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Middle Givetian to late Famennian (Middle to Late Devonian) conodonts from the northern margin of Gondwana (Kerman region, Central Iran)

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Abstract

The Givetian to Famennian (Middle-Upper Devonian) Bahram Formation deposits (Bondar and Shahzadeh Mohammad sections) in the Kerman region, Central Iran were sampled for conodonts. The conodonts were described, their distribution investigated, and the studied sections were correlated. In the previous conodont-based papers, the age of the Bahram Formation in the Kerman region was from the upper Givetian *hermanni* Zone to the middle Famennian Uppermost *marginifera* Zone (Middle to Late Devonian). However, the new results of this study show that the Bondar section spans from the middle Givetian *ansatus* Zone to the upper Famennian (middle part of the Middle *expansa* Zone=*Bispathodus aculeatus aculeatus* Zone) and the Shahzadeh Mohammad section spans from the middle Givetian *ansatus* Zone to the lower Famennian (Uppermost *crepida=Palmatolepis glabra pectinata*) Zone. In both of the studied sections, the Givetian/Frasnian boundary has been identified by the first occurrence of

Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina, but there is no obvious (sedimentological or biostratigraphic) evidence to define the Frasnian/Famennian boundary.

Keywords: conodont, Devonian, Givetian, Frasnian, Famennian, biostratigraphy.

Introduction

Iran was situated at the northern margin of Gondwana, at 20°-25° S of the equator during the Devonian (Wendt et al. 2002) and has been separated from the Gondwanan-Arabian plate since the late Palaeozoic (Berberian and King 1981). In Central Iran, Devonian sedimentary rocks are widely exposed in the Tabas and Kerman regions. Devonian to Lower Carboniferous deposits of Central Iran are divided into the following formations (and their local equivalents/synonyms): Padeha (red siliciclastics; Lower to lower Middle Devonian), Sibzar (only patchily developed; dolomite; (upper Middle Devonian), Bahram (limestones; upper Middle and Upper Devonian), Sardar (siliciclastics, mainly conglomerates; Lower Carboniferous) and Hutk Formation (carbonate platform facies; Lower Carboniferous) (Wendt et al. 2002). Among them, the Bahram Formation is of particular interest because this formation has the best potential for studying Devonian paleontological and depositional records in Central Iran. The Bahram Formation was deposited during the late Middle to Late Devonian (Givetian- Famennian) in Central Iran as a segment of the northern margin of Gondwana (Wendt et al. 2002; Bahrami et al. 2015). Deposits of the Bahram Formation comprise 100 to over 450 m of thick successions of marine limestones (from shallow open marine and temporarily restricted conditions), with shale siliciclastic layers interbedded. The latter originated from local clastic influx from nearby eroded land areas (Wendt et al. 2002; Ghorbani 2019). Generally, the limestones of the Bahram Formation are very fossiliferous and contain conodonts, brachiopods, stromatoporoids, crinoids, tentaculitids,

bryozoans, tabulate and rugose corals, trilobites and rare molluscs. Deposits of the Bahram Formation or their equivalents were observed (if not eroded before the Permian transgression) all over northern, central and eastern Iran (Wendt et al. 2002). Bahram Formation is equivalent with Kereshk Formation (Davaran Mountains, NW of Kerman), Rahdar Formation (Kalmard area, W Tabas), Khoshyeilagh Formation (eastern Elburz, N Iran), Geirud Formation (central Elburz, N Iran), and Ilangareh Formation (Azarbayjan, NW Iran). Besides, parts of the Zarand Formation (Devonian-Tournaisian), correspond to Bahram Formation. Zarand Formation which is a heterogeneous sequence of mainly red sandstones, quartzites, shales (in some layers grey or black), laminated dolomites, and very rare limestones, was previously mapped as Padeha, Sibzar, Bahram, Shishtu and Sardar formations (Wendt et al. 2002). Wendt et al. (2002) proposed to abandon the term "Shishtu Formation" (Famennian/Lower Tournaisian) because it cannot be clearly distinguished from the Bahram Formation and consequently, it was considered as Bahram Formation. This Formation was deposited under shallow-water conditions, and it is difficult to find the pelagic conodonts generally used in the standard Devonian conodont zonations (Ziegler and Sandberg 1990; Spalletta et al. 2017, etc). There is a long stratigraphic gap between the Devonian deposits and the oldest rocks in Central Iran. In the Kerman region, the Devonian strata directly overlay the oldest sequence with different contact and it is difficult to recognize this contact. Devonian succession overlaid rocks attributed to the early Cambrian in the Sare-Ashk (Bahrami et al. 2014), Shahzadeh Mohammad (this study), Hur (Ahmadi et al. 2012), Hojedk (Gholamalian & Kebriaei 2008) and Shams-Abad (Bahrami et al. 2011) sections, overlaid Ordovician rocks in the Banestan and Rizu sections (Wendt et al. 2002, 2005), overlaid rocks attributed to the Early Silurian in Shabjareh and Sultan Abad sections (Wendt et al. 2002, 2005).

The main objectives of this study are to improve the biostratigraphic data of the Bahram Formation, by discriminating the recognized conodont fauna, and to discuss the stratigraphic range of the Bahram Formation in Bondar and Shahzadeh Mohammad sections in the north of Kerman (northern margin of Gondwana). Besides, the studied sections will be compared with other sections of the Bahram Formation in the Kerman region.

Previous Work

The first reports on the presence of Devonian and Lower Carboniferous deposits in Iran were published by Viquesnel (1850) and Loftus (1855). Huckriede et al. (1962) described the regional geology and stratigraphy of the Kerman to Saghand areas from Central Iran. Wendt et al. (1997, 2002) provided a more comprehensive overview of stratigraphy, facies, and paleogeography of Central Iran. Because of its abundant and diverse biota as well as its position in the northern margin of Gondwana, the Bahram Formation moved into the focus of scientific researches during the last 20 years. The macrofossil fauna of Bahram Formation was intensively studied; trilobites (Morzadec et al. 2002), crinoids (Webster, 2003), fish remains (Janvier, 1974; Golshani et al., 1972 and Golshani and Lapparent, 1973), brachiopods (Brice, 1999a & 1999b; Bassett and Dastanpour, 1998), corals (Rohart, 1999), stromatoporoid (Mistiaen, 1999). The palynomorphs (acritarchs and miospheres) were studied by Ghavidel Syooki et al. (2011). The conodont faunas have been previously described in some papers (Ahmadi et al. 2012; Bahrami et al. 2011; Bahrami et al. 2014; Gholamalian 2006; Gholamalian and Kebriaei 2008; Nasehi 2018), but not for entire Bahram Formation sequence. Dastanpour (1996) and Dastanpour and Aftabi (2002) worked on the geochemistry and sequence stratigraphy of Devonian strata in Kerman. Hashmie

et al. (2016) studied the sequence stratigraphy and depositional environments of the Bahram Formation in N Kerman.

Geological setting

Iran is divided into eight geological provinces; each has its own distinct tectonic and sedimentary history. These geological provinces are (1) Zagros (2) Sanandaj–Sirjan (3) Orumieh–Dokhtar magmatic arc, (4) Central Iran, (5) Alborz, (6) Kopeh Dagh, (7) Lut, (8) Makran accretionary prism (Heydari et al. 2003; Aghanabati 2004). The geology and especially the tectonic structure of Iran are highly influenced by the development and history of the Tethyan region (Alavi 2004; Reichert 2007). Iran represents a mosaic of continental blocks separated from each other by fold-and-thrust belts formed during the opening and closure of the Tethyan oceanic basins during three major evolutionary stages (Reichert 2007).

The study area is located in Central Iran province. During the Paleozoic, the Central Iran and Zagros fold belt were part of the northern margin of Gondwana (Berberian and King 1981; Wendt et al. 2002) which during the Devonian period was situated at 20-25° S of the equator (Golonka et al. 1994; Wendt et al. 2002). This cratonic area was covered by a large shelf sea and was separated from northern Elburz and Kopet Dagh as part of the southern margin of Laurasia (Turan Plate) by the Palaeo-Tethys (Wendt et al. 2002). Devonian deposits of the studied area are divided into the Padeha and Bahram formations.

Material and methods

Ninety-five conodont samples (4–5 kg each) have been collected from the Bahram Formation: 40 samples from the Shahzadeh Mohammad section, and 55 samples from the Bondar section. The

samples were processed with the conventional acetic acid technique. The conodonts were extracted from residues by hand-picking. 66 samples yielded conodonts (29 samples from the Shahzadeh Mohammad section and 37 samples from the Bondar section). 1744 conodonts were collected (Tab. 1, 2). In general, the preservation of the conodont elements is good; however, some specimens are broken or incomplete. Conodonts are stored at the Department of Geology (sample numbers: EUIC), University of Isfahan, I.R. Iran. Repository numbers of the figured specimens are provided in the explanations of plates. Conodont abundance and diversity are low for both studied sections.

Lithostratigraphy

Bondar section

The Bondar section is located in a small gorge between the villages of Bondar and Sardar, 8 km east of Chatroud town and about 43 km north of Kerman, at geographic coordinates 30°49'38" N, 57°02'04" E, where a relatively complete succession from Lower Devonian (Padeha Formation) to Permian rocks (Jamal Formation) is exposed (Fig.1).

The section is mapped in the Zarand geological Map (scale, 1: 100,000; Vahdati Daneshmand 1995). Several faults have disrupted the rock sequences of the area, resulting in Paleozoic sediments being found adjacent to Triassic and Tertiary deposits. In the Bondar area, the Devonian is represented by more than 750 m of sediments, including deposits of the Padeha and Bahram formations (Lower-Upper Devonian).

The oldest exposed rock unit in the Bondar section is represented by red shale, sandstones, and white quartzite of the Padeha Formation (Lower Devonian) which is disconformably overlaid by the Bahram Formation, which consists of 458 m of terrigenous sediments, carbonate and biostromal limestones.

The Bahram Formation in the studied area can be divided into seven sedimentological packages. They are from base to top as follows:

1) Red sandstone, purple shale, and white quartzites with cross-bedding (from 0 to 22 meters).

2) Sandy limestone, dolomitic limestone, limestone with brachiopods, crinoids, and bryozoans (from 22 to 94 meters).

3) Biostromal limestone with rugose and tabulate corals, stromatoporoid, brachiopods, crinoids, and bryozoans (from 94 to 125 meters).

4) White quartzite, siltstone, and silty calcareous mudstones, with an interbedded red-brown sandy limestone with numerous fish-remains (from 125 to 224 meters).

5) Sandy limestone, dolomitic limestone, limestone with brachiopods, crinoids, and bryozoans (from 224 to 373 meters).

6) White to yellow sandstone, black shale, siltstone, and white quartzite, with cross-bedding (from 373 to 392 meters).

 Dolomite, oolitic limestone, and limestone with brachiopods, crinoids, and bryozoans (from 392 to 448 meters).

The Bahram Formation is disconformably overlaid by the limestones of the Hutk Formation (Tournaisian?) (Figs. 2 and 3).

Shahzadeh Mohammad section

The Shahzadeh Mohammad section is located west of long Bidou gorge, between the villages of Shahzadeh Mohammad and Gerik, 33 km east of Zarand, at geographic coordinates 30°48′25″ N, 56°55′55″ E. In the western flank of the Bidou syncline, an uplift exposed the thickest and most

complete succession of the Devonian, tectonically packed between Lower Cambrian Daho Formation and the Permian Jamal Formation.

This section is mapped in the Zarand geological Map (scale, 1: 100,000; Vahdati Daneshmand 1995), and limited by the Darcinoie fault on the west (Fig. 1).

The oldest unit in this area is the Dahu Formation (Lower Cambrian) composed of a thick succession of red sandstones and red shales disconformably overlaid by Devonian Padeha Formation (Wendt et al. 2002). In this area, more than 400 m of Devonian sediments, including the Padeha and Bahram formations, are exposed. The Padeha Formation consists of more than 100 m of arkosic sandstone, dolomite, and red shale with a few limestone beds.

The Bahram Formation is about 300 m thick and can be subdivided into nine sedimentological packages from bottom to top. (Fig. 4):

1) Sandstone, sandy limestone, limestone, dolo limestone with brachiopods, crinoids, and bryozoans (from 0 to 38 meters).

2) Biostromal limestone with rugose and tabulate corals, stromatoporoid, brachiopods, crinoids, and bryozoans, which is twice as thick (near 63m) and better developed than at the Bondar section (from 38 to 100 meters).

3) Sandy limestone, limestone, dolo limestone with brachiopods, crinoids, bryozoans, and tentaculitids (from 100 to 133 meters).

4) White to yellow sandstone (from 133 to 138 meters).

5) Black shale (from 138 to 149 meters).

6) Siltstone and white quartzite, with cross-bedding (from 149 to 179 meters).

 Dolomite, oolitic limestone, and limestone with brachiopods, crinoids, bryozoans (from 179 to 261 meters). 8) Black shale (from 261 to 270 meters).

9) Limestone, dolo limestone with brachiopods, crinoids, bryozoans (from 270 to 293 meters). The upper boundary of the Bahram Formation is disconformably overlaid by an erosional surface and a thin paleo-soil horizon at the base of Jamal Formation (Permian) (Fig. 2i).

Biostratigraphy

1744 conodonts were collected (Tabs. 1, 2). 54 taxa belonging to eight genera (*Ancyrodella*, *Bispathodus*, *Clydagnathus*, *Icriodus*, *Pandorinellina*, *Pelekysgnathus*, *Polygnathus*, and *Pseudopolygnathus*) were determined. The color alteration of conodonts is beyond the diagenetic stage (CAI 4 - 4.5), which is included in the anchizone (range of value from 4 to 5.49).

Here we follow Givetian zonations presented in Bultynck (1987), Narckiewicz and Bultynck (2007, 2010) and Liao & Valenzuela-Ríos (2017). The Frasnian Zones of Klapper (1989), which were updated by Klapper and Kirchgasser (2016), as well as their correlation to Ziegler and Sandberg (1990) zonations are the base of Frasnian biostratigraphy. Famennian biostratigraphy was done based on the Ziegler and Sandberg (1990) and Spalletta et al. (2017) zonations.

Bondar section

A total of 789 conodont elements recorded in the Bondar section lead discriminate of the following biostratigraphic intervals (Fig. 3; Tab. 1).

ansatus Zone

The lower limit of this interval is recognized by the first appearance of *Polygnathus ansatus* in sample B1. The first occurrence of *Polygnathus ansatus* is at the base of the *ansatus* Zone

(Bultynck 1987; Narkiewicz & Bultynck 2007, 2010; Liao & Valenzuela-Rios 2017). The upper limit can be identified by the last presence of *Icriodus lindensis*. The last occurrence of *Icriodus lindensis* is within the lower part of the *ansatus* Zone (Narkiewicz & Bultynck 2007). Other associated species are *Icriodus arkonensis walliserianus*, *I. brevis*, *I. difficilis*, *I.* cf. *lilliputensis*, *Polygnathus* cf. *denisbriceae*, *P. rhenanus*, *P. varcus*, and *P. xylus*.

Upper *hermanni* to lower part of the Lower *falsiovalis* (*norrisi*) zones

This interval can be recognized by the entry of *Icriodus subterminus* for the base in sample B7 and the entry of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina*, which identifies the base of the next biozone. The first occurrence of *Icriodus subterminus* is in the uppermost part of the Upper *hermanni* Zone, (Narkiewicz & Bultynck 2010). Other associated species are *Icriodus brevis*, *Icriodus difficilis*, *I. excavatus*, *Polygnathus dubius*, and *P. xylus*.

Upper part of the Lower *falsiovalis* (Frasnian Zone 1) to middle part of the Upper *falsiovalis* zones

The start of this interval is defined by the entry of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina* in sample B11. According to Klapper and Kirchgasser (2016), the entry of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina* indicates the base of the Frasnian; the first occurrence of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina* is within the Lower *falsiovalis* Zone (Ji & Ziegler 1993). The top of this interval is identified by the occurrence of *Polygnathus ovatinodosus* in sample B12. The range of *Polygnathus ovatinodosus* was reported as high as the top of the Lowermost *asymmetricus* Zone by Klapper and Ziegler (1979) which is equivalent to the middle part of the Upper *falsiovalis*

Zone. Other associated species are *Icriodus difficilis*, *I. excavatus*, *I. subterminus*, *Polygnathus alatus*, *P. praepolitus*, *P. webbi and P. xylus*.

Upper part of the Upper *falsiovalis* (lower part of Frasnian Zone 3) to the *transitans* (Frasnian Zone 4) zones

The base of this interval can be recognized by the last occurrence of *Polygnathus ovatinodosus* at the top of the previous interval sample B12. The top of this interval is identified by the entry of *Polygnathus zinaidae* in sample B18, which has its first occurrence within the *punctata* Zone (Ovnatanova & Kononova 2001). Other associated species are *Icriodus excavatus, I. subterminus, Polygnathus alatus,* and *P. webbi.*

Upper *hassi* (Frasnian Zone 9 and 10) to upper part of the Lower *rhenana* (lower part of Frasnian Zone 12) zones

The entry of *Polygnathus politus* in sample B19, which ranges from the Upper *hassi* to the *linguiformis* zones (Narkiewicz and Narkiewicz 2008), define the base of this interval. The upper limit can be identified by the last presence of *Icriodus cedarensis* and *Polygnathus praepolitus* in sample B32. The last occurrence of *Icriodus cedarensis* is within the lower part of Frasnian Zone 12 (Narkiewicz & Bultynck 2010). Likewise, the last occurrence of *Polygnathus praepolitus* is within the lower part of Frasnian Zone 12 (Ovnatanova & Kononova 2001). Associated species are *Icriodus excavatus*, *I. expansus*, *I. subterminus*, *Polygnathus aequalis*, *P. alatus*, *P. aspelundi*, *P. seraphimae*, *P. webbi* and *P. zinaidae*.

Uppermost part of the Lower *rhenana* (middle part of Frasnian Zone 12) to Upper *rhenana* (middle part of Frasnian Zone 13) zones

This interval is limited between the last occurrence of *Icriodus cedarensis* and *Polygnathus praepolitus* for the base in sample B32 and the last occurrence of *I. excavatus* in sample B34 for the top. According to Gholamalian and Kebriaei (2008), *Icriodus excavatus* became extinct in the Upper *rhenana* Zone. *Polygnathus angustidiscus* is associated species.

Linguiformis (Frasnian Zone 13b) to Palmatolepis triangularis (Lower triangularis) zones

The base of this interval is characterized by the last occurrence of *I. excavatus* at the top of the previous interval and the top is coincident with the base of the next one by the first appearance of *Pelekysgnathus inclinatus* and *Icriodus cornutus*. *Icriodus alternatus alternatus*, *I. iowaensis iowaensis*, and *Polygnathus angustidiscus* are associated species.

Palmatolepis delicatula platys (Middle *triangularis*) to *Pseudopolygnathus granulosus* (Upper *trachytera*) zones

The base is defined by the first appearance of *Pelekysgnathus inclinatus* and *Icriodus cornutus* in sample B41, and the top of this interval is corresponding with the base of the next interval. The lowest occurrence of both *Icriodus cornutus* and *Pelekysgnathus inclinatus* is within the Middle *triangularis* Zone (Sandberg and Dreesen 1984; Huang and Gong 2016). Other associated species is *Polygnathus brevilaminus*.

Polygnathus styriacus (Lower postera) to Palmatolepis gracilis expansa (Lower expansa) zones

The base is recognized by the occurrence of *Polygnathus communis collinsoni* in sample B44, which has its first occurrence within the Lower *poster*a Zone (Druce 1969). The top of this interval is coincident with the base of the next interval. Associated species are: *Bispathodus stabilis vulgaris, Pandorinellina* cf. *insita sensu* Sandberg and Ziegler (1979), *Pelekysgnathus inclinatus, Polygnathus communis,* and *P. com. dentatus*.

Bispathodus aculeatus aculeatus (Lower part of the Middle expansa) Zone

The base is recognized by the first occurrence of *Clydagnathus plumulus* and *Bispathodus aculeatus anteposicornis* in sample B49, and the top is coincident with the last occurrence of *Clydagnathus tragelehni* in sample B50.

The first occurrence of *Clydagnathus plumulus* is at the base of the Middle *expansa* Zone (Hartenfels 2011). The first occurrence of *Bispathodus aculeatus anteposicornis* is within the Middle *expansa* Zone (Ziegler et al. 1974). The last occurrence of *Clydagnathus tragelehni* is in the middle part of the Middle *expansa* Zone (Hartenfels 2011). Associated species are *Clydagnathus ormistoni, Pseudopolygnathus primus*.

Shahzadeh Mohammad section

The Shahzadeh Mohammad section yielded 955 conodont elements enabling discrimination of the following biozonal intervals (Fig. 4; Table 2).

ansatus to Lower hermanni zones

The lower boundary of this interval is recognized with the lowest appearance of *Polygnathus ansatus* in sample Sh7 that is the zonal index (Ziegler et al. 1976). According to Narkiewicz &

Bultynck (2007, 2010) and Aboussalam (2003), this species ranges from the base of the *ansatus* Zone to the Upper *hermanni* Zone; but Bardashev (1992) extended its upper range to the Lower *disparilis* Zone. This upper range is confirmed by Gouwy et al. (2016).

The upper limit can be identified by the first presence of *Icriodus subterminus* at the base of the next interval.

Other associated species are *Icriodus arkonensis arkonensis*, *I. brevis*, *I. difficilis, Polygnathus varcus and P. xylus*.

Upper hermanni to norrisi zones

The lower limit of this interval is defined by the entry of *Icriodus subterminus* in sample Sh9, its upper boundary by the entry of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina* at the base of Frasnian, in sample Sh12 (Fig. 2g). The occurrence of *Icriodus subterminus* indicates the upper part of the Upper *hermanni* Zone according to Narkiewicz and Bultynck (2010). Other associated species are *Icriodus brevis, Polygnathus alatus, P. ovatinodosus, P. varcus*, and *P. xylus*.

Upper part of the Lower *falsiovalis* (Frasnian Zone 1) to Upper *falsiovalis* (Frasnian Zone 3) zones

The lower limit of this interval is identified by the entry of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina* in level Sh12, its upper limit by the entry of *Polygnathus aequalis* in sample Sh13. The entry of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina* defines the upper part of the Lower *falsiovalis* Zone, equivalent to the base of the Frasnian Zone 1. Other associated species are *Icriodus expansus, I. symmetricus, I. tafilaltensis, Polygnathus alatus, P. dubius, P. praepolitus, and P. webbi.*

transitans (Frasnian Zone 4) Zone

The lower boundary is recognized by the lowest occurrence of *Polygnathus aequalis* in sample Sh13, which ranges from the *transitans* Zone to the Lower *rhenana* Zone (Barskov et al. 1991; Ji & Ziegler 1993). Gholamalian (2007) extended the range of this species to the *linguiformis* Zone. The upper boundary is defined by the lowest occurrence of *Polygnathus seraphimae* and *Polygnathus zinaidae* in sample Sh18. Other associated species are: *Ancyrodella* sp., *Icriodus difficilis*, *I. subterminus*, *I. symmetricus*, *Polygnathus alatus*, *P. praepolitus*, and *P. webbi*.

punctata (Frasnian Zone 5 and 6) to Upper hassi (Frasnian Zone 9 and 10) zones

This interval is limited by the lowest occurrence of *Polygnathus seraphimae* and *Polygnathus zinaidae* in level Sh18, and the highest occurrence of *Icriodus expansus* in sample Sh24, which, according to Bultynck (2003), may reach the Upper *hassi* Zone. This species reaches the end of Upper Semiluki Regional Stage in Ovnatanova & Kononova 2001, which corresponds to the *punctata*–Late *hassi* zones of the Standard Conodont Zonation (Ovnatanova & Kononova 2008, 2020). The first occurrences of *Polygnathus seraphimae* and *Polygnathus zinaidae* are in the *punctata* Zone (Ovnatanova & Kononova 2001). Other associated species are *Icriodus excavatus*, *Polygnathus alatus*, and *P. praepolitus*.

Lower *rhenana* (upper part of Frasnian Zone 11-lower part of Frasnian Zone 12) to Upper *rhenana* (upper part of Frasnian Zone 12 to Frasnian Zone 13a) zones

The lower limit is indicated by the entry of *Icriodus iowaensis iowaensis* in sample Sh25, and the upper limit is marked by the entry of *Polygnathus brevilaminus* at the base of the next interval. The lowest occurrence of *Icriodus iowaensis iowaensis* is within the Lower *rhenana* Zone

(Bahrami et al. 2013). Other associated species are *Polygnathus aspelundi*, *P. praepolitus*, *P.* cf. *seraphimae*, and *P. webbi*.

linguiformis (Frasnian Zone 13b) Zone

The base of this interval can be identified by the first occurrence of *Polygnathus brevilaminus* in sample Sh32, which ranges from within the *linguiformis* (Schülke 1995) to the Upper *trachytera* (Hartenfels 2011) zones; the upper limit is recognized by the unique occurrence of *Polygnathus krestovnikovi* in sample Sh33, which, according to Narkiewicz and Narkiewicz (2008) and Ovnatanova and Kononova (2008), became extinct within the *linguiformis* Zone. Other associated species are *Icriodus alternatus alternatus, I. iowaensis iowaensis, Polygnathus aequalis* and *P. angustidiscus*.

Palmatolepis delicatula platys (Middle triangularis) to Palmatolepis crepida (Lower crepida) zones

The lower boundary is characterized by the appearance of *Pelekysgnathus inclinatus* and *Icriodus cornutus* in sample Sh35, and the upper boundary is defined by the entry of *Polygnathus semicostatus* at the base of the next interval. The first occurrence of both *Icriodus cornutus* and *Pelekysgnathus inclinatus* is within the *Pa. delicatula platys* (Middle *triangularis*) Zone (Sandberg and Dreesen 1984; Huang and Gong 2016). Other associated species are *Icriodus alternatus alternatus*, *I. iowaensis iowaensis, Polygnathus angustidiscus, P. brevilaminus*.

Palmatolepis termini (Middle *crepida*) to *Palmatolepis glabra pectinata* (Uppermost *crepida*) zones

This interval is limited by the first occurrence of *Polygnathus semicostatus* in sample Sh38, that ranges from the *termini* (=Middle *crepida*) to the *Bispathodus ultimus* (Upper *expansa*) zones (Ji & Ziegler 1993) and the last occurrence of *Icriodus alternatus alternatus* and *Polygnathus procerus* in sample Sh40, which both have their last occurrence within the *Pa. glabra pectinata* (Uppermost *crepida*) Zone (Bultynck 2003; Corradini 2003; Spalletta et al. 2017). Other associated species are *Icriodus cornutus, I. iowaensis iowaensis, Pelekysgnathus inclinatus, Pel. serradentatus* and *Polygnathus brevilaminus*.

Discussion and Conclusions

The Bondar and Shahzadeh Mohammad sections as the most complete successions of the Bahram Formation in the Kerman region were studied based on the conodont fauna. This research provides new data from the northern margin of Gondwana. This work represents a good example of the regional correlation of the Devonian sequences from the Kerman region (Central Iran) where deposits are characterized by different paleoconditions and sedimentation pulses. The main results are discussed and interpreted below.

Due to synsedimentary tectonic movements, the Bahram Formation in Kerman was yielded different thicknesses and sedimentation pattern, which are visible in nearby sections. For example, the Sardar section (Gholamalian et al. 2015) and the Bondar section have been measured only a few km apart, but their age and thicknesses differ significantly. In the Sardar section, the *linguiformis* Zone shows about 25 m, whereas in the Bondar section the same stratigraphic interval is documented by about 90 m of rocks.

One of the main features of the Bahram Formation is biostroms that well developed in both of the studied sections. The age of biostroms are different and they are occurred within or between the different biozones in different sections: Lower to Upper falsiovalis zones in the Baghin (Gholamalian et al. 2013; Gholamalian et al. 2011) and Hojedk (Gholamalian & Kebriaei 2008) sections, the upper part of the Upper *falsiovalis* to the *transitans* zones in the Bondar section and transitans Zone in the Shahzadeh Mohammad section (this study), transitans to punctata zones in the Sardar section (Gholamalian et al. 2015), transitans to Upper hassi zones in the Sar-e-Ashk section (Bahrami et al. 2014), Upper hassi to jamieae zones in the Gerik section (Gholamalian et al. 2014), Early hassi to jamieae zones in the Hutk section (Gholamalian 2006), and Upper rhenana to linguiformis zones in the Hur section (Ahmadi et al. 2012). This diachronism is more likely due to the close relationship of the corals to the paleoecological conditions. So that the favorable conditions for coral flourishing were provided at different ages. The thickness of the Bahram Formation is very different in the Kerman region; it ranges from 100 m in the Horik section to over 450 m in the Bondar section. The variable thickness of the Bahram depends not only on the rate of subsidence and sediment accumulation but also on the level of the pre-Permian erosion (Wendt et al. 2002). In the Hur, Sar-e-Ashk and Baghin sections tectonic and erosion were maximum so that in these sections the higher Devonian biozone is represented by the Frasnian linguiformis Zone, whereas, in Bondar, Sardar, Hutk, Shahzadeh Mohammad and Shams Abad sections tectonic and erosion were minimum, the top of the formation reached respectively the Famennian Bi. aculeatus aculeatus - Bi. costatus (Middle expansa), Pseudopolygnathus granulosus (Upper trachytera), Pa. glabra prima (Upper crepida), Pa. glabra pectinata (Uppermost crepida) and Scaphignathus velifer velifer (Uppermost marginifera) zones (Fig. 5).

The oldest biozones reported from the Bahram Formation by the previous researchers belong to the upper Givetian *hermanni* Zone. Our analysis resulted in the identification of older biozones.

So, the middle Givetian (*ansatus* Zone) recorded for the first time by this study. Besides, upper Famennian (top of *Bi. aculeatus aculeatus*- base of *Bi. costatus* Zones = middle part of Middle *expansa* Zone), which is recognized in the Bondar section, is the youngest age reported for the Bahram Formation, in the Kerman region. The above-mentioned new results strongly confirm that the Bondar and Shahzadeh Mohammad stratigraphic sections are the most complete successions of the Bahram Formation in the Kerman region. The Givetian Frasnian boundary is identified by the entry of *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina* in samples B11 and Sh12 in the Bondar and Shahzadeh Mohammad sections respectively.

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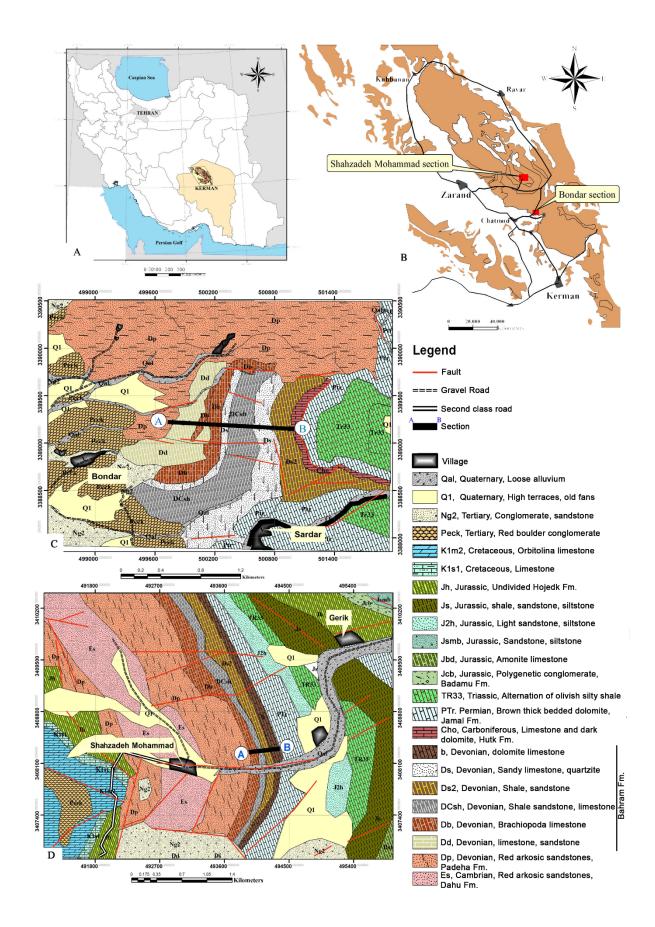


Fig. 1: A) Location of the studied sections in Central Iran. B) Location of the studied sections in Kerman. C) A geological map showing the Bondar section (modified after Vahdati Daneshmand 1995). D) A geological map showing the Shahzadeh Mohammad section (modified after Vahdati Daneshmand 1995).

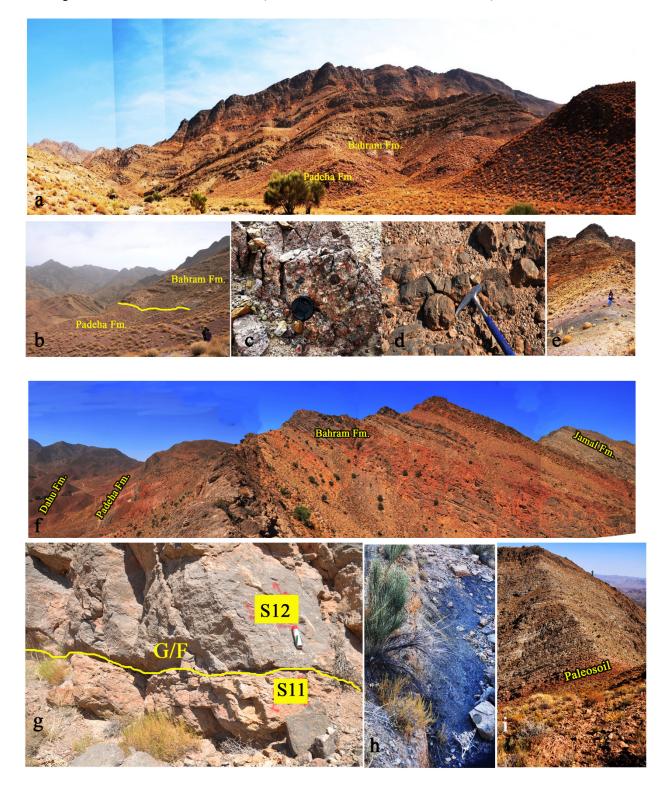


Fig. 2: Selected views of the studied sections. **a**) Panoramic view of the Bondar section. **b**) The boundary between the Padeha and the Bahram formations at the Bondar section. **c**) Close-up view of the basal conglomerate of the Bahram Formation at the Bondar section. **d**) Close-up view of a Hexagonarid coral in the lower part of the Bahram Formation at the Bondar section. **e**) Black shale in the upper part of the Bondar section (between beds B41 and B42, see Fig. 4). **f**) Panoramic view of the Paleozoic succession, from the Cambrian Dahu Formation, through the Devonian Padeha and Bahram formations, to the Permian Jamal Formation at the Shahzadeh Mohammad section. **g**) Close-up view of the Givetian-Frasnian boundary. **h**) Black shale in the middle part of the Shahzadeh Mohammad section (between beds Sh22 and Sh23, see Fig. 5). **i**) View of the paleosoil between the Devonian Bahram Formation.

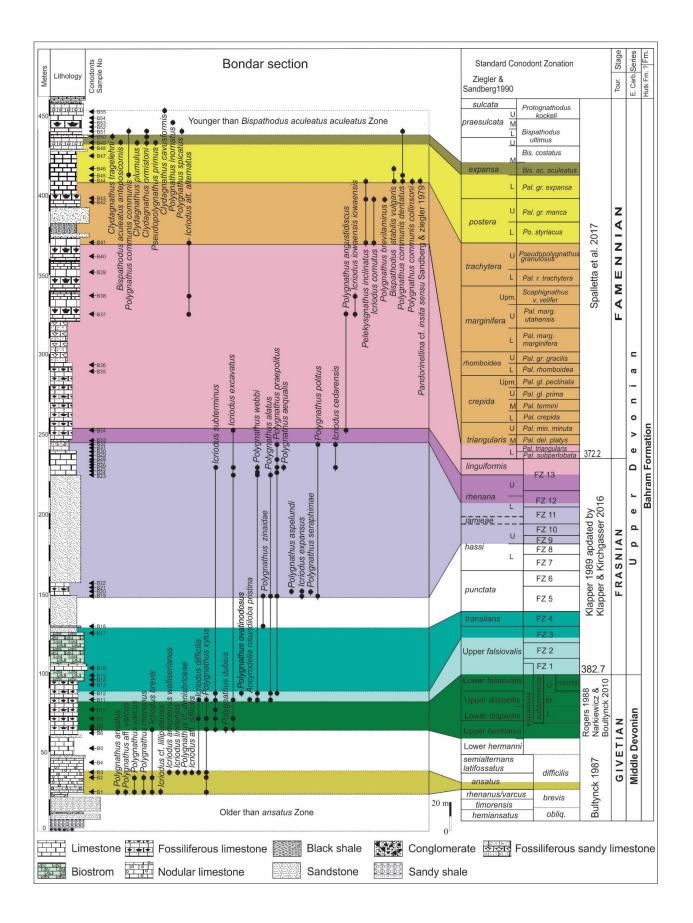


Fig. 3: Stratigraphic log, samples position, conodont occurrences and biozonation of the Bondar section. Abbreviations: L: Lower M: Middle, U: Upper, Upm: Uppermost, FZ are from Klapper and Kirchgasser (2016), *Bis: Bispathodus, po: Polygnathus, Pal: Palmatolepis, obliq: obliquimarginatus del: delicatula, min: minuta, gl: glabra, gr: gracilis, marg: marginifera, v: velifer, ac: aculeatus.*

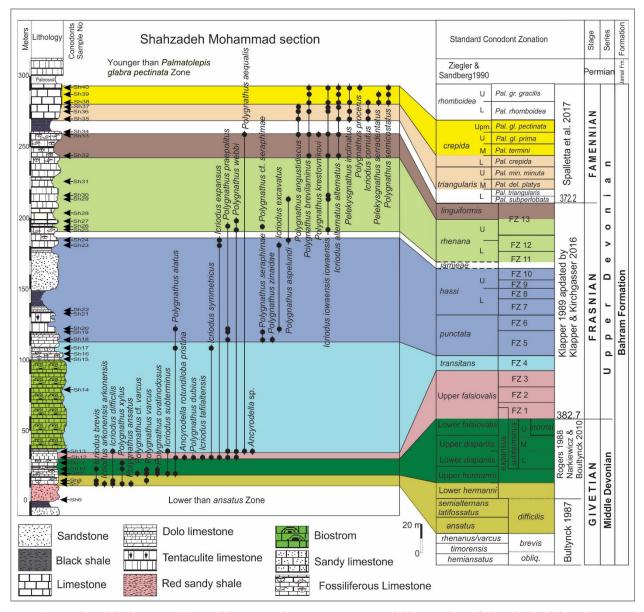


Fig. 4: Stratigraphic log, samples position, conodont occurrences and biozonation of the Shahzadeh Mohammad section. Abbreviations: L: Lower M: Middle, U: Upper, Upm: Uppermost, FZ are from Klapper and Kirchgasser (2016), *Bis: Bispathodus, po: Polygnathus, Pal: Palmatolepis, obliq: obliquimarginatus, del: delicatula, min: minuta, gl: glabra, gr: gracilis, marg: marginifera, v: velifer, ac: aculeatus.*

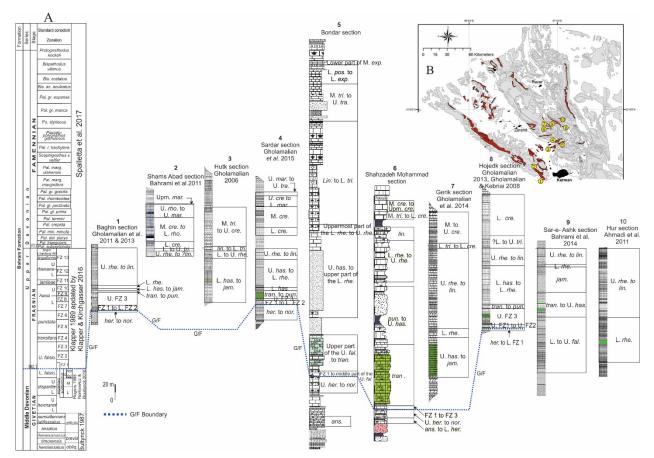


Fig. 5: A) Biostratigraphic correlation of the Bahram Formation stratigraphic sections in the Kerman region (Givetian to Famennian). Abbreviations used for zones: L: Lower, M: Middle, U: Upper, Upm: Uppermost, FZ are from Klapper and Kirchgasser (2016), *Bis: Bispathodus, po: Polygnathus, Pal: Palmatolepis, obliq: obliquimarginatus, ans: ansatus, her: hermanni, dis: disparilis, nor: norrisi, fal: falsiovalis, tran: transitans, pun: punctata, has: hassi, jam: jamieae, rhe: rhenana, lin: linguiformis, tri: triangularis, cre: crepida, rho: rhomboidea, mar: marginifera, tra: trachytera, pos:postera, exp: expansa, del: delicatula, min: minuta, gl: glabra, gr: gracilis, marg: marginifera, v: velifer, ac: aculeatus. B) Location of the Devonian sections in Kerman region.*

Species Sample	R1	B2	83	R6	B7	RQ	B10	R11	812 F	13 R1	8 81	820	B21	B22	B23	B24	225	R28 F	32	R34 F	337 B	38 B3	9 R4(R41	R42	B43	R44	R45	R46	R49	R50	R51 F	53 B54	R55	Total
Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina	DI	Da	155	Du	D /	107	DIU	1	512 1	15 151	o DI	10-0	1021	Daa	025	D24 1	74.0	D20 1	1.5 2	0.541	557 1	56 15	5 DT	1041	1042	1045		D45	1040	542	0.50	D 51 L	05 054	055	l
Bispathodus aculeatus anteposicornis								-			+	-				-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-			-	-	-	1		-	-		
Bispathodus stabilis vulgaris			-						-	-	+	+			-	-+	-+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+			2	-	3	-		-		\vdash	5
Clydagnathus cavusformis			-				_		-	+	+	+			-	-+	-+	-	-+	-	-	+	-	+			-	-	-	-	-	-+-			1
Clydagnathus ormistoni			-						-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	1	2	1	_		4
Clydagnathus plumulus			-						-	-	+	+			-	-	+	-+-	+	-+	-	+	+	+			-	-	-	2	2	1		\vdash	2
Clydagnathus tragelehni			-		_				-	+	+	+			-	-	+	-	+	-+	-	+	+	+			-	-	-	2	6	-			6
Icriodus alternatus alternatus									-	-	+	+			-	-	-+	-	+	-+	12	3	+	1			-	-	-	-	0	-	_	\vdash	16
Icriodus atternatus atternatus Icriodus arkonensis walliserianus			1						-	-	+	+			-	-	-	-	+	-	12	-	+	1			-	-	-	-	-	-		\vdash	10
Icriodus urkonensis waitisertanus Icriodus brevis	39	15	1		1				-	+	+	+			-	-+	\rightarrow	-+-	+	-+	-	+	+	+			-	-	-	-	-	-+-		\vdash	55
Icriodus cedarensis	39	15	-		1				-	-	+	+			-	-	5	-	1	-+	-	+	+	-			-	-	-	-	-	-			6
			-						-	-	-	-			-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		4	_	_	-	_		-	_	\vdash	5
Icriodus cornutus			2		_	3		4	-	-	-	+			-	-	\rightarrow	-	+	+	-	+	+	1		4	_	-	-	-	-	-		\vdash	9
Icriodus difficilis			2			3		4	-	_	+	+			-	-	\rightarrow	-	+	\rightarrow	-	_	-	-			_	-	-	-	_	-	_	\vdash	9
Icriodus aff. difficilis			1			-		2	-	-	+	-			0	-		-	-	-	-	_	-	-			_		-	_	_	-	_	\vdash	1
Icriodus excavatus					1	3		2	-	-	-	-			9	-	1	-	\rightarrow	2	-	-	-	-			_	_	-			-			18
Icriodus expansus									-	-	3	5				-	-	-	-	-			-	-			_		-			-			8
Icriodus iowaensis iowaensis									-		-	-			_	-	-	_	\rightarrow	-	4	4	-	-					_			-	_		8
Icriodus cf. lilliputensis	3								_			-			_	_	\rightarrow	_	\rightarrow	_				-			_		_						3
Icriodus lindensis			4						_		_	-			_	_	_	_	\rightarrow	_			-	-			_		_	_					4
Icriodus subterminus					3	21	8	36	23						_	_	5			\rightarrow				-					_						96
Pandorinellina cf. insita sensu Sandberg & Ziegler																											1								1
Pelekysgnathus inclinatus																								4		4	10								18
Polygnathus aequalis																	2																		2
Polygnathus alatus								47	7		9				3																				66
Polygnathus angustidiscus																				2	10														12
Polygnathus ansatus	5																																		5
Polygnathus aspelundi												10																							10
Polygnathus brevilaminus																										5									1
Polygnathus communis collinsoni																											2								2
Polygnathus communis communis																												1				1			2
Polygnathus communis dentatus																											1	1				1			3
Polygnathus cf. denisbriceae			1																																1
Polygnathus dubius					2																														2
Polygnathus inornatus																																	1		1
Polygnathus ovatinodosus									7																										7
Polygnathus politus											5								1																6
Polygnathus praepolitus									8		18					3	3	7	1																40
Polygnathus rhenanus	5	5										-																							10
Polygnathus seraphimae												5																							5
Polygnathus spicatus																			+													1			1
Polygnathus varcus	16	5																	+																21
Polygnathus aff. varcus	1																																		1
Polygnathus webbi	-							6	7						10	6	2		+																31
Polygnathus xylus	8	2	2		2	3		5								-	-		+																22
Polygnathus zinaidae	-	-	-		-	-		-		1	2					-	-		+		-	-	-	1								-			3
Pseudopolygnathus primus									-	-	-	-				-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-							1		-			1
Undetermined Bispathodus											+	-				-	+		+	+	-	-	-				3	1	-		3	-			7
Undetermined Clydagnathus												-				-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-			-	1	-		2	-	1		3
Undetermined Icriodus	6	10	2	5		11		2	-	-	6	6		4	3	8	2	-	+	-	-	1	-	-		2	1				-	-	-		69
Undetermined Teriodus Undetermined Polygnathus	20			2	4	23	4	7		1 2			1	6	7	0		2	-	3	12	5 2		4	1	6	2				2	1	1 1	\vdash	186
Total		68			4			110		1 3		36			32	17			3			2 3		10		21	22	3	4	5	15	5	3 1		789
1000	10.5	00	20	1	15	04	12	110	52	1 5	00	1.30	1	10	32	17	20	9	3	1	20	2 5	1	110	1	21	22	3	4	- 2	1.5	2	0 1	1	189

Tab 1: Range chart and abundance of conodont species in the Bondar section.

Species Sample	Sh7	Sh8	Sh9	Sh10	Sh11	Sh12	Sh13	Sh17	Sh18	Sh19	Sh20	Sh21	Sh23	Sh24	Sh25	Sh26	Sh27	Sh28	Sh29	Sh30	Sh32	Sh33	Sh34	Sh35	Sh36	Sh37	Sh38	Sh39	Sh40	Total
Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina						2																								2
Ancyrodella sp.							2																							2
Icriodus arkonensis arkonensis	2																													2
Icriodus alternatus alternatus																					10	3		30		2	5	23	35	108
Icriodus brevis	10	1		4																										15
Icriodus cornutus																								2	1		2			5
Icriodus difficilis	9	4					5																							18
Icriodus excavatus											1		1																	2
Icriodus expansus						12							1	1																14
Icriodus iowaensis iowaensis															6				30	1	34	25			3	2	5		21	127
Icriodus subterminus			7				16																							23
Icriodus symmetricus						3		8																						11
Icriodus tafilaltensis						3																								3
Pelekysgnathus inclinatus																								8	3		5		2	18
Pelekysgnathus serradentatus																											5	7		12
Polygnathus aequalis							21															2								23
Polygnathus alatus			3			3		4			1																			11
Polygnathus angustidiscus																						5		6	3	1				15
Polygnathus ansatus	9																													9
Polygnathus aspelundi														3					6											9
Polygnathus brevilaminus																					17	15			4		7	10	12	65
Polygnathus dubius						12																								12
Polygnathus krestovnikovi																						10								10
Polygnathus ovatinodosus			5	5																										10
Polygnathus praepolitus						9	7		1	12	1					7														37
Polygnathus procerus																													2	2
Polygnathus semicostatus																											4	42	24	70
Polygnathus seraphimae									1	2																				2
Polygnathus cf. seraphimae																2														2
Polygnathus varcus		5	8	5																										18
Polygnathus cf. varcus			1																											1
Polygnathus webbi						6	14								6		11													37
Polygnathus xylus	6			5	10																									21
Polygnathus zinaidae									1																					1
Undetermined Icriodus		5	3	2	10	9	6	20		3			1			1	3		8		5			18	3	1	2	15	8	123
Undetermined Polygnathus	9	3	6	10	7	3		2	8	9	5	1	2					3	2		4	3	1	14	4			10	8	114
Total	45	18	33	31	27	62	71	34	11	26	8	1	5	4	12	10	14	3	46	1	70	63	1	78	21	6	35	107	112	955

Tab 2: Range chart and abundance of conodont species in the Shahzadeh Mohammad section.

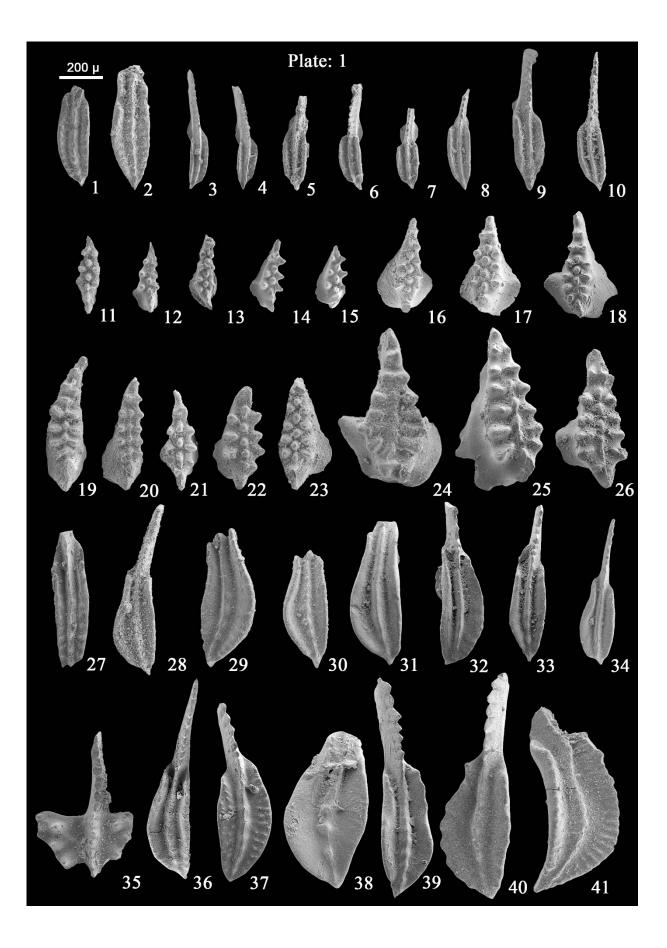


Plate 1 - Selected conodonts from the Bondar section. The collection is stored in the Department of Geology, University of Isfahan. All figured conodonts are P1 and/or I elements.

1, **2**- *Polygnathus ansatus* Ziegler & Klapper 1976 (in Ziegler, Klapper & Johnson 1976); (1) upper view of EUIC B235, Sample B1. (2) upper view of EUIC B254, Sample B1.

3, **4**- *Polygnathus rhenanus* Klapper, Philip & Jackson 1970; (3) upper view of EUIC B238, Sample B1; (4) upper view of EUIC B239, Sample B1.

5-7- *Polygnathus varcus* Stauffer 1940; (5) upper view of EUIC B300, Sample B2; (6) upper view of EUIC B241, Sample B1; (7) upper view of EUIC B256, Sample B1.

8- Polygnathus aff. varcus Stauffer 1940; upper view of EUIC B255, Sample B1.

9-10- *Polygnathus xylus* Stauffer 1940; (9) upper view of EUIC B240, Sample B1; (10) upper view of EUIC B286, Sample B2.

11-14- Icriodus brevis Stauffer 1940; (11) upper view of EUIC B264, Sample B1; (12) upper view of EUIC B271,

Sample B1; (13) upper view of EUIC B268, Sample B1; (14) upper view of EUIC B269, Sample B1.

15- Icriodus cf. lilliputensis Bultynck 1987; upper view of EUIC B277, Sample B1.

16, **17**- *Icriodus subterminus* Youngquist 1947; (16) upper view of EUIC B385, Sample B11; (17) upper view of EUIC B389, Sample B11.

18- Icriodus difficilis Ziegler, Klapper & Johnson 1976; upper view of EUIC B402, Sample B11.

19- Icriodus arkonensis walliserianus Weddige 1988; upper view of EUIC B311, Sample B3.

20- Icriodus aff. difficilis Ziegler, Klapper & Johnson 1976; upper view of EUIC B312, Sample B3.

21- Icriodus lindensis Weddige 1977; upper view of EUIC B315, Sample B3.

22, **23**- *Icriodus subterminus* Youngquist 1947; (22) upper view of EUIC B345, Sample B9; (23) upper view of EUIC B337, Sample B9.

24- Icriodus difficilis Ziegler, Klapper & Johnson 1976; upper view of EUIC B339, Sample B9.

25, 26- *Icriodus expansus* Branson & Mehl 1938; (25) upper view of EUIC B413, Sample B19; (26) upper view of EUIC B414, Sample B19.

27- Polygnathus cf. denisbriceae Bultynck 1979; upper view of EUIC B323, Sample B3.

28-30- *Polygnathus alatus* Huddle 1934; (28) upper view of EUIC B376, Sample B11; (29) upper view of EUIC B368, Sample B11; (30) upper view of EUIC B381, Sample B11.

31- *Polygnathus praepolitus* Kononova, Alekseev, Braskov & Reimers 1996; upper view of EUIC B417, Sample B19.

32, **33**- *Polygnathus politus* Ovnatanova 1969; (32) upper view of EUIC B418, Sample B19; (33) upper view of EUIC B419, Sample B19.

34- Polygnathus aspelundi Savage & Funai 1980; upper view of EUIC B422, Sample B20.

35- Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina, Khalymbadzha & Chernyscheva 1970; upper view of EUIC B367, Sample B11.

36- *Polygnathus praepolitus* Kononova, Alekseev, Braskov & Reimers 1996; upper view of EUIC B403, Sample B12.

37- Polygnathus ovatinodosus Ziegler & Klapper 1976; upper view of EUIC B405, Sample B12.

38, **39**- *Polygnathus zinaidae* Kononova, Alekseev, Braskov & Reimers 1996; (38) upper view of EUIC B412, Sample B18; (39) upper view of EUIC B420, Sample B19.

40- Polygnathus seraphimae Ovnatanova & Kononova 1996; upper view of EUIC B425, Sample B20.

41- Polygnathus webbi Stauffer 1938; upper view of EUIC B433, Sample B23.

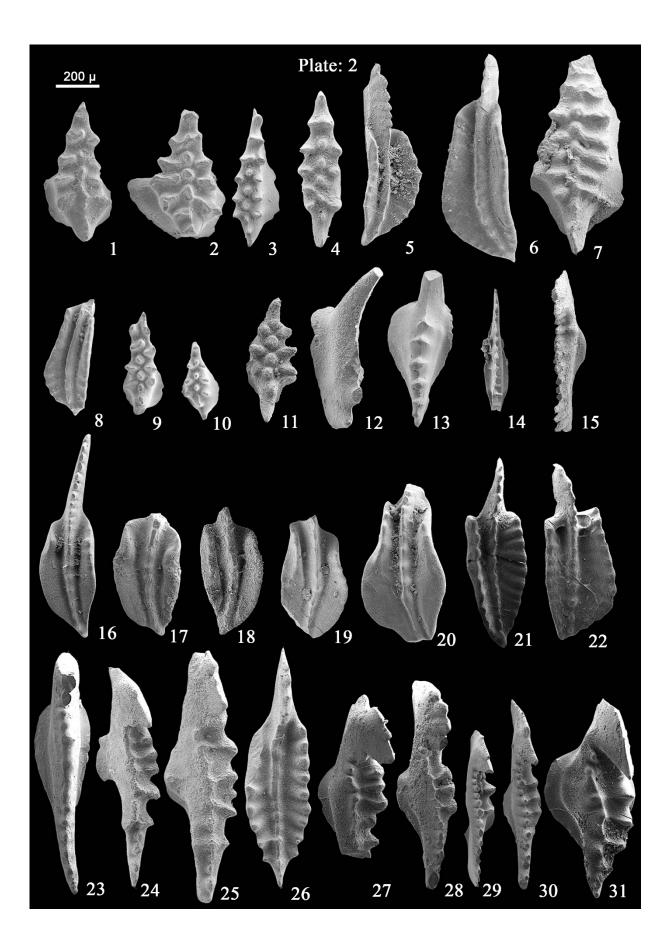


Plate 2: Selected conodonts from the Bondar section. The collection is stored in the Department of Geology, University of Isfahan. All figured conodonts are P1 and/or I elements.

1, **2**- *Icriodus excavatus* Weddige 1984; (1) upper view of EUIC B440, Sample B23; (2) upper view of EUIC B443, Sample B23.

3, **4**- *Icriodus alternatus alternatus* Branson & Mehl 1934; (3) upper view of EUIC B468, Sample B37; (4) upper view of EUIC B467, Sample B37.

5, **6**- *Polygnathus webbi* Stauffer 1938; (5) upper view of EUIC B448, Sample B24; (6) upper view of EUIC B450, Sample B25.

7- Icriodus iowaensis iowaensis Youngquist & Peterson 1947; upper view of EUIC B470, Sample B37.

8- Polygnathus aequalis Klapper and Lane (1985); (8) upper view of EUIC B452, Sample B25.

9, 10- *Icriodus cedarensis* Narkiewics & Bultynck 2010; (9) upper view of EUIC B458, Sample B25; (10) upper view of EUIC B460, Sample B25.

11- Icriodus cornutus Sannemann 1955; upper view of EUIC B477, Sample B43.

12, **13**- *Pelekysgnathus inclinatus* Thomas 1949; (12) oblique-lateral view of EUIC B479, Sample B43; (13) upper view of EUIC B483, Sample B44.

14- Bispathodus stabilis vulgaris Dzik 2006; upper view of EUIC B492, Sample B44.

15- Bispathodus aculeatus anteposicornis Scott 1961; upper view of EUIC B499, Sample B49.

16, **17**- *Polygnathus communis dentatus* Druce 1969; (16) upper view of EUIC B489, Sample B44; (17) upper view of EUIC B496, Sample B45.

18- Polygnathus communis communis Branson & Mehl 1934; upper view of EUIC B495, Sample B45.

19, 20- *Polygnathus communis collinsoni* Druce 1969; (19) upper view of EUIC B491, Sample B44; (20) upper view of EUIC B490, Sample B44.

21- Polygnathus spicatus Branson 1934; upper view of EUIC B515, Sample B51.

22- Polygnathus inornatus Branson & Mehl 1934; upper view of EUIC B517, Sample B53.

23- Pandorinellina cf. insita sensu Sandberg & Ziegler 1979; upper view of EUIC B486, Sample B44.

24, **25**- *Clydagnathus plumulus* Rhodes et al. 1969; (24) upper view of EUIC B501, Sample B49; (25) upper view of EUIC B502, Sample B49.

26- Pseudopolygnathus primus Branson & Mehl 1934; upper view of EUIC B503, Sample B49.

27- *Clydagnathus ormistoni* Beinert, Klapper, Sandberg & Ziegler 1971; upper view of EUIC B505, Sample B50.
28-30- *Clydagnathus tragelehni* Hartenfels 2011; (28) upper view of EUIC B506, Sample B50; (29) upper view of EUIC B508, Sample B50; (30) upper view of EUIC B509, Sample B50.

31- Clydagnathus ormistoni Beinert, Klapper, Sandberg & Ziegler 1971; upper view of EUIC B512, Sample B51.

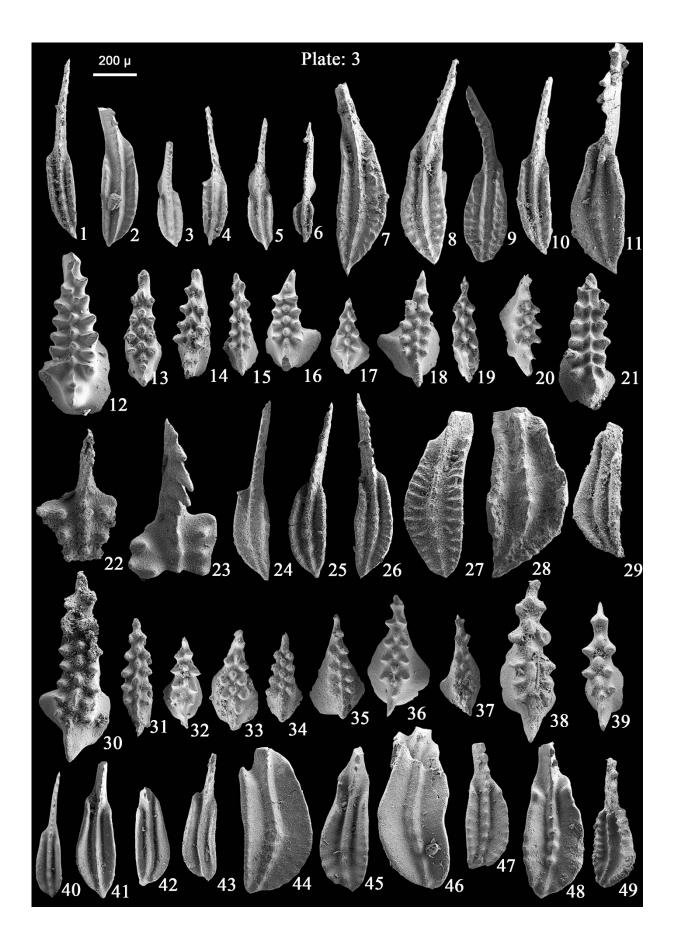


Plate 3 - Selected conodonts from the Shahzadeh Mohammad section. The collection is stored in the Department of Geology, University of Isfahan. All figured conodonts are P1 and/or I elements.

1- Polygnathus xylus Stauffer 1940; upper view of EUIC S519, Sample Sh7.

2- Polygnathus ansatus Ziegler & Klapper 1976 (in Ziegler, Klapper & Johnson 1976); upper view of EUIC S523, Sample Sh7.

3, **5-6**- *Polygnathus varcus* Stauffer 1940; (3) upper view of EUIC S543, Sample Sh8; (5) upper view of EUIC S551, Sample Sh9; (6) upper view of EUIC S557, Sample Sh10.

4- Polygnathus cf. varcus Stauffer 1940; upper view of EUIC S545, Sample Sh9.

7-9- Polygnathus ovatinodosus Ziegler & Klapper 1976; (7) upper view of EUIC S546, Sample Sh9; (8) upper view

of EUIC S547, Sample Sh9; (9) upper view of EUIC S560, Sample Sh10.

10- Polygnathus xylus Stauffer 1940; upper view of EUIC S558, Sample Sh10.

11- Polygnathus alatus Huddle 1934; upper view of EUIC S568, Sample Sh12.

12- Icriodus arkonensis arkonensis Stauffer 1938; upper view of EUIC S527, Sample Sh7.

13-15, 19, 20- Icriodus brevis Stauffer 1940; (13) upper view of EUIC S530, Sample Sh7; (14) upper view of EUIC

S534, Sample Sh7; (15) upper view of EUIC S555, Sample Sh10; (19) upper view of EUIC S529, Sample Sh7; (20) upper view of EUIC S538, Sample Sh8.

16-18- *Icriodus difficilis* Ziegler, Klapper & Johnson 1976; (16) upper view of EUIC S532, Sample Sh7; (17) upper view of EUIC S539, Sample Sh8; (18) upper view of EUIC S588, Sample Sh13.

21- Icriodus tafilaltensis Narkiewics & Bultynck 2010; upper view of EUIC S579, Sample Sh12.

22, **23**- *Ancyrodella rotundiloba pristina*, Khalymbadzha & Chemysheva 1970; (22) upper view of EUIC S566, Sample Sh12; (23) upper view of EUIC S567, Sample Sh12.

24, **25**- *Polygnathus praepolitus* Kononova, Alekseev, Braskov & Reimers 1996; (24) upper view of EUIC S570, Sample Sh12; (25) upper view of EUIC S574, Sample Sh12.

26- Polygnathus dubius Hinde 1879; upper view of EUIC S573, Sample Sh12.

27-29- *Polygnathus aequalis* Klapper & Lane 1985; (27) upper view of EUIC S593, Sample Sh13; (28) upper view of EUIC S594, Sample Sh13; (29) upper view of EUIC S595, Sample Sh13.

30, **31**- *Icriodus symmetricus* Branson & Mehl 1934; (30) upper view of EUIC S600, Sample Sh17; (31) upper view of EUIC S580, Sample Sh12.

32-34- *Icriodus subterminus* Youngquist 1947; (32) upper view of EUIC S552, Sample Sh9; (33) upper view of EUIC S553, Sample Sh9; (34) upper view of EUIC S587, Sample Sh13.

35-37- *Icriodus expansus* Branson & Mehl 1938; (35) upper view of EUIC S584, Sample Sh12; (36) upper view of EUIC S614, Sample Sh23; (37) upper view of EUIC S616, Sample Sh24.

38-39- *Icriodus cornutus* Sannemann 1955; (38) upper view of EUIC S683, Sample Sh35; (39) upper view of EUIC S697, Sample Sh38.

40-43- *Polygnathus praepolitus* Kononova, Alekseev, Braskov & Reimers 1996; (40) upper view of EUIC S603, Sample Sh18; (41) upper view of EUIC S607, Sample Sh19; (42) upper view of EUIC S612, Sample Sh20; (43) upper view of EUIC S625, Sample Sh26.

44, **45**- *Polygnathus alatus* Huddle 1934; (44) upper view of EUIC S599, Sample Sh17; (45) upper view of EUIC S611, Sample Sh20.

46- Polygnathus zinaidae Kononova, Alekseev, Braskov & Reimers 1996; upper view of EUIC S605, Sample Sh18.

47, **48**- *Polygnathus seraphimae* Ovnatanova & Kononova 1996; (47) upper view of EUIC S604, Sample Sh18; (48) upper view of EUIC S609, Sample Sh19;

49- Polygnathus cf. seraphimae Ovnatanova & Kononova 1996; upper view of EUIC S622, Sample Sh26.

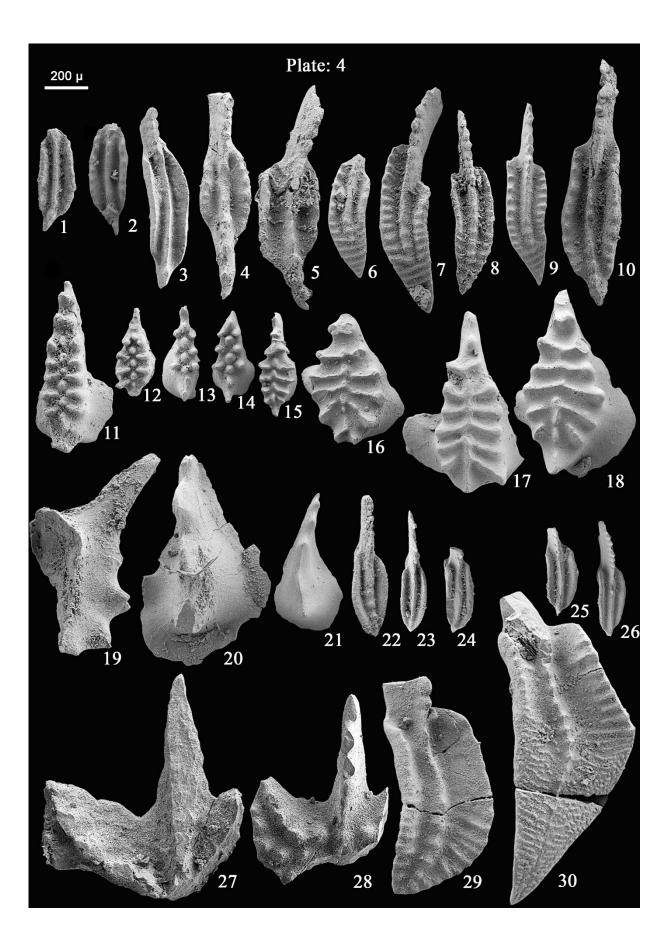


Plate 4 - Selected conodonts from the Shahzadeh Mohammad section. The collection is stored in Department of Geology, University of Isfahan. All figured conodonts are P1 and/or I elements.

1-3- *Polygnathus brevilaminus* Branson & Mehl 1934; (1) upper view of EUIC S657, Sample Sh32; (2) upper view of EUIC S660, Sample Sh40; (3) upper view of EUIC S724, Sample Sh33.

4, **5**- *Polygnathus angustidiscus* Youngquist 1945; (4) upper view of EUIC S658, Sample Sh33; (5) upper view of EUIC S687, Sample Sh36.

6-9- *Polygnathus semicostatus* Branson & Mehl 1934; (6) upper view of EUIC S700, Sample Sh38; (7) upper view of EUIC S705, Sample Sh39; (8) upper view of EUIC S708, Sample Sh39; (9) upper view of EUIC S719, Sample Sh40.

10- Polygnathus procerus Sannemann 1955; upper view of EUIC S723, Sample Sh40.

11-14- *Icriodus alternatus alternatus* Branson & Mehl 1934; (11) upper view of EUIC S696, Sample Sh38; (12) upper view of EUIC S651, Sample Sh32; (13) upper view of EUIC S682, Sample Sh35; (14) upper view of EUIC S732, Sample Sh40.

15-18- Icriodus iowaensis iowaensis Youngquist & Peterson 1947; (15) upper view of EUIC S636, Sample Sh29;
(16) upper view of EUIC S644, Sample Sh32; (17) upper view of EUIC S670, Sample Sh33; (18) upper view of EUIC S666, Sample Sh33.

19- Pelekysgnathus inclinatus Thomas 1949; lateral view of EUIC S734, Sample Sh40.

20, **21**- *Pelekysgnathus serradentatus* Capkinoglu 1991; (20) upper view of EUIC S699, Sample Sh38; (21) upper view of EUIC S710, Sample Sh39.

22, **23**- *Polygnathus praepolitus* Kononova, Alekseev, Braskov & Reimers 1996; (22) upper view of EUIC S623, Sample Sh26; (23) upper view of EUIC S624, Sample Sh26.

24-26- *Polygnathus aspelundi* Savage & Funai 1980; (24) upper view of EUIC S 619, Sample Sh24; (25) upper view of EUIC S618, Sample Sh24; (26) upper view of EUIC S630, Sample Sh29.

27, 28- Ancyrodella sp.; (27) upper view of EUIC S598, Sample Sh13; (28) upper view of EUIC S597, Sample Sh13.

29- Polygnathus webbi Stauffer 1938; upper view of EUIC S628, Sample Sh27.

30- Polygnathus krestovnikovi Ovnatanova 1969; upper view of EUIC S662, Sample Sh33.