

Trilobites from the Llanvirn of the Condroz Ridge, Belgium, and their palaeogeographical significance

R. M. Owens, T. Servais, L. Koch and O. Fatka

Contrasting trilobite faunas occur in the two Llanvirn formations that crop out in the Condroz Ridge inlier. The black *artus* Biozone mudstones of the earlier Huy Formation have a sparse trilobite fauna dominated (88%) by pelagic forms, mostly *Pricyclopogyge binodosa* with a few other cyclopygids, and rare *Girvanopyge*. Benthic atheloptic taxa (mostly *Placoparia*) account for the remainder. Closest comparisons are with sparse, cyclopygid-dominated *artus* Biozone trilobite faunas from the Skiddaw Group in northern England, and the Herscheider Schichten of the Ebbe Anticline, NE Rhineland; *Pricyclopogyge binodosa*, *Girvanopyge* and *Placoparia* are common to all, which are likely to have inhabited the deep waters of the outer continental slope of eastern Avalonia. The same taxa occur in the *artus* Biozone in the Welsh Basin and in Bohemia, where they are accompanied by far more diverse trilobite faunas, probably because the sediments in these areas were deposited in less deep waters.

The trilobite fauna from the dark siltstones of the Sart Bernard Formation is dominated by *Ormathops* aff. *atavus*, with small numbers of *Cyclopyge* aff. *rediviva*, *Stenopareia* and *Prionocheilus*. None of this fauna is age-diagnostic, and it is unknown whether there is a break between the Huy and Sart Bernard formations. The latter is probably of late Abereiddian or Llandeilian age, and its association of trilobite genera finds closest parallels with those in Bohemia, but there appear to be no species in common. Deposition was evidently in much shallower waters than for the Huy Formation, and faunal links appear to have been with Bohemia rather than with the Anglo-Welsh area.