redlichella* Walcott. Holmer and Popov (2000) included *Redlichella* as a synonym of *Acrothele* but we prefer to stand by the genus *Redlichella*, at the moment, for morphological and ecological criteria.

Redlichella cf. *bohemica* (Barrande, 1879)

Fig. 4a-h

1986 *Acrothele* cf. *coriacea* Linnarsson, 1876; Mergl and Liñán, p. 169, pl. 3, figs. 14-17.

Material: One hundred fifty specimens, mostly deformed. MPZ96/700-839; MPZ97/476-482.

Description

Shell large, 9 mm wide, thin-walled. Ventral valve almost subcircular, some 90 percent similar in length to width, with the apex situated 1.5-1.8 mm anteriorly to the posterior margin, at about 20 percent of the valve length. Lateral and anterior margins evenly curved, posterior margin adjacent to the pseudointerarea less curved and weakly deflexed ventrally. Anterior margin rectimarginate. Lateral profile with an erect umbo, anterior slope straight in small valves, slightly concave in large specimens. Posterior slope steep, feebly convex in a lateral profile. Ventral pseudointerarea narrowly triangular, at posterior margin equal to 20 percent of the valve width, with obscure interridge. Pedicle foramen circular, located at the top of the apex, fairly large.

Dorsal valve flat, with marginal beak located in weakly ventrally deflexed posterior margin. Thus, the transverse profile of posterior margin of the valve is gently concave. Anterior and lateral margins evenly curved.

Interior of ventral valve with a large, apically situated circular internal pedicle foramen, encircled by a weak pad. Muscle scars poorly defined, only a pair of minute, deeply impressed scars are located immediately anterior to internal pedicle foramen. A fine median ridge extends between the scars and disappears at the valve midlength. Vascula lateralia poorly impressed, with short, rather narrow, slightly curved, widely divergent canals.

Interior of dorsal valve with a broad and weak median ridge notable along one third of the valve length.

Ornamentation of numerous concentric rugellae of uneven size, more notable along the periphery of the large valves. Some rugellae are coarser, corresponding to an interruption of the growth. The shell surface covered by

densely packed knob-shaped pustules forming irregular, wave rows. A midsector of the ventral valve bears 4 to 10 weak radial plications, extending from the apex and evenly widening anteriorly. The ventral pseudointerarea bears fine growth lines, abruptly curved at the borders of pseudointerarea. Another inflection of growth lines is notable on a convex surface of the interridge.

Comparison

All available specimens are similar to species *Redlichella granulata* (Linnarson) from the Middle Cambrian of Scandinavia (Linnarsson, 1876; Walcott, 1912) as well to *Redlichella bohemica* (Barrande) from the Middle Cambrian of Central Bohemia. Bohemian specimens display high variability in ornamentation, ranging from a prominent concentric ornamentation to a dominant pustulose ornamentation (Mergl and Šlehoferová, 1990). The high variability of the ornamentation is also distinct in the specimens from Spain. The Spanish species seems to be closer to the species *Redlichella bohemica*; the ventral valves of the former have well developed radial plications and the general shape of the shell is the same. The differences between the Bohemian and Spanish ones are weak but distinct: (1) Well developed ventral interridge in the Spanish specimens which is obscure in *Redlichella bohemica*, (2) less ventrally deflected posterior margin of *Redlichella bohemica*, (3) more anteriorly located pair of apical scars, and (4) narrower pallial markings in the Spanish specimens.

The radial plications in the median sector and prominent concentric rugellae of the Spanish specimens are similar to the ornamentation pattern of *Acrothele quadrilineata* Pompeckj from the Middle Cambrian of Bohemia (Mergl and Šlehoferová, 1990), but the latter differs by having a more anteriorly located ventral apex, flat interridge and rectimarginate posterior margin.

Mergl and Liñán (1986) referred some unfavourable preserved acrothelids to the species *Acrothele coriacea* Linnarsson, but the new, more numerous material indicates their closer affinity to the genus *Redlichella* Walcott. *Acrothele coriacea* differs by having a poorly developed interridge, more anteriorly located ventral apex and rectimarginate posterior margin. We prefer an open taxonomic position of the Spanish specimens; it is based on unfavourable preservation of our material and a great deal of related but poorly known species in the European Middle Cambrian (Linnarsson, 1876; Walcott, 1912; Cobbold, 1921; Termier and Termier, 1974). This does not exclude the possibility that our specimens belong to *Acrothele primaeva* (Verneuil and Barrande) from the Cantabrian Mountains, León Province, Spain (Verneuil and Barrande, 1860; Walcott, 1912), but this species needs careful revision.

Occurrence

Lower-Middle Cambrian (Upper Bilbilian-Caesaraugustan). The Valdemiedes, Mansilla and Murero formations. Jarque, Mesones, Villafeliche and Murero localities. Abundant in the Murero Formation.

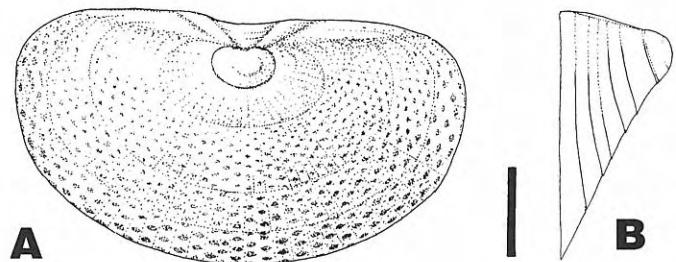


Figure 5. *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n. Reconstruction of exterior of ventral valve (A) and lateral profile of the ventral valve (B). Bar equal to 1 mm.

CLASS PATERINATA Williams, Carlson, Brunton, Holmer and Popov, 1996

ORDER PATERINIDA Rowell, 1965

Superfamily PATERINOIDEA Schuchert, 1893

Family PATERINIDAE Schuchert, 1893

Genus *Dictyonina* Cooper, 1942

Type species: *Trematis pannulus* White, 1874.

Dictyonina radioplicata sp. n.

Fig. 5, Fig. 6a-m

1986 *Micromitra* sp.; Mergl and Liñán, p. 171, pl. 3, fig. 1-13.

Derivatio nominis: Allusive to the characteristic ornamentation.

Holotype: Ventral valve figured on Fig. 6e,f, deposited in the collections of the Museo Paleontológico de la Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain (MPZ97/463).

Paratype: Dorsal valve figured on Fig. 6g, deposited in the collections of the Museo Paleontológico de la Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain (MPZ97/464).

Type horizon: Middle Cambrian, Caesaraugustan Stage, the Murero Formation.

Type locality: Iberian Chains, Mesones section 1, level 3.

Material: Two hundred specimens, mostly deformed. MPZ96/840-1028; MPZ97/461-469.

Diagnosis: Species of *Dictyonina* characterized by a large homoeodeltidium which almost entirely covers the delthyrium, a transverse outline of the shell, coarse concentric ornamentation and distinct radial plications.

Description

Shell ventribiconvex, small, 5.0-5.5 mm wide in the largest specimens, shell wall rather thick.

Ventral valve semicircular in outline, strongly convex,

with the apex highly raised above the posterior margin. The valve 60-80 percent similar in length to width, with maximum width posterior to midlength. Posterior margin straight, with procline, widely triangular pseudointerarea. Large delthyrium broadly triangular, almost completely covered by a large, gently convex homoeodeltidium. Cardinal extremities obtuse. Transverse profile of the valve highly convex, lateral profile with a steeply sloping anterior slope, becoming slightly concave near the front margin of the large valves. No fold or sulcus.

Dorsal valve semicircular, weakly convex in transverse profile as well as in lateral profile. Posterior margin straight, lateral margin strongly curved, front margin gently and evenly curved. Apex prominent, with well defined larval shell. Dorsal pseudointerarea low, catacline, bisected by a broad, low notothyrium, covered by a minute homoeochilidium in its apical part.

Concentric ornamentation of distinct growth fila. Radial ornamentation of weak plications in median sector of both valves, 16-20 in number, which are absent on the flanks. Less deformed specimens show shallow transverse pits arranged in oblique rows, increasing in size anteriorly (Fig. 6e, f, m). The surface of the homoeodeltidium bears fine transverse growth lines.

Interior of ventral valve with prominent, stout ridges internally bordering the delthyrium. A pair of broadly divergent ridges extend from the umbonal cavity to reach about one third of the valve length. No muscle scars preserved. Dorsal valve interior with fine radial ridges extending anteriorly from the notothyrial cavity.

Remarks

As noted by Zell and Rowell (1988), systematic relations among the paterinids are an intricate problem. The Spanish species is placed in *Dictyonina* Cooper, although its probably rather thick-shell, large homoeodeltidium and exterior with strong concentric fila indicate similarity to the new species to *Micromitra* Meek. The dorsal valve is remarkably similar to the species *Micromitra cf. modesta* (Lochman) for having a distinctly bordered larval shell of to the dorsal valve (Zell and Rowell, 1988). The type species *Micromitra sculptilis* (Meek) differs from the new species by a more prominent radial ornamentation and an absence of oblique rows of pits.

The new species is rather similar to *Dictyonina pannula* (White) from the Lower-Middle Cambrian transitional beds of Nevada. As noted by Rowell (1980), *Dictyonina pannula* is rather variable in the

ornamentation, a feature which is also notable in the Spanish species. However, the Spanish species has more transverse outline of the shell, more coarse concentric ornamentation and distinct radial plications. The large homoeodeltidium almost entirely covers the delthyrium in the new species while the homoeodeltidium of *D. pannula* (White) is minute and restricted only to the top of the delthyrium.

A flattening, deformation and a substitution of the original shell substance by green mineral (chlorite) resulted in absence of the microornamentation in the majority of the available specimens. As noted above, the better preserved specimens display the finely pitted external surface of *Dictyonina*-like type but the remaining specimens show only concentric lines, often overpronounced due to tectonic deformation. Sometimes, it is difficult to determine whether specimens without pitting are only less favorably preserved valves of the same species, or shells of different but near species. However, the general morphology of all shells is the same; thus, we have selected the valve bearing the pitted superficial ornamentation as the type specimen.

Occurrence

Lower-Middle Cambrian (Bilbilian, Upper Leonian and Caesaraugustan Stages). Not found in times between the Valdemiedes event and mid Leonian regression. Valdemiedes, Mansilla and Murero formations from Borobia, Mesones, Jarque and Murero localities.

Genus *Micromitra* Meek, 1873

Type species: *Iphidea sculptilis* Meek, 1873.

Micromitra sp.

Fig. 6n-s

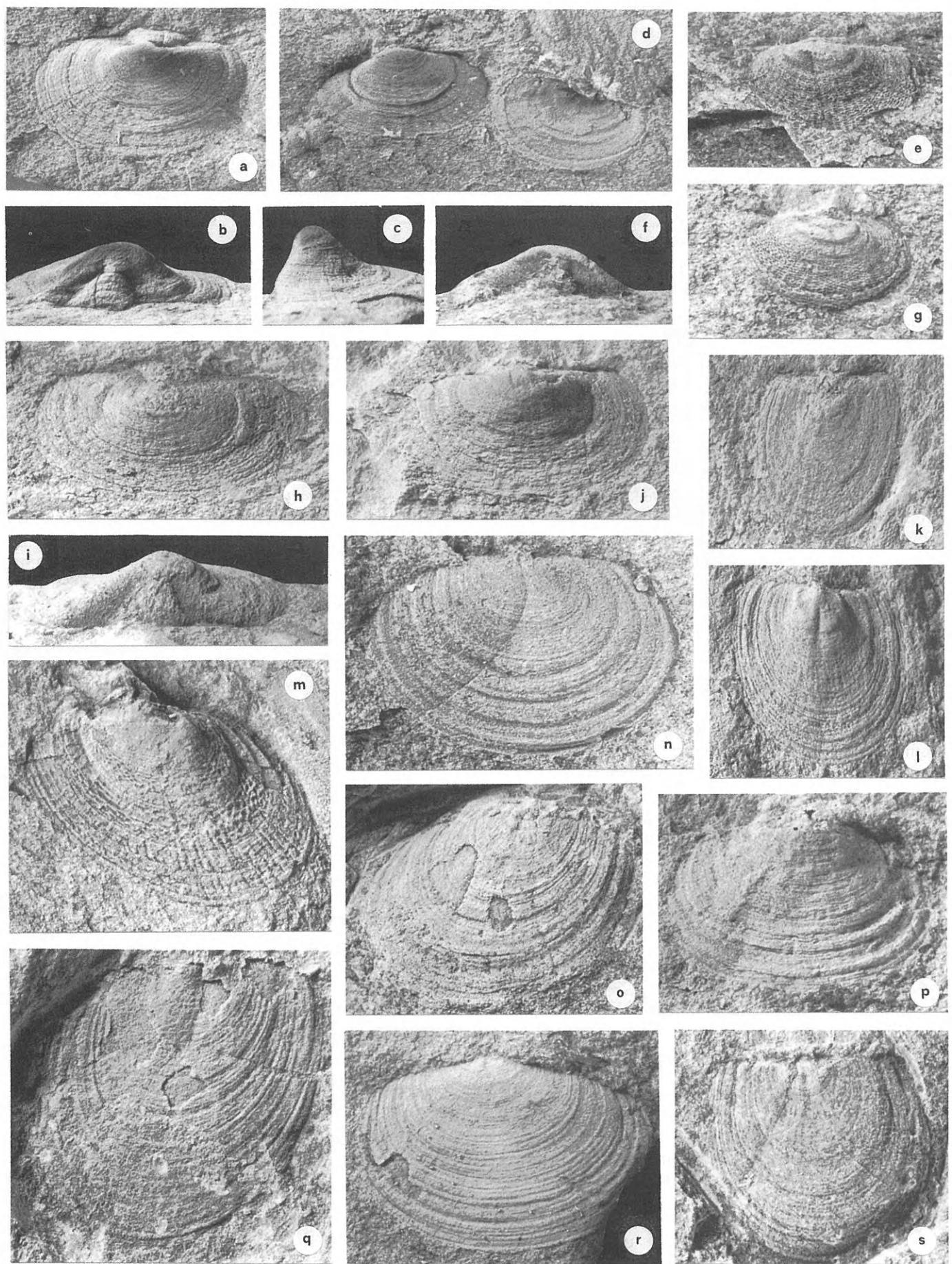
Material: Two ventral valves, 8 dorsal valves. PZ97/470-475.

Description

Shell ventribiconvex, small to medium sized, the largest known valves are 5.5 mm wide. Shell moderate to thick walled.

Ventral valve little known, transversely oval, about 70 percent similar in length to width, the maximum width at midlength. Apex highly raised above the posterior margin, homoeodeltidium present but little known. Valve surface evenly sloping anteriorly and laterally toward regularly

Figure 6. a-m. *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n. a-c. ventral valve, latex cast, posterior (b) and side views (c), MPZ97/461, x10. d. ventral valve exterior and dorsal valve interior of the same specimen, latex cast, MPZ97/462, x10. e, f. ventral valve exterior, holotype, and posterior (f) views, MPZ97/463, x10. g. dorsal valve exterior, paratype, MPZ97/464, x10. h, i. ventral valve with remnant of original shell, composite mould, MPZ97/466, x10. k. dorsal valve, exterior, MPZ97/468, x10. m - dorsal valve, exterior with distinct radial plications and oblique rows of superficial pits, MPZ97/469, x10. n-s. *Micromitra* sp. n. dorsal valve exterior, latex cast, MPZ97/470, x10. o. dorsal valve with original shell, MPZ97/471, x10. p. ventral valve, exterior, MPZ97/472, x10. q. dorsal valve, exterior, MPZ97/473, x10. r. dorsal valve, exterior, latex cast, MPZ97/474, x10. s. dorsal valve, exterior, MPZ97/475, x10.



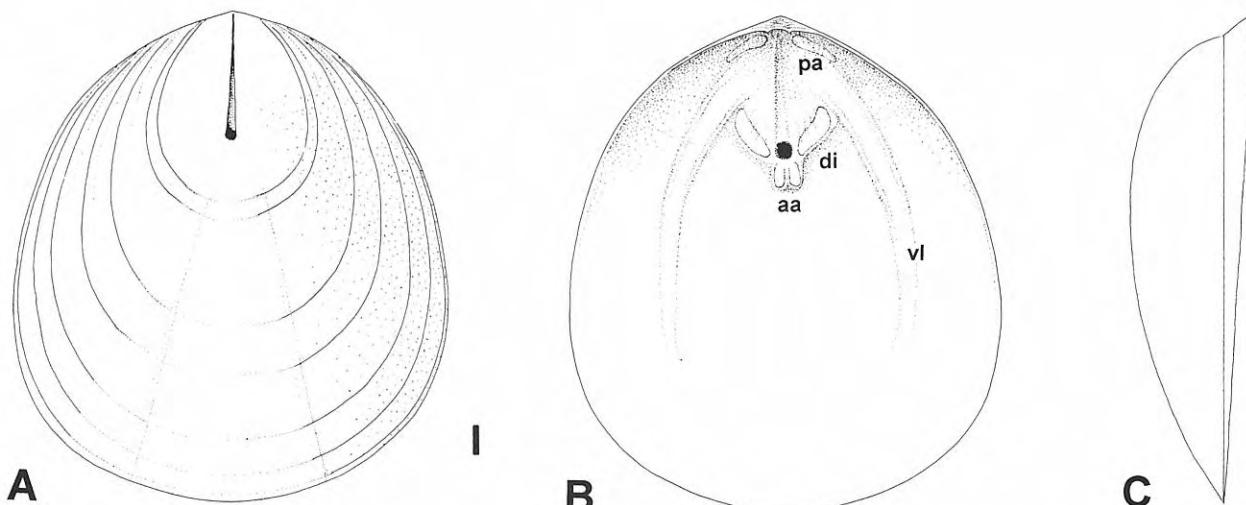


Figure 7. *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel, 1962). Reconstruction of exterior of ventral valve (A), interior of ventral valve (B) and lateral profile of the shell (C). aa - paired scars of anterior adductors, di - paired scars of diductors, pa - paired scars of posterior adductors, vl - vascula lateralia. Bar equal 1 mm.

curved margins of the valve. No sign of sulcus, anterior margin rectimarginate. Dorsal valve broadly semicircular, about 60 percent as long as wide or even longer, maximum width posterior to midlength. Posterior margin straight, cardinal extremities rectangular in medium-sized specimens but obtuse in adults. Lateral and transverse profiles of the valve weakly convex.

Interior of both valves unknown.

Ornamentation of regularly arranged, prominent concentric fila, evenly increasing in size anteriorly, sometimes slightly undulating. Anterior half of some valves bears few concentric rugellae of uneven size. There are no superficial pits or radial plications.

Comparison

The species differs from *Dictyonina radioplicata* sp. n. by a larger size, an absence of superficial pits and radial plications, and by more prominent concentric growth lines. The absence of radial plications distinguishes the Spanish species from numerous species described and figured by Walcott (1912), especially from *Micromitra stissingensis* (Dwight), *M. sculptilis* (Meek) and *M. pealei* (Walcott). The size and ornamentation of *Micromitra* sp. is rather similar to *M. phillipsi* (Holl) from the Upper Cambrian of England (Davidson, 1866) but more detailed comparison is impossible.

Occurrence

Middle Cambrian red beds. Mid-Leonian to Caesaraugustan stages. Mansilla and Murero Formations (Villafeliche, Murero and Mesones localities).

CLASS OBOLELLATA Williams, Carlson, Brunton, Holmer and Popov, 1996

ORDER OBOLELLIDA Rowell, 1965

Superfamily **Obolelloidea** Walcott and Schuchert, 1908

Family **Trematobolidae**, Popov and Holmer, 2000

Genus *Sibiria* Gorjansky, in Pelman, 1977

Type species: *Sibiria magna* Gorjansky, in Pelman, 1977.

Sibiria (?) sp.

Fig. 4i-k

Material: Four poorly preserved valves. MPZ97/554-556.

Remarks

Deformed moulds show circular pedicle foramen at the apex of the low, asymmetrically conical, transversely oval ventral valve, but no traces of pedicle track in the external surface of the valve. Two divergent trunks of vascula lateralia are poorly preserved, but there are no imprints of muscle scars. The general morphology is similar to the Siberian species *Sibiria magna*, but closer comparison remains impossible.

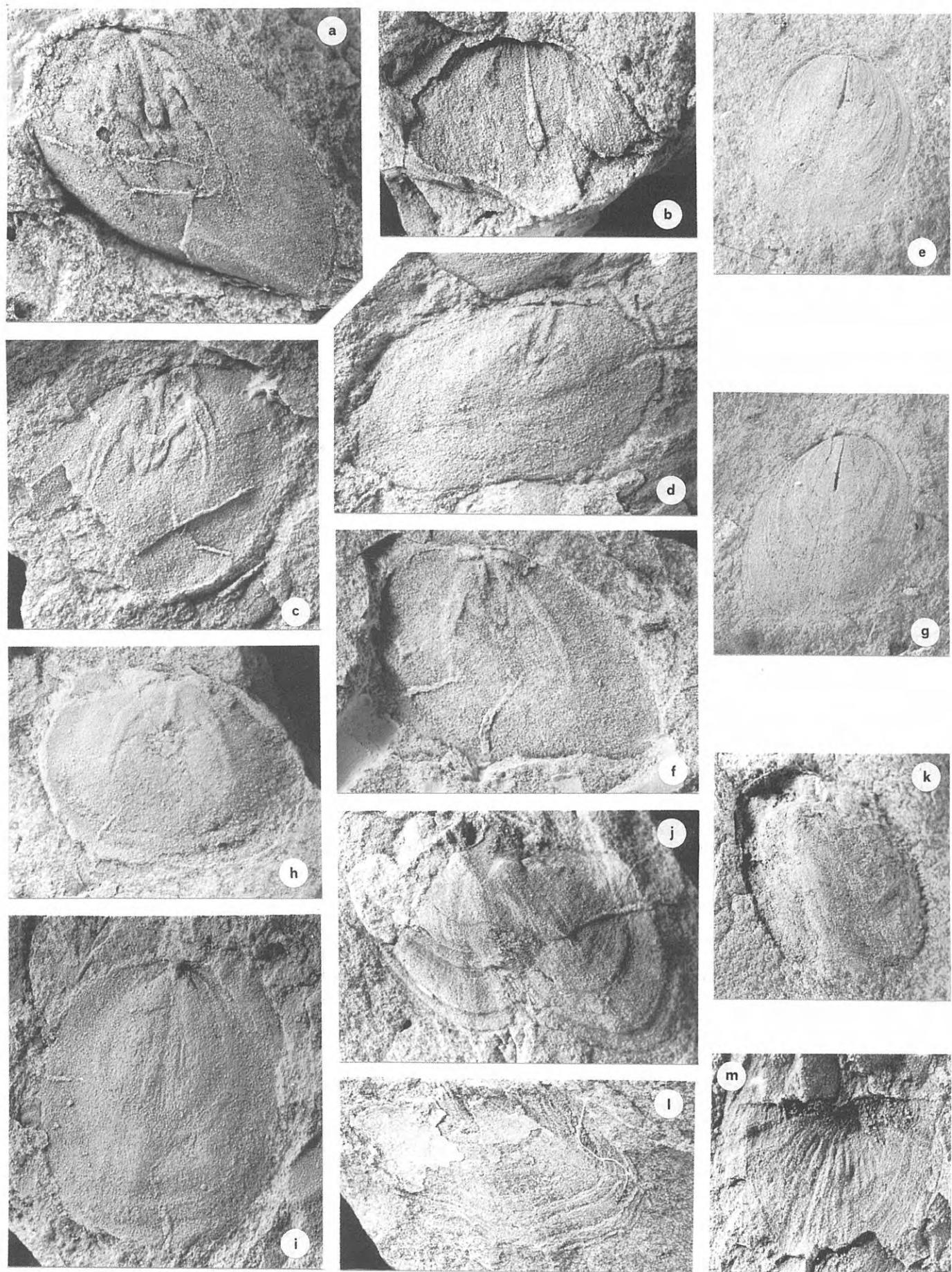
Occurrence

Benalija Beds, Sierra Morena. Lower Cambrian (middle Marianian). Rio El Viar and Arroyo Tamujar localities.

Genus *Trematobolus* Matthew, 1893

Type species: *Trematobolus insignis* Matthew, 1893.

Figure 8. a-i. *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel). a. ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/497, x4.5. b. ventral valve, external mould showing pedicle track, MPZ97/498, x4.5. c. ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/499, x4.5. d. ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/500, x4.5. e. ventral valve, exterior, latex cast, MPZ97/501, x4.5. f. ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/502, x4.5. g. ventral valve, exterior, latex cast, MPZ97/503, x4.5. h. ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/504, x4.5. i. dorsal valve, internal mould, MPZ97/505, x4.5. j-m. *Jamesella* sp. j. dorsal valve, internal mould, MPZ97/457, x3.0. k. dorsal valve, internal mould, MPZ97/458, x3.0. l. dorsal valve, internal mould, MPZ97/459, x3.0. m. dorsal valve, external mould, MPZ97/460, x3.0.



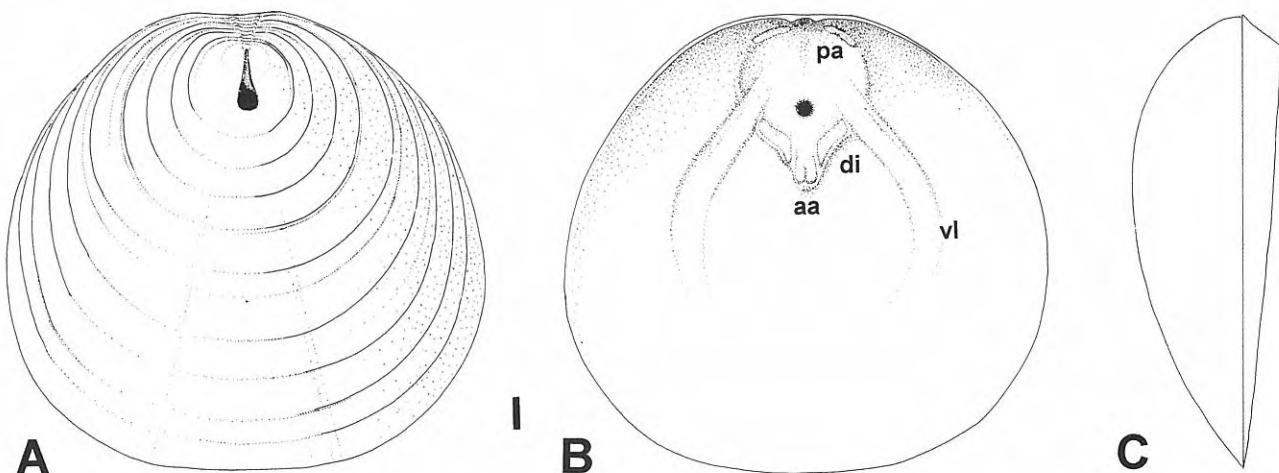


Figure 9. *Trematobolus borobiensis* sp. n. Reconstruction of exterior of ventral valve (A), interior of ventral valve (B) and lateral profile of the shell (C). aa - paired scars of anterior adductors, di - paired scars of diductors, pa - paired scars of posterior adductors, vl - vascula lateralia. Bar equal 1 mm.

Remarks

The genus *Trematobolus* Matthew is widespread near the top of the Lower Cambrian and in the basal Middle Cambrian. Its occurrence is documented from North America (Matthew, 1893; Walcott, 1912; Rowell, 1962), and Siberia (Gorjansky *et al.*, 1964; Pelman, 1977). In the Mediterranean area the genus was reported by Richter and Richter (1941) from Palestine, by Vogel (1962), Havlíček and Kriz (1978), Mergl and Liñán (1986) from Spain, and Geyer and Mergl (1995) from Morocco.

Trematobolus Matthew is a complicated genus; its morphology is fairly simple but it seems rather variable within a particular species (Geyer and Mergl, 1995). Nevertheless, the attitude of the pseudointerarea and the shape of the pedicle track as well as the position of the internal pedicle foramen can be used for a separation of particular species. The morphology of the type species and the data about the occurrence of the species *Trematobolus pristinus* (Matthew) need careful revision.

The Spanish and the Moroccan occurrences of *Trematobolus* are well dated. The long stratigraphical range of the Spanish species (upper Lower Cambrian-lower Middle Cambrian) make possible the recognition of evolutionary changes; during the interval, the ventral pseudointerarea changes from procline to apsacline, the pedicle foramen migrates anteriorly and ornamentation of weak radial plications develops gradually on the shell surface, being otherwise absent in the older species. On the other hand, the *Trematobolus*-species known from Morocco show the reversal morphological changes. The species with catacline pseudointerarea and rather short pedicle track (*Trematobolus serotinus* Geyer and Mergl, and *T. cleidrius* Geyer and Mergl) have limited geographical occurrences and their stratigraphical position is restricted to the basal Middle Cambrian (*Cephalopyge notabilis* Zone) (Geyer and Mergl, 1995). *Trematobolus splendidus* Geyer and Mergl has longer stratigraphic range (*Hupeolenus*, *Cephalopyge notabilis* and *Ornamentaspis frequens* zones). Unfortunately, the Spanish specimens of *Trematobolus* are generally poorly preserved. This is a

major reason, why only part of the available specimens are determined at species level with confidence.

Trematobolus simplex (Vogel, 1962)

Fig. 7, Fig. 8a-i

- 1962 *Trematobolus* sp.; Vogel, pl. I, figs. 2-4
- 1962 *Lamelloonta simplex* n. g., n. sp.; Vogel, p. 216, pl. 1, figs. 1, 5-9, pl. 2, figs. 1-4, 7-9, pl. 3, figs. 1,2,4,5, pl. 4, fig. 2.
- 1969 *Lamelloonta simplex* Vogel, 1962; Newell, p. N400, fig. D8.4.
- 1975 *Lamelloonta simplex* Vogel, 1962; Pojeta, pl. 1, figs. 5-7, pl. 4, fig. 7.
- 1978 *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel, 1962); Havlíček and Kríž, p. 974, 975, pl. 1, figs. 1-16.
- 1983 *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel, 1962); Hernández *et al.*, p. 9.
- 1986 *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel, 1962); Mergl and Liñán, p. 170 (partim), pl. 2, figs. 1-5.
- 1995 *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel, 1962); Geyer and Mergl, p. 208 (partim).

Material: Two hundred specimens. MPZ96/500-699, MPZ97/484-494; MCR 12974 and 12976b in the Biologie Katedra of Zapadočeská University Czech Republic.

Description: See Havlíček and Kríž (1978).

Remarks

All available specimens of *T. simplex* (Vogel) are strongly deformed, but the apsacline ventral pseudointerarea and a slender, long and almost parallel sided pedicle track are notable in the better preserved specimens from the Murero locality. The ventral valve interior shows a median groove running from the posterior margin toward the internal pedicle foramen, which is located between and slightly anterior to diductor impressions. These features clearly distinguish *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel) from its probable ancestor

T. borobiensis sp. n. However, the more deformed specimens cannot be determined with much confidence.

Occurrence

Lower-Middle Cambrian (Bilbilian-Leonian), Valdemiedes Formation. Murero, Jarque and Villafeliche localities.

Trematobolus borobiensis sp. n.

Fig. 9, Fig. 10a-f, i-p

1995 *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel, 1962); Geyer and Mergl, p. 208 (partim), figs. 14.1-14.2, 14.3-14.6.

Derivatio nominis. Borobia locality, Soria province.

Holotype: Ventral valve, external mould figured on Fig. 10d, deposited in the collections of the Museo Paleontológico de la Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain (MPZ97/486).

Paratype: Ventral valve, internal mould, figured on Fig. 10e, deposited in the collections of the Museo Paleontológico de la Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain (MPZ97/487).

Type horizon: upper Lower Cambrian (Bilbilian). Daroca Formation. Borobia 1 section, level 38.

Type locality: Iberian Chains, Borobia (Soria province).

Material: Several dozen specimens, mostly fragmental, with prevalence of ventral valves. Specimens preserved as internal and external moulds in calcareous sandstones. MPZ97/484-494.

Diagnosis: Species of *Trematobolus* characterized by the median sector that is smooth, the median shape of the ventral pseudointerarea which is catacline in juvenile shells becoming procline in adult specimens, the pedicle that is broadly triangular with a large pedicle foramen, the position of pedicle foramen which is located near or slightly posterior to the midlength of the visceral field and the visceral field between the internal pedicle foramen and the posterior margin which is absent in the new species.

Description

Shell large, thick-walled, dorsibiconvex. The largest specimens more than 16 mm in width.

Ventral valve subcircular in outline, as long as wide or slightly wider than long, the maximum width anterior to the midlength. Posterior slope of the valve steep, with a small, narrowly triangular pseudointerarea. Interarea catacline in minute shells of young specimens but steeply procline in adults. Lateral profile of the anterior slope is feebly convex, anteriorly shell surface becomes flat. Transverse profile gently convex, with flattened median sector. A broad, narrowly triangular sector with obscure borders extends anteriorly from the apex but the sector never has a form of shallow sulcus. Anterior margin less curved than lateral margins. Hinge line short, straight, equal to 20 percent of the

maximum shell width. Pedicle track some 20 percent as long as valve, narrowly drop-like in outline, extending from the top of the apex, rapidly widening anteriorly. Pedicle track rather shallow, less than 30 percent of the shell-wall thickness. A large, circular pedicle foramen penetrates the shell wall obliquely, with internal opening larger than its external diameter.

Dorsal valve transversely oval, some 90 percent similar in length to width, moderately convex in transverse profile. The valve is deepest at the posterior third, its convexity decreases evenly toward front margin. A flattened median sector is distinct in large specimens.

Ornamentation of concentric regularly spaced growth lines, with a few poorly defined growth lamellae. The surface of the ventral interarea is covered by distinct, densely crowded growth lines crossed by two deep radial furrows. Radial ornamentation absent in specimens from the Huérmeda and Daroca formations, but some stratigraphically upper specimens from the overlying Valdemiedes Formation have a pair of weak and narrow plications bordering the flattened median sector of the ventral valve.

Ventral interior with a distinct, broadly triangular visceral field bearing the distinct impressions of diductors and anterior adductors. Vascula lateralia broad, deeply impressed, parallel with the lateral margins. Internal pedicle foramen rather large, located slightly posterior to the midlength of visceral field. Impressions of posterior adductors are small, transverse and distinct.

Dorsal valve interior poorly known, with weak muscle impressions and distinct vascula media and vascula lateralia.

Comparison

The new species was confused with *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel) by previous authors (Mergl and Liñán, 1986, Geyer and Mergl, 1995). However, *Trematobolus simplex* differs by a larger shell size and its median sector which is commonly bordered by radial plications, while median sector of *T. borobiensis* sp. n. is smooth, rarely with an obscure pair of plication present in specimens included in stratigraphically uppermost levels. A significant difference is the shape of the ventral pseudointerarea; this is invariably apsacline and large in *Trematobolus simplex* while in *T. borobiensis* is catacline in juvenile shells becoming procline in adult specimens. The pedicle track of *Trematobolus simplex* is narrow, and anteriorly limited by a rather small pedicle foramen, while the pedicle track of *T. borobiensis* is broadly triangular with a large pedicle foramen. The position of the internal pedicle foramen is another distinguishing feature; *Trematobolus borobiensis* has the foramen located near or slightly posterior to the midlength of the visceral field while this is located much more anteriorly in *T. simplex*, often even anterior to adjacent diductor impressions. Moreover, the visceral field between the internal pedicle foramen and the posterior margin of *Trematobolus simplex* bears an elongate furrow, which is absent in *T. borobiensis*. Posterior muscle scars of *Trematobolus borobiensis* are fairly weak while the scars of *T. simplex* are more prominent.

Minute morphological variations can be traced also in specimens assigned to *Trematobolus borobiensis* sp. n.; except for differences in the radial ornamentation noted above, the pedicle foramen in the specimens from the Daroca Formation is a rather thin tube, passing through the shell-wall obliquely while the specimens from the Valdemiedes Formation possess foramen of a larger diameter, with a tube almost perpendicular to the shell surface. In addition, the specimens from the Valdemiedes Formation have less divergent posterior trunk of ventral vascula lateralia.

Geyer and Mergl (1995) have described three new species of *Trematobolus* from the early Middle Cambrian (*Cephalopyge notabilis* Zone) of Morocco. Among them, only *Trematobolus serotinus* Geyer and Mergl, possesses catacline to even procline ventral pseudointerarea as *T. borobiensis* sp. n., but the new species can be distinguished by a much broader pedicle track (narrowly drop-like), narrower canals of the vascula lateralia and in having internal pedicle foramen located more posteriorly. *Trematobolus cleidrius* Geyer and Mergl is similarly shaped but with a longer pedicle track, no sulcus and obscure radial ornamentation, but differs mainly by a much more anteriorly situated internal pedicle foramen at the anterior point of a distinct elongate groove on the ventral visceral area.

Occurrence

Lower Cambrian (Bilbilian), the Huérmeda, Daroca and Valdemiedes formations. Borobia and Jarque localities.

Phylogeny

The two species of *Trematobolus* known from the Iberian Chains have a different stratigraphical record and they coincide during a very short interval. *Trematobolus borobiensis* appears at the top of the Huérmeda Formation, is abundant in the Daroca Formation and disappears near the top of the Valdemiedes Formation (Bilbilian age). *Trematobolus simplex* is found only in the upper part of the Valdemiedes Formation (*Hamatolenus ibericus-Eoparadoxides mureroensis* Zones). The very common characteristics of the two species, the morphological changes through the stratigraphical record and its stratigraphical relief suggest that *T. borobiensis* may be considered as the ancestor of *T. simplex*.

Trematobolus cf. *borobiensis* sp. n.

Fig. 10 g-h

1986 *Trematobolus simplex* (Vogel, 1962); Mergl and Liñán, p. 170 (partim), pl. 2, figs.6-7.

Remarks

Specimens described by Mergl and Liñán (1986) from the Jarque section (DPZ176, DPZ179) have interior similar to *T. borobiensis* but probable apsacline to even orthocline pseudointerarea; thus, they are referred here as *T. borobiensis* with some doubts

CLASS RHYNCHONELLATA Williams, Carlson,
Brunton, Holmer and Popov, 1996

ORDER PROTORTHIDA Schuchert and Cooper, 1932
SUBORDER PROTORTHIDINA Schuchert and Cooper,
1931

Superfamily **Protorthoidea** Schuchert and Cooper, 1931
Family **Protorthidae** Schuchert and Cooper, 1931
Genus *Jamesella* Walcott, 1905

Type species *Orthis perpasta* Pompeckj, 1896.

Jamesella sp.
Fig. 8j-m

Material: Two internal moulds and one external moulds of dorsal valve. MPZ97/457-460.

Description

Shell large, about 15 mm wide, subrectangular in outline, dorsibiconvex.

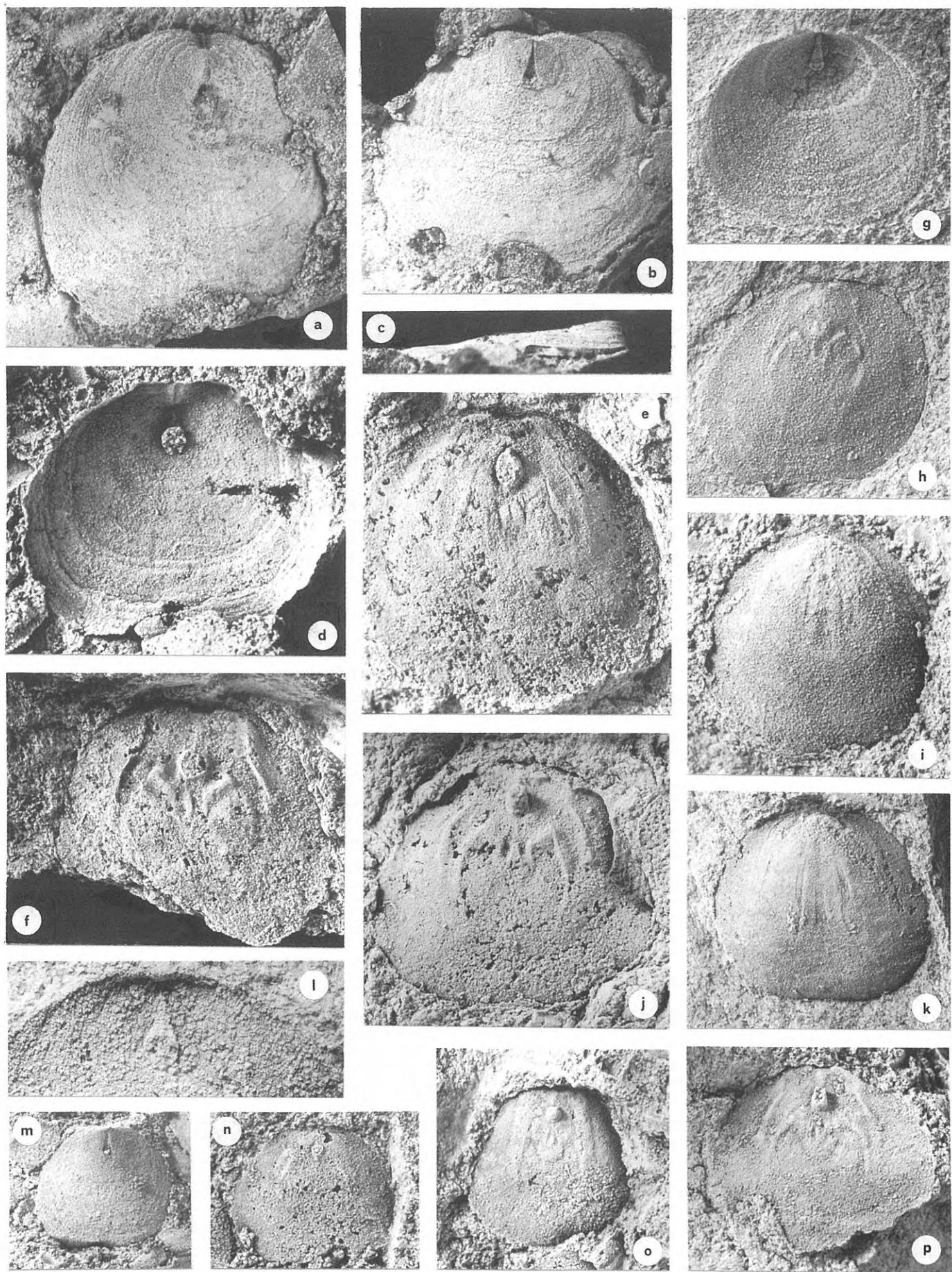
Dorsal valve about 80 percent as long as wide, widest at the hinge line, with a weak fold and shallow emargination at front margin. Cardinal extremities acute to subrectangular in large valves. Dorsal interarea anacline, moderately high, delthyrium open, broadly triangular. Dorsal valve interior with swollen bottom of the notothyrial cavity and a distinct anterior border of the notothyrial platform. Distinct brachiophores absent.

Ornamentation of coarse radial ribs, more distinct in median sector of the valves than on flanks. Growth lamellae unevenly spaced and more crowded anteriorly.

Remarks

The rarity of material which is strongly affected by a tectonical deformation does not enable better taxonomic assignment. The species very likely belongs to *Protorthidae* Schuchert and Cooper; the general shape of the shell is similar to the shape of the genera *Jamesella* Walcott and *Saesorthis* Mergl and Geyer, both from the

Figure 10. a-f, i-p. *Trematobolus borobiensis* sp. n. **a.** ventral valve, exterior, latex cast, MPZ97/484 x5.5. **b, c.** ventral valve, exterior and lateral view, latex cast, MPZ97/485, x4.5. **d.** ventral valve, external mould, holotype MPZ97/486, x4.5. **e.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/487, x4.5. **f.** ventral valve, internal mould, paratype MPZ97/488, x4.5. **i.** dorsal valve, internal mould, MPZ97/489, x5.5. **j.** ventral valve, internal mould, MR C 12976, x6.0. **k.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/490, x5.0. **l.** ventral valve, internal mould, MR C 12974b+, x6.0. **m.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/491, x4.5. **n.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/492, x4.5. **o.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/493, x4.5. **p.** ventral valve, internal mould, MPZ97/494, x4.5. **g-h:** *Trematobolus* cf. *borobiensis* sp. n. **g.** ventral valve, external mould, DPZ 179, x4.5. **h.** ventral valve, internal mould, DPZ 179, x4.5.



early Middle Cambrian of Bohemia and Morocco, respectively. *Jamesella iberica* Gil Cid and Melou from the Middle Cambrian of the Ossa Morena differs by coarser, fewer ribbing (Gil Cid and Melou, 1988).

Occurrence

Rambla de Valdemiedes 2 section, level 13. Valdemiedes Formation in Murero locality.

CONCLUSIONS

The integrated analysis of the brachiopod taxonomy, biostratigraphy, fossil assemblages and facies permit us to interpret the brachiopod occurrence of the Lower-Middle Cambrian rocks from Ossa-Morena Zone and Iberian Chains as palaeoecologically induced. Thus the brachiopods are present in reefal, perireefal, inner sublittoral and open sublittoral facies (sensu Liñán, 1995) both in the Ossa-Morena Zone and the Iberian Chains.

In the Ossa-Morena Zone, the first brachiopod assemblage (*Paterina*) occurs during Lower Ovetian age (Liñán and Mergl, 1983) related to bioherm constructions suggesting reefal and perireefal environments (Perejón, 1994; Moreno-Eiris *et al.*, 1995). In the Marianian age, brachiopods are also present in open sublittoral facies (*Acrothele* and *Obolella*) and inner sublittoral facies (*Obolella* and *Sibiria?*) as is suggested by the trilobite assemblages (Liñán and Perejón, 1981, Liñán and Mergl; 1983). No brachiopods have been found in the Bilbilian age while in Middle Cambrian times there are few brachiopods (*Jamesella iberica* and *Yorkia zafrensis* Gil Cid and Melou, 1988) in open sublittoral facies with the trilobites *Sao* aff. *hirsuta*, *Paradoxides rohanovicus*, *Jincella?* sp., *Ctenocephalus* sp. and *Condylopyge* sp. (Liñán *et al.*, 1996b). These data suggests that brachiopods from Sierra Morena successively colonized reefal ecosystems and sublittoral biomas during early Early Cambrian. If they are finally not present in upper Lower Cambrian rocks of Ossa-Morena Zone, it is probably due to the Daroca regression effect which induced the disappearance of the carbonate platform in the south of Spain. Open sublittoral conditions and distality seem to be the explanation of sporadic brachiopod occurrence in the wide Middle-Upper Cambrian siliciclastic platform of Ossa-Morena.

In the Iberian Chains, although some obolellid brachiopods are found from the Dolomía de Ribota Formation associated with Marianian trilobites, the Cambrian brachiopod facies seems to be abundant from the upper part of the Huérmeda Formation (Bilbilian) followed by an almost continuous record until the top of the Murero Formation (Caesaraugustan).

The later record of Lower Cambrian brachiopods in the Iberian Chains than in the Ossa-Morena Zone may be due to adverse palaeoecological conditions in Iberian Chains where lower Lower Cambrian strata were deposited on a shallower siliciclastic platform under high energy conditions.

The brachiopods from the Iberian Chains also occur

mainly in sublittoral facies. In these facies two brachiopod assemblages, which can sometimes be found together, may be recognized: a shallower *Trematobolus* assemblage and a relatively deeper *Dictyonina*-*Redlichella* assemblage that may be used as marker of minor sea level changes. They not only reflect some depth differences but also a relative decrease of water energy for the *Dictyonina*-*Redlichella* assemblage.

The *Trematobolus* assemblage which firstly occurs in the Lower Bilbilian (late Lower Cambrian), is progressively replaced by the *Dictyonina*-*Redlichella* assemblage. Of the two species from the Iberian Chains, *T. borobiensis* sp. n. was common in siliciclastic habitats while *T. simplex* preferred bottoms with carbonate or mixed fine sediments.

Finally, it seems highly likely that brachiopods were not affected by the Early-Middle Cambrian extinction and that the Valdemiedes event only produced a decrease in the size of the specimens. It was during the mid Leonian regression when the species of *Trematobolus* disappeared coinciding with a biotic crisis in the benthic and pelagic communities. The transgressive pulse following the mid Leonian regression involved progressively deeper conditions and the predominance of the *Dictyonina*-*Redlichella* assemblage in the Iberian Chains during the Caesaraugustan stage.

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