

## A new Late Ordovician bubble-headed trilobite species from South West Wales and its implications for biostratigraphy


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*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 69 (1), 2024: 57-72 doi:10.4202/app.01120.2023

A new species of bubble-headed trilobite, *Staurocephalus oliveae* sp. nov., is described from 250 specimens collected from a recently discovered locality in the Sholeshook Limestone Formation (upper Katian, Upper Ordovician; Ashgill, Cautleyan Zone 1 equivalent) in the village of Llanddowror, Carmarthenshire. Although no fully articulated specimens were found, the material is the most abundant and well-preserved of any Ordovician *Staurocephalus* species known from Britain and Ireland, and enables the complicated 3D structure of its cephalon to be reconstructed. *Staurocephalus oliveae* sp. nov. is the earliest representative of the genus recorded in Avalonia, following its presumed migration into the area from Laurentia or Baltica. Recognition of this Cautleyan species resurrects the potential usefulness of the long established, widely distributed, *Staurocephalus clavifrons* as a latest Katian (= Rawtheyan) indicator.

**Key words:** Trilobita, Phacopida, Encrinuridae, *Staurocephalus*, Late Ordovician, biostratigraphy, Wales, Great Britain.

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