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First report on the occurrence of *Neseuretinus* and *Ovalocephalus* trilobites in the Middle Ordovician of Iran

Mansoureh Ghobadi Pour and Leonid E. Popov
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In the Derenjal Mountains of east Central Iran, the upper part of the Shirgesht Formation (uppermost Darriwilian) contains a distinct trilobite assemblage that includes *Neseuretinus birmanicus* and *Ovalocephalus* aff. *obsoletus* among others. Both genera were previously unknown in Iran. The occurrence of *Ovalocephalus* represents the earliest sign of westward taxon migration from China towards higher latitudes along the West Gondwanan margin, which may be related to global warming, after a short episode of cooler climate in the early to mid Darriwilian. Patterns of biogeographical distribution of *Ovalocephalus* and *Neseuretinus* suggest that Central Iran was part of an "overlap zone" where tropical and high latitude benthic taxa mingled.

Key words: Trilobites, palaeobiogeography, taxonomy, Ordovician, Darriwilian, Iran

Mansoureh Ghobadi Pour [mghobadipour@yahoo.co.uk] Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, 419138-15739, Iran;
Leonid Popov [leonid.popov@museumwales.ac.uk] Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP, United Kingdom.