

Wenlock brachiopods from boreholes in eastern Poland

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A brachiopod fauna was found in boreholes Tyniewiczze IG-1, Proniewiczze IG-1, Widowo IG-1, and Sobótka IG-1 situated in the Podlasie Depression (eastern Poland, vicinity of Bielsk Podlaski; Eastern European Platform), at depths ranging from approximately 400 to 700 m.

Thirty-four species can be identified in total, including four previously published inarticulates and thirty articulates (rhynchonelliformeans) dealt with here. Articulate brachiopods include strophomenides (4 species), productides (1), protorthides (1), orthides (7), pentamerides (3), rhynchonellides (1), atrypides (8), athyridides (3), and spiriferides (2). *Lissatrypa lithuanica* is the numerically dominant species, represented by several tens of specimens. Three specimens of *Gotatrypa* might belong to a new species, differing from *G. hedei* in the relative convexity of the valves.

The athyridide *Dayia*, otherwise recorded from the Eltonian onwards, has probably its oldest species in the studied fauna, intermediate in characters with the presumably ancestral *Protozeuga*; the material is scarce (seven specimens), and the interpretation is tentative. *Ravozetina* sp. n. is likely present in both Poland and Estonia. Some widely distributed and well-known species are also present, like *Skenidioides acutus*, *Resserella canalis*, *Dicoelosia biloba*, and *Cyrtia trapezoidalis*.

Generally speaking, the brachiopod fauna represents mostly a deep-sea setting and is largely composed of species with wide biogeographical distribution. The Anglo-Welsh basin and Gotland show the greatest numbers of species in common with the fauna from eastern Poland.

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