

Lower Devonian conodont clusters from southern Burgenland (Austria)

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In southern Burgenland only few remains of Devonian limestones are known which yield conodonts. First conodont data were provided by SCHÖNLAUB (1984) who sampled the sections near Sulz, Kirchfidisch and Hannersdorf. At that time only samples from the quarry near Sulz yield some broken, but determinable elements of Pridoli – early Devonian age. Some years later also samples from the quarry near Hannersdorf provided a determinable conodont assemblage of Emsian age (SCHÖNLAUB 1994). Recently a small Lochkovian conodont fauna was obtained from the Baron von Kottwitz Quarry near Kirchfidisch (SUTTNER 2009a). Additionally a couple of Lower Devonian conodont clusters were obtained from three limestone beds within the conodont bearing interval of the latter quarry.

ozarkodinid cluster - Only one cluster (Fig. 1: A) bearing 3 elements (one M, and two S elements) could be obtained (SUTTNER 2009b). According to preservation and orientation of elements it seems that they might belong to the apparatus of a single conodont.

simple cone clusters - About five clusters are observed which consist of simple cones only, and most probably might belong to simple cone (or icriodontid) apparatuses. In general each cluster consists of 8 to 11 elements, which are similar in style and shape but differ in size and curvature. The cluster figured (Fig. 1: B) includes 11 elements arranged with bilateral symmetry. The posterior surface of the cone is striated.

icriodontid cluster - Three clusters are found which include M and S (acodiniform) elements only, except for one nearly complete icriodontid cluster (Fig. 1: C), which consists of both I (icriodontiform) elements attached to 14 cones of the transition series. All clusters observed are dominated by adenticulate cones; ramiform Sc elements are rare.

Earlier reconstructions are amended based on extensive work by SERPAGLI (1983) who concluded a seximembrate apparatus for *Icriodus woschmidti woschmidti* (Lower Devonian). He suggested that elements were arranged in two transition series, of which ramiform elements represent the first transition series and adenticulate acodiniform elements the second transition series. In his studies of Silurian – Devonian faunas from southern Sardinia he considered that ramiform, acodiniform and icriodontiform elements of disarticulated conodont assemblages might have formed one apparatus. Nearly all elements included in his apparatus could be confirmed, except the ramiform one, which is lacking in all clusters and also in the disarticulated material from Kirchfidisch.

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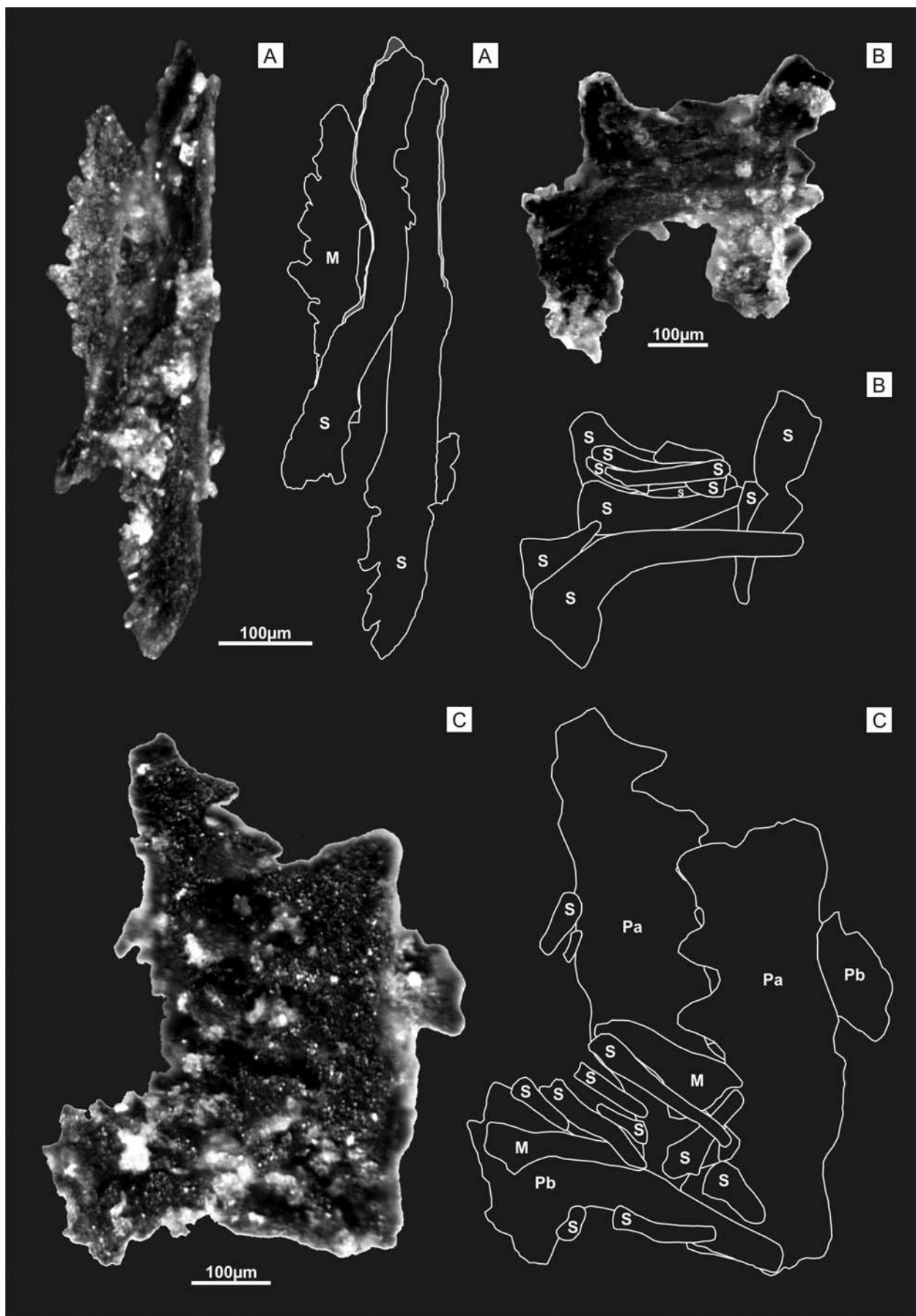


Fig. 1: A. ozarkodinid cluster (3 elements); B. simple cone cluster (11 elements); C. icriodontid cluster (16 elements).

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