A new, unusual rhynchonellide with a strophic shell from the Silurian of Iran

Leonid E. Popov, Vachik Hairapetian, Mansoureh Ghobadi Pour, and Tatiana L. Modzalevskaya

A new, unusual rhynchonellide brachiopod *Jafarirhynchus alatus* assigned to the newly established family Jafarirhynchidae is described from the Silurian (Telychian) of the Boghu Mountains in east-central Iran. It forms a low diversity association with the spiriferide *Striispirifer ? oicissimus*, which exhibits well preserved calcified brachial supports. A strophic shell, well-developed ventral interarea and liberosessile mode of life make this taxon unique among Palaeozoic rhynchonellide brachiopods. In spite of a superficial similarity to spiriferides and the atypide family Davidsonioidea, *Jafarirhynchus* retains the typical rhynchotrematoid cardinalia with a septalium supported by the median septum, a septiform cardinal process and long, raduliform crura. It is considered as an offshoot of the local lineage, which includes two successive species of *Stegocornu* (family Rhynchotrematidae) which proliferated in Central Iran and adjacent Afghanistan during Aeronian time.

**Key words:** Rhynchonellida, morphology, taxonomy, Silurian, Telychian, Iran.

Leonid E. Popov [leonid.popov@museumwales.ac.uk], Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP, UK; Vachik Hairapetian [vachik@khuisf.ac.ir], Department of Geology, Khorasgan (Isfahan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, PO Box 81595-158, Isfahan, Iran; Mansoureh Ghobadi Pour [mghobadipour@yahoo.co.uk], Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences, Golestan University, Gorgan 49138-15739, Iran; Tatiana L. Modzalevskaya [Tatiana_Modzalevskaya@vsegei.ru], Department of Stratigraphy and Palaeontology, Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI), 74 Sredniy prospect, St. Petersburg 199106, Russia.

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