

Orthid brachiopods from the Middle Ordovician of the Central Iberian Zone, Spain

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Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 55 (2), 2010: 285-308 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4202/app.2009.0032>

The present study of a large collection of orthid brachiopods from Middle Ordovician (middle Darriwilian) strata of Spanish regions of the Central Iberian Zone of the Iberian Massif, as well as the type collection of Portuguese species from the same Zone, revealed the occurrence of five genera of the family Orthidae, two of them new, and to which most of the seven previously reported species of *Orthis* from the same areas can be assigned. Besides the two new genera and species *Almadenorthis auriculata* Reyes–Abril and Villas gen. et sp. nov., and *Gutiorthis incurvata* Reyes–Abril and Villas gen. et sp. nov., three further new species are erected: *Paralenorthis estenaensis* Reyes–Abril and Villas sp. nov., *Paralenorthis lolae* Reyes–Abril and Villas sp. nov., and *Sivorthis calatravaensis* Reyes–Abril and Villas sp. nov. *Paralenorthis alata* and *Orthambonites* sp. are also identified in the same beds. *Orthis noctilio* is ascribed to the genus *Sivorthis*, and the species *Orthis lusitanica* and *Orthis miniensis* are restricted to only their type specimens. *Orthis duriensis* is poorly described and illustrated, its type material missing, and actually it may belong to *Sivorthis noctilio*. These brachiopod taxa invaded the cold waters of the Afro–South European Gondwanan margin from lower latitudes, coincident with the mid Darriwilian transgression, as they belonged to a family that diversified in temperate and tropical seas during the early Mid Ordovician.

Key words: Brachiopoda, palaeobiogeography, Ordovician, Darriwilian, Mediterranean, Gondwana.

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