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# The 'microcontinent' Perunica: status and story 15 years after conception

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**Abstract:** Central Europe consists of a complex mosaic of more or less independent terranes with varying tectonometamorphic histories, usually also of different lithological compositions and protolith, and thus it is reasonable to suppose that the majority of these blocks have experienced somewhat different palaeogeographical evolution. The present terrane juxtaposition has been interpreted in general as a result of the Variscan collision of peri-Gondwanan and peri-Baltic derived terranes, with Gondwana on one side and Baltica and/or Laurentia on the other side. However, reconstruction of the pre-Variscan development and mutual palaeogeographical relationships remains a major challenge of interpretation.

In early Palaeozoic times there was only one supercontinent, Gondwana, and three other major continents, Laurentia, Baltica and Siberia (e.g. Cocks & Torsvik 2002). Numerous smaller but important terranes are supposed to have existed, grouped around the larger continents. The history of Baltica was elaborated in detail by Cocks & Torsvik (2005). The complicated picture of the numerous smaller terranes surrounding Siberia has also been reconstructed recently (Cocks & Torsvik 2007). Similar analyses have been published also for Europe (Cocks 2000, 2002; Cocks & Torsvik 2006) but the complicated geology of southwestern and Central Europe is still a matter of debate (e.g. Robardet 2003), mainly because the poorly defined terranes resulted from the tectonic instability of 'segments' incorporated into this area during three major orogenies, the Cadomian, Variscan and Alpine episodes.

For the Variscan orogeny, the decisive role of the Baltic Shield on one margin and Gondwanan Africa on the other side is generally accepted (Fortey & Cocks 2003; but see Landing 2005). However, reconstruction of post-Cadomian and pre-Variscan history of separate European segments is influenced strongly by the reality that both the Variscan and partly also the Alpine orogenies destroyed major parts of the former sedimentary basins, and importantly also altered their relative positions. Consequently, southwestern and central Europe is composed of more or less sharply truncated terranes. Numerous attempts to identify and characterize separate terranes within the Variscan belt, including the Bohemian Massif, have been published (e.g. Franke 1989; Matte *et al.* 1990; Bachtadse *et al.* 1995; Tait *et al.* 1997; Pharaoh 1999; Matte 2001; Winchester *et al.* 2002; Vecoli & Le Hérissé 2004).

In the past 30 years the evaluation of palaeomagnetic data and fossil associations has provided a possibility to establish similarities and differences on a regional scale. Such studies have resulted in the separation and general acceptance of several palaeogeographical domains within Europe, namely, Baltica, peri-Baltica, peri-Gondwana with Avalonia, Armorica and more recently also Perunica, Iberia, and/or an Armorican terrane assemblage (ATA).

#### Armorica and Avalonia

Armorica was defined originally by Van der Voo (1979) on the basis of palaeomagnetic data. According to that definition it embraced most of western Europe, including southwestern Britain and Wales, various sectors of Variscan Europe south of the British Isles, part of northern Africa, and probably also the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland and New England of North America. Since this original definition, the geographical extent of Armorica has undergone several restrictions and redefinitions, resulting in a general reduction of its extent. The first major change was the distinction of Avalonia, which was based first on palaeontological arguments (Cocks & Fortey 1982, 1990), and was supported later by palaeomagnetic data (e.g. Bachtadse et al. 1995). Avalonia is geologically well defined, being separated by the two closed Caledonian sutures: the Iapetus Ocean suture separating Avalonia from

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North America, and the Tornquist Ocean suture, part of the Trans-European Suture Zone, marking the boundary with Baltica. The younger Variscan Rheic Ocean suture separates Avalonia from Gondwana to the south. The boundaries of Avalonia were revised and described in detail by Cocks et al. (1997), and Avalonia thus now includes a North American sector embracing southern parts of eastern Newfoundland (Avalon), most of the Maritime Provinces of Canada and the eastern US seaboard as far as Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and perhaps southern Carolina, and a European sector with southern Ireland, Wales, England, Belgium, the Netherland and parts of northern Germany, and most probably also northwestern Poland (Pomerania; Cocks et al. 1997; Urung et al. 1999; Vecoli & Samuelsson 2001; Cocks 2002).

The well-established early Ordovician separation of Avalonia, and its drift across the narrowing Iapetus Ocean associated with opening of the Rheic Ocean to the south, was proposed originally on the basis of palaeontological information (Cocks & Fortey 1982). This scenario has been supported by palaeontogists (e.g. Fortey & Cocks 2003, and references therein) and also by palaeomagnetic studies (e.g. Torsvik *et al.* 1993).

#### Armorican terrane assemblage and Cadomia

Increasing palaeontological and palaeomagnetic data provided a possibility to evaluate regional as well as local differences in greater detail. This resulted in continual redefinition of the boundaries of separate terranes (Cocks et al. 1997; Servais & Fatka 1997; Cocks & Fortey 1998; Moczydlowska 1999; Urung et al. 1999). One of most important changes has been the proposal of an Armorican terrane assemblage (ATA) by Tait et al. (1994, 1997) and Franke (2000). Originally the ATA included Franconia, Saxothuringia and Bohemia; later Schätz et al. (2002) incorporated the Saxothuringian terrane, Teplá-Barrandian region, and Iberian and Armorican massifs. The same terranes were incorporated also in the 'Iberian-Armorican Terrane Collage' of Linnemann & Romer (2002) (Iberia. Armorica, Saxothuringia). Recently, Cocks & Torsvik (2006) incorporated only the Iberian Peninsula and most of France, and separated Perunica from the ATA.

A different approach to distinguishing terranes has been applied by petrologists analysing the age of basements of terranes. In general, the ATA is synonymous with Cadomia, defined as peri-Gondwanan terranes with basement about 2 Ga old. Keppie *et al.* (2003) incorporated the Ossa– Morena and Central Iberian zones of Spain, the French Armorican massif and the Massif Central, and questionably also the Saxothuringian and Moldanubian zones of Germany and the Czech Republic, respectively.

#### Perunica and its definition

The first attempts to evaluate the history of the Ordovician fauna of the Teplá-Barrandian region, at that time on the basis of only provisional Early Palaeozoic palaeogeography, were published by Havlíček (1976, 1982). However, the earlier establishment of an alternative regional chronostratigraphical scheme by Havlíček & Marek (1973) incorporated an expression of major faunal differences. On the basis of benthic brachiopods. Havlíček & Marek (1973) defined four new stages, Dobrotivá, Beroun, Králodvor and Kosov, for the Middle and Upper Ordovician: thus the paper defining the original concept of the microcontinent Perunica published by Havlíček et al. (1994) is essentially only a palaeogeographical expression of the earlier established faunal differences. Havlíček et al. (1994) brought together a major part of the Bohemian Massif, involving the Moldanubian, Barrandian and Saxothuringian (Saxothuringian-Lugian) zones, which constituted a separate microplate during the Early Palaeozoic, and for palaeogeographical purposes named it Perunica.

In the last 15 years, some workers have continued to use names such as Bohemia (e.g. Tait *et al.* 1994) or Teplá–Barrandian (e.g. Schätz *et al.* 2002), or even the questionable Barrandian Basin, but the palaeogeographical designation of Perunica has been cited in more than 60 papers dealing with various aspects of palaeontology, stratigraphy or palaeogeography. Numerous new data have been published since the original paper was published, and it now seems appropriate to revise the original definition of Perunica and to bring it in agreement with more recent data.

*Paleontology.* A majority of papers have focused on systematics and palaeogeography of Ordovician and Silurian trilobites, brachiopods, bivalves and cephalopods. Perunica is employed as a useful designation for a peri-Gondwanan area of species development (for a summary, see Fortey & Cocks 2003).

*Palaeomagnetic data.* Critical and comprehensive summaries of the earlier palaeomagnetic data from the Teplá–Barrandian region were publisher by Torsvik *et al.* (1990), and were supplemented, discussed and reinterpreted recently by Nysaether *et al.* (2002).

The aim of this contribution is to provide a comprehensive review of available palaeontological data on Neoproterozoic, Cambrian and Ordovician fossils of the Teplá–Barrandian region, complemented by brief remarks on Silurian and Devonian faunas, with the aim of discussing the applicability of existing palaeomagnetic, sedimentological and palaeontological data for reconstruction of the palaeogeographical history of this region.

### Teplá–Barrandian region within the Bohemian Massif

The largest exposed area of the Variscan orogen in Central Europe is represented by the Bohemian Massif, which forms a major part of the Czech Republic and adjacent areas in Austria, Germany and Poland (Fig. 1). The Bohemian Massif encompasses three main units in which palaeontologically and geochronologically well-dated Proterozoic to Devonian sequences are present (Fig. 2): (1) Bohemikum, with four main regions: the Teplá-Barrandian region, Żelezné hory area and Hlinsko Zone, metamorphic islands within the Central Bohemian Granitic Pluton, and the Rožmitál region; (2) the Krkonoše-Jizera Unit; (3) Moravosilesicum, including the Moravian Karst, Velké Vrbno Unit and Drahany Upland. In addition, about 10 geographically very restricted occurrences of palaeontologically dated outcrops of Lower Palaeozoic rocks have been established in various regions of the Bohemian Massif (Fig. 2).

The Teplá-Barrandian region in West Bohemia together with eastern Bavaria and Thuringia represents one of the easternmost segments of the Avalonian-Cadomian tectonostratigraphical belt, which was consolidated between 670 and 550 Ma and was not affected by high-temperature-lowpressure metamorphism during the Variscan orogeny. The basement of these units, if known, is composed of late Proterozoic sediments, including the late Proterozoic flysch and volcanites typical of an arc-related setting. Most of the basement rocks of the region underwent very low-grade to amphibolite-facies metamorphism and deformation at about 550-540 Ma (Zulauf 1997; Zulauf et al. 1999). In contrast to other units of the Bohemian Massif, the thickened Cadomian crust collapsed in the Neoproterozoic and allowed deposition of thick sequences of continental clastic deposits in several graben structures; for example, the Příbram-Jince and Skryje-Týřovice basins of the Barrandian area or in the Franconian Forest in Germany. The general evolution of the sequence of sedimentary and volcanic rocks reflects subsidence associated with extension in an intracontinental to passive marginal setting.

#### Neoproterozoic

Several thousand metres of marine clastic deposits volcanites accumulated in a rapidly subsiding

marginal sea bordering the margin of Gondwana, positioned most probably on oceanic crust. The sequence is composed of siliciclastic terrigenous rocks dominated by greywackes, siltstones and shales. Recently two major lithostratigraphical units have been distinguished, the Kralupy– Zbraslav and the Štěchovice groups. A rather monotonous complex of turbidites (greywackes, siltstones) with silicites, volcanites and black shales characterizes the extensive exposures of the Kralupy–Zbraslav Group in Central and West Bohemia (Cháb & Pelc 1973; Cháb 1978).

The volcanites belong to three main series of alkaline, transitional and tholeitic geochemistry, corresponding to volcanic arc and back-arc geotectonic settings (Dörr *et al.* 2002). Neoproterozoic volcano-sedimentary successions belong to an active island arc and sedimentation represents deposition in a back-arc basin until at least 570 Ma. A change in the geotectonic regime from convergence to transtension is indicated by a strong increase in heat flow at around 545 Ma, associated with an angular unconformity between Cadomian basement and Lower Paleozoic sequences near the Precambrian–Cambrian boundary.

Analyses of lithological development of Neoproterozoic rocks support their peri-Gondwanan origin but do not provide any reliable information for more precise palaeogeographical positioning. Fossils are represented solely by organic-walled microfossils, which allow correlation of both groups with the Brioverian of the Armorican Massif and confirm a Late Riphaean to Vendian age (Konzalová 1981; Fatka & Gabriel 1991). However, they do not provide any possibility for palaeogeographical interpretation. The absence of palaeomagnetic data excludes reliable positioning of the Teplá–Barrandian region at this time.

However, analyses of the palaeontological content of the 'lower' Cambrian Paseky Shale and 'middle' Cambrian Jince Formation combined with palaeomagnetic data offer much better datasets for interpretation of possible positioning of the Teplá– Barrandian region during the Cambrian. Such analyses are biased by various factors, but recent evaluation of echinoderm, trilobite and brachiopod assemblages provides a reliable picture of their distribution within the inshore–offshore transect, which could be well used to restore the palaeogeographical position of this area during the Cambrian.

#### Cambrian

Within the Teplá–Barrandian region, Cambrian rocks are known from three separate areas: the larger and more complete Příbram–Jince Basin, the Skryje–Týřovice Basin and the Železné hory area (Figs 2 & 3). Stratigraphical subdivision of





Cambrian rocks has been summarized by Havlíček (1971*a*), Chlupáč *et al.* (1998) and Chlupáč (1999*a*).

Příbram-Jince Basin. The Neoproterozoic succession is overlain unconformably by a c. 2500 m thick sequence of coarse-grained clastic deposits (conglomerates and sandstones with interlayers of grevwackes to shales of the Hluboš-Žitec to Chumava-Baština formations) passing upwards into greywackes and shales of the Jince Formation and then into volcanites. The stratigraphical subdivision, involving a repetition of comparatively fine- and coarse-grained lithotypes, makes it possible to distinguish 13 lithostratigraphical units (Havlíček 1971a), grouped into eight formations (Fig. 4). Fossils occur in two levels, in the 'lower' Cambrian Paseky Shale Member of the Holšiny-Hořice Formation, and in the 'middle' Cambrian Jince Formation (Fig. 4).

The Paseky Shale Member. The first reported fossil, the enigmatic aglaspid merostome Kodymirus vagans Chlupáč & Havlíček (1965), was described at a time when the Paseky Shale Member was assumed to represent a marginal facies of the younger Jince Formation. The true stratigraphical position of the Paseky Shale, some 800-1500 m below the Jince Formation, was later determined by Havlíček (1968). Investigations at five fossiliferous localities (Chlupáč et al. 1996) resulted in an integrated study of various fossil groups and lithology (Kukal 1996). Based on results of these studies. this early Cambrian biota was dominated by the very distinct Kodymirus. Association characterized by three genera of non-trilobite arthropods (Kodymirus, Kockurus and Vladicaris; see Chlupáč 1995) associated with diversified trace fossils (?Rusophycus, Monomorphichnus, Diplichnites, Dimorphichnus and ?Bergaueria; see Mikuláš 1996), macroscopic algae (Marpolia Walcott 1919; see Steiner & Fatka 1996), organic-walled microfossils (filamentous microfossils Rectia Jankauskas 1989; Palaeolyngbya Schopf 1968; Botuobia Pjatiletov 1979; Siphonophycus spp. and Polythrichoides Hermann 1974 emend. Hermann 1976 in Timofeev et al. 1976; prasinophyte and acritarch genera Retisphaeridium Staplin, Jansonius & Pocock 1965; Skiagia Downie 1982, Adara Fombella 1977; Sinianella Yin 1980 emend. Zang in Zang & Walter 1992; Leiosphaeridia spp. and microscopic resting traces, e.g. Ceratophyton vernicosum Kirjanov, 1979 in Volkova et al. 1979, see Fatka & Konzalová 1996). The distribution of all the taxa recognized from the most fossiliferous locality at Kočka has been summarized by Fatka et al. (2004).

The noticeable absence of groups typical of the Sepkoski Cambrian Fauna such as trilobites, echinoderms and brachiopods, combined with the presence of spectacular arthropods and the scarcity of processbearing acritarchs in the microfossil assemblage, reflects a marginal environment; that is, the biota reflects restricted marine conditions (Fig. 5).

The *Kodymirus* Association inhabited shallow subtidal plains characterized by greywackes to fine shales. Precise dating within the 'early' Cambrian is difficult because of the absence of stratigraphically important taxa. Fatka & Konzalová (1996) reported a rich assemblage of organic-walled microfossils dominated by filamentous cyanobacteria, spherical leiospherids and rare acritarchs, including the occurrence of *?Volkovia*, which could date the Paseky Shale Member within the *Volkovia*–*Liepaina* Zone of Moczydlowska (1999); that is, late in the as yet unnamed series of the Cambrian.

*The Jince Formation.* This unit in the Příbram– Jince and Skryje–Týřovice basins includes the best preserved and most diverse Cambrian faunas in Central Europe, displaying environmentally controlled distribution of assemblages (Elicki *et al.* 2008).

The lower, thick sequence of clastic sediments (over 1500 m) underlying the Jince Formation characterizes the maximum subsidence in the Brdy

Fig. 1. Tectonic sketch map of the Bohemian Massif showing the main terranes (modified after Matte et al. 1990). Bohemicum (Teplá-Barrandian Unit): 1, Late Proterozoic volcano-sedimentary sequences; 2, Pre-Variscan (Cadomian granitic rocks); 3, Early Palaeozoic metasediments and volcanic rocks (Cambrian to Devonian). Saxothuringicum: 4, Late Proterozoic metasediments; 5, Cadomian metagranitoids (orthogneisses); 6, Early Palaeozoic metasediments (Cambrian to Devonian); 7. Early Carboniferous diastrophic sediments. Autochthonous units (in Saxothuringicum and Moldanubicum): 8, lower part of allochthonous units consisting of weakly metamorphosed metasediments, basic volcanic rocks and ultrabasic rocks, 9, high-grade rocks (gneisses, metagabbros, eclogites); 10, granulite massifs including eclogites and HP mantle peridotites. Moldanubicum: 11, high-grade gneisses, probably Late Proterozoic to Early Palaeozic in age (Ostrong and Drosendorf groups); 12, allochthonous complexes of the Gföhl Unit with relics of HP rocks. Moravosilesicum (including Brunovistulicum): 13, Cadomian basement of the Brunovistulicum (Cadomian granitic rocks and their metamorphic mantle); 14, Cadomian orthogneisses of the Moravosilesian Units; 15, Early to Late Palaeozoic volcano-sedimentary sequences of the Moravosilesicum (including basement units); 16, Viséan to Namurian diastrophic sediments (Culm facies) in the upper part with transition to weakly deformed sediments of the Variscan foredeep. Variscan granitoids: 17, melanocratic granites and syenites (durbachites); 18, tonalites to granites; 19, Late Carboniferous to Permian clastic sediments and volcanic rocks (epi-Variscan platform sediments); 20, post-Permian cover; 21, major fault zones; 22, thrust, nappe boundaries. (Drawn by V. Kachlík.)



(b)



Fig. 2. (a) Map of Czech Republic showing regions and localities with Cambrian to Devonian fossils. (b) Potential of fossils for interpretation of palaeogeographical position.



Fig. 3. Geology of the Teplá–Barrandian region with the Cambrian Příbram–Jince and Skryje–Týřovice basins and the Ordovician–Devonian Prague Basin.

area of the Příbram–Jince Basin. An important change in basin geometry is associated with the marine ingression, represented by the 100–450 m thick Jince Formation. At this time the main depocentre shifted eastwards to the Litavka river valley (Havlíček 1971*a*). Within the Jince sequence it is possible to distinguish at least two major facies areas in the basin: a shallower Brdy segment and the deeper-water Litavka valley segment (Fig. 3). For the deepest segment as preserved in the Litavka valley, several bathymetrically controlled associations have been characterized (Fatka 2000). The even distribution of fossil assemblages through the formation in this region is possibly explained by a major transgressive – regressive cycle, with one or two fluctuations associated with pronounced changes in the depositional rate (Fatka 1990, 2000). Analyses of the Jince biota reveal a welldeveloped bathymetric differentiation. Shallow marine coarser-grained sediments (sandy greywackes and greywackes) are typified by the shallowwater *Lingulella* Biofacies at the base as well as at the top of the formation in the Litavka sequence (Fig. 6a). Slightly deeper-water greywackes to coarse shales are dominated by the Polymeroid Trilobite Biofacies (*Ellipsocephalus, Paradoxides, Conocoryphe, Ptychoparia, Acadolenus, Litavkaspis*). These two biofacies are predominant in the



Fig. 4. Cambrian stratigraphy in the Příbram-Jince Basin (adopted after Havlíček 1971a; Elicki et al. 2008).



Fig. 5. Diagrammatic history of the Příbram–Jince Basin and the 'early' Cambrian Holšiny–Hořice Formation, with the *Kodymirus* Association in the Paseky Shale.

lower and upper thirds of the Jince Formation in this region, and in the complete thickness of the formation in the WNW area of the Příbram–Jince Basin; for example, in the Brdy segment (Fig. 6b).

Apart from the widely distributed *Paradoxides* and *Ellipsocephalus* and the endemic *Ptychoparia*, the other genera indicate a peri-Gondwanan origin. *Conocoryphe* is widely distributed in southwestern and Central Europe (various areas of Spain, Montagne Noire, Sardinia, Franconian Forest, Skryje–Týřovice Basin and Železné hory area) and Turkey. A typical 'Mediterranean' species is the trilobite *Acadolenus*, as is the cinctan echinoderm *Asturicystis*, which has been reported from the West Asturian–Leonese zone of Spain. The seemingly endemic genus *Litavkaspis* was reported from a similar stratigraphic level in slightly metamorphosed sediments of the Carolina terrane.

In the Litavka valley, the middle part of the formation, comprising mudstones with fine greywackes, is characterized by a dominance of agnostid trilobites of the miomerid Biofacies (Fig. 6c). Three associations can be identified within the transgressive sequence; namely, the relatively shallower *Peronopsis–Phalagnostus* Association, the deeper *Phalacroma–Condylopyge* Association, and the deepest *Onymagnostus–Hypagnostus* Association (Fatka *et al.* 2007).

Peronopsis-Phalagnostus The Association contains only the eponymous agnostid genera, associated with common polymeroids of the genera Ellipsocephalus, Ptychoparioides, Acadolenus, Litavkaspis, Ptychoparia and Solenopleurina. In the Phalacroma-Condylopyge Association, the eodiscoid Dawsonia and the agnostoid Pleuroctenium also occur rarely, associated with the common polymeroid genera Paradoxides (Hydrocephalus), P. (Eccaparadoxides), and P. (Acado-Ptychoparioides, Ptychoparia, paradoxides). Ellipsocephalus, Solenopleurina and Conocoryphe also occur, but more rarely. The Onymagnostus-Hypagnostus Association incorporates the locally

abundant genera Onymagnostus, Hypagnostus, Tomagnostus and Doryagnostus. Peronopsis and Phalagnostus as well as paradoxidid trilobites (Paradoxides and its subgenera Paradoxides, Eccaparadoxides, Acadoparadoxides, Hydrocephalus). The blind genus Conocoryphe and the large bivalve arthropod Tuzoia can be present in all three associations. All three miomerid associations are developed only in the Litavka valley; the first association is present also in the central, more western part of the basin, but agnostids are absent in the westernmost sectors of the basin (e.g. in the Brdy segment).

The five cosmopolitan agnostid genera show an unusual pattern of distribution. *Peronopsis* is known world-wide, including southwestern Europe. *Onymagnostus*, *Hypagnostus*, *Doryagnostus* and *Tomagnostus* are known from Baltica but are completely absent from Spain, France, Germany and Turkey, whereas *Condylopyge* is present in Spain and Germany as well as in Britain, Newfoundland and Baltica. *Pleuroctenium* and *Phalagnostus* occur in Germany (Franconian Forest) and Britain, but are absent in southwestern Europe.

At least five substrate and bathymetrically related echinoderm associations can be differentiated in the Příbram–Jince Basin: shallow-water, more or less monospecific *Ceratocystis*, *Asturicystis* and *Stromatocystites* associations, all confined to well-aerated sandy to greywacke, rarely even muddy bottoms, whereas the *Lichenoides–Akadocrinus* and *Etoctenocystis* associations (usually with more or less common eocrinoids *Acanthocystites*, *Vyscystis* and *Felbocrinus*) preferred more quiet, deeper conditions characterized by very fine sandy to muddy sedimentation (Fig. 6d). Echinoderm associations have been observed only in the Litavka river valley.

*Ceratocystis* has been reported in the Montagne Noire (France) and Baltica, and is most probably present also in the Franconian Forest of Germany. Ctenocystid and cinctan echinoderms appeared in Spain, France, and both the Příbram–Jince and



**Fig. 6.** Diagrammatic history of the Příbram–Jince Basin and its faunal associations in the Jince Formation. Only the left (WNW) slope of the basin is mostly illustrated, for simplification. Palaeoecological terminology is adopted from Fatka *et al.* (2006, 2007). (a) Beginning of marine ingression near the base of Jince Formation with the onset of

Skryje–Týřovice basins, as well as in Britain. Cinctans have also been reported recently from Italy (Sardinia) and Siberia, and ctenocystids are known also in Poland (Holy Cross Mountains), Laurentia and Australia (see below). *Stromatocystites* has been established in both the Příbram–Jince and Skryje–Týřovice basins and also in Newfoundland, Baltica and Australia. The eocrinoid genera *Lichenoides, Akadocrinus, Acanthocystites* and *Felbocrinus* are endemic forms.

The only eodiscid trilobite in the Teplá– Barrandian region, *Dawsonia bohemica*, has been identified recently in two other areas of SW Europe, namely in Sardinia (Elicki & Pilolla 2004) and in the Montagne Noire (Álvaro & Vizcaïno 2000). The cornute echinoderm genus *Ceratocystis* has a similar distribution, whereas the blind polymeroid *Ctenocephalus* cf. *coronatus* is known only from Italy (Sardinia, Cabitza Formation) and the Skryje–Týřovice Basin.

The rich acritarch assemblage of the Jince Formation does not provide any decisive palaeogeographical information (Vavrdová 1974*a*, *b*, 1982; Fatka 1989).

#### The Skryje–Týřovice Basin

A c. 200 m thick succession of Jince Formation in this region (conglomerates, sandstones, greywackes and shales) contains 'middle' Cambrian fossil assemblages (Fig. 7). The Cambrian sequence overlies the Neoproterozoic Kralupy–Zbraslav Group unconformably.

The basal monomict, white to grey Mileč Conglomerate and Sandstone, up to 10 m thick, contain generally fragmentary preserved brachiopods (*Pompeckium*; Havlíček 1970), locally common helcionelloid molluscs (*Helcionella*; Smetana 1918), and polymeroid trilobites (*Perneraspis*, *Germaropyge*, *Ptychoparioides* and rarely *Paradoxides*; Šnajdr 1958) of the *Pompeckium–Germaropyge* Association (Fig. 8a). Kukal (1971) interpreted the highenergy succession as beach coastal barriers and bars, locally with very common brachiopods, the so-called '*Orthis*' sandstone facies.

The Mileč Member is usually overlain by generally darker polymict conglomerates and grevish green greywackes to shales of the Týřovice Greywacke and Conglomerate, commonly containing pebbles of Proterozoic shales and greywackes. More or less fragmentary shells of locally common articulate brachiopods (Pompeckium and/or Jamesella), helcionelloid molluscs (Helcionella) and in some levels spectacular graptoloids and the lightly sclerotized Wiwaxia cf. corrugata (Matthew) occur (Maletz et al. 2005; Fatka et al. 2009). Up to 200 m of thick clayey shales and greywackes of the Skryje Shale (including silty and sandy intercalations) are the most widespread lithofacies, containing diverse faunas. The polymeroid trilobite Biofacies [with locally common genera Conocoryphe, Ctenocephalus, Luhops, Paradoxides (Eccaparadoxides), P. (Hydrocephalus), Ptychoparia, Sao, Agraulos, Skreiaspis, Jincella, Ellipsocephalus and the rare bivalved arthropod *Tuzoia*] is usually associated with the Peronopsis-Phalagnostus Association (Fig. 8a). In higher stratigraphic levels there are locally miomeroid trilobites of the Phalacroma-Condylopyge Association, with common Pleuroctenium, Diplorrhina and Skryjagnostus. Early ontogenetic stages of both miomeroid and polymeroid trilobites [e.g. Sao and Paradoxides (Eccaparadoxides)] are dominant, associated with rare brachiopods (Bohemiella romingeri) and cinctan, ctenocystoid and eocrinoid echinoderms (Fig. 8a).

Some lenses of fine sandstones occurring in various levels contain specific echinodermdominated faunas assigned to the shallow-water

Fig. 6. (Continued) Lingulella Biofacies (Lingulella with the first polymeroid trilobites, e.g. Paradoxides s.l., Ellipsocephalus, Conocoryphe and the first very rare agnostid Peronopsis). Lingulella Biofacies shifted to the Brdy segment of the basin, recovering in the Litavka river valley area until the end of sedimentation of the Jince Formation (i.e. after filling of the Příbram-Jince Basin). (b) Progressive transgression and deepening of the basin characterized by the first appearance of the later dominant polymeroid trilobite Biofacies (Ellipsocephalus, Paradoxides s.l., Conocoryphe, Ptychoparioides, Acadolenus, Litavkaspis), associated with the stepwise onset of agnostid trilobites (Phalagnostus, rarely also Phalacroma, Condylopyge, Pleuroctenium) and the first shallow-water echinoderms of the Asturicystis and Ceratocystis associations [see (d)]. The first obvious affinity to Iberian peri-Gondwana is in polymeroid trilobites (Acadolenus), and cinctan and stylophoran echinoderms (Asturicystis and Ceratocystis). (c) Deepening and differentiation of the basin with the Lingulella Biofacies dominating in the shallow-water Brdy area, followed laterally by diverse polymeroid trilobite Biofacies (with Jincella, Ptychoparia, Lobocephalina) and the offshore miomeroid trilobite Biofacies (Onymagnostus, Hypagnostus, Doryagnostus and Tomagnostus). Continuous affinity to southwesten Europe of the polymeroid trilobite is interrupted suddenly by the incoming of miomeroid trilobites unknown in Spain, France or Germany, but typical of Baltic and Avalonian regions (Sweden, Norway, Britain, Newfoundland). (d) Substrate-related echinoderm associations occur through a major part of the Jince Formation. The stylophoran Ceratocystis is known from Spain and France, as well as from Sweden, whereas the edrioasteroid Stromatocystites is restricted to Baltica and Newfoundland. Cinctan echinoderms are known exclusively from Gondwanan Africa, Spain, France, Germany and rarely also in Germany and Britain. The other eocrinoids and the ctenocystid Etoctenocystis represent endemic taxa.



Fig. 7. Stratigraphy of the Cambrian in the Skryje-Týřovice Basin (adopted after Havlíček 1971a; Elicki et al. 2008).

*Ceratocystis* Association (commonly with the polymeroid trilobite *Ctenocephalus*) and/or a slightly deeper-water *Stromatocystites* Association (associated with *Ptychoparia* and *Germaropyge*) (Fig. 9). Similarly, very restricted lenses of greywackes to shales can be characterized by the common occurrence of eocrinoids in the *Lichenoides* Association or ctenocystoid echinoderms in the *Etoctenocystis* Association, both associated with common polymeroid trilobites (e.g. *Skreiaspis, Paradoxides s.l.*). The fine shales in higher stratigraphical levels

of the formation are usually dominated by tests of cinctan echinoderms of the *Trochocystites* Association, usually accompanied by large paradoxidid trilobites, *Conocoryphe, Agraulos, Jincella, Sao, Solenopleurina*, occasionally also with the rare eocrinoid *Luhocrinus* (Fig. 8b).

In the northeastern area of the basin, tongue-like bodies up to several metres thick of the polymict Vosník Conglomerate are developed in the upper part of the sequence. Kukal (1971) interpreted the Týřovice, Skryje and Vosník members as deposits



**Fig. 8.** Diagrammatic history of the Skryje–Týřovice Basin and its faunal associations of the Jince Formation. Only the left (WNW) slope of the basin is mostly illustrated, for simplification. Palaeoecological terminology is adopted from Fatka *et al.* (2006, 2007). (a) Beginning of marine ingression near the base of Jince Formation with onset of the endemic *Pompeckium–Germaropyge* Association, followed by progressive deepening of the basin with a stepwise appearance of the polymeroid trilobite Biofacies, associated with the *Peronopsis–Phalagnostus* Association in relatively inshore facies and the *Phalacroma–Condylopyge* Association in the deeper offshore. All the facies were well oxygenated. Numerous trilobite taxa (e.g. *Sao hirsuta, Peronopsis umbonata, Condylopyge rex, Pleuroctenium graulatum*) are common for the Skryje–Týřovice Basin and the Lippertsgrüner Formation soccur through the major part of the Jince Formation and show apparent relation to substrate. The *Ceratocystis, Stromatocystites* and *Etoctenocystis* association (without any other eocrinoids) and the deeper-water *Trochocystites* Association (locally with the eocrinoid *Luhocrinus*).

related to turbidity currents on steep slopes of the sedimentary basin. Cambrian sediments of the Jince Formation are overlain by extrusive rocks (dacites, andesites and rhyolites) of the Furongian Křivoklát–Rokycany Complex.

The worldwide distributed bivalved crustacean genus *Tuzoia* has an obvious relationship to tropical to warm temperate waters (Vannier *et al.* 2007), as does the enigmatic genus *Wiwaxia* (Fatka *et al.* 2009). The Cambrian fauna in the Skryje–Týřovice Basin is fairly distinct from that of the Příbram– Jince Basin. It includes several endemic genera of polymerid trilobites (*Ptychoparia*, *Ptychoparioides*, *Solenopleurina*, *Perneraspis*), two miomeroid trilobites (*Diplorrhina* and *Skryjagnostus*; the latter is present also in Siberia; Elicki & Pilolla 2004), and two orthide brachiopods (*Pompeckium*, *Jamesella*). Cambrian hyolithids are too poorly studied to be evaluated in this analysis. The polymerid genera



Fig. 9. Characteristic fossils of the 'middle' Cambrian Jince Formation. (a) *Stromatocystites pentangularis*; (b) *Skreiaspis spinosus*; (c) *Pleuroctenium granulatum*; (d) *Germaropyge germari*; (e) *Condylopge rex*; (f) *Hypagnostus parvifrons*; (g) *Dawsonia bohemica*; (h) *Phalagostus nudus*. (a, f, g) Příbram–Jince Basin; (b–e, h) Skryje–Týřovice Basin, all Jince Formation.

*Ctenocephalus, Conocoryphe, Agraulos* and *Skreiaspis* occur in different regions of Iberia, Armorica *s.s.*, Turkey and Avalonia. The genus *Sao* has a typically peri-Gondwanan distribution, being known from the Franconian Forest of Germany and the Ossa–Morena Zone of Spain (Gozalo *et al.* 1994). Similarly, *Jincella* is known from Spain, France and Italy (Sardinia).

#### Železné hory area

Havlíček (1949b), Havlíček & Šnajdr (1951) and Šnajdr (1958) recorded tectonically deformed trilobite fauna from the Senice Shales of the Železné hory area [*Ellipsocephalus*, ?*Paradoxides* (*Eccaparadoxides*), ?*Paradoxides* (*Hydrocephalus*), *Conocoryphe, Skreiaspis, Lobocephalina*], all known

79

also from the Jince Formation of both the Příbram-Jince and Skryje-Týřovice basins.

In many respects, very similar Cambrian sequences occur in Germany in the tectonically restricted outcrops of the Franconian Forest (Frankenwald in Bavaria) and the subsurface Delitzsch–Torgau–Doberlug Syncline (see below).

#### **Franconian Forest**

In this area most of the Palaeozoic succession shows two distinctly different facies developments, designated as the Bavarian and the Thuringian facies. The autochthonous Thuringian Facies has been supposed to represent a large homogeneous basin, whereas the allochthonous Bavarian Facies is interpreted as the remnants of a much more differentiated basin. However, this distinction has not been recognized in the Cambrian (Elicki et al. 2008). The six Cambrian formations overlie different Neoproterozoic units disconformably. Trilobites, brachiopods and echinoderms are reported from the lower part of the 'lower to lowermost middle' Cambrian Tiefenbach Formation. An early 'middle' Cambrian (= early Celtiberian) age is proved by trilobites (Ornamentaspis, Kingaspidoides, Latikingaspis, Parasolenopleura, Bailiella, Paradoxides, Acanthomicmacca and Wurmaspis) associated with echinoderms, brachiopods, hyoliths and trace fossils occurring in the following Galgenberg Formation, about 100 m thick. A similar age is supposed also for the Wildenstein Formation, containing a rich trilobite fauna (e.g. Paradoxides s. l., Condylopyge, Bailiella, Parasolenopleura, Acanthomicmacca, Ornamentaspis, Kingaspidoides and Dawsonia) as well as brachiopods, molluscs, echinoderms, sponge spicules and trace fossils. Rare trilobites (e.g. Conocoryphe and Eodiscina) associated with brachiopods and sponge spicules characterize the sandy to arkosic sediments of the Triebenreuth Formation. Generally rare trilobites (e.g. Soleno-Paradoxides, pleuropsis, Sao. Conocoryphe, Condylopyge, Parabailiella, Bailiella, Hypagnostus, Peronopsis, Phalagnostus, Ctenocephalus and Acontheus), cinctan and probably also eocrinoid echinoderms are typical for the mid 'middle' Cambrian (late Caesaraugustian) Lippertsgrün Formation. The late 'middle' Cambrian (Languedocian) Bergleshof Formation is estimated to be less than 100 m thick and contains polymeroid trilobites (Proampyx, Parasolenopleura, Holocephalina, Bailiella?, Jincella, Peronopsis) and one miomeroid trilobite (Leiagnostus?) as well as brachiopods, hyoliths and echinoderms.

The fauna of the Lippertsgrün Formation shares several trilobite species known from the Skryje–Týřovice Basin and/or from the Ossa– Morena area of Spain (e.g. *Sao hirsuta, Peronopsis*  umbonata, Condylopyge rex, Pleuroctenium granulatum).

#### Saxothuringia-Lusatia and NW Saxony

The 'lower' Cambrian succession in this area differs from the development in Bohemia by an apparent dominance of carbonate sedimentation. However, clear similaries do exist in the Delitzsch-Torgau-Doberlug Syncline, where the 'lower' Cambrian Zwethau Formation (composed of shallow-marine carbonates and siliciclastic deposits) is overlain by the 400 m thick fossiliferous Tröbitz Formation, composed of quartzitic sandstones alternating with micaceous clavstones containing trilobites (Paradoxides, Condylopyge, Ornamentaspis). The environment has been interpreted as a quiet siliclastic shelf. The overlying 350 m thick sequence of quartzitic sandstones alternating with micaceous claystones with trilobites (Paradoxides, Ellipsocephalus, Bailiella, Solenopleura, Badulesia, Condylopyge) is assigned to the Delitzsch Formation (Buschmann et al. 2006). Trilobite taxa are not decisive from palaeogeographical point of view, as almost all of them occur also in Baltica, Britain, Newfoundland and/or Spain and France.

The 'middle' Cambrian faunas from shallowmarine sandstones, siltstones and greywackes are dominated by poor brachiopod associations and/or by moderately diversified trilobite associations. The oldest assemblages consist of typical Mediterranean-type genera clearly indicating the West Gondwanan affinity, namely to some regions in Spain. In younger levels trilobite taxa characteristic of Baltica and Avalonia appear successively. A similar scheme is known from the Franconian Forest (Elicki *et al.* 2008), whereas in the Delitsch Syncline the poor fossil content excludes discussion of palaeogeographical relationships of this area.

#### Sources of the Perunica Ordovician fauna

The earliest Tremadocian fauna in the Prague Basin comprises diverse immigrants into the basin. Unfortunately, there is no information about biota from the deeper outer shelf facies surrounding Perunica in this time. The olenid Biofacies is missing in the Prague Basin, and the other deep-water facies of Perunica, most probably present under the Cretaceous in northern Bohemia, are unfossiliferous to very poorly fossiliferous (Fig. 10). In its Ordovician history, the faunas of Perunica were never isolated and never constitute distinctive and endemic and/ or clearly different faunas from neighbouring terranes.

Along the West Gondwana periphery, represented mostly by cratonic North Africa, Iberia,



Fig. 10. Stratigraphy of the Ordovician in the Prague Basin (adopted after Havlíček 1982, 1998) with distribution of caryocaridids, supposed nektonic trilobites (cyclopygids, remopleurids, *Bohemilla* and *Selenopeltis*) and range of selected trilobite associations (after Chlupáč 1970 and Marek 1961).

Armorica s.s., Thuringia, Perunica and other suspect terranes, there are only scarce data on late Cambrian and early Ordovician shelly faunas (Bassett *et al.* 2002). The brachiopods *Billingsella*, *Protambonites*, *Poramborthis* and possibly also *Jivinella* and a few trilobites are known in Iberia (Havlíček & Josopait 1972; Hammann 1974; Villas *et al.* 1995). *Billingsella* and *Saccogonum* are reported from late Cambrian sandstones of Morocco (Mergl 1983; Mergl *et al.* 1998) but both taxa have nothing in common with brachiopods of Perunica in the early Ordovician. Early Tremadocian faunas of the Montagne Noire and the Iberian Chains (Courtessole & Pillet 1978; Hammann *et al.* 1982) have olenids, *Angelina*, *Parabolina*, *Triarthrus* and *Shumardia*, which all are missing in Perunica. A small trilobite fauna with *Bavarilla*, *Parapilekia* and *Parabathycheilus* remarkably similar to the fauna of Perunica is reported from Mauritania (Destombes *et al.* 1969). There is increasing evidence that some brachiopods

of Perunica had ancestors and relatives in much more distant regions of Gondwana. New records by Benedetto (2007) from the Precordillera of Argentina indicate, together with the older published data (Havlíček & Branisa 1980) that some brachiopods formerly considered to be typical of Perunica (Apheoorthina, Euorthisima, Kvania, Poramborthis, Robertorthis) have ancestors in this distant region. Rich 'Dalmanella-shaped small brachiopods' from the Precordillera are representatives of the initial orthide radiation, which took place in a temperate climate and in neighbouring Laurentia. A similar seaway may be proposed for ancestors of other early Ordovician orthid brachiopods of Perunica, namely Apheoorthina, Eoorthis and the billingsellacean Protambonites. Havlíček (1949a, 1977) noted that the closest relatives of these genera should be sought among the Late Cambrian brachiopods of Laurentia. Some of these genera (Jivinella, Euorthisima) reached low-latitude South China as early as in the Arenig.

Large lingulate brachiopods, which are a dominant component of the earliest shallow-water benthic association in Perunica, were probably derived from a low-diversity lingulate fauna in cratonic basins of West Gondwana. Shallow-water lingulate brachiopod faunas of the late Cambrian and early Ordovician in Baltica, containing Ungula, Obolus, Schmidtites, Helmersenia, etc. (Popov et al. 1989) are very different from the fauna of Avalonia, the ATA, and Perunica, indicating the existence of an ocean barrier wide enough to prevent larval passage and successful settling in this time. The late Cambrian and early Ordovician successions of cratonic West Africa and the ATA contain lowdiversity associations with large lingulates, partly reviewed by Cocks & Lockley (1981) and Havlíček (1989). Some of them are probable ancestors of the remarkably rich lingulate brachiopod fauna of Perunica.

A remarkably rich suite of micromorphic lingulate brachiopods appeared in late Tremadocian and early Floian times (Fig. 11b). This fauna, living on fine sands in a subtidal environment, shows remarkably high diversity and is very similar to the Leptembolon Fauna reported originally from the St. Petersburg area (Gorjansky 1969) and the Holy Cross Mountains of Poland (Bednarzcyk 1964). Also, some micromorphic brachiopods of the Bjorkasholmen Limestone (Pomeraniotreta, Myotreta, Dactylotreta, Elliptoglossa, Siphonotretella, etc.) of south Scandinavia (Popov & Holmer 1994) are common in the Leptembolon Fauna of Perunica (Mergl 2002). A fauna with common Hyperobolus is also known from slightly younger strata in the South Urals (Popov & Holmer 1994). The geographical distribution of these lingulate brachiopoddominated faunas indicates easy dispersion of brachiopods, similar climatic conditions and reduction of geographical barriers between Perunica and facing margins of Baltica in the late Tremadocian–Floian interval.

Unlike lingulate brachiopods, the earliest rhynchonelliformean brachiopod faunas of Perunica contain eoorthids of restricted occurrence (Roberorthis, Apheoorthina, Jivinella), but also early plectorthids that are abundant in the late Cambrian and Tremadocian of Argentina (Kvania). Syntrophiids (Poramborthis) and billingsellids (Protambonites) have relatives in the Iberian Peninsula and South Urals (Popov et al. 2001). Other orthid taxa present in Perunica (Ranorthis, Angusticardinia) are known in younger beds in the Lower Ordovician successions of Estonia and the St. Petersburg area. The similarity is thus merely a mixing of Gondwanan taxa, some of which reached Baltica near the end of the Early Ordovician. The brachiopod fauna indicates a somewhat mild climate in Perunica in the Tremadocian and Floian.

The first Ordovician trilobites appeared in Perunica together with the earliest eoorthids, plectorthids and diverse lingulates in the Late Tremadocian. The illaenimorph Hemibarrandia, the large cheirurid Parapilekia, and the probable eurekiid Holubaspis were dominant in the remarkably diverse trilobite assemblage. Apart from the cosmopolitan Apatokephalus, Ceratopyge, Dikelokephalina, Harpides, Proteuloma, Platypeltoides and Geragnostus, there are genera of likely Gondwanan origin. Agerina is known from Argentina, Bavaria and Sweden. Anacheirurus has been reported from Bavaria, Spain and England, The endemic Gondwanan Bavarilla has been reported from Bavaria and Mauritania, and Parabathycheilus is known from Spain, Bavaria and Mauritania, but extended to China in the Arenig. There are only a few truly endemic taxa in Perunica. The orometopid Celdometopus is most similar to the rare Baltic Pagometopus. The earliest known Holoubkovia and Lichekephalus lichids are endemic. Holoubkocheilus and Pharostomina show close affinity to other ancient Gondwanan calymenaceans. In its overall composition the trilobite fauna of the Tremadocian is closely comparable with the illaenid-cheirurid Biofacies of the lowlatitude early Ordovician (Fortey 1975), but the Hemibarrandia-Parapilekia Association of Perunica is complemented by calymenacean taxa and the earliest cyclopygids. These two latter groups clearly identify the Gondwanan affinity of Perunica trilobite associations, but also the opening of its shelves to incidental immigrants from neighbouring areas (Sdzuy et al. 2001).

The Floian and Dapingian brachiopod faunas of Perunica retain some endemic elements (*Jivinella*, *Poramborthis*, *Prantlina*, *Nocturnellia*, *Ferrax*,



**Fig. 11.** Diagrammatic history of the Prague Basin and its faunal associations of the Ordovician to early Silurian. Only the left (NW) slope of the basin is mostly illustrated, for simplification. Palaeoecological terminology is adopted from Chlupáč (1965), Havlíček (1982), Štorch & Mergl (1989), Mergl (1999), Štorch (2001) and Mergl *et al.* (2007). (a) Early(?) and Middle Tremadocian: Třenice Formation. Transgression with the onset of lingulate brachiopod associations (*Hyperobolus* Community, *Westonisca* Community) and poor rhynchonelliform brachiopod associations (*Poramborthis* Community). Affinity to other Gondwanan faunas. (b) Late Tremadocian and Floian: Mílina Formation and Olešná Member of the Klabava Formation. Transgression and deepening of the basin associated with



Fig. 11. (Continued) diverse lingulate brachiopod associations (Leptembolon-Thysanotos Association), diverse trilobite associations (Hemibarrandia-Parapilekia Association and a deeper Proteuloma-Ceratopyge Association) and black shales with dendroids in NE part of the basin. Affinity both to Baltic and West Gondwanan fauna. (c) Dapingian: Middle and Upper Klabava Formation. Deepening and differentiation of the basin with diverse lingulate and rhynchonelliform brachiopod associations (Acrotreta Community, Rafanoglossa Community, Nocturnellia Community), diverse trilobite associations (Pliomerops Association, Asaphid Association, and the offshore Euloma Association); rich benthic dendroid 'gardens', diverse planktonic graptolites, and Caryocaridid and



**Fig. 11.** (*Continued*) Cyclopygid Biofacies. High endemicity and decreasing influence of Baltic fauna. (**d**) Darriwilian: Šárka and Dobrotivá formations. Maximum deepening and differentiation within the basin, with the onset of poorly oxygenated waters. Early *Aegiromena–Drabovia* Fauna with poor 'brachiopod' association (*Tigillites* Community with *Tissintia* and *Tafilaltia*), offshore brachiopod *Euorthisina* Community and *Paterula* Community, atheloptic trilobite association (*Placoparia* Community); poor benthic dendroid 'gardens', poor planktonic graptolites, and peak of both the Caryocaridid and Cyclopygid biofacies. Increasing influence of Gondwanan fauna. (**e**) Early Sandbian: Libeň Formation. Shallowing of the basin, the onset of mature quartzitic inshore sands and poorly oxygenated waters in deep offshore. *Aegiromena–Drabovia* Fauna with rich brachiopod association (*Drabovia* Community) and the inshore trilobite Dalmanitinid–Calymenacean Association, the poor offshore atheloptic trilobite association, and the

84

Styxorthis), but with an abundance of Nereidella and Ranorthis in shallow lithofaces, genera described originally from South China and Baltica, respectively, demonstrating a more cosmopolitan character of the fauna. As mentioned above, Poramborthis is characteristic of the Tremadocian brachiopod fauna of Perunica but it also persisted to the Dapingian. This genus was described as an aberrant orthid (Havlíček 1949a, 1977) but now (unpublished) it is considered to be an early syntrophild close to Tetralobula, which is characteristic of Baltica and Laurentia. The presence of *Protambonites*, early syntrophilds and common taxa of the Thysanotos Fauna (including Leptembolon and Thysanotos, diverse micromorphic brachiopods such as Dactylotreta, Pomeraniotreta, Acrotreta, Numericoma, Elliptoglossa, the siphonotretids Eosiphonotreta, Siphonotretella, Alichovia, etc.) demonstrate a relationship to the Early and early Middle Ordovician fauna of Baltica, reviewed thoroughly by Popov & Holmer (1994), Egerquist (2004) and others. Stratigraphical records of the Leptembon-Thysanotos Fauna in Perunica predate the South

Urals and East Baltic occurrences. Perunica seems to have occupied an intermediate position between Gondwana and Baltica in the Early Ordovician. *Thysanotos* and allied faunas probably originated in this peri-Gondwanan area, but *Thysanotos* as well as *Leptembolon* are unknown from the cratonic shelves of Gondwana (exemplified by North Africa) or Armorica. Perunica shelves were sources for later and generally brief passage of this fauna in nearby facing margins (the South Urals), and even more distant parts of Baltica (present East Baltic and the Holy Cross Mountains) and other distant terranes (Iran).

A unique trilobite fauna from the middle part of the Klabava Formation, dated approximately near the Floian and Dapingian boundary, and containing *Pliomerops*, *Ectillaenus*, *Cyrtometopus* and other aberrant but poorly known taxa (*Pseudopetigurus*, *?Holubaspis*) are also suggestive of temperate illaenid-cheirurid associations (Fig. 11c). However, the faunal similarity between Perunica and Baltica decreased from the beginning of the Middle Ordovician. A rich Volkhov age brachiopod

Fig. 11. (Continued) Paterula Community; absence of graptolites and poor Cyclopygid Biofacies. High affinity to Gondwanan fauna. (f) Early Middle Sandbian: Vinice Formation. Highstand of sea level and tectonic differentation of the basin, shoals on tectonically rising zones, and poorly oxygenated waters in deeper offshore. A rich Aegiromena-Drabovia Fauna (Bicuspina Community), less diverse trilobite Dalmanitinid-Calymenacean Association on shoals and atheloptic trilobite association with Paterula Community in deeper offshore; poor planktonic graptolites and Cyclopygid Biofacies. High affinity to Gondwanan fauna. (g) Early and late Middle Sandbian: Letná and Zahořany formations. Shallowing of the basin, quartzitic sands and greywackes inshore, siltstones offshore. Aegiromena-Drabovia Fauna with rich brachiopod associations (Drabovia Community, Bicuspina Community), non-trilobite arthropods and trilobite Dalmanitinid-Calymenacean Association inshore, and a poor atheloptic trilobite association offshore; rare graptolites and Cyclopygid Biofacies. High affinity to Gondwanan fauna. (h) Late Sandbian: Bohdalec Formation. Sea-level oscillations and tectonic differentation of the basin, shoals on tectonically rising zones, and poorly oxygenated waters in deeper offshore. A rich Aegiromena-Drabovia Fauna on shoals (Hirnantia Community of the so-called Polyteichus facies), less diverse benthic communities in moderately deeper environment (Svobodaina Community) with poor trilobite Dalmanitinid-Calymenacean Association and atheloptic trilobite association with Paterula Community in deep offshore; poor planktonic graptolites and poor Cyclopygid Biofacies. High affinity to Gondwanan fauna. (i) Katian: Králův Dvůr Formation. Highstand of sea level and well-oxygenated waters in deep offshore. Inshore fauna unknown. Foliomena Fauna (Rafanoglossa Community) and atheloptic trilobite association in deep offshore; abundant planktonic graptolites and rich and latest Cyclopygid Biofacies. Manifestation of the Boda event with the onset of temperate (e.g. Baltic) fauna. (j) Late Katian (Rawtheyan): uppermost Králův Dvůr Formation. Initiation of regression, well-oxygenated waters in deep offshore. Inshore fauna unknown, but represented by displaced shelly material. A diversified equivalent of the Foliomena Fauna (Proboscisambon Community), rich atheloptic trilobite association in deep offshore; absence of graptolites and cyclopygids. Termination of the Boda event combined with a clear affinity to temperate (e.g. Baltic) fauna. (k) Early Hirnantian: topmost Králův Dvůr Formation. Rapid regression, well-oxygenated waters in deep offshore. Inshore fauna unknown. Poor trilobite-ostracode fauna (Mucronaspis Community) with rare small brachiopods; absence of graptolites and cyclopygids. Initiation of glaciation followed by diamictite deposition, expressed by a cosmopolitan West Gondwana derived fauna. (1) Middle Hirnantian: Upper Kosov Formation. Maximum regression, erosion of older Ordovician rocks in coastal area. Inshore fauna unknown except bivalves in sandstones. Maximum glaciation, no palaeogeographical data. (m) Late Hirnantian: top of the Kosov Formation. Rapid sea-level rise, well-oxygenated waters in deep offshore. Inshore fauna of bivalves in sandstones. Taxonomically rich Hirnantia Fauna (Hirnantia saggitifera Community) with trilobites, bryozoans, gastropods etc.; planktonic graptolites rarely present. West Gondwana derived fauna showing affinity to low-latitude palaeocontinents. (n) Middle Llandovery: Želkovice Formation. Sea-level fall within general sea-level highstand, with benthic fauna on volcanogenic elevations above surrounding and poorly oxygenated waters of deeper sea. Taxonomically rich trilobite-brachiopod fauna (Aegironetes-Aulacopleura Community) with some elements of the Hirnantia Fauna, shallow-water crinoids and corals; rich dendroid 'gardens' and abundant and diverse planktonic graptolites in deeper, open-water sites. Probably West Gondwana derived fauna with many new subtropical elements.

fauna of the Baltic area is very diverse and different (Egerquist 2004).

Other evidence relating to the Early Ordovician affinity of Baltica and Perunica can be shown also with other invertebrate groups. Cystoids (Echinosphaerites, Glyptosphaerites, Aristocystites, Palaeosphaeronites), the gastropods Mimospira and Modestospira, the ascidian tunicate Palaeobotryllus, trepostomate bryozoans and ostracodes present in Perunica suggest a mild to temperate climate in the Early and early Middle Ordovician. One case of such a rich fossil association, the earliest brachiopod-bryozoan-pelmatozoan association reported from Ejpovice near the top of Dapingian (Mergl 2004), is a remarkable mixture of archaic lingulate brachiopods (e.g. Orbithele) with younger elements (bryozoans, hyolith Quadrotheca, gastropod Mimospira, etc.). At this time these taxa had their relatives in Baltica or other continents of the subtropical zone. In West Gondwana these genera are rare or absent. Palaeolatitudinal data for the late Cambrian and early Ordovician position of Perunica, despite some controversy (Tait et al. 1994; Krs & Pruner 1999), indicate low latitude at about 30°S (Krs et al. 1986a, b). Lithological criteria support a temperate climate in Perunica in the Early and early Middle Ordovician (see discussion by Havlíček 1999). Sedimentological data indicate intensive chemical weathering on the nearby land. There are abundant hematite beds in shallow-water sediments, with stromatolitic layers and rapid deposition of immature sands with hematite cement from nearby land. It is notable that rather diverse but as vet unstudied associations of conodonts occur in the Floian deposits of the Prague Basin (Fig. 11b). Younger, early Middle Ordovician rich conodont associations with some Baltica-related taxa (Barrandegnathus; Stouge 2005) have been described by Dzik (1983) from beds of late Arenig age (upper Klabava Formation below the late Arenig Desmochitina bulla Chitinozoan zone; Paris & Mergl 1984). Early to Late Ordovician chitinozoan assemblages contain typical peri-Gondwanan taxa (Paris 1990; Dufka & Fatka 1993; Fatka 1993). Abundant conodonts in the various lithofacies of the Klabava Formation could indicate mild or temperate climate.

The Mediterranean character of acritarch assemblages has been recognized by Vavrdová (1974*a*, 1997). The diverse late Early to Middle Ordovician acritarch assemblages contain typical peri-Gondwanan taxa (e.g. *Aureotesta* Vavrdová 1972; see Brocke *et al.* 1998; *Arbusculidium* Deunff 1968; see Fatka & Brocke 1999; *Dicrodiacrodium* Burmann 1968; see Servais *et al.* 1996; *Frankea* Burmann 1968; see Fatka *et al.* 1997) known from numerous localities in Gondwanan Africa and peri-Gondwanan Europe, and generally absent in Baltica (Brocke et al. 1995; Servais & Fatka 1997; Servais et al. 2000).

#### Middle Ordovician faunal turnover

Turnover of the faunal composition took place in Perunica during the Darriwilian (Šárka and Dobrotivá formations). Above the Šárka Formation, in the Dobrotivá Formation and especially with the beginning of sedimentation of the Libeň Formation, the trilobite and brachiopod faunas show considerable similarity to Armorican and other West Gondwanan faunas. However, the typical shallow shelf Gondwanan *Neseuretus* Biofacies never expanded as far as Perunica.

In Perunica, the first extensive onset of shallow subtidal ferrous sedimentation in the early Darriwilian was followed by sedimentation of mature quartzitic sands in shallow inshore shelf areas. Both lithofacies passed basinwards into thick clay sequences on a deep basinal floor, an environmental equivalent to an outer shelf (Fig. 11d). This situation persisted more or less continuously from the late Darriwilian to the very end of the Katian. During a highstand of sea level, continuous sedimentation of black shales in the basin was interrupted in its later stages by slumps of sands from shoals. The sands brought shelly material from shallower environments into different and often poorly oxygenated deep environments of the basinal floor. In lowstand periods the sandy beaches moved basinwards, and submarine elevations in tectonic-rising zones were eroded and/or formed small shoals suitable for occupation by relatively shallow-water brachiopod-bryozoan-pelmatozoan associations (Havlíček 1982). Sea-level changes were probably controlled by glacioeustasy combined with tectonism during the late Middle and early Late Ordovician, but unambiguous glaciomarine deposits are unknown in Perunica until the Hirnantian (Brenchley & Storch 1989). Proliferation of the Early Ordovician epibenthic shallow-water lingulate brachiopod associations stopped from the beginning of the Darriwilian. Bivalves became significant at the same time on the shelves of both Gondwana and Perunica (Babin 1993). Such a reorganization of benthic associations is known also in other areas (Sanchez & Waisfeld 1995; Bassett et al. 1999; Sanchez et al. 1999; Popov et al. 2007) but in Perunica it also resulted in dramatic lithological change. The onset of pure quartzitic sands less suitable for infaunal lingulates began at this time. Only the large trematids Drabodiscina, Trematis and Ptychopeltis remained common in very shallow-waters, being often fixed to hard substrates. In the early Darriwilian, rhynchonelliformean brachiopod associations were taxonomically

poor, based on immigrants from the West Gondwanan territory. Eodalmanella and Euorthisina are present exclusively in the deep-water environment of the Sárka Formation. Brandysia and Benignites are restricted to a similar environment of the Dobrotivá Formation, but the former is reported from deep-water deposits of North Spain (Gutiérrez-Marco et al. 1996). Eodalmanella was probably derived from the earlier local Ranorthis. Euorthisina shows much extensive stratigraphical and geographical distributions. It has been reported from the Early and early Middle Ordovician of Bolivia, Avalonia, Iberian Peninsula and cratonic North Africa (Havlíček 1971b; Havlíček & Branisa 1980; Robardet & Gutiérrez Marco 2004), but also from South China (Xu & Liu 1984), indicating its restriction to extensive and exclusively peri-Gondwanan regions. Euorthisina has never been reported from Baltica or other continents.

In the late Darriwilian and early Sandbian, the benthic faunas of Perunica became dominated by brachiopods of nearby Gondwanan origin. Heterorthids, draboviids, plectorthids and the plectambonitid Aegiromena became significant on the shallow shelves. Tissintia and/or Tafilaltia are reported from the late Darriwilian of more terranes (Armorica, Avalonia, NW Africa, Perunica; Havlíček 1971b, 1977; Villas 1985, 1992, 1995; Mélou et al. 1999). The next rapid geographical spread of mostly orthid-dominated, and probably cold-waterrelated brachiopod fauna, in Havlíček's (1989) definition the Aegiromena-Drabovia fauna, culminated in the Sandbian Stage. Many genera including the eponymous Drabovia and Aegiromena became widespread across cratonic West Gondwana and adjacent terranes, extending as far as Argentina and Bolivia (Havlíček & Branisa 1980), indicating a breakdown of geographical barriers. Chrustenopora, Drabovia, Drabovinella, Gelidorthis, Hir-Heterorthina, Heterorthis, nantia, Jezercia, Onniella, Saukrodictya, Svobodaina, Bicuspina and Aegiromena are among the most significant taxa. These genera are represented in separate terranes and at particular stratigraphical levels by closely related but endemic species to the very end of the Katian. There are, however, genera with closely restricted occurrences and some of them are genuine endemics of cratonic Gondwana or neighbouring terranes in the Middle and early Late Ordovician. The orthid genera Appollonorthis, Atlantida, Cacemia, Cilinella, Crozonorthis, Destombesium, Irhirea, Reuschella, Tarfaya and Tazzarinia have very restricted distributions, probably controlled by climatic gradients. Most of these never reached Perunica and only Cilinella is endemic in the Prague Basin. In the Aegiromena-Drabovia Fauna, other groups of rhynchonelliform brachiopods are less common. There are some

rhynchonellids (*Rostricelulla*), triplesiids (*Bicuspina*), plectambonitids (*Urbimena*) and strophomenids (*Rafinesquina*, *Blyskavomena*). The faunas of Perunica lack these taxa, with the exception of the almost cosmopolitan *Rafinesquina*. On the other hand, *Onniella* is unknown from Armorica and cratonic peri-Gondwana but it is common in Perunica and Avalonia. The similar but unrelated *Onnizetina* is present in Perunica and is reported later, in the late Katian, from the Carnic Alps (Havlíček *et al.* 1987).

Records of deep-water brachiopods are generally rare in preserved regions of Perunica, being represented by rare small lingulates among which *Paterula* is dominant, associated with small endemic plectambonitids (*Benignites, Urbimena*, *Sentolunia*). The presence of *Paterula* unambiguously indicates a deep, outer shelf environment; it is a genuine cosmopolitan genus, present along margins or in deep intracratonic basins of Laurentia, Baltica, South China, Avalonia and Perunica from the early Middle Ordovician to Middle Devonian (Mergl 1999).

The Middle Ordovician trilobite fauna of Perunica (Figs 12-14) is an example of the Dalmanitid-Calymenacean Fauna (Cocks & Fortey 1988). There are many genera in common with Armorica and cratonic Gondwana, but unlike the latter, trilobites known from the Prague Basin are generally of much deeper, offshore character. For instance, there are no records of the Neseuretus Fauna in Perunica. The Neseuretus Fauna is a typical inshore peri-Gondwanan fauna, known from a huge area in the late Middle Ordovician (see Cocks & Fortey 1988). A similar fauna is known even from low latitudes (Turvey 2002, 2005). The trilobites of the Šárka and Dobrotivá formations mostly belong to the atheloptic association of a deeper outer shelf (Havlíček & Vaněk 1990, 1996). This fauna has some common elements with an older fauna of the Montagne Noire and Wales (Dean 1966; Fortey & Owens 1978, 1987). Similarity should indicate easy exchange of mobile benthos along deep shelves and an ability to cross narrow barriers between small separate terranes (Avalonia, Armorica, Perunica and margins of cratonic West Gondwana). Migration of shelf biota between Perunica and Armorica has been noted by various workers, and the significance of currents has been emphasized (e.g. Gutiérrez-Marco & Rábano 1987; Gutiérrez-Marco et al. 1999). However, there are also significant differences. Apart from the typical and widespread peri-Gondwanan Selenopeltis and the genera Placoparia, Ormathops, Colpocoryphe, Ectillaenus, Uralichas, Eoharpes, etc., there are endemic taxa. Of them, the trinucleid Trinucleoides reussi is very abundant in the Šárka Formation. This genus is unknown outside Perunica and indicates that there were geographical barriers controlling



**Fig. 12.** Characteristic trilobites of the Dapingian (g), Darriwilian (a, b, d, e) and Katian (c, f) of Perunica. (a) *Ormathops atavus*, MBH 569, LS = 37 mm; (b) *Trinucleoides reussi* MBH 677, LS = 11 mm; (c) *Stenopareia oblita* PCZCU 1674, LS = 6 mm; (d) *Eoharpes benignesis* MBH 328, LS = 22 mm; (e) *Megistaspis aliena* MBH 9835, LS = 47 mm; (f) *Amphytrion radians* PCZCU 1673, LS = 6 mm; (g) *Pliomerops lindaueri* PCZCU 1672, LS = 15 mm. (a, b, d) Osek; (c) Levín; (e) Šárka; (f) Praha, Rajtknechtka; (g) Hlava u Komárova. LS, length of specimen.

the spread of benthic, deep-water taxa in the Middle and early Late Ordovician. This restriction demonstrates that deeper shelf conditions were not continuous from Perunica toward the margins of the Gondwana landmass, and barriers were effective in controling the spread of at least some deepwater taxa. Because climatic barriers are poorly manifested in a deep shelf environment, deep oceanic currents or a greater geographical distance between Perunica and other peri-Gondwanan terranes can possibly be invoked as a barrier. Typically deep-water outer shelf trinucleids are represented by endemic species in Perunica. The restricted occurrence of the orometopid Celdometopus klouceki is known already in the Tremadocian. Bergamia agricola and Bergamia praecedens, and similarly Trinucleoides reussi and T. hostapulp, are present in the Darriwilian. Declivolithus alfredi, Marrolithus ornathus and other species occur in the Sandbian,

and Marekolithus kosoviensis is restricted in the Katian. High endemicity in species levels also existed among other trilobite groups of Perunica in the Sandbian and Katian (Šnaidr 1955). Shallowwater, sandy subtidal plains had suites of abundant phacopids (Dalmanitina, Ormathops, Zeliszkella), calvmenaceans (Calymenella, Colpocoryphe, Platycoryphe, Prionocheilus), illaenids (Cekovia, Stenopareia, Zbirovia), cheirurids (Actinopeltis, Eccoptochile, Eccoptochiloides) and locally also trinucleids (Onnia) and odontopleurids (Selenopeltis, Primaspis). Unlike in Armorica and cratonic Gondwana, important shallow-water, inner shelf genera such as Crozonaspis, Neseuretus, Eohomalonotus, Kerfornella, Salterocoryphe, Ogyginus, etc. are absent in Darriwilian and Sandbian of Perunica. Their absence, and the endemic offshore trinucleids in the Prague Basin, indicate that some trilobite groups were not able to cross the barrier between



**Fig. 13.** Cyclopygids of Darriwilian age of Perunica. (a) *Microparia brachycephala* MBH 11659, LS = 14 mm; (b) *Ellipsotaphrus monophthalmus* MBH 328, LS = 8 mm. Both Dobrotivá Formation, Sedlec (Sutice).

Perunica and cratonic Gondwana and adjacent Armorica. In contrast to the Early Ordovician, the benthic macrobenthos of Baltica is very different from that of Perunica in the Middle Ordovician (see Cocks & Fortey 1998; Fortey & Cocks 2003).

#### The Boda event in Perunica

A change in the benthic fauna of West Gondwana and Perunica took place following the climatic event in the Katian (near the Caradoc-Ashgill boundary). The warming event in the West Gondwanan area (Boucot et al. 2003), also named the Boda event (Fortey & Cocks 2005) brought many shallow-water taxa from the temperate zone southwards towards the landmass of Gondwana. The brachiopods Cliftonia. Dolerorthis. Eoanastrophia, Hedstroemina. Iberomena, Leangella, Leptaena, Longvillia, Mcewanella, Nicolella, Oxoplecia, Porambonites, Ptychopleurella and Triplesia appeared for the first time in terranes located near or on the platform of West Gondwana (Havlíček 1981: Villas 1985: Mélou 1990; Leone et al. 1991). This Nicolella Fauna is also rich in other macroinvertebrates, with trilobites, ostracodes, machaeridians, bryozoans, cystoids and other groups. Conodonts are reported from Libya, the Iberian Chains, the Armorican Massif and Sardinia (see Paris et al. 1981; Ferreti

*et al.* 1998). Trilobites clearly demonstrate climatic amelioration, with the Laurentian genus *Heliomera*, abundant odontopleurids, lichids and proetids (Hammann 1992; Hammann & Leone 1997), but mixed with taxa of Gondwanan origin such as calymenaceans. Bryozoan–cystoid reefs appeared at this time on the northern Gondwana platform (Vennin *et al.* 1998).

The polarward expansion of the low-latitude fauna is manifested also in the deep-water biota. The Foliomena Fauna first occurred in the early Late Ordovician in low latitudes (South China, Sibumasu), becoming widespread in the Sandbian and early Katian in deep-waters of temperate and tropical palaeocontinents (Baltica, Avalonia) and extending also to high latitudes (see Rong et al. 1999). In West Gondwana, the Foliomena fauna is known only from Sardinia (Villas et al. 2002) and Perunica; remaining areas of West Gondwana have extensive shallow shelves above the depth occupied by the Foliomena fauna. Palaeogeographical relationships of Perunica are thus obscured by differing lithologies and varied depth-related faunas. In Perunica, deep-water sites on outer shelves were first occupied by sparse faunas with Chonetoidea and Cyclospira, associated with abundant ostracodes and minute lingulaceans. Dedzetina, Foliomena, Karlicium, Kozlowskites and



**Fig. 14.** Examples of endemic, Gondwanan, and cosmopolitan brachiopods of the Dapingian (**a**, **b**) Sandbian (**c**-**g**) and Katian (**h**-**j**) of Perunica. (a, b) endemic *Ferrax ooliticus*, PCZCU 1682, PCZCU 1683, LS = 9 mm, LS = 11 mm ventral valve and exterior of dorsal valve; (c, d) endemic *Blyskavomena blyskavense*, ventral and dorsal valves, PCZCU 1684, PCZCU 1685, LS = 9 mm, LS = 7 mm; (**e**, **f**) Gondwanan *Aegiromena praecursor*, ventral and dorsal valves PCZCU 1686, PCZCU 1687, LS = 6 mm, LS = 5 mm; (g) Gondwanan *Hirmatia kinneloides* PCZCU 1688, LS = 8 mm; (h) cosmopolitan *Foliomena folium*, PCZCU 1689, LS = 5 mm; (i) cosmopolitan *Chonetoidea radiatula*, PCZCU 1690, LS = 3 mm; (j) endemic *Ornothyrella ornatella*, PCZCU 1691, LS = 11 mm. (a, b) Hlava, Klabava Formation; (c-g) Letná F., Loděnice; (h-j) Levín, Králuv dvůr Formation.

Leptestiina appeared at about middle part of the Králův Dvůr Formation (Fig. 14); such taxa provide good correlation with the Boda event. The Foliomena fauna in the Prague Basin is less diverse, lacking Christiania, Cyclospira, Sowerbyella and other taxa known elsewhere (see Rong et al. 1999; Villas et al. 2002). Trilobites accompanying these small brachiopods constitute a typical atheloptic assemblage, with the trinucleid Tretaspis anderssoni and abundant, probably pelagic Amphitryon. Diverse cyclopygid trilobites are abundant (Marek 1961). Unlike in the earlier Ordovician, there are no records of a shallow-water fauna through almost the total thickness of the Králův Dvůr Formation, and comparison of the Perunica fauna with shallow shelf faunas of neighbouring terranes, including cratonic West Gondwana, is problematical. However, some links can be traced with the deep-water fauna of Baltica, because of the presence of Tretaspis andersonni, a common species in the Oslo region and Poland. This similarity is probably

a result of climatic amelioration and spread of temperate fauna rather than palaeogeographical proximity of Perunica and Baltica, but some diplacement of Perunica to lower latitude and towards Baltica cannot be excluded.

Near the top of the Králův Dvůr Formation, representing the latest Katian in the Prague Basin, there is a distinct lithological change (Storch & Mergl 1989). A unique calcareous claystone has yielded an abundant and remarkably diverse benthic fauna (Proboscisambon Community; Havlíček 1982) containing the distinctly Gondwanan Jezercia, a rare endemic Boticium, and with minutesized and remarkably diverse small dalmanellids and plectambonitids (Ravozetina, Salopina, Proboscisambon, Anoptambonites, Aegironetes and Kozlowskites). Less common are brachiopods displaced from shallower sites (Leptaena, Cliftonia, Cryptothyrella, Epitomyonia and Eoanastrophia). Trilobites are richly diverse and very different from those in older beds; they include Actinopeltis,

Bojokoralaspis, Decoroproetus, Dindymene, Duftonia, Gravicalymene, Marekolithus, Mucronaspis, Staurocephalus, Stenopareia and Zetaproetus, but Tretaspis, Amphitryon and cyclopygids are already absent. Although this fauna is of distinctly deepwater character, it provides evidence of a warming event in Perunica. Common proetids, odontopleurids and other peculiar trilobites (Phillipsinella, Trochurus) are associated with abundant machaeridians, diverse ostracodes, bryozoans, cystoids and other echinoderms (Mespilocystites), a hyperstrophic gastropod Mimospira, and many other macroinvertebrates. The fauna contains many endemic species and can be considered as a stratigraphically younger and a somewhat deeper-water analogue of the Nicolella Fauna of SW Europe. The most diverse assemblages of this fauna in Perunica contain a higher proportion of shallow-water elements (large brachiopods, bivalves), occurring in the NE margin of the Ordovician deposits, indicating the presence of now eroded shallow-water deposits far toward the SE. The Proboscisambon Community fauna is the last manifestation of the Boda event in Perunica. The Foliomena Fauna reported from Sardinia (Villas et al. 2002) above the Nicolella Fauna shows some similarity to the Proboscisambon Community. In Sardinia, the Foliomena Fauna is associated with Jezercia, Epitomyonia and Skenidioides, and is situated directly above the Nicolella Fauna and indicates a shoreward position (see Rong et al. 1999).

#### Climatic changes in the Hirnantian

Rapid climatic deterioration, sea-level fall and draining of the shallowest inshore areas drastically affected the fauna in Perunica and neighbouring terranes in the early Hirnantian. A low-diversity Mucronaspis Fauna appeared in the Prague Basin (Štorch & Mergl 1989), containing only Mucronaspis, Duftonia and a taxonomially poor associated fauna. This cool- or cold-water fauna is also known in other palaeocontinents, being reported from cratonic Gondwana, Baltica, South China and the margins of Laurentia (see Owen et al. 1991). However, the Mucronaspis Fauna is unknown in the ATA. In the Hirnantian the shallow shelves of the ATA were drained and karstification of the Katian limestones took place there. The appearance of the Mucronaspis Fauna in the Prague Basin is marked by an increase of bivalves and sudden and almost total disappearrance of brachiopods. Hitherto undescribed minute Disprosorthis and Fardenia have been recorded. This sparse association is known also in marginal basins of Laurentia (Harper et al. 1994) and indicates that Perunica might have been situated in lower latitudes than could be deduced from the presence of diamictites just above the levels with the Mucronaspis Fauna. Sedimentation of diamictites had a fatal impact on the biota of Perunica and shelly faunas totally disappeared there (Storch 1990; Brenchley et al. 1991).



**Fig. 15.** Palaeogeographical distribution of the enigmatic genus *Wiwaxia*, ctenocystoid echinoderms and the bivalved crustacean genus *Tuzoia* in the 'early' and 'middle' Cambrian (adopted after McKerrow *et al.* 1994; Vannier *et al.* 2007; Fatka *et al.* 2009).



Fig. 16. Late Cambrian palaeogeographical reconstruction of the southern hemisphere modified from Cocks & Torsvik (2002, 2006). Laur, Laurentia; ATA, Armorican terrane assemblage; Aval, Avalonia; Pe, Perunica.

Recovery of the brachiopod-dominated fauna after melting of glaciers in the late Hirnantian is well documented in the Prague Basin (Štorch 1986). Inshore bivalve-dominated sandy beaches are followed by clayey sedimentation with a remarkably rich shelly fauna. Its composition and diversity is comparable with the rich *Hirnantia* fauna of the Kosov Province and is characteristic of the temperate zone, with the most common taxon being *Dalmanella testudinaria*. The fauna of Perunica is more diverse than the coeval poor fauna of the polar Bani province, which is reported from cratonic North African Gondwana and Armorica. Common taxa are *Hirnantia sagittifera*, associated with *Dalmanella*, *Comatopoma*, *Draborthis*, Giraldibella, Kinella, Ravozetina, Trucizetina, Cliftonia, Eostropheodonta, Leptaena, Leptaenopoma, Paromalomena, Plectothyrella, Zygospira, Philhedra, Sanxiaella, large glossellids, bryozoans, gastropods, etc. Trilobites are represented by Mucronaspis, Brongniartella and Bojokoralaspis.

The *Hirnantia* Faunas marginal to Gondwana are less diversified than in Perunica. A poor fauna has been reported from western Brittany (Mélou 1987) and in the central Anti-Atlas in cratonic West Gondwana. Taxa include *Hirnantia*, *Arenorthis*, *Destombesium*, *Eostropheodonta*, *Plectothyrella* and *Undithyrella*. *Plectothyrella* is represented by *P. lybica* and *P. chauveli*, which differ from *Plectothyrella crassicostis* in Perunica.



Fig. 17. Early Ordovician palaeogeographical reconstruction of the southern hemisphere modified from Cocks & Torsvik (2002, 2006).

*P. crassicostis* has been reported from other lowlatitude palaeocontinents in the Hirnantian, including Baltica, Avalonia and marginal Laurentia. This led Havlíček (1990) to suggest a fairly temperate climatic position of Perunica in the Hirnantian, contrasting with the more boreal position of cratonic Gondwana and Armorica.

Northward shift of Perunica to low latitudes of the temperate zone, probably starting in the Katian, is evident from the composition of Llandovery (Aeronian) benthic faunas in the Prague Basin (see Štorch 2001). Besides trilobites, in which proetids, harpids, scutellids, lichids and odontopleurids predominate, favositid corals and brachiopods with a significant proportion of plectambonitids, strophomenids, rhynchonellids and atrypids appear. With these brachiopod groups some descendants of the Boda event are also present. *Jezercia*, *Saukrodictya*, *Epitomyonia*, *Hirnantia*, *Aegironetes* and *Proboscisambon* occur together with *Skenidioides*, *Dicoelosia*, *Dolerorthis* and *Stricklandia*. An offshore setting of this remarkable fauna is accentuated by the presence of the lingulate *Paterula*.

#### Conclusions

Perunica, as with a majority of other small independent terranes, experienced a dramatic paleogeographical history through the Late Precambrian and Early Palaeozoic. Analyses of palaeontological content of the Cambrian and Ordovician sequences, combined with palaeomagnetic data, provide coherent datasets for possible positioning of Perunica during this time interval. Such analyses are biased by various factors, but recent evaluation of echinoderm, trilobite and brachiopod assemblages has provided a coherent picture of their distribution within inshore–offshore transects, which can be used reliably for restoration of palaeogeographical positions of the region.

In generally accepted reconstructions, the location of Perunica in very low (peri-equatorial) paleolatitudes during the 'early-middle' Cambrian times is clear (Fig. 15). This was followed by very

rapid displacement of the terrane to higher, peripolar, latitudes during the late Cambrian (Fig. 16) and early Ordovician (Fig. 17). Such a European peri-Gondwanan story was constrained by the shift and rotation of the whole Gondwanan supercontinent in the southern hemisphere (Figs 16–18). Most areas with trilobite-bearing rocks of the Bohemian Massif were characterized by a gradual transfer from high polar paleolatitudes in the Late Ordovician (Fig. 18), through the cold and warm temperate belts during the Silurian to subtropical and tropical environments in the Devonian and Carboniferous, respectively. These changes had a crucial paleoenvironmental impact on the composition of trilobite assemblages that developed in this region.



Fig. 18. Latest Ordovician–earliest Silurian palaeogeographical reconstruction of the southern hemisphere modified from Cocks & Torsvik (2002, 2006).

The palaeogeographical path of Perunica traces a shift from tropical to subtropical climate in the 'early' Cambrian to a temperate 'middle' Cambrian, which was followed by transfer to a cooler climate in 'late' Cambrian to Middle and early Late Ordovician times. The absence of Cambrian and Early Ordovician carbonates is consistent with the high imput of various but commonly weathered terrigenous material (as laterites).

Transgressive-regressive cycles make it possible to separate several depth-related assemblages in the Cambrian fauna of Perunica (Fatka et al. 2007). It is clear that shallower assemblages of agnostids can be classified as 'Mediterranean' and the deeper assemblages as 'Baltic' sensu Sdzuy (1972). Consequently, it is not possible to use such bathymetrically related forms for palaeogeographical interpretation. However, the tropical to subtropical position of Perunica is clearly indicated by the presence of climatically related taxa such as Wiwaxia, Tuzoia and ctenocystid echinoderms (Vannier et al. 2007; Fatka et al. 2009; Fig. 15). The absence of 'late' Cambrian faunas combined with shallow-water Tremadocian faunas minimizes any documentation of the following rapid shift to cooler latitudes. However, the comparatively warmest Ordovician climate was in the Floian and Dapingian, when diversity of invertebrates was remarkably high and some groups show a close relationship with Baltica. Climatic deterioration took place via a southward shift of Perunica from the Darriwilian. The generally cold-water character of Darriwilian assemblages is limited by the absence of shallow-water well-oxygenated facies in the basin mainly during Darriwilian and Katian times. The expansion of high-latitude Gondawanan faunas on siliciclastic shoals of Perunica and the generally deeper sedimentary regime with occasional dysaerobic conditions was characteristic until the Late Ordovician. Perunica appeared to be at about 60°S in the Middle Ordovician, but from that time a polarward path was reversed and Perunica began to move northwards. In the Katian, similar faunas to those of Baltica were related to position in a more or less comparable climatic belt and not be geographical proximity. As in other peri-Gondwanan sites, the Boda event led to the immigration of new faunal elements to Perunica. Despite the high-latitude position of Perunica in the Middle and early Late Ordovician, the new immigrants persisted until the drastic cooling at the beginning of the Hirnantian. Rapid melting of the ice sheet by the end of the Hirnantian brought a rich Hirnantian Fauna to Perunica shelves, including bryozoans, odontopleurid trilobites and gastropods. This rich fauna indicates relatively warmer climatic conditions compared with the poorer, more boreal Hirnantian Fauna of other parts of the ATA (e.g. Armorica *s.s.*) and North Africa. This is consistent with movement of Perunica northwards, probably to  $50-40^{\circ}$ S latitude. A rise of sea level then brought anoxia to Perunica and terminated the expansion of the Hirnantian Fauna. From the beginning of the Silurian, Perunica was flooded by anoxic seas and only some shoals on submarine volcanic elevations allowed the persistence of rich benthic faunas. Corals and rich brachiopod faunas of Llandovery age indicate a mild to subtropical climate, consistent with the continous shift of Perunica toward the Equator.

In general our analyses are in close agreement with Cocks & Torsvik (2002, 2006), but our data do not show any considerable distance from other segments of the ATA (Figs 16–18). Such a scenario is also consistent with the Nd–Sr–Pb isotopic record for Neoproterozoic to early Palaeozoic rocks of Perunica (Drost *et al.* 2004, 2007).

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