

The endemic radiodonts of the Cambrian Stage 4 Guanshan Biota of South China

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Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 66 (2), 2021: 255-274 doi:<https://doi.org/10.4202/app.00870.2020>

The Guanshan Biota (South China, Cambrian, Stage 4) contains a diverse assemblage of biomineralizing and non-biomineralizing animals. Sitting temporally between the Stage 3 Chengjiang and Wuliuan Kaili Biotas, the Guanshan Biota contains numerous fossil organisms that are exclusive to this exceptional deposit. The Guanshan Konservat-Lagerstätte is also unusual amongst Cambrian strata that preserve non-biomineralized material, as it was deposited in a relatively shallow water setting. In this contribution we double the diversity of radiodonts known from the Guanshan Biota from two to four, and describe the second species of *Paranomalocaris*. In addition, we report the first tamisiocaridid from South China, and confirm the presence of a tetradial oral cone bearing small and large plates in “*Anomalocaris*” *kunmingensis*, the most abundant radiodont from the deposit. All four radiodont species, and three genera, are apparently endemic to the Guanshan Biota. When considered in the wider context of geographically and temporally comparable radiodont faunas, endemism in Guanshan radiodonts is most likely a consequence of the shallower and more proximal environment in which they lived. The strong coupling of free-swimming radiodonts and benthic communities underlines the complex relationship between the palaeobiogeographic and environmental distributions of prey and predators. This local adaptation of radiodonts to their prey is highlighted by the frontal appendage morphology of the two species of *Paranomalocaris*, apparently specialised to different feeding modes, while the recognition of the limited geographic range of some radiodont faunas highlights the importance of exploring as many deposits as possible to fully understand this group.

Key words: Amplectobeluidae, Anomalocarididae, Tamisiocarididae, *Paranomalocaris*, Burgess Shale-type exceptional preservation, shallow water, Cambrian, China.

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