

## ***Kirkigraptus*, a new retiolitid graptolite from Poland**

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The new retiolitid graptolite *Kirkigraptus inexpectans* gen. et sp. nov., from the *Neodiversograptus nilssoni* Biozone of the Bartoszyce borehole, Poland is described. It is unique among the retiolitids not having a preserved virgella or ancora. Instead the most proximal structures are two round proxi-lateral lists, joining the two genicular lists of the first thecae, connecting the two sides of the rhabdosome. The lists are interpreted as a possible homologue of the distal edge of the ancora umbrella in typical retiolitids. The size of rhabdosome with large proximal lateral orifices, and the ventral panels of thecae with mid-ventral lists, are similar to those of *Plectograptus*, whereas the two ancora sleeve panels consisting of spaced horizontal lists only, resemble those of *Valentinagraptus*. It is possible that the new retiolitid may represent a new pattern of development of the proximal end of the rhabdosome, different from that in all other retiolitids.

**Key words:** Graptolithina, Retiolitidae, *Kirkigraptus*, ancora, proxi-lateral list, Silurian.

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