

A revision of the Late Ordovician marrellomorph arthropod *Furca bohemica* from Czech Republic

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The enigmatic marrellomorph arthropod *Furca bohemica* from the Upper Ordovician Letná Formation, is redescribed. Based on existing museum specimens and new material collected from the southern slope of Ostrý Hill (Beroun, Czech Republic), the morphology and taphonomy of *F. bohemica* is reappraised and expanded to produce a new anatomical interpretation. The previously distinct taxa *F. pilosa* and *Furca* sp., are synonymised with *F. bohemica*, the latter being represented by a tapho-series in which decay has obscured some of the diagnostic features. A cladistic analysis indicates close affinities between *F. bohemica* and the Hunsrück Slate marrellomorph *Mimetaster hexagonalis*, together forming the Family Mimetasteridae, contrary to previous models for marrellomorph internal relationships. As with other representatives of the group, the overall anatomy of *F. bohemica* is consistent with a benthic, or possibly nektobenthic, mode of life. The depositional setting of the Letná Formation indicates that *F. bohemica* inhabited a shallow marine environment, distinguishing it palaeoecologically from all other known marrellomorphs, which have been reported from the continental shelf.

Key words: Arthropoda, *Marrella*, *Mimetaster*, shallow marine environment, Letná Formation, Barrandian, Ordovician, Ostrý Hill, Czech Republic.

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