

Late Lower Cambrian trilobite correlation between Spain and Jordan

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The Bilbilian is a chronostratigraphic unit for the late Lower Cambrian of the Mediterranean region. It is represented mainly by siliciclastic or mixed facies where trilobites are not abundant. New Bilbilian trilobite findings in the North of Spain have permitted us to compare the Bilbilian sequences from Spain with those from Jordan.

Two trilobite assemblages may be distinguished in the Spanish Bilbilian strata: the lower assemblage is composed of the trilobite taxa *Kingaspis* (*Kingaspidoides*) *c.f. velatus* Sdzuy, 1961 and *Realaspis strenoides* Sdzuy, 1961 which are present in the sequences of Montes de Toledo (central Spain) and Cadenas Ibéricas (NE Spain). The upper assemblage is composed of *Kingaspis* (*Kingaspis*) *campbelli* (King, 1923), *Onaraspis altus* (Liñán & Gozalo, 1986), *Hamatolenus* (*Hamatolenus*) *ibericus* Sdzuy, 1958 *Protolenus* (*Hupeolenus*) *jilocanus* (Liñán and Gozalo, 1986), *Tonkinellasequei* Liñán and Gozalo, 1999 and *Sdzuyia sanmamesi* Liñán and Gozalo, 1999. The first trilobite assemblage is considered as being of the Upper Marianian-Lower Bilbilian age (Sdzuy 1971) and the second trilobite assemblage is considered as being of the Upper Bilbilian age. The Daroc regression took place between both assemblages.

In the late Lower Cambrian sequences of Jordan, two other trilobite assemblages have been considered by Rushton and Powell (1998). The lower assemblage contains *Realaspis* sp. nov. and *Redlichops blanckenborni* Richter and Richter, 1941 while the upper assemblage contains *K* (*K*) *campbelli* and *Palaeolenus antiquus* (Chernysheva, 1956). Both assemblages have also been assigned to the Bilbilian age by these authors.

The comparison between the late Lower Cambrian sequences and trilobites from Spain and Jordan allow us to conclude that the assemblages with *Realaspis* may be considered as Lower Bilbilian and the assemblages with *Kingaspis* (*K*) *campbelli* may be considered as Upper Bilbilian. This new data improve the late Lower Cambrian correlation between the Eastern and Western areas of the Mediterranean subprovince.

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