

Stratigraphy and Paleontology of Lower Paleozoic sediments



Petr Storch was born in Prague in 1956 and studied geology at Faculty of Science of the Charles University in 1975-1980. He has been focused on historical geology, stratigraphy and paleontology of the Lower Palaeozoic sedimentary formations from the very beginning. From 1980 to 1994 he worked for Czech Geological Survey

and further extended his education in geology and paleontology under supervision and training by Dr Vladimír Havlicek, Dr Jiri Kriz and Prof Ivo Chlupac. He has been engaged in several geological mapping projects and studied sedimentology, graptolite faunas and biostratigraphy of the Silurian deposits in the Barrandian area. In 1982 Petr accompanied Jiri Kriz to Carnic Alps first time

Petr defended his PhD thesis on facies, stratigraphy and correlation of the Upper Ordovician and lower Silurian of the Prague Basin (Barrandian) in 1991. At that time he has already published regularly in both Czech and international journals. His early papers dealt largely with graptolite taxonomy and biostratigraphy but serious attention was paid also to Ordovician/Silurian boundary changes and various effects of latest Ordovician glaciation. Petr has also studied graptolite faunas of Sardinia in collaboration with Prof Enrico Serpagli and Prof. Hans Peter Schönlaub inspired further studies on latest Ordovician and earliest Silurian graptolite faunas in Carnic Alps in 2001.

In 1990s Petr`s international collaborations further extended and resulted in several studies on Silurian formations and graptolite faunas of Spain, Portugal, Italy and later also Austria and France. Petr was appointed a corresponding member and later (in 2005) a titular member of the International Subcommittee on Silurian Stratigraphy. In 1994 Petr left Geological Survey and entered Institute of Geology of the Czech Academy of Science. Along with various aspects of graptolite taxonomy and biostratigraphy he studied Late Ordovician and Silurian graptolite faunal dynamics, extinctions and recoveries, paleobiogeography and paleoenvironmental distribution of the graptolites

across the northwestern Gondwana, including Carnic Alps. Collaboration with Dr. Dominique Massa resulted in several papers on lower Silurian graptolites of North Africa. In 2001 Petr defended a doctoral thesis on „Graptolite faunas of the uppermost Ordovician and Silurian of the peri-Gondwanan Europe with particular reference to Barrandian: high-resolution biostratigraphy, faunal dynamics and palaeobiogeographical links“ and received DSc. degree followed by an appointment to a principal research worker position. In 2006-2007 worked on monographic study of late Katian and Hirnantian graptolites of Nevada as a Fulbright grantee at California State University, Long Beach (in frame of a joint project with profs. Stan Finney, Chuck Mitchell, and Mike Melchin).

Field work in Carnic Alps was carried out with Hans Petr Schönlaub and Prof. William B.N. Berry in 2001. Cellon section, Feinstritsgraben section and Waterfall section near Zollner See yielded stratigraphically important graptolite faunas of *Normalograptus persculptus* and *Parakidograptus acuminatus* biozones respectively and enabled precise dating of dramatic palaeoenvironmental changes related to latest Ordovician ice age. Joint work with H.P. Schönlaub continued in 2010 when Rauchköfel Süd section, Oberbuchach section, Waterfall section and some outcrops near Zollner See have been studied. New research has been focussed on presumable Hirnantian glaciomarine diamictites (sediments with ice-rafted clasts) along with further graptolite research.