Lower Permian conodonts from the Karavanke Mts. (Slovenia)

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Abstract

The first conodont fauna (4 species) from the “Trogkofel Limestones” of the Karavanke Mts. (Dolžanova soteska) is described and correlated with the fusulinids (3 species) within the same sample. The occurrence of Streptognathodus cf. simplex, Streptognathodus cf. elongatus and Diplognathodus expansus together with Dutkevitchia complicata indicates a higher age (Asselian) of these limestones than previously thought, because even the Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone (Sakmarian) of the Carnic Alps already yields a Sweetognathus fauna. To avoid misunderstanding in correlations the name “Dolžanova soteska limestone member” is introduced for the white, pale red to red limestone unit, described as “Trogkofel Limestone” in previous literature.

Introduction

Previous work

The classical locality of Permian beds and fossils in Dolžanova soteska (“Teufelschlucht” in German) in the Karavanke Mts. is situated in the Tržiška Bistrica valley, about 3 km NE of the town of Tržič in NW Slovenia (Fig. 1). In it the well exposed profile occurs in the Upper Carboniferous clastic beds, light grey, pale red and red “Trogkofel” limestones, dark, bedded limestones, Tarvisio breccia, Gröden clastics and Upper Permian dolomites and rauhwackes. Although almost a century passed since the first systematic geological studies of these beds, the correct stratigraphic attribution of the up to now improperly named light grey, pale red and red “Trogkofel” limestone unit remained still unresolved.

Since Geyer (1895) described the stratigraphy of the Carnic Alps, it was generally accepted that the limestones of the Trogkofel are Early Permian in age. At this time the Rattendorf Group (Lower Pseudoschwagerina Limestone, Grenzland Formation,
Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone) didn't exist and he included in his definition of the Trogkofel Limestone also the underlying dark or red, bedded limestones (now Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone). The fossils (mostly brachiopods), on which the biostratigraphic correlations were based, mainly came from these bedded limestones below.

Three years later Schellwien (1898a) described a fauna from the limestones of the Dolžanova soteska, which he compared with the limestones of the Trogkofel area (sensu Geyer). Between the rich brachiopod fauna, which he later described in his monography (Schellwien, 1900), he also found three ammonoids *Agathiceras* aff. *uralicum* Karpinsky, *Popanoceras* (Stacheoceras) n. sp., *Thalassoceras? microdiscus* Gemmellaro. But unfortunately there is neither a description nor a picture of these ammonoids.

In the 1930's Heritsch, Kahler & Metz discovered Permian fossils (*Sphaeroschwagerina*) of the Grenzland Formation (Heritsch & Kahler, 1932) in the Carnic Alps and clarified the stratigraphy of the different lithostratigraphic units. They established the Rattendorf Group between the Upper Carboniferous Auernig Group and the Trogkofel Limestone s. str. (Tab. 1).

Heritsch (1933, 1938, 1939, 1943) treated fusulinid foraminifera, corals and trilobites from the limestones of the Dolžanova soteska and performed the revision of Schellwien's work (1990) on brachiopods. The limestones were believed to belong to the Trogkofel Limestone (Heritsch, 1938), because of the strong lithologic similarities. Kahler F. and Kahler G. (1937, 1941) described "*Pseudoschwagerina* carniolica" from the dark, bedded limestones in the Dolžanova soteska and "*Pseudoschwagerina* citriformis" from a chunk of limestone in the scree of the "Trogkofel" limestones. Further studies on fusulinids were presented by Kochansky-Devíde (1956, 1964). An important contribution to stratigraphy and study of fossil assemblage in Permian beds especially from the "Trogkofel" limestone in Dolžanova soteska was provided by Ramovš (1961, 1963, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1980), the extraordinary authority on it. The rare trilobites from the "Trogkofel" limestone were studied by Hahn et al. (1970).
Table 1. Historical review of the lithostratigraphic subdivisions in the Carnic Alps and correlation with the Dolžanova soteska limestone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lithostratigraphic units in the Upper Carboniferous-Lower Permian of the Carnic Alps</th>
<th>stratigraphical correlation of the Dolžanova soteska limestone with the Carnic Alps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geyer, 1895</td>
<td>HERITSCH et al., 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERMIAN TROGKOFEL LIMESTONE</td>
<td>PERMIAN TROGKOFEL LIMESTONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone</td>
<td>Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRENNZLAND FORMATION</td>
<td>GRENNZLAND FORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWER Pseudoschwagerina Limestone</td>
<td>LOWER Pseudoschwagerina Limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUERNIG GROUP</td>
<td>AUERNIG GROUP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The stratigraphic subdivision and regional extension of the larger part of the Permian beds in the Karavanke Mts. were elaborated during investigations for the new geological map by Buser and Cajhen in 1978. Buser (1974, 1980) established the position of the “Trogkofel” limestone in Dolžanova soteska below the dark bedded limestones with *Sphaeroschwagerina*. Interesting for stratigraphy is the work by Pečar (1987) who determined a new brachiopod species in the “Trogkofel” limestone and ascertained that the Upper Carboniferous quartz conglomerate is overlain by the “Trogkofel” limestone.

All mentioned researchers of Permian beds in Dolžanova soteska assigned the grey, pale red to red limestones to the Trogkofel Stage without hesitation, which in the type region of the Carnic Alps is of latest Sakmarian to Artinskian age. Buser (1974, 1980) and Pečar (1987) established the position of this limestone between the quartz conglomerate and the overlying dark bedded limestones with *Sphaeroschwagerina*. However, they did not deduce from this fact the possibility that the “Trogkofel” limestones of the Dolžanova soteska do not correlate with the true Trogkofel limestones in age.

**Geological setting of Dolžanova soteska**

The Upper Carboniferous and Permian beds outcrop in Dolžanova soteska in a 10km long and 3km wide east-west trending belt (Fig. 1). In spite of the very complicated structure of the Karavanke Mts. this belt of younger Paleozoic beds is of
relatively simple tectonics. A major obstacle to observations is the dense cover of several metres of weathering residue and of limestone slope talus. However, in the Dolžanova soteska the considered beds are well exposed, as the gorge cut deep into the rock sequence.

The Upper Carboniferous beds dip southwest below the Permian beds, therefore in the gorge from south to north gradually older beds are exposed. The Upper Carboniferous marine molasse beds are developed as shales, quartz sandstones and conglomerates with several metres thick intercalations of black limestones.

In Dolžanova soteska the predominantly massive quartz conglomerate, consisting of pebbles of quanzite and subordinately lydite in the upper part, attains about 180m thickness. The conglomerate is overlain by a 30cm thick black calcarenitic limestone with numerous crinoid fragments. The contact between conglomerate and limestone is uneven, very wavy and the conglomerate is intensely weathered and limonitized along the contact with the limestone. Laterally a 30cm thick sheet of quartz sandstone appears between the conglomerates and limestones. In the basal part of the calcarenitic limestone also quartz pebbles occur (Fig. 2). The uneven and limonitized surface of the conglomerate most probably represents an erosion that occurred during the uplift of the sea bottom as a result of the tectonic phase near the boundary between the Upper Carboniferous and Lower Permian (Buser, 1974, 1980).

1m of grey limestone lies above the calcarenitic limestone that interbeds with up to several cm thick sheets of dark marl and shale. Upwards a 1m thick bed of dark grey biomicritic limestone follows. This limestone has the same dip as the basal contact plane in the conglomerate (212/75). Above the biomicritic limestone 50cm

![Stratigraphic Column](image-url)

Fig. 2. Detailed stratigraphic column at the transition from the underlying quartz conglomerate to the lower part of the Dolžanova soteska limestone
of black mudstone is interbedded with micaceous siltstone. 230 cm of grey micaceous siltstones follow, which are tectonically strongly deformed and folded. The siltstone is covered by a 180 cm thick package of dark grey mudstone and marl. In limestones within the mudstone very numerous crushed brachiopod valves occur. It is most probable that Pečar (1987) found the brachiopod *Capillomesolosus herit-schi* in these beds, which is, however, more frequent in the red and pale red limestones of Dolžanova soteska.

The content of mudstones decreases in the grey limestone, which passes into light grey, pale red and red massive limestones that have been called up to now “Trogkofel” limestones. This limestone is the main subject of this investigation and is called Dolžanova soteska limestone further on. The horizon, in which the colour changes, is not more than 2 m thick. Upwards greyish to pale red limestones follow, which pass into the characteristic red limestones. In the latter the rich fauna of brachiopods as well as crinoids and common fusulinids occur. Schellwien’s (1900) brachiopods originated from an ancient quarry 150 m north of the upper bend of the road through Dolžanova soteska. The limestones form more than 100 m high cliffs on the eastern side of the road. The limestone continues westwards across the Tržiška Bistrica. The length of the outcropping belt of limestone that is on the average 95 m thick amounts to about 2.5 km.

The Dolžanova soteska limestone is of intense red colour in its highest part. From this limestone the samples for conodonts were collected in the steep cliff several ten metres above the road and above the abandoned quarry.

![Diagram of stratigraphic column](image-url)

**Fig. 3.** Detailed stratigraphic column from the upper part of the Dolžanova soteska limestone.
The stratigraphic position of the considered Dolžanova soteska limestone can be observed about 100 m above the road and the abandoned quarry, since the intermediate area is covered by limestone rubble. Here the meat red limestone is overlain by brownish and greyish platy crinoid limestone that passes upwards into cinnabar red crinoid limestone (Fig. 3). On the upper surface of the limestone beds thin coatings of red-violet silty mudstone occur. This limestone is about 4 m thick. Upwards about 5 m of grey red thicker bedded limestones follow. The crinoid limestone is overlain by 5 m of limestone breccia that consists of 5 to 30 cm sized fragments of biomicritic and crinoid limestone with brownish grey calcareous-siliceous cement. Laterally, quartz conglomerate and sandstone of approximately 1.5 m thickness may occur above the breccia.

The breccia is overlain by 3 m of micritic dark grey limestone that is covered by a 10 m thick package of black limestone in alternation with black shale. The rock outcrops at the upper road curve. Upwards an about 200 m thick succession of grey, thick bedded limestones with abundant Sphaeroschwagerina follows. The type locality of Sphaeroschwagerina camiolica (Kahler & Kahler, 1937) is situated in this limestone at this upper bend of the road. The characteristic pyramids of the Dolžanova soteska, and also the part of the rocks through which the road tunnel was driven about a century ago, consist of these dark bedded limestones.

The Lower Permian succession is terminated by a clastic sequence of interbedded quartz sandstones, conglomerates and shaly mudstones. The Middle Permian Tarvisio breccia and the violet-red clastics of the Gröden Formation were deposited above these clastics.

**Systematic paleontology**

**Conodonts**

Classification after Sweet, 1988

**Phylum** Conodonta Pander, 1856  
**Class** Conodonta Branson, 1938  
**Order** Ozarkodinida Dzik, 1976  
**Family** Idiognathodontidae Harris & Hollingsworth, 1933  
**Genus** Streptognathodus Stauffer & Plummer, 1932  
**Type-species** Streptognathodus excelsus Stauffer & Plummer, 1932

Streptognathodus cf. simplex Gunnell, 1933  
Pl. 1, figs. 3–6

**Material:** 18 specimen DSB 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 27, 30, 32, 33.  
**Description:** - Carminiscaphat with a slender, lanceolate platform. Specimen have an inward-downward trending curvature of platform immediately posterior to the end of the carina. 
- Free blade long with 8–10 denticles, the second and third are the largest. 
- Carina short and fused, 1–2 separated nodes are sometimes developed posterior to carina.
Platform is divided by a median groove and possesses transverse ridges, which may pass sometimes the median groove, especially in the posterior part. On the anterior part of parapets nodes or small costae are developed and separated from the carina or fixed blade by deep furrows. The parapet of the inner side is usually somewhat longer than the outer one.

Oral surface of carina, transverse ridges and accessory nodes with a honeycomb ultrastructure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample no.</th>
<th>Weight in g</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Diplom. expansus?</th>
<th>Hindeodus minutus</th>
<th>Streptogn. cf. simplex</th>
<th>Streptogn. cf. elongatus</th>
<th>Unidentified Pa elements</th>
<th>Ramiform elements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSB</td>
<td>4160</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Streptognathodus cf. elongatus** Gunnell, 1933
Pl. 1, figs. 7–9

**Material:** 13 specimen DSB 3, 4, 6, 15, 16, 20, 23, 25, 26, 31.

**Description:** Carminiscaphat with a lanceolate platform. Specimen have a inward-downward trending curvature of platform immediately posterior to the end of the carina.

Free blade long with 8–10 denticles, by which the second and third are the largest.

Carina short, fused, seldom a single node is developed posterior to the carina.

Platform is divided by a median groove and possesses transverse ridges, which may pass sometimes the median groove, especially in the posterior part. On the anterior part of parapets nodes or small costae are developed and separated from the carina or fixed blade by deep furrows. The parapet of the inner side is usually somewhat longer than the outer one. The inner side of platform has a slight indentation in the anterior part, where the nodes are developed.

1–4 accessory nodes are attached at the inner side of the platform margin.

Oral surface of carina, transverse ridges and accessory nodes with a honeycomb ultrastructure.

**Discussion:** *Streptognathodus cf. elongatus* is distinguished from *Strept. cf. simplex* in a somewhat slender, elongate platform, which lacks an indentation and accessory nodes. Ellison (1941) regarded *Streptognathodus simplex* and *Strept. elongatus* as synonymous. Kozur and Mostler (1976) stated that the holotype of *Streptognathodus elongatus* has accessory nodes, but *Streptognathodus simplex* has not. They considered that *Streptognathodus simplex* is intermediate in its morphological features between *Streptognathodus elegantulus* Stauffer and Plummer, 1932 with a deeper, more V-shaped median trough, longer carina and shorter transverse ridges and *Streptognathodus barskovi* Kozur, 1976 with a shallow groove, broad platform and small, long transverse ridges.

*Streptognathodus nodulinearis* Chernykh and Reshetkova, 1986 is similar in the development of accessory nodes to *Streptognathodus elongatus*.

In a preliminary report about the conodonts of the C/P boundary type section (Aidaralash, Southern Urals) Chernykh and Ritter (1994) suggested a subdivision of streptognathodontid morphotypes because of the phyletic development of acces-
sory nodes. Our specimen could be assigned to the unornamented and pseudo-nodular morphotype, which occurs there immediately below the C/P boundary.

**Family Anchignathodontidae Clark, 1972**
**Genus Hindeodus Rexroad & Furnish, 1964**
**Type-species Spathognathodus cristulus Youngquist & Miller, 1949**

*Hindeodus minutus* (Ellison, 1941)
*Pl. 1, fig. 2*

*1941 Spathodus minutus* Ellison n. sp. – Ellison, S. 120, Taf. 20, Fig. 50–52.
*1973 Spathognathodus minutus* (Ellison, 1941) – Merrill, S. 305–308, Taf. 1, Fig. 1–14, Taf. 2, Fig. 1–28.
*1975 Anchignathodus minutus* (Ellison, 1941) – Behnken, S. 297, Taf. 1, Fig. 16–18, USA, Leonardian.
*1975 Ozarkodina minuta* (Ellison, 1941) – Perlmutter, S. 102–103, Taf. 2, Fig. 26–30, Kansas, Penn.-Permian.
*1986 Anchignathodus minutus* (Ellison, 1941) – Ritter, S. 146, Taf. 4, Fig. 1, 5, USA, Wolfcampian.
*1989 Hindeodus minutus* (Ellison, 1941) – Wang & Higgins, S. 279, Taf. 13, Fig. 6, 7, S-China, Karbon + Perm.
*1991 Hindeodus minutus* (Ellison, 1941) – Brown et al., without description, Taf. 2, Fig. 12, 13, Illinois Basin, Desmoinesian (Pennsylvanian).

**Material:** 1 specimen DSB 1.
**Description:** – Carminiscaphat.
– Free blade short and thin.
– Cusp high with a triangulate form and a fine striation on the surface. Transition from cusp to the denticles of the carina with a distinct step. Carina possesses 11 discrete denticles.
– Oral surface of platform smooth.
– Basal cavity widest anteriorly.

**Family Sweetognathidae Ritter, 1986**
**Genus Diplognathodus Kozur & Merrill, 1975**
**Type-species Spathognathodus coloradoensis Murray & Chronic, 1965**

*Diplognathodus expansus?* (Perlmutter, 1975)
*Pl. 1, fig. 1*

*1975 Ozarkodina expansa* Perlmutter n. sp. – Perlmutter, S. 98–99, Taf. 3, Fig. 1–16, Kansas, Council Grove Group, Pennsylvanian.
*1990 Diplognathodus expansus* (Perlmutter, 1975) – Ding & Wan, without description, Taf. 3, Fig. 6, 12–13, 15–18, 20–22, N-China, Taiyuan Fm.
*1990 Diplognathodus n. sp.? H – V. Bitter & Merrill, Taf. 4, A–L, (Material Perlmutter).*
Material: 1 specimen DSB 2.

Description: - Carminiscaphat.
- Free blade thin, with a cusp and 4 denticles, decreases in height posteriorly. The transition to the carina takes place without a distinct step in height.
- The posterior part is developed as a spatulate carina without pustulose ultrasculpture.
- Oral surface of platform is smooth, margin of platform is wavy.
- The basal cavity is expanded.

Remarks: The type Pa elements of *Diplognathodus expansus* were reexamined by V. Bitter & Merrill (1990) under SEM. The holotype and some of the paratypes have a pustulose ultrasculpture on the carina and were therefore assigned to the genus *Sweetognathus*. The other specimen without pustulose ultrasculpture were left as *Diplognathodus* n. sp.? H. As described in Forke (1995) some specimen of *Diplognathodus expansus* in the material of the Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone (Sakmarian) of the Carnic Alps bear a single row of secondary pustules on the spatulate carina.

**Fusulinids**

Order *Foraminiferida* Eichwald, 1830
Suborder *Fusulinina* Wedekind, 1937
Superfamily *Fusulinacea* V. Möller, 1878
Family *Boultoniidae* Skinner & Wilde, 1954
Subfamily *Boultoniinae* Skinner & Wilde, 1954
Genus *Boultonia* Lee, 1927
Type-species *Boultonia willsi* Lee, 1927

*Boultonia willsi* Lee, 1927
Pl. 2, fig. 4

*1927 Boultonia willsi* Lee, n. sp. – Lee, S. 10–11, Taf. 2, Fig. 1–4, N-China.
1970 *Boultonia willsi* Lee, 1927 – Kochansky-Devidé, S. 230, Taf. 4, Fig. 7–16, Westkarawanken, ob. Rattendorfer Schichten, Trogköfnalk?.
1980 *Boultonia willsi* Lee, 1927 – Kahler F. & Kahler G., S. 190, Taf. 1, Fig. 6, Forni Avoltri (Carnia).

Material: Several slightly oblique sections DSB 1.

Occurrence: Common together with *Dutkevitchia complicata* and *Quasifusulina* cf. *tenuissima* in the Dolžanova soteska limestone member.

Description: – Shells of small size, elongate-fusiform with a minute proloculus (25 μm), first whorl almost round, later increases markedly in length. 4–5 volutions in mature specimen.
- Wall is thin, two-layered with a dark outer layer (tectum), and light inner layer (diaphanotheca?).
- Septa are very thin and regularly fluted.
- Chomata are distinct in the later whorls.
Family *Fusulinidae* V. Möller, 1878
Subfamily *Fusulininae* V. Möller, 1878
Genus *Quasifusulina* Chen, 1934
Type-species *Fusulina longissima* V. Möller, 1878

*Quasifusulina cf. tenuissima* (Schellwien, 1898)
Pl. 2, fig. 3

**Material:** 3 axial sections DSB 1 [3], DSB 2, DSB 3, 1 subaxial section DSB 1 [2].

**Occurrence:** Common together with *Dutkevitchia complicata* and *Boultonia willsi* in the Dolžanova soteska limestone member.

**Description:**
- Shell cylindrical with bluntly rounded poles. Species reaches length of 6–7mm and diameter of 1.7–1.8mm in 4–5 volutions, giving a form ratio of ~3.4.
- Proloculus large (~400μm), sometimes ovoid or dent in the middle part.
- Spireotheca is composed of a tectum and a thin keriotheca? with uneven thickness.
- Septal fluting is moderately and regular across the entire shell. In axial sections therefore round arches appear.
- Chomata and phrenothecae are absent.
- The conspicuous axial fillings are characteristic for the genus, which are developed in this species almost in all volutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>L(mm)</th>
<th>W(mm)</th>
<th>L/W</th>
<th>Pr</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>Whorl.</th>
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<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSB 3 [1]</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Family *Schwagerinidae* Dunbar & Henbest, 1930
Subfamily *Schwagerininae* Dunbar & Henbest, 1930
Genus *Dutkevitchia* Leven & Shcherbovich, 1978
Type-species *Rugosofusulina deveza* Rauzer-Chernoussova, 1937

*Dutkevitchia complicata* (Schellwien, 1898)
Pl. 2, figs. 1, 2

*1898 Fusulina complicata* Schellwien, n. sp. – Schellwien, S. 249–50, Taf. 20, Fig. 1–7, Karawanken.
1972 *Rugosofusulina complicata complicata* (Schellwien, 1898) – Bensh, S. 80–81 (russ.), Taf. 17, Fig. 2, 3, Süd-Fergana, Karatschatyr.
1980 *Dutkevitchia complicata* (Schellwien, 1898) – Leven & Shcherbovich, ohne Beschreibung, Taf. 8, Fig. 7, Darwas.
1986 *Dutkevitchia complicata* (Schellwien, 1898) – Isakova & Nazarov, S. 42–43 (russ.), Taf. 7, Fig. 3, S-Ural, Assel.
1989 *Rugosofusulina complicata* (Schellwien, 1898) – Zhang et al., ohne Beschreibung, Taf. 1, Fig. 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, N-China, Taiyuan Fm.

1993 *Dutkevitchia complicata* (Schellwien, 1898) – Vachard, S. 100, 102, Taf. 4, Fig. 4, 9, Griechenland, Mt. Beletsi.

**Material:** 3 axial sections DSB 1 [1], [2], [4].

**Occurrence:** Frequent together with *Quasifusulina cf. tenuissima* and *Boultonia willsi* in the Dolžanova soteska limestone member.

**Description:**
- Subcylindrical to nearly ovoid species with rounded poles, attains length from 7–9 mm and width about 3 mm in 4–5 volutions (L/W = 2.4–3.14).
- Proloculus large (300–420 µm) with a thick wall (40 µm). First 2–3 whorls almost globose, in later whorls the shape becomes more elongated.
- Spirotheca is composed of a tectum with a smallscaled rugosity and a coarse alveolar keriotheca. Wall thickness on average from 30 µm in the first up to 90 µm in the last whorl.
- Septa deep and strongly fluted throughout the whole chambers. The septal arches reach in axial sections from bottom to top of the chamber, are thickened in the upper part and have steep flanks.
- Chomata are absent, phrenothecae can sometimes occur.

**Remarks:** *Dutkevitchia complicata* was described by Schellwien (1898b) from Tržič, Slovenia (which is the next town on the street from Dolžanova soteska), because he didn’t know the exact “locus typicus”.

Schellwien mentioned that they occur together with *Quasifusulina tenuissima* in grey to yellowish limestones.

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**Faunal affinity and stratigraphic correlations**

The stratigraphic occurrence of the genus *Dutkevitchia* is not well defined at the moment. However, the similar *Dutkevitchia dastarensis* (Bensh, 1972) was found in the “Obere kalkarme Schichtgruppe” (Auernig-Group) of the Garnitzen Section by Kahler F. and Kahler G. (1982). *Dutkevitchia expansa* (Lee, 1927), which has conspicuous axial fillings in the inner volutions, occurs in the Lower Pseudoschwagerina Limestone. *Dutkevitchia complicata* is described from a red limestone in the Trogkar Section (assigned to the Trogkofel limestone) by Forke (1995), where it occurs together with *Robustoschwagerina* sp. This form differs from herein described species in having a more elongate, subcylindrical shape in the outer volutions. The occurrences of the genus *Dutkevitchia* are well correlatable with the C/P boundary type sections in Southern Urals and especially the Darvaz region as well as with Chinese
sections, where they are reported from Uppermost Carboniferous to Sakmarian deposits. *Dutkevitchia complicata* seems to be restricted to the Asselian and Sakmarian.

The absence of the genus *Sphaeroschwagerina* in the studied material, which is the index fossil of the Asselian seems to depend on facies. Kahler F. and Kahler G. (1941) described *Sphaeroschwagerina citriformis* from a loose chunk of the Dolžanova soteska limestone. The dark limestones above yield *Sphaeroschwagerina camiolica* (Kahler & Kahler, 1937). Closely similar species (cf. Rauzer-Chernoussova, 1960) were often assigned by Russian and also Japanese researchers to *Sphaeroschwagerina pavlovi* (Rauzer-Chernoussova, 1938), which is a widespread Asselian fusulinid. *Sphaeroschwagerina camiolica* is also common in the Grenzlandformation of the Carnic Alps.

The fusulinid genus *Quasifusulina* as well as the conodont *Hindeodus minutus* are long-ranging species (Carboniferous -Permian) and have therefore no stratigraphical value.

*Diplognathodus expansus?* (some with a single row of nodes on the carina) are found together with *Sweetognathus* in the Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone and Trogkofel limestone? (Forke, 1995). *Diplognathodus expansus* (Dipl. n. sp.? H by V. Bitter & Merrill, 1990) is recorded from the Bennett Shale to the Crouse Limestone (Council Grove Group) in Kansas, U.S.A.. In North China *Diplognathodus expansus*
Fig. 5. Bioclastic wackestone with fusulinids, and large fragments of phylloid algae (*Eugonophyllum* sp.). Internal structure mostly dissolved and filled with fine peloidal micrite, $\times 10$

sus (with some uneven secondary pustules on the spatula; Ding & Wan, 1990, p. 135) appears in the upper part of the *Streptognathodus elongatus*-S. *wabaunensis*-S. *fuchengensis* assemblage zone, which correlates with the *Sphaeroschwagerina* fusulimid zone. Neither in the Southern Urals type sections nor in the South China sections (Wang & Higgins, 1989; Wang, 1994) the genus *Diplognathodus* is reported from Gzhelian to Lower Sakmarian deposits.

Because no universally accepted taxonomy exists for the Upper Carboniferous-Lower Permian *Streptognathodus*, it is difficult to give a precise correlation for this species. Therefore, independent on exact taxonomic assignation, the widest range of *Streptognathodus elongatus* and *Streptognathodus simplex* is from Upper Carboniferous (base of Gzhelian) to Lower Permian (Sakmarian) strata.

**Microfacies**

Several additional samples were thin sectioned for microfacies study. They indicate a wide variety of shallow subtidal to intertidal platform carbonates.

The thin sections of the sample from where the conodonts and fusulinids were obtained, are bioclastic wackestones. The bioclasts are mostly echinoderm fragments, as well as common fusulinids, smaller foraminifera, bryozoans, brachiopods and ostracods (Fig. 4). Large, unbroken phylloid algal blades are present, but their internal parts are normally not preserved (Fig. 5). They appear as moulds, filled with sparry calcite or fine peloidal micritic sediment after dissolution, showing geopetal
structures, which could be also seen in some shelter pores of brachiopods. The phylloid algae were encrusted by *Tubiphytes* or red algae (*Claracrusta* sp.). Sponges, gastropods and trilobites are rare. Conspicuous is the strong bioturbation (agglutinated worm tubes) of the sediment.

**Conclusions**

Although a latest Carboniferous age could not be strictly excluded for the grey, pale red and red limestones, an Asselian to earliest Sakmarian age seems more likely, because *Diplognathodus expansus*? as well as *Dutkevitchia complicata* are reported only from Lower Permian deposits at the moment. If the contact to the overlying dark, bedded limestones is sedimentary indeed, the upper range is limited because of the occurrence of *Sphaeroschwagerina carniolica* (Asselian). Compared to the Carnic Alps these limestones are older than the Trogkofel limestones of the type locality and even as the Upper Pseudoschwagerina Limestone, which yields *Sweetognathus inornatus* and *Sw. aff. whitei* without any species of *Streptognathodus*. Therefore the grey, pale red and red limestones from which the conodonts and fusulinids were obtained can not be called "Trogkofel" limestones no longer, but should be named after the Dolžanova soteska – the Dolžanova soteska limestone.

**References**

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Plate 1

1 Diplognathodus expansus? (Perlmutter, 1975)
   1a Lateral view, DSB/1 [1], x 160
   1b Upper view of spatulate carina showing lack of a pustulose ultrasculpture, DSB/1 [1], x 600

2 Hindeodus minutus (Ellison, 1941)
   Lateral view, DSB/1 [2], x 80

3-6 Streptognathodus cf. simplex Gunnell, 1933
   3a Upper view, DSB/1 [11], x 80
   3b Lateral view, DSB/1 [11], x 80
   4-6 Upper views of different growth stages, DSB/1 [5], x 80, DSB/1 [12], DSB/1 [14], x 120

7-9 Streptognathodus cf. elongatus Gunnell, 1933
   7 Upper view of a juvenile specimen, DSB/1 [26], x 120
   8a Lateral view, DSB/1 [3], x 80
   8b Upper view, DSB/1 [3], x 80
   8c Enlarged part of accessory nodes, DSB/1 [3], x 400
   9a Upper view, DSB/1 [4], x 80
   9b Enlarged part of weakly developed accessory nodes, DSB/1 [4], x 300
Plate 2

1, 2 *Dutkevitchia complicata* (Schellwien, 1898)
   1 Slightly oblique section DSB/1 [1], x 10
   2 Axial and sagittal section DSB/1 [4], x 10

3 *Quasifusulina cf. tenuissima* (Schellwien, 1898)
   Axial section DSB/3, x 10

4 *Boultonia willsi* Lee, 1927
   DSB/2, x 50
Lower Permian conodonts from the Karavanke Mts. (Slovenia)