

## An enigmatic early ?palaeocope ostracode from the Arenig of NW Russia

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The ostracode *Lavachilina evae* gen. et sp. nov. is described from the Arenig of Western Russia. Its carapace possesses a unique discontinuous velum, developed at both ends as a narrow spinose ridge. The systematic position of *L. evae* is uncertain. Its character set shows mostly palaeocope affinities but also some features of leiocopes. *L. evae* is tentatively assigned to the palaeocope family Oepikellidae, possibly representing an early member of that family. Although *L. evae* existed contemporaneously with palaeocopes such as *Laccochilina*, it does not appear to be closely related to these early eurychilinoids.

**Key words:** Ordovician, Arenig, Volkhov Stage, Ostracoda, Russia, Baltoscandia

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