

Late Ordovician scolecodonts and chitinozoans from the Pin Valley in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, northern India

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The end of the Ordovician witnessed major perturbations in the ecosystem, seriously affecting global marine biodiversity. Nevertheless, some marine organism groups and their crisis-bound palaeogeographic distribution are still understudied. Among the outliers are eunicid polychaetes, even though they flourished and diversified extensively during the Ordovician. A collection of seven genera of jaw-bearing polychaetes, including the new ramphoprionid genus *Spitiprion* Tonarová, Suttner, & Hints, with type new species of *Spitiprion khannai* Tonarová, Suttner, & Hints, is described here from Katian (Upper Ordovician) deposits of Spiti, northern India. The new species is preserved as isolated maxillae and a jaw cluster, and 3D models of the maxillary apparatus are reconstructed based on submicron-CT. Along with the scolecodonts, a low-diversity assemblage of chitinozoans was recovered, comprising five genera. The most common chitinozoan species are *Acanthochitina* cf. *cancellata* and *Spinachitina suecica*.


Key words: Polychaeta, Eunicida, Ramphoprionidae, Chitinozoa, organic-walled microfossils, Early Palaeozoic, Gondwana, submicron-CT.

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