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The brachiopod succession through the Silurian–Devonian boundary beds at Dnistrove, Podolia, Ukraine

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In the classic section across the Silurian–Devonian boundary at Dnistrove (Podolia, Ukraine) the brachiopod fauna has never been studied in detail. This paper presents results of research on brachiopods from this important locality and time interval. Bed–by–bed collecting has enabled the detailed distribution of brachiopod taxa through the boundary beds to be revealed. Generally, the reference section at Dnistrove yields rather scarce but often well preserved brachiopods. *Dayia bohemica* and *Dnestrina gutta* can be regarded as characteristic species for the uppermost Silurian. A relatively high–diversity but low–abundance brachiopod fauna occurs in the lowest 1.8 m of the earliest Devonian. Only three forms have been found to cross the Silurian–Devonian boundary: the strophomenide *Plectodonta* (*Plectodonta*) *mariae pantherae* subsp. nov., the atrypide *Gracianella* (*Sublepida*) *paulula* sp. nov., and the spiriferide *Howellella* (*Howellella*) *latisinuata*. Arelatively narrow brachiopod–rich interval at 5.5 m above the Silurian–Devonian boundary yields 16 brachiopod species which probably indicate a setting near the lower limit of the photic zone equivalent to the Benthic Assemblage 3–4 boundary. Two new species and one new subspecies are described: *Skenidioides tatyanae, Plectodonta* (*Plectodonta*) *mariae pantherae*, and *Gracianella* (*Sublepida*) *paulula*.

Key words: Brachiopoda, palaeoenvironments, Silurian–Devonian boundary, Podolia, Ukraine.

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