

Ordovician brachiopods from the Carnic Alps



David A.T. Harper is concentrated on Ordovician brachiopods in the Carnic Alps. In September 2008 he found near the area of the Cellon-Alm a previously unknown deep-water brachiopod fauna.

Biography: David A.T. Harper is Professor of Palaeontology, University of Copenhagen and is in charge of the palaeontological collections in the Geology Department, Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen. He is also head of the Geology Research Group at the museum. His research is field and specimen-based, focussed on the Lower Palaeozoic rocks and fossils of Greenland, Scandinavia, the British Isles and China and together with the Cenozoic of the Caribbean basin and he has an interest in developing computer-based methodologies for the analysis of fossils and their distributions, for example the computer software PAST. He has published some 250 scientific papers and over ten books. He is a past editor, Vice President and Chair of the Publications Board of the Palaeontological Association and is currently President of the International Palaeontological Association and Chairman of the International Subcommittee on the Ordovician System.

Research in the Carnic Alps: Although an important late Ordovician (Hirnantian) brachiopod fauna has been known since the 1970s (Jaeger et al. 1975), Ordovician brachiopods have been generally neglected in this key peri-Gondwanan region. During a short field campaign during September 2008 in the Cellon area, a hitherto undocumented deep-water *Foliomena* brachiopod was collected for the first time from Katian strata in the Cellon-Alm section (Harper et al. 2009). This prompted a more detailed search for brachiopods in the upper Ordovician and further new collections are currently under investigation. A new project involving David Harper, Kathleen Histon and Hans Peter Schönlaub is currently tracking the deep-water, late Ordovician brachiopod faunas along this part of the Gondwanan margin through the warm global climate of the Katian into the short icehouse interval of the Hirnantian.