

## Adaptive radiation of monograptids after the Late Wenlock crisis

Tatyana N.Koren' and Adam Urbanek

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Succession of late Wenlock graptolites in the Kursala Formation, Tien Shan (Kirghizia), documents of the early recovery phase after the global *C. lundgreni* Event. *Pristiograptus dubius* was the only survivor among monograptids. After displaying a mass occurrence and an increased variation, the *P. dubius* stem lineage splits into two main trends: line A, represented by *Pristiograptus idoneus* and line B, represented by *Colonograptus? praedeubeli*. The former leads to *Lobograptus? sherradae*, a generalized forerunner of such diverse trends as linograptids, cucullograptids and possibly also neocucullograptids (via *Bohemograptus*). The latter initiates the *Colonograptus-Saetograptus* line. The *P. idoneus* - *L.? sherradae* lineage shows distinct gracilization, an apomorphic feature, while the other one preserves ancestral robustness, a plesiomorphic character. Hence, the bulk of the later monograptids of Gorstian and Ludfordian age may be derived from the *P. dubius* stem lineage. In respect of this conservative lineage a non-cladistic approach is preferred, because its morphological spectrum and evolutionary potential, and as we believe its specific identity, were preserved, in spite of numerous speciation events, until the early Pridoli.

**Key words:** global bioevents, *C. Lundgreni* Event, graptolites, monograptids, adaptive radiation.

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