

Correlation of Lower Devonian Strata of the Soda Creek Limestone, Medfra Quadrangle, West-Central Alaska and the Arctic Areas of Eastern Siberia on the Basis of Rhynchonellid Brachiopods

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A shallow-water benthic association of rhynchonellids is found in the Soda Creek Limestone of the Farewell terrane of west-central Alaska. The rhynchonellids are represented by seven genera and nine species, which are part of two superfamilies, Uncinuloidea and Camarotoechioidea, representing four families: Eatoniidae (New genus A, new species), Hebetoechiidae with the three subfamilies: Hebetoechiinae (genus *Dubovikovia* Baranov, 1995 with three species: *D. kuzmini* (Cherkesova), *D. varia* (Cherkesova) and *D. tarejaensis* (Cherkesova)); Sphaerirhynchinae (New genus B, new species) and Glossinunilinae (New genus C, new species); Innaechiidae with the subfamilies Innaechiinae Baranov, 1980 (genus *Innaechia* Baranov, 1980 with the type species *I. retracta* Baranov) and Camarotoechiidae with two subfamilies: Linguopugnoidinae (genus *Astutorhyncha* Havlíček, 1961 with the species *A.? reesidei* (Kirk & Amsden, 1952)) and Leiorhynchinae (New genus D, new species).

From the above mentioned nine species of rhynchonellids, *Dubovikovia kuzmini* and *D. varia* were described by Cherkesova (1968) from the upper part of the Ust'tareiskay horizon, and *D. tarejaensis* was described from the lowermost Daksanskay layers of the Zlobinskay horizon of Taimyr. The Ust'tareiskay horizon and Daksanskay layers by the Zlobinskay horizon were dated as Lochkovian and early Pragian (Cherkesova et al., 1994). In addition, *D. kuzmini* is found in the Lower Sagyrskay Subformation (early Pragian) of Northeast Asia. The upper part of the Ust'tareiskay horizon of Baranov (2009) was later assigned to the Pragian. *Innaechia retracta* occurs in the Lower Sagyrskay Subformation (early Pragian) of Northeast Asia (Al'khovik & Baranov, 2001). Originally, *Astutorhyncha? reesidei* was described by Kirk & Amsden (1952) from the early Pragian of the Heceta Island. This species also occurs in the Lower Sagyrskay Subformation (early Pragian) of Northeast Asia. Four other species: New genus A, n. sp., New genus B, n. sp., New genus C, n. sp., and New genus D, n. sp. are endemic.

Thus, the analysis of the rhynchonellid brachiopod complex of the Soda Creek Limestone, in which more than 50% consist of species widely distributed in the early Pragian of Arctic areas of Eastern Siberia (Taimyr and Northeast Asia), testify to the early Pragian age of the formation, which is correlative with the upper part of the Ust'tareiskay horizon and the lowermost Daksanskay layers of Taimyr, as well as with the Lower Sagyrskay Subformation of Northeast Asia.