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Conulariids from the Lower Ordovician of the southern Montagne Noire, France

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The Tremadocian–Floian (Lower Ordovician) Saint-Chinian, La Maurerie, and Landeyran formations of the southern Montagne Noire (France) collectively contain at least two species of conulariids, namely *Archaeoconularia* cf. *insignis* and *Conularia azaisi* , the latter herein designated as the type species of the new genus, *Galliconularia*. *Archaeoconularia insignis* may also occur in the Lower Ordovician Fezouata Shale of southern Morocco, and an indeterminate species of this genus probably occurs in the Lower Ordovician Tonggao Formation of South China. *Galliconularia azaisi* differs from all other conulariids in having a raised facial midline and very fine, trochoidal transverse ribs which cross the midline ridge without interruption or diminution. In specimens preserving the outermost peridermal lamellae, the transverse ribs bear sub-microscopic nodes, and the broad interspaces are crossed by very slender interspace ridges. Finally, even though the Montagne Noire was part of the western Gondwanan passive margin during Cambro-Ordovician times, *G. azaisi* remains unknown outside of France.

Key words: Cnidaria, Scyphozoa, Conulariida, Paleozoic, Gondwana, Europe.

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