

Research article

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:DE794E6F-E3E8-48A6-B42F-163DD2B675F8](https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2021.774.1533)**Middle Ordovician *Drepanoistodus* (Vertebrata, Conodonta) from Baltica, with description of three new species**Jan Audun RASMUSSEN ^{1,*}, Mats E. ERIKSSON ² & Anders LINDSKOG ³¹ Museum Mors, Skarrehagevej 8, DK-7900 Nykøbing Mors, Denmark.¹ Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen, Øster Voldgade 5–7, DK-1350 Copenhagen K, Denmark.^{2,3} Department of Geology, Lund University, Sölvegatan 12, S-22362 Lund, Sweden.*Corresponding author: jan.rasmussen@museummors.dk²Email: mats.eriksson@geol.lu.se³Email: anders.lindskog@geol.lu.se¹[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:1FC1FE29-5088-4673-A58D-560360917034](https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2021.774.1533)²[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:603567D0-6505-4DBF-9C41-3DE1FC7A2112](https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2021.774.1533)³[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:0050F75E-13C1-48B3-B5D8-E3012D804F78](https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2021.774.1533)

Abstract. *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963) is a common conodont species in Middle Ordovician strata of Baltica. For many years it has been widely accepted that the species encompasses a wide range of morphological plasticity. Hence, several different morphotypes that significantly deviate from the holotype have nonetheless been included in the broad species concept. In this study, we performed a detailed taxonomical study on 112 predominantly well-preserved specimens (geniculate elements) from the St. Petersburg region of Russia; 37 of these were selected for morphometric analyses together with 21 well-illustrated specimens from the published literature. The results demonstrate that, among the morphotypes that share some characteristics with *D. basiovalis* sensu lato, at least five species can be readily distinguished. Hence, three new species – *Drepanoistodus iommii* sp. nov., *D. svendi* sp. nov. and *D. viirae* sp. nov. – are here added to the previously known *D. basiovalis* and *D. contractus* (Lindström, 1955). In addition, some specimens were left under open nomenclature and assigned to *Drepanoistodus* aff. *basiovalis* and *D. cf. suberectus* (Branson & Mehl, 1933). In order to objectively compare the *Drepanoistodus* taxa and test the validity of the new species, we performed a Principal Component Analysis combined with non-parametric (PERMANOVA) tests based on 21 morphological characters.

Keywords. Conodont, *Drepanoistodus*, new species, Ordovician, Baltica.

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Introduction

Conodonts are generally interpreted as an extinct clade of marine vertebrates (Aldridge *et al.* 1993; Donoghue *et al.* 2000; Murdock *et al.* 2013), although also other hypotheses regarding their affinity

have been suggested (Turner *et al.* 2010). These primitive ‘fish’ first appeared in the Late Cambrian and went extinct in the Late Triassic. Whereas body fossils are very rare, the microscopic tooth-like elements (known as conodont elements) are composed of calcium phosphate and have great preservation potential. Therefore, these microfossils can be extracted in large quantities from calcareous, sedimentary rocks, and have proven widely useful, e.g., for biostratigraphy, palaeogeography, palaeobathymetry, and assessing thermal maturity (by means of colour alteration index; CAI).

Conodont microfossils have been known for more than 160 years with the first description of these phosphatic elements published being that of Pander (1856), who based his study on material from the St. Petersburg region, Russia. Since then, several studies have dealt with Ordovician conodonts from this area (e.g., Sergeeva 1962, 1963, 1974; Bergström 1988; Tolmacheva 2001; Tolmacheva *et al.* 2001, 2003a, 2003b). The present study follows this research tradition and is based on conodonts from the Lynna River section of Russia (Fig. 1).

Ever since the first multi-element reconstruction of the conodont genus *Drepanoistodus* Lindström, 1971 was made by Lindström (1971), it has been generally accepted that *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963), a common species in the Middle Ordovician of Baltoscandia, includes quite a wide range of different morphotypes. Whereas some of these morphotypes were subsequently distinguished as distinct species, e.g., *Drepanoistodus contractus* (Lindström, 1955) (see Stouge & Bagnoli 1990), most have been tentatively assigned to *Drepanoistodus* under open nomenclature, as *D. cf. basiovalis* and *D. aff. basiovalis* (e.g., Rasmussen 2001; Mellgren & Eriksson 2010; Lindskog *et al.* 2020), or accepted as morphological variations fitting into the broad species concept of *D. basiovalis*. Originally, Sergeeva (1963) based the characterisation of the new species *Oistodus basiovalis* on geniculate elements from the Volkhovian and Kundan regional stages (Dapingian to middle Darriwilian global stages) of the St. Petersburg region. The holotype was recovered from Volkhovian strata. The two original *D. basiovalis* specimens figured by Sergeeva (1963) were incorporated in the analyses performed herein, alongside other elements assigned to *D. basiovalis*, *D. cf. basiovalis* or *D. aff. basiovalis* by various authors.

In this study we assess *D. basiovalis*-like specimens from Dapingian through middle Darriwilian (Middle Ordovician) strata of the Lynna River in the St. Petersburg region, Russia, and demonstrate that these unarguably comprise a collection of separate species, which are readily distinguished based

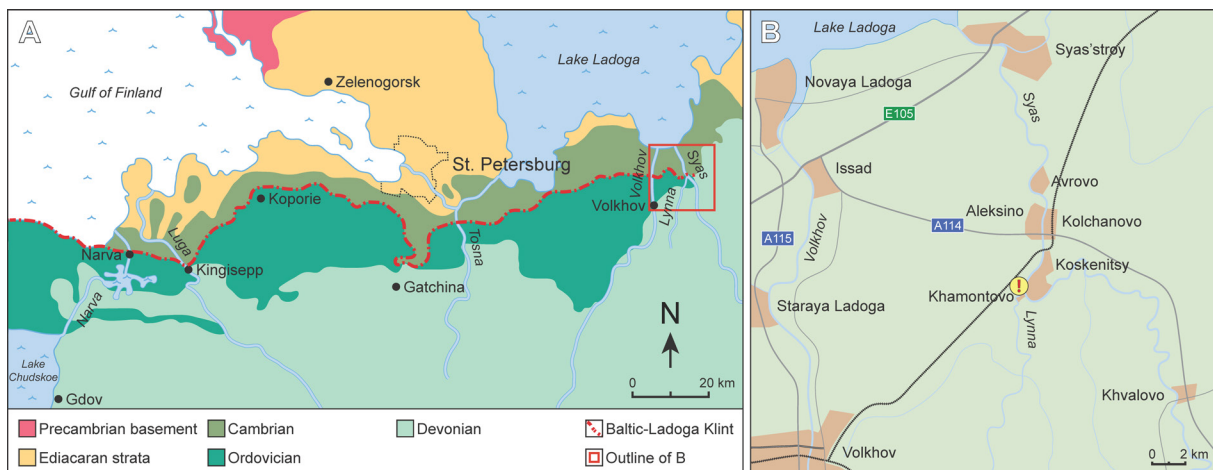


Fig. 1. A. Map of the St. Petersburg region, Russia, with the distribution of rocks. The red rectangle shows the outline of the map area enlarged in B. B. Map of the Lynna River study locality and its surroundings. Figure modified from Lindskog *et al.* (2020, and references therein).

on morphological characters of the geniculate elements. The validity of all taxa has been tested by use of Principal Component Analysis followed by the non-parametric PERMANOVA similarity test comprising 21 morphological characters.

Geological setting

The St. Petersburg region of Russia has an extensive history of geological exploration, and the Ordovician strata have been well studied (Fig. 1; e.g., Pander 1830; Schmidt 1882; Lamansky 1905; Raymond 1916; Sergeeva 1962; Ivantsov 2003; Dronov & Mikulaš 2010; Rasmussen & Harper 2008; Linds kog *et al.* 2020). During the Ordovician this region formed part of the palaeocontinent Baltica, at the time situated in the southern hemisphere and moving northwards (Cocks & Torsvik 2006). Baltica was largely covered by a shallow sea, in which laterally extensive sedimentary strata were being deposited (e.g., Männil 1966; Lindström 1971; Jaanusson 1973). Today, the rocks of the St. Petersburg region form part of the natural escarpment known as the Baltic–Ladoga Klint (Fig. 1; Dronov & Mikulaš 2010). The regional Ordovician succession is ca 100–200 m thick and composed predominantly of carbonate rocks. East of the city of St. Petersburg, several natural exposures have been cut into the Palaeozoic rocks by rivers that drain into Lake Ladoga, providing ample opportunity for quarrying as well as scientific studies (e.g., Popov 1997; Dronov & Mikulaš 2010).

South-southwest of the village of Kolchanovo, ca 150 km east of St. Petersburg, Middle Ordovician sedimentary rocks crop out along the Lynna River. For this study, we sampled an exposure in the valley close to the mouth of the river, where it drains into the Syas River (Fig. 1; WGS 84 coordinates 60°00'39" N, 32°33'49" E). The relatively expanded local succession, comprising the upper Volkhov, Lynna, Sillaoru, and lower Obukhovo formations, is approximately 10 m thick and mainly composed of alternating limestone and variably silty-sandy marl (e.g., Linds kog *et al.* 2020). Chronostratigraphically, it spans the uppermost middle Volkhovian to lowermost upper Kundan regional stages, which corresponds approximately to the uppermost Dapingian through lowermost middle Darriwilian global stages (Fig. 2).

For additional detailed information on the geology and (bio)stratigraphy of the Lynna River section, readers are referred to the recent study by Linds kog *et al.* (2020).

Material and methods

For a study on carbonate sedimentology and conodont stratigraphy at Lynna River (see Linds kog *et al.* 2020), 22 samples were treated with buffered acetic acid for the retrieval of microfossils according to standard procedures (e.g., Jeppsson *et al.* 1999). These collections formed the basis also for the present study. After sieving of the acid-insoluble residues, conodont elements were electrostatically handpicked from the >63 µm heavy fractions. In total, the collections comprise tens of thousands of conodont elements, most of which are well to excellently preserved. A consistent colour alteration index (CAI) of ca 1 indicates insignificant heating of the local rocks (cf. Epstein *et al.* 1977).

All conodont specimens derive from the Volkhov, Lynna, Sillaoru and Obukhovo formations at Lynna River (Fig. 2). In terms of conodont biostratigraphy, the sampled strata span the *Lenodus antivariabilis* Zone to the base of the *Lenodus pseudoplanus* Zone (see Linds kog *et al.* 2020), which correlate with the upper Volkhovian and Kundan regional stages, and the Darriwilian global Stage (Dw1–lower Dw2 stage slices; Ivantsov 2003; Bergström *et al.* 2009; Linds kog *et al.* 2020).

Photographs of conodont elements were taken with an Olympus SC30 digital camera attached to an Olympus SZX16 light microscope. All images were subsequently processed and stacked to increase focal depth, using cellSens software. Lighting conditions and magnification were kept at identical settings for all specimens.

Material repository

All sample materials are stored at the Department of Geology, Lund University, Sweden, where the 13 figured conodonts belong to the type collection and have repository numbers LO (for Lund Original) followed by five digits and a t for “type specimen” and capital T for holotype.

Morphometric analyses

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) helps to identify patterns in large datasets with many variables, and to objectively highlight similarities and differences. Hence, PCA plots concentrate variance into relatively few axes compared to the high dimensionality (many variables) of the original data, and thereby aid in distinguishing between different morphotype groupings. Herein, we used this method to visualize the most typical characters in each species and also to show which species are most morphologically similar. PCA was first described by Pearson (1901) and has since then been used in numerous morphometrical/phenetic taxonomical studies. We refer readers to e.g., Davis (1986) and Hammer & Harper (2006) for more detailed descriptions of PCA, the latter including a palaeontological perspective. All statistical analyses and initial plots were performed using the free PAST software package (Hammer *et al.* 2001).

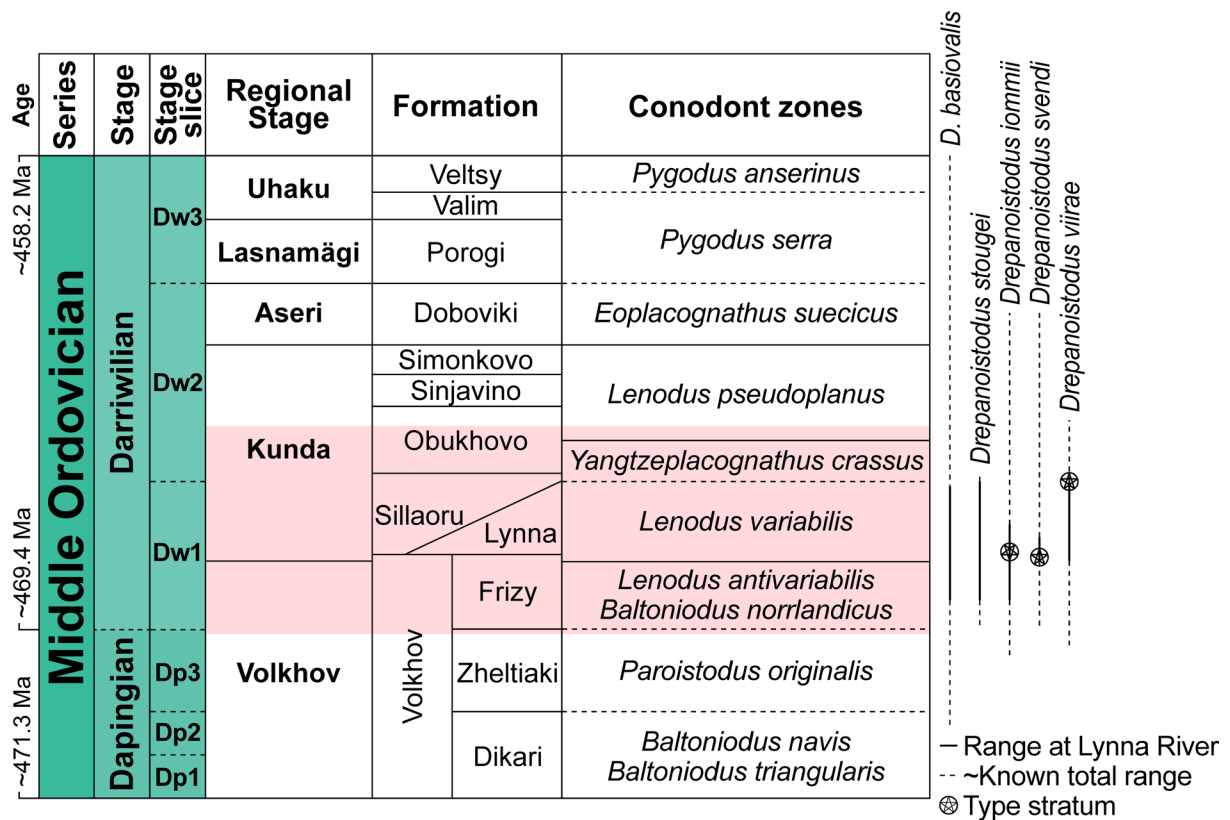


Fig. 2. The Middle Ordovician stratigraphy of the St. Petersburg region with Baltoscandian and global stratigraphy for comparison (modified from Lindskog *et al.* 2020, and references therein; additions after Pärnaste *et al.* 2013; Bauert *et al.* 2014; Gradstein *et al.* 2020). The pink area indicates the approximate stratigraphic range of the outcrop at the Lynna River, with ranges of selected *Drepanoistodus* species indicated. For more detailed information on the local conodont biostratigraphy and ranges of individual species, see Lindskog *et al.* (2020: fig. 6).

The PCA approach used herein was based on 21 unweighted morphometric characters from the geniculate element in *Drepanoistodus* (see below in “Species characters and coding” and Fig. 3 for explanation of the 19 binary (presence/absence) and two numerical characters included). All selected morphological characters were observable in 58 of the examined specimens of *Drepanoistodus*, making them applicable for the PCA and statistical tests (Table 1). In the present work, we have reduced the visual result to two dimensions, where only the two most significant principal axes were plotted (Fig. 4). Because the plot involves morphological characters of different types (presence/absence, measured angle, and distance ratio), the correlation coefficient matrix was selected instead of the more common variance-covariance matrix, which means that variables are centred and standardized at the same time. The first principal axis (PC 1, the horizontal axis) accounts for 18.4% of the total data variance and the second principal axis (PC 2, the vertical axis) accounts for 16.1% of the variance.

The result of the PCA is visualized in a so-called biplot (Gower & Hand 1996), where both objects (individual geniculate conodont elements) and variables (selected morphologic characters) are presented simultaneously. The variables are shown in Fig. 4 as blue lines (vectors), where both the direction and length of the vectors are important. For example, the vectors representing b/c (ratio

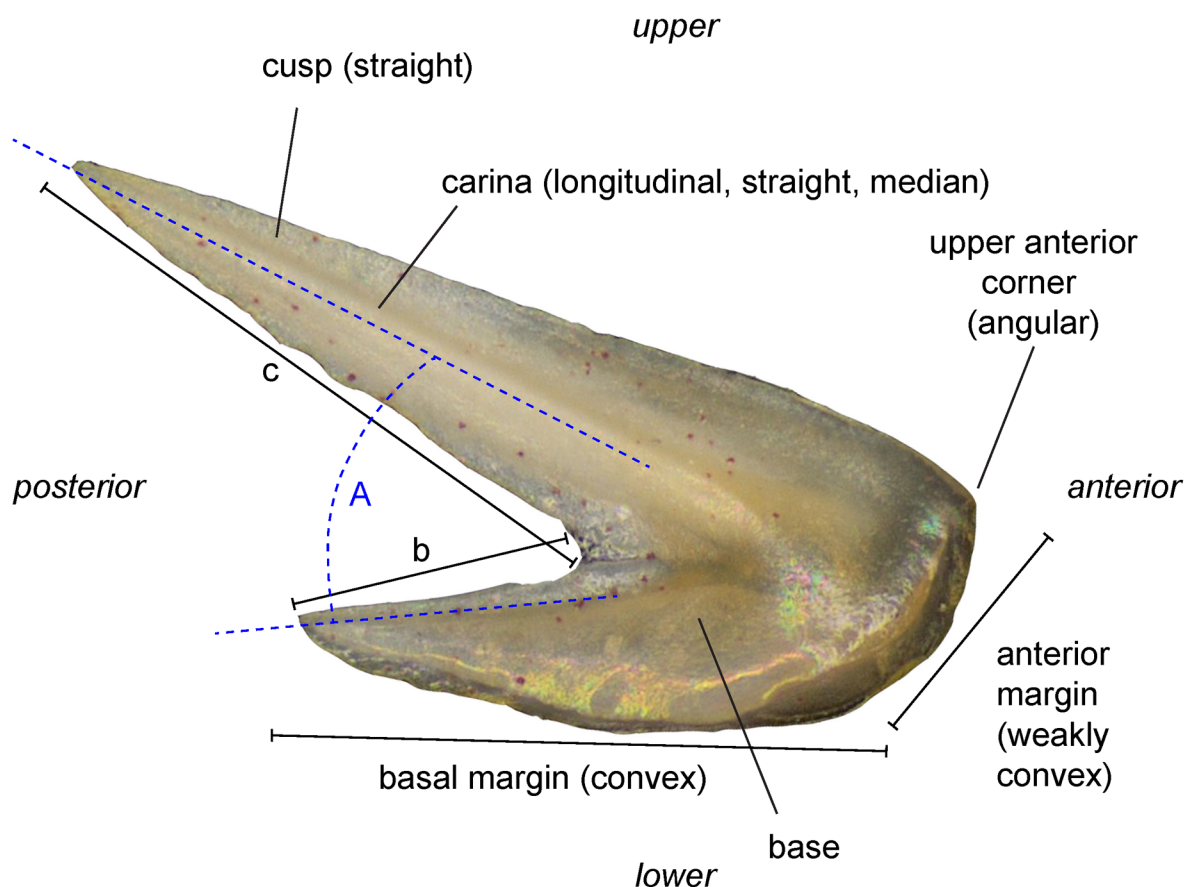


Fig. 3. Geniculate *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963) element demonstrating the essential morphological characteristics utilized in the present study. Two characters were measured quantitatively: Angle A between the median line (usually carina) of the cusp and the lower margin of the keel situated on the upper margin of the cusp (A); and the b/c ratio, which is the ratio between the length of the upper margin of the base (b) and the length of the free cusp (c).

Table 1 (continued on next page). Specimens included in the Principal Component Analysis and PERMANOVA test.

Abbreviation	Original species name and reference
<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963)	
DbasSe63-6Ht	<i>Oistodus basiovalis</i> , holotype, Sergeeva, 1963: pl. 7 fig. 6; text-fig. 3
DbasSe63-7	<i>Oistodus basiovalis</i> , Sergeeva, 1963: pl. 7 fig. 7; text-fig. 3)
Dbas1a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-9, #a
Dbas1b	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-9, #b
Dbas1c	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-9, #c
Dbas1d	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-9, LO 12477t
Dbas2a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-5, #a
Dbas2c	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-5, #c
Dbas3a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-3, #a
Dbas5a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-1, #a
Dbas5c	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-1, #c
Dbas7a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-14, #a
Dbas7c	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-14, #c
Dbas7d	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-14, #d
Dbas8a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-16, LO 12476t
Dbas10a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-21, #a
Dbas10c	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-21, #c
Dbas11a	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-21b, LO 12478t
DbasSB90-22	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Stouge & Bagnoli 1990: pl. 5 fig. 22
DbasSB90-23	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Stouge & Bagnoli 1990: pl. 5 fig. 23
DbasSB90-24	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Stouge & Bagnoli 1990: pl. 5 fig. 24
DbasR91-L	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Rasmussen 1991: fig. 6l
DbasL94-30	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Löfgren 1994: fig. 6.30
DbasL06-N	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Löfgren 2006: fig. 3n
<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov.	
Diom8a-Ht	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, holotype, sample LY12-16, LO 12479T
Diom1a	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-9, #a
Diom3a	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-3, LO 12481t
Diom4a	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-2, #a
Diom4b	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-2, #b
Diom4c	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-2, #c
Diom11a	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-21, #a
Diom11b	<i>Drepanoistodus iommii</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-21, LO 12480t)
DiomME10-M	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7m
DiomM12-E	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> cf. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Mellgren <i>et al.</i> 2012: fig. 5e
<i>Drepanoistodus svendi</i> sp. nov.	
Dsve7b-Ht	<i>Drepanoistodus svendi</i> sp. nov., holotype, sample LY12-14, LO 12483T
Dsve6a	<i>Drepanoistodus svendi</i> sp. nov, sample LY12-13, LO 12482t
DsveR01-17	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Rasmussen 2001: pl. 5 fig. 17
DsveM12-U	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Mellgren <i>et al.</i> 2012: fig. 7u

Table 1 (continued). Specimens included in the Principal Component Analysis and PERMANOVA test.

Abbreviation	Original species name and reference
<i>Drepanoistodus viirae</i> sp. nov.	
Dvii16b-Ht	<i>Drepanoistodus viirae</i> sp. nov., holotype, sample LY12-31, LO 12484T
Dvii6a	<i>Drepanoistodus viirae</i> sp. nov., sample LY12-13, #a
Dvii15a	<i>Drepanoistodus viirae</i> sp. nov., sample LY12-30, #a
DviiL00-P	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Löfgren 2000b: fig. 4p
DviiME10-F	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>suberectus</i> (Branson & Mehl, 1933), Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7f
DviiLi20-V	<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Lindskog <i>et al.</i> 2020: fig. 7v
<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963)	
Daffbas1a	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-9, LO 12486t
Daffbas1b	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-9, #b
Daffbas2a	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-5, #a
Daffbas6a	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-13, #a
Daffbas7a	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), sample LY12-14, #a
DaffbasME10-D	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> cf. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7d
DaffbasME10-H	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963), Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7h
<i>Drepanoistodus</i> cf. <i>suberectus</i> (Branson & Mehl, 1933)	
Dcfsub20a	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> cf. <i>suberectus</i> (Branson & Mehl, 1933), sample LY14-2, LO 12488t
Dcfsub22a	<i>Drepanoistodus</i> cf. <i>suberectus</i> (Branson & Mehl, 1933), sample LY14-5, #a
<i>Drepanoistodus balticus</i> (Löfgren, 2006)	
DbalL06B-Ht	<i>Venoistodus balticus</i> , holotype, Löfgren, 2006: fig. 3b
DbalL06-E	<i>Venoistodus balticus</i> , Löfgren, 2006: fig. 3e
DbalL06-L	<i>Venoistodus balticus</i> , Löfgren, 2006: fig. 3l
<i>Drepanoistodus stougei</i> Rasmussen, 1991	
DstoR91-Ht	<i>Drepanoistodus stougei</i> , holotype, Rasmussen, 1991: fig. 6j
Dsto6b-typical	<i>Drepanoistodus stougei</i> Rasmussen, sample LY12-13, LO 12487t

between the free upper margin and the free cusp) and BaMaStra (Basal margin straight) are relatively long and point towards the population of *D. iommii* sp. nov. in the upper, right-hand corner of the plot. This means that the *D. iommii* sp. nov. geniculate elements have a high b/c value and a dominantly straight basal margin. By contrast, specimens plotting in the opposite (lower left-hand) part of the diagram never or rarely show such features (in this case *Drepanoistodus viirae* sp. nov. plots in the lower left quadrangle).

The final step of the multivariate analysis was to test if the three new species are similar to (or different from) *D. basiovalis* based on the 21 selected characters. To do this, we formulated and tested three null hypotheses: *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* is similar to one of three new species *D. iommii* sp. nov., *D. svendi* sp. nov. and/or *D. viirae* sp. nov. For this purpose, we performed the multivariate (analysis of variance) non-parametric test PERMANOVA (= NPMANOVA), which was based on the Euclidian

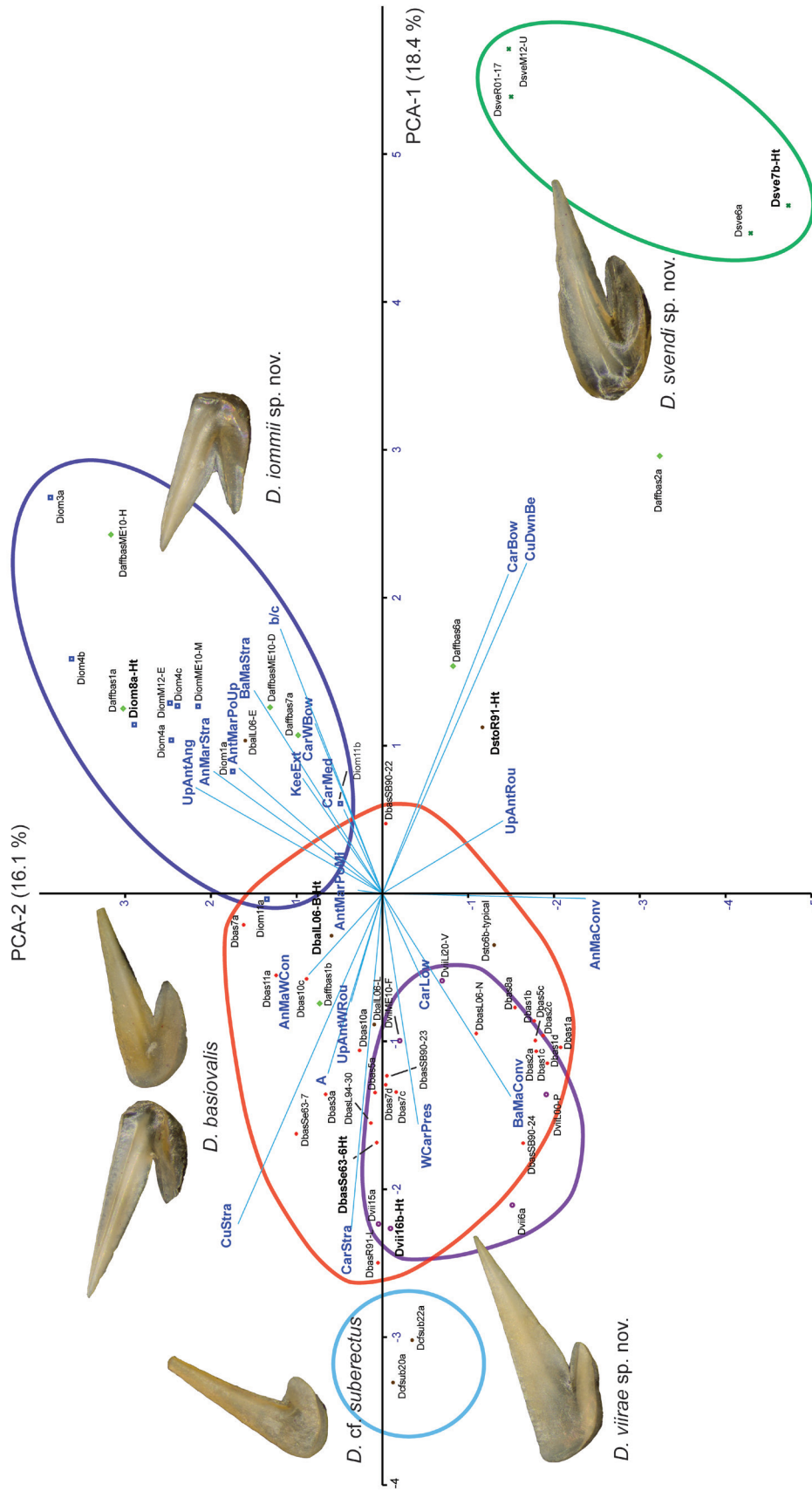


Fig. 4. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) biplot based on the correlation coefficient showing the position of conodont specimens (abbreviated names, see Table 1) and morphological characters/variables. The latter is represented by blue vector lines (see Table 2), the direction and length of which mark the relative importance of the various characters/variables. Each coloured field marks the position of a selected species grouping. Whereas 18.4% of the total variance is visible along the PC 1 axis, 16.1% is seen along the PC 2 axis. See main text for further explanation on the analyses performed, and consult Table 1 for data on sample numbers.

distance coefficient, to assess equality of the calculated centroids (means) of the four species groupings compared (see e.g., Hammer & Harper 2006); the preferable parametric Hotelling's T^2 test was not applicable, as our multivariate dataset is non-normally distributed (and, furthermore, relatively small). Commonly, only the Principal Components (axis), which represent more than 5% of the total variance in the PCA plot, are tested and interpreted. In this case, the first seven axes contributed with more than 5% of the variance each and were subsequently used in the PERMANOVA test. Because all the test probabilities are below 0.05 (Fig. 5A), the three null hypotheses are rejected, and there is no statistical evidence from the test that the groups (species) are objectively similar. We refer readers to Marrama & Kriwet (2017) for a detailed explanation of the combined PCA and PERMANOVA methods used for taxonomic identifications.

A. Multivariate one-way PERMANOVA test

	<i>D. basiovalis</i>	<i>D. iommii</i>	<i>D. svendi</i>	<i>D. viirae</i>
<i>D. basiovalis</i>		0.0001	0.0001	0.0080
<i>D. iommii</i>	0.0001		0.0011	0.0003
<i>D. svendi</i>	0.0001	0.0011		0.0057
<i>D. viirae</i>	0.0080	0.0003	0.0057	

B. Univariate statistics

<i>D. basiovalis</i>	A	b/c	<i>D. svendi</i>	A	b/c
N	24	23	N	4	4
Min	22	0.24	Min	18	0.38
Max	41	0.51	Max	33	0.69
Mean	29.60	0.40	Mean	23.50	0.60
Stand. dev.	5.50	0.10	Stand. dev.	6.90	0.10
<i>D. basiovalis</i> : b/c ratio is doubtful in one specimen					
<i>D. iommii</i>	A	b/c	<i>D. viirae</i>	A	b/c
N	10	10	N	6	6
Min	25	0.41	Min	24	0.17
Max	38	0.75	Max	35	0.31
Mean	30.20	0.54	Mean	29.33	0.25
Stand. dev.	4.16	0.10	Stand. dev.	4.32	0.05

Fig. 5. A. Results (probabilities) of the nonparametric PERMANOVA test performed on the first seven components of the PCA plot. *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963) and the three new species, *D. iommii* sp. nov., *D. svendi* sp. nov. and *D. viirae* sp. nov. The three tested null hypotheses are that *D. basiovalis* is similar to each of the three new species, respectively. Because all the test results are below 0.05, the three null hypotheses are rejected, and there is no statistical evidence from the test that the groups (species) are similar. **B.** Univariate statistics with regard to the measured angle A and the calculated b/c ratio. Abbreviations: N = number of measured specimens; Min = lowest number; Max = highest number; Mean = average; Stand. dev. = standard deviation. All calculations were performed using the PAST software (Hammer *et al.* 2001).

Table 2 (continued on next page). Coding of characters in the geniculate elements used for the Principal Component Analysis. All values except in 20 (angle A) and 21 (ratio b/c) are binary (presence/absence). See Table 1 for explanation of specimen abbreviations and text for characters.

Character	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<i>Drepanoistodus basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963)																					
DbasSe63-6Ht	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	27	0.42
DbasSe63-7	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	40	0.39
Dbas1a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	22	0.26
Dbas1b	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	27	?
Dbas1c	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	30	0.37
Dbas1d	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	28	0.30
Dbas2a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	30	0.37
Dbas2c	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	26	0.36
Dbas3a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	39	0.29
Dbas5a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	30	0.51
Dbas5c	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	29	0.39
Dbas7a	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	27	0.48
Dbas7c	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	23	0.41
Dbas7d	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	26	0.48
Dbas8a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	30	0.32
Dbas10a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	28	0.43
Dbas10c	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	25	0.36
Dbas11a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	34	0.51
DbasSB90-22	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	23	0.33
DbasSB90-23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	34	0.35
DbasSB90-24	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	37	0.29
DbasR91-L	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	41	0.24
DbasL94-30	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	33	0.27
DbasL06-N	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	22	0.31
<i>Drepanoistodus ionmii</i> sp. nov.																					
Diom8a-Ht	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	30	0.50
Diom1a	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	27	0.49
Diom3a	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	32	0.63
Diom4a	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	36	0.46
Diom4b	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	38	0.49
Diom4c	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	30	0.48
Diom11a	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	27	0.41
Diom11b	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	25	0.61
DiomME10-M	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	30	0.75
DiomM12-E	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	27	0.54

Table 2 (continued). Coding of characters in the geniculate elements used for the Principal Component Analysis.

Character Specimen	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<i>Drepanoistodus svendi</i> sp. nov.																					
Dsve7b-Ht	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	18	0.38
Dsve6a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	33	0.52
DsveR01-17	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	24	0.61
DsveM12-U	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	19	0.69
<i>Drepanoistodus viirae</i> sp. nov.																					
Dvii16b-Ht	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	33	0.23
Dvii6a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	26	0.31
Dvii15a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	35	0.28
DviiL00-P	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	24	0.25
DviiME10-F	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	27	0.17
DviiL120-V	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	31	0.23
<i>Drepanoistodus</i> aff. <i>basiovalis</i> (Sergeeva, 1963)																					
Daffbas1a	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	40	0.29
Daffbas1b	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	30	0.45
Daffbas2a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	34	0.27
Daffbas6a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	23	0.49
Daffbas7a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	24	0.56
DaffbasME10-D	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	25	0.60
DaffbasME10-H	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	23	0.60
<i>Drepanoistodus</i> cf. <i>suberectus</i> (Branson & Mehl, 1933)																					
Dcfsb20a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	52	0.21
Dcfsb22a	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	41	0.18
<i>Drepanoistodus balticus</i> (Löfgren, 2006)																					
DbalL06B-Ht	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	23	0.73
DbalL06-E	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	19	0.71
DbalL06-L	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	26	0.58
<i>Drepanoistodus stougei</i> Rasmussen, 1991																					
DstoR91-Ht	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	26	0.50
Dsto6b-typical	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	29	0.51

Species characters and coding

In total, the data matrix at hand comprises 21 discrete morphological characters related to the geniculate element in *Drepanoistodus* (Table 2; Fig. 3). Whereas 19 of these characters are binary (presence = 1; absence = 0), two are measured values, i.e., the angle between the upper margin and the cusp, and the ratio between the length of the upper margin and the cusp, respectively. If a character is missing because of damage (fragmentation), the character has been coded with a question mark (?).

1. Basal margin convex (BaMaConv): present (1), absent (0).
2. Basal margin straight (BaMaStra): present (1), absent (0).
3. Anterior margin convex (AnMaConv): present (1), absent (0).
4. Anterior margin weakly convex (AnMaWCon): present (1), absent (0).
5. Anterior margin straight (AnMarStra): present (1), absent (0).
6. Anterior margin makes a pointed extension in the middle part (AntMarPoMi): present (1), absent (0).
7. Anterior margin makes a pointed extension in the upper anterior corner (AntMarPoUp): present (1), absent (0).
8. Upper anterior corner is angular (UpAntAng): present (1), absent (0).
9. Upper anterior corner is weakly rounded (UpAntWRou): present (1), absent (0).
10. Upper anterior corner is rounded (UpAntRou): present (1), absent (0).
11. A keel-like extension is developed in the upper anterior corner (KeeExt): present (1), absent (0).
12. Cusp is straight (CuStra): present (1), absent (0).
13. Cusp is bent downward (CuDoBe): present (1), absent (0).
14. A weakly developed carina is present on the inner side of the cusp (WCarPres): present (1), absent (0).
15. A distinct longitudinal carina is developed in the median part of the cusp (CarMed): present (1), absent (0).
16. A distinct longitudinal carina is developed in the lower half part of the cusp (CarLow): present (1), absent (0).
17. Carina is straight (CarStra): present (1), absent (0).
18. Carina is bent downward anteriorly (CarBow): present (1), absent (0).
19. Carina is bent weakly downward anteriorly (CarWBow): present (1), absent (0).
20. Angle A is located between carina and lower margin of keel on upper margin: measured value A.
21. Ratio between length of upper margin (b) and length of free cusp (c) (b/c): measured ratio b/c.

Calculated means and standard deviations of the angle A and the b/c ratio (characters 20 and 21) for each of the new species and *D. basiovalis* are illustrated in Fig. 5B.

Results

Systematic palaeontology

Infraphylum Vertebrata Lamarck, 1801
 Class Conodonta Eichenberg, 1930
 Order Protopanderodontida Sweet, 1988
 Family Drepanoistodontidae Bergström, 1981

Genus *Drepanoistodus* Lindström, 1971

Type species

Oistodus forceps Lindström, 1955, subsequently designated by Lindström (1971).

Remarks

Drepanoistodus is here interpreted as quinquemembrate and comprises four nongeniculate coniform elements and one geniculate coniform element that collectively make a curvature-transition series from erect to recurved element types (e.g., Stouge & Bagnoli 1990; Rasmussen 1991). The nongeniculate elements comprise a suberectiform element associated with drepanodontiform type-1, type-2 and type-3 elements. In general, Middle Ordovician nongeniculate *Drepanoistodus* elements from Baltica can be described as follows: the suberectiform element is characterised by a straight, erect cusp. The drepanodontiform type-1 element has a strongly recurved cusp, which is keeled both anteriorly and posteriorly. The anterior keel is twisted strongly inwards. An extension, sometimes triangular in outline, may occur at the anterobasal corner. The drepanodontiform type-2 element has a recurved cusp which is keeled. It is separated from the drepanodontiform type-1 element by the straight or only weakly twisted anterior margin, and by the consistent presence of an anterobasal flare, commonly with a triangular outline. The drepanodontiform type-3 element is typified by a slightly recurved cusp, which is anteriorly and posteriorly keeled and not twisted. As opposed to the drepanodontiform type-1 and type-2 elements, it lacks the anterior triangular flare. For a more comprehensive description, see Rasmussen (1991).

Many coniform conodont apparatuses are not easily placed in the locational PMS notation scheme favoured by Sweet (1981, 1988), or the more biologically correct terminology advocated by Purnell *et al.* (2000), because it is very difficult or even impossible to identify locational homologues with the ozarkodinid notation (Smith *et al.* 2005). This is primarily a consequence of the lack of natural assemblages in many conodont genera and families, including *Drepanoistodus*.

In most cases, it is extremely difficult to distinguish between individual Middle Ordovician *Drepanoistodus* species based on the largely homeomorphic nongeniculate elements (van Wamel 1974; Dzik 1983; Stouge 1984; Rasmussen 2001), and this is indeed also the case with respect to the species studied herein. Because our material includes nothing but isolated conodont elements (as opposed to articulated clusters or natural multi-element assemblages), the identification of *Drepanoistodus* at the species level is solely based on the geniculate element, which are described below. The stratigraphical distribution of the studied specimens of *Drepanoistodus* is shown in Table 3.

Drepanoistodus basiovalis (Sergeeva, 1963)

Fig. 6A–D

Oistodus basiovalis Sergeeva, 1963: 96, pl. 7 figs 6–7, text-fig. 3.

Drepanoistodus basiovalis – Lindström 1971: 43, text-figs 6, 8. — Stouge & Bagnoli 1990: 15, pl. 5 figs 18–24. — Dzik 1990: fig. 12; 1994: 78, pl. 16 figs. 16–20, text-fig. 12a; 2020: fig. 7A–E. — Rasmussen 1991: 277, fig. 6l; 2001: 71–73, pl. 5: 9 (cum. syn.). — Löfgren 1994: fig. 6.30; 2000a: fig. 4w; 2006: figs 3n, 3ab. — Viira *et al.* 2001: fig. 5z. — Zhen & Percival 2004: 93, fig. 11a–j. — Tolmacheva *et al.* 2013: pl. 3, fig. 24.

partim *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* – Löfgren 1978: 55–56, pl. 1 figs 11–16 (only), non 17 (= *D. contractus* (Lindström, 1955)). — Olgun 1987: 49, pl. 6w (only). — Landing *et al.* 2003: fig. 4e (only). — Zhen *et al.* 2011: 222–227, fig. 12a?, b–n, p–q (only).

cf. *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* – Zhang 1998: 61–62, pl. 5 figs 5–12 (unusually short upper margin of the base).

? *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* – Lehnert *et al.* 1998: 55, pl. 3 figs 6, 12 (12 may belong to *Paroistodus originalis* (Sergeeva, 1963)). — Boncheva *et al.* 2009: text-fig. 3.8 (broken element). — Albanesi & Ortega 2016: fig. 7(6) (shares characters with *D. basiovalis* and *D. cf. balticus*). — Feltes *et al.* 2016: fig. 3ac. — Wu *et al.* 2018: fig. 5e (unusually long base compared to the cusp).

non *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* – Gutiérrez-Marco *et al.* 2008: 153, figs 3.29–3.31 (may be *Drepanoistodus* cf. *basiovalis* or *Drepanoistodus* cf. *suberectus* (Branson & Mehl, 1933). — Hints *et al.* 2012: fig. 6h (= *Drepanoistodus* cf. *suberectus*). — Wu *et al.* 2017: fig. 7u (= *Drepanoistodus contractus* (Lindström)). — Lindskog *et al.* 2020: fig. 7v–w (= *Drepanoistodus viirae* sp. nov.).

Original diagnosis (translated from Sergeeva, 1963 [in Russian])

Inclined conodonts, almost symmetrical, with a wide shortened base, the edge of which is rounded.

Material examined

33 geniculate elements including 24 from the Lynna section.

Original description, slightly shortened (translated from Sergeeva, 1963 [in Russian])

Medium-sized conodonts (0.52–0.92 mm), inclined; the degree of inclination of the cusp is 45–60°, sometimes up to 80°. Base high, not very long, elongated along the CD; base length 2.5–3 times its height (*comment by the authors*: “we find the meaning of the latter measure ambiguous”). Base wall slightly transparent near the edge, rounded. The angle between the sides AC is more than 90°; angle between AD 40–45°; corners are smoothly obtuse. Transverse in cross section, the base is oval, elongated along CD and compressed along L1L2. From the C side, the base is compressed, sometimes with a thin keel near the tip, with a small keel on side D. The sides of the base L1 and L2 are smooth and flat. Basal cavity is not always visible, it is wide, but not deep, without visible tops. The cusp is long, straight or slightly curved towards L1, sharply tapering towards the tip; compressed. The sides of the cusp are almost flat, with a well-developed longitudinal, wide carina on L1 and less developed carina on the side L2. The carinae usually run from the base to the tip of the cusp. Thin keels occur on the lower (D) and upper (C) parts of the cusp.

Remarks

In her original diagnosis, Sergeeva (1963) only included geniculate elements with a rounded basal margin in “*Oistodus*” *basiovalis*, which is also evident from the species epithet: *basiovalis* (meaning oval base). This interpretation of the geniculate element in *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* is followed here. Additional typical characters that may be added to the original species description include: anterior margin and upper anterior corner rounded or weakly rounded; cusp usually straight; a median or median to lower, longitudinal carina present on the inner (sometimes slightly concave) side of the element. Carina is more distinct in Darriwilian specimens than in Dapingian ones. Whereas angle A (Fig. 3) between the cusp and the upper margin is 29.6° with a standard deviation at 5.6, the mean ratio between the length of the free upper margin and free cusp (b/c ratio) reaches 0.40 with a standard deviation of 0.1 (Fig. 5B).

Occurrence

Drepanoistodus basiovalis occurs from the *L. antivariabilis* Zone (sample LY12-9) to the interzone (“uncertain interval”) between the *L. variabilis* Zone and the *Y. crassus* Zone sensu Lindskog *et al.* (2020) in the Lynna River section (sample LY12-21b; between LY12-21 and LY12-22). In addition, *D. basiovalis* has been reported from several other localities in Baltoscandia and Poland, and also outside the Baltica palaeocontinent, e.g., New Brunswick, Argentina, Australia and China (for references, see the synonymy list above).

Drepanoistodus iommii sp. nov.

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0E2832F5-672E-4FAE-B5A5-CBA5DE1A4824](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1234567/v1)

Fig. 6E–H

partim *Drepanoistodus* aff. *basiovalis* – Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7m (only).

Drepanoistodus cf. *basiovalis* – Mellgren *et al.* 2012: fig. 5e.

Diagnosis

A *Drepanoistodus* species characterised by a geniculate element with distinct keels on the cusp and upper margin of the base; a straight basal margin; a straight to weakly rounded (convex) anterior margin and cusp which is approximately twice the length of the upper margin of the base.

Etymology

Named in honour of legendary guitarist Tony Iommi, founding member of heavy metal band Black Sabbath.

Material examined

Ten geniculate elements including eight from the Lynna section.

Holotype, geniculate element (Fig. 6E–F); LO 12479T.

Type locality

River bank near the mouth of Lynna River, village of Kolchanovo, St. Petersburg region, Russia (60°00'39" N, 32°33'49" E).

Type stratum

Approximately 10 cm above the local base of the Lynna Formation, sample LY12-16. Lower part of the *Lenodus variabilis* Zone.

Description

Cusp reclined and straight with distinct keels developed on the anterior (upper) and posterior (lower) margins. A median, longitudinal carina is developed on both sides of the cusp, but it is especially distinct on the inner side. Base is characterised by a straight or almost straight basal margin and a distinct keel on the upper margin. Whereas this keel is slightly convex, the upper margin below the keel is straight. Anterior margin is usually straight or weakly rounded (convex), but occasionally, it is strongly rounded. Angle A between the cusp and upper margin of the base is ca 30° (mean) with a standard deviation at 4.2 (Fig. 5B), and the mean ratio between length of the free upper margin (b) and the free cusp (c) is 0.54 (standard deviation 0.10).

Remarks

In the PCA plot (Fig. 4), the population of *D. iommii* sp. nov. is situated in the upper right corner, separated from the *D. basiovalis* population as well as the other two new species populations described herein. The vectors in the biplot demonstrate that this is mainly due to the straight basal margin, the relatively long upper margin (high b/c values), and the usually straight anterior margin in *D. iommii* sp. nov., which is in accordance with the characters diagnosed above. The hypothesis that the population of *D. iommii* sp. nov. is morphologically different from the *D. basiovalis* population is supported by the PERMANOVA test (Fig. 5A), which shows that the probability that the two populations are the same is exceedingly low (p (same) = 1.00E-04).

Occurrence

The *L. antivariabilis* Zone (sample LY12-9) to the *L. variabilis* Zone (sample LY12-21b). Outside the St. Petersburg region, *D. iommii* sp. nov. has been recorded from the *L. variabilis* Zone at the Hällekis quarry in Västergötland, Sweden (Mellgren & Eriksson 2010; referred to as *D. aff. basiovalis*) and from the *L. pseudoplanus* Zone or *E. suecicus* Zone of the island Osmussaar, Estonia (Mellgren *et al.* 2012; reported as *D. cf. basiovalis*).



Fig. 6. Light microscopy photographs of selected geniculate elements of species of *Drepanoistodus*, as outlined herein, from the Lynna River section, Russia. **A–D.** *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963). **A.** LO 12476t, inner view, sample LY12-16, *L. variabilis* Zone. **B.** Same specimen as A in outer view. **C.** LO 12477t, inner view, sample LY12-9, *L. antivariabilis* Zone. **D.** LO 12478t, inner view, sample LY12-21b, *L. variabilis* Zone. **E–H.** *Drepanoistodus iommii* sp. nov. **E.** LO 12479T, holotype, inner view, sample LY12-16, *L. variabilis* Zone. **F.** Same specimen as E in outer view. **G.** LO 12480t, inner view, sample LY12-21b, *L. variabilis* Zone. **H.** LO 12481t, inner view, sample LY12-3, *L. antivariabilis* Zone. **I–L.** *Drepanoistodus svendi* sp. nov. **I.** LO 12482t, inner view, sample LY12-13, *L. variabilis* Zone. **J–K.** LO 12483T, holotype, inner and outer view, respectively, sample LY12-14, *L. variabilis*

Drepanoistodus svendi sp. nov.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0921F27A-ECF6-498C-8943-4DEB96CFBB38

Fig. 6I–L

Drepanoistodus aff. *basiovalis* (Sergeeva) - Rasmussen 2001: 73–74, pl. 5 fig. 17.— Mellgren *et al.* 2012: fig. 5u.

Diagnosis

A *Drepanoistodus* species characterised by a geniculate element with a recurved cusp and distinct keels on both the cusp and the upper margin of the base. Weakly curved but distinct carinas are developed on both sides of the cusp, especially well developed on the inner side.

Etymology

Named after the Danish palaeontologist and conodont specialist Svend S. Stouge, Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen.

Material examined

Five geniculate elements including three from the Lynna section.

Holotype, geniculate element (Fig. 6J–K); LO 12483T.

Type locality

River bank near the mouth of Lynna River, village of Kolchanovo, St. Petersburg region, Russia (60°00'39" N, 32°33'49" E).

Type stratum

Approximately 40 cm below the local top of the Volkhov Formation, sample LY12-14, ca 20 cm above the base of the *Lenodus variabilis* Zone sensu Lindskog *et al.* (2020).

Description

Cusp is recurved (bent weakly downward), with distinct keels developed along the anterior (upper) and posterior (lower) margins. A median, longitudinal, weakly curved carina is developed on both sides of the cusp, most distinct on the inner side of the cusp. Cusp is almost twice as long as the upper margin of the cusp; the mean ratio between the length of the free upper margin and the free cusp (Fig. 3) is ca 0.55 with a standard deviation of 0.13. Basal margin varies from rounded (convex) to almost straight. A distinct keel is developed on the upper margin. Anterior margin is rounded or weakly rounded (convex). Angle A (Fig. 3) between the cusp and upper margin of the base varies considerable with a mean of 24° and standard deviation of 6.9 (Fig. 5B).

Zone. **L.** Same specimen as I in outer view. **M–O.** *Drepanoistodus viirae* sp. nov. **M.** LO 12484T, holotype, inner view, sample LY12-31, interzone (“uncertain interval”) between the *Lenodus variabilis* Zone and the *Yangtzeplacognathus crassus* Zone sensu Lindskog *et al.* (2020). **N.** Same specimen as M in outer view. **O.** LO 12485t, inner view, sample LY 12-31, interzone (“uncertain interval”) between the *Lenodus variabilis* Zone and the *Yangtzeplacognathus crassus* Zone sensu Lindskog *et al.* (2020). **P–Q.** *Drepanoistodus* aff. *basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963), LO 12486t, inner and outer view, respectively, sample LY12-9, *L. antivariabilis* Zone. **R–S.** *Drepanoistodus stougei* Rasmussen, 1991, LO 12487t, inner and outer view, respectively, sample LY12-13, *L. variabilis* Zone. **T.** *Drepanoistodus* cf. *suberectus* (Branson & Mehl, 1933), LO 12488t, inner view, sample LY14-2, *Y. crassus* Zone. Scale bar = 200 µm (all specimens illustrated at same scale).

Remarks

Drepanoistodus svendi sp. nov. is distinguished from all the other *Drepanoistodus* species in the present study by the recurved cusp and the curved carina on each side of the cusp. Like *D. iommii* sp. nov., it is characterised by a clearly longer upper margin of the base compared to the cusp length than in *D. basiovalis*. The *D. svendi* sp. nov. population is located in the lower, right quadrangle of the PCA plot, far from any other species of *Drepanoistodus*, and the biplot vectors representing the recurved cusp and the curved carina point in this direction (Fig. 4). The PERMANOVA test on the first seven PCA axis shows that the probability that the *D. basiovalis* and *D. svendi* sp. nov. populations are the same, is exceedingly low (p (same) = 1.00E-04).

Occurrence

The lower part of the *L. variabilis* Zone (samples LY12-13, LY12-14). Moreover, *D. svendi* sp. nov. has been recorded from Steinsodden, Norway, from the top of the *B. norrlandicus* – *D. stougei* Zone and the base of the overlying *B. medius* – *H. holodentata* Zone, which correlate with the middle part of the *L. variabilis* Zone (as *D. aff. basiovalis* sensu Rasmussen 2001), and from the *L. pseudoplanus* Zone or *E. suecicus* Zone at the island Osmussaar, Estonia (Mellgren *et al.* 2012; reported as *D. aff. basiovalis*).

Drepanoistodus viirae sp. nov.

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:AD10D9B3-9802-4DAC-97C0-B44EB8DE195D](https://zoobank.org/act:AD10D9B3-9802-4DAC-97C0-B44EB8DE195D)

Fig. 6M–O

Drepanoistodus basiovalis (Sergeeva, 1963) – Löfgren 2000b: fig. 4p; 2003: fig. 7aa. — Lindskog *et al.* 2020: fig. 7v–w.

partim *Drepanoistodus* cf. *basiovalis* – Rasmussen 2001: 73, pl. 5 fig. 16 (only).

Drepanoistodus cf. *stougei* Rasmussen, 1991 – Rasmussen 2001: 76, pl. 6 fig. 12.

Drepanoistodus aff. *suberectus* (Branson & Mehl, 1933) – Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7f.

aff. *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* – Feltes & Albanesi 2013: fig. 3.12.

? partim *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* – Zhen 2020: 18–19, fig. 7b (only).

Diagnosis

A *Drepanoistodus* species characterised by a geniculate element with a wide, straight, compressed cusp and a very short base, where the free cusp typically is ca 4 times longer than the upper margin of the base.

Etymology

Named after the Estonian palaeontologist and conodont specialist Viive Viira, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia.

Material examined

Nine geniculate elements including five from the Lynna section.

Holotype, geniculate element (Fig. 6M–N); LO 12484T.

Type locality

River bank near the mouth of Lynna River, village of Kolchanovo, St. Petersburg region, Russia (60°00'39" N, 32°33'49" E).

Type stratum

Approximately 15 cm above the local base of the Sillaoru Formation, sample LY12-31. Lower part of the 90 cm thick interzone (“uncertain interval”) between the *Lenodus variabilis* Zone and the *Yangtzeplacognathus crassus* Zone sensu Lindskog *et al.* (2020).

Description

Cusp is reclined, wide (from upper to lower margin) and straight, with keels developed along the anterior (upper) and posterior (lower) margins. A weak, median, longitudinal carina is developed on the inner side of the cusp. Occasionally, the carina may be distinct. Basal margin is weakly rounded or straight. A distinct keel is developed on the upper margin. Anterior margin is rounded or weakly rounded (convex). Angle A (Fig. 3) between the cusp and upper margin of the base is ca 30° (mean) with a standard deviation of 4.3 (Fig. 5B), and mean ratio between length of the free upper margin and the free cusp is ca 0.25 with a standard deviation of 0.05.

Remarks

Drepanoistodus viirae sp. nov. is situated in the lower left quadrangle of the PCA plot (Fig. 4). Like *D. basiovalis*, it is clearly separated from *D. iommii* sp. nov. and *D. svendi* sp. nov., whereas it partly overlaps with the *D. basiovalis* population, when only the PC 1 (x) and PC 2 (y) axis is plotted. The vectors in the biplot reinforce that *D. viirae* sp. nov. is characterised by a convex basal margin, a weakly developed carina and a short upper margin on the base (= low b/c value), the latter because it is situated in the opposite direction of the b/c vector, as seen in Fig. 4. The partial overlap with *D. basiovalis* occurs because the two species share some characters. A significant difference, however, is that *D. viirae* sp. nov. has a relatively shorter upper margin of the base, where the mean b/c ratio is 0.40 in *D. basiovalis* but only 0.25 in *D. viirae* sp. nov. (Fig. 5B). Moreover, *D. viirae* sp. nov. is characterised by a wider cusp when viewed from the side and, typically, a less developed carina on the cusp. The hypothesis that the *D. viirae* sp. nov. population is morphologically separate from the *D. basiovalis* population is supported by the PERMANOVA test (Fig. 5A), which shows that the probability that the two populations are the same is low ($p(\text{same}) = 8.00\text{E-}03$). *Drepanoistodus viirae* sp. nov. is distinguished from the stratigraphically older *Drepanoistodus contractus* on the relatively wider and more compressed cusp and the usually less distinct longitudinal carina, and from *D. cf. suberectus* on the markedly smaller angle between the cusp and the upper margin of the base (mean angle = 46° in *D. cf. suberectus*, 30° in *D. viirae* sp. nov.).

Occurrence

The lower part of the *L. variabilis* Zone (sample LY12-13) to the lower part of the interzone (“uncertain interval”) between the *L. variabilis* Zone and the *Y. crassus* Zone (sample LY12-31) sensu Lindskog *et al.* (2020). In addition, *D. viirae* sp. nov. has been recorded from the *B. norrlandicus* and basal *Y. crassus* zones at Gillberga, Sweden (Löfgren 2000b, 2003); the uppermost part of the *P. rectus* – *M. parva* Zone at Steinsodden, Norway, which correlates with the uppermost *P. originalis* Zone (as *D. cf. stougei* sensu Rasmussen 2001); the lower part of the *B. medius* – *H. holodentata* Zone at Andersön, Sweden, correlating with the uppermost part of the *L. variabilis* Zone (as *D. cf. basiovalis* sensu Rasmussen 2001), and the *L. variabilis* Zone at Hällekis, Sweden (as *D. aff. suberectus* sensu Mellgren & Eriksson 2010). Moreover, it shares some characteristics with the geniculate element from strata correlated with the *L. pseudoplanus* Zone of the Canning Basin, Australia, which was included in *D. basiovalis* (Zhen 2020: fig. 7b), but this identification is questionable.

Taxonomical notes

Drepanoistodus aff. *basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963)
Fig. 6P–Q

aff. *Oistodus basiovalis* Sergeeva, 1963: 96, pl. 7 figs. 6–7, text-fig. 3.

Table 3. Geniculate elements of *Drepanoistodus* Lindström, 1971 collected from each sample in the Lynna River section shown in stratigraphical order.

Species Sample	<i>D. bastoivalis</i>	<i>D. stougei</i>	<i>D. iommi</i>	<i>D. sventi</i>	<i>D. viirae</i>	<i>D. aff. basiovalis</i>	<i>D. cf. suberectus</i>	Other <i>Drepanoistodus</i>
<i>Lenodus pseudoplamus</i> Zone								
Ly12-42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Yangizeplacognathus crassus</i> Zone								
Ly14-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ly12-37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ly14-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ly14-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ly12-34	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Uncertain interval								
Ly12-33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ly12-31	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	4
Ly12-30	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Ly12-29	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
<i>Lenodus variabilis</i> Zone								
Ly12-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Ly12-23	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ly12-21b	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ly12-21	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ly12-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ly12-16	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Ly12-14	4	5	0	2	0	1	0	0
Ly12-13	0	4	0	1	1	1	0	0
<i>Lenodus antivariabilis</i> Zone								
Ly12-1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ly12-2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Ly12-3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Ly12-5	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ly12-9	5	0	1	0	0	2	0	0

Drepanoistodus cf. *basiovalis* (Sergeeva, 1963) – Löfgren 2000a: fig. 4v.

Drepanoistodus aff. *basiovalis* – Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7g–h.

Drepanoistodus basiovalis – Serra *et al.* 2019: fig. 7k. — Wu *et al.* 2020: fig. 3ah–ai.

Material examined

Seven geniculate elements including five from the Lynna section.

Remarks

The specimens assigned to *Drepanoistodus* aff. *basiovalis* herein share some characters with *D. basiovalis*, *D. iommii* sp. nov. and *D. stougei*, but do not meet the full criteria of any of these species. The most significant character is an extended upper keel anteriorly, which may be angular (see Fig. 6P–Q) or rounded. Cusp is reclined and straight with distinct carinas on both sides of the cusp. Anterior margin varies from almost straight to rounded (convex). The upper anterior corner is angular or weakly rounded. The basal margin is usually slightly convex. The cusp is often nearly twice as long as the upper margin of the base, but it varies considerably (b/c ratio mean = 0.46, standard deviation 0.14). Similarly, angle A is very variable with a mean near 28° and standard deviation at 6.55 (Fig. 5B). Specimens with a rounded anterior edge share similarity with *Drepanoistodus stougei* Rasmussen, 1991 but are distinguished by the extended upper keel anteriorly, and a more narrow and distinct carina. More material and analyses are needed to assess if this taxon represents a separate species. Thus, for the time being, these specimens are left under open nomenclature.

Occurrence

The *L. antivariabilis* Zone (sample LY12-9) to the basal part of the *L. variabilis* Zone (sample LY12-14). Moreover, it has been recorded from the *B. norrlandicus* Zone at Gillberga, Sweden (Löfgren 2000a, as *D. cf. basiovalis*); the *L. variabilis* Zone at Hällekis, Sweden (Mellgren & Eriksson 2010); and also from the *L. pseudoplanus* Zone of the Argentine Precordillera (Serra *et al.* 2019, as *D. basiovalis*) and *Histiodela kristinae* Zone of Zhejiang, China (Wu *et al.* 2020, as *D. basiovalis*).

Drepanoistodus stougei Rasmussen, 1991

Fig. 6R–S

Material examined

22 geniculate elements including 17 from the Lynna section.

Remarks

Drepanoistodus stougei was first described by Rasmussen (1991) and further morphological details for all the four element types were subsequently added by Rasmussen (2001). The most distinct features are the rounded anterior margin and the relatively long upper margin on the base. In the material at hand, the b/c ratio (see Fig. 3) mean is 0.50 and angle A has a mean of 27.4°. In some cases, *D. svendi* sp. nov. is characterized by a similarly rounded anterior margin but is distinguished by its (weakly) curved cusp and carina. *Drepanoistodus* aff. *basiovalis* morphotypes with a rounded anterior margin are separated from *D. stougei* by the characteristically extended keel in the upper anterior corner of the former taxon. Because *D. stougei* is included here just for comparison with the new species described, synonymy or further descriptive details have not been incorporated, but can be found in Rasmussen (1991, 2001).

Occurrence

From the *Lenodus antivariabilis* Zone (sample LY12-5) to the basal part of the interzone (“uncertain interval”; sample LY12-29) between the *L. variabilis* Zone and the *Y. crassus* Zone sensu Lindskog *et al.* (2020) in the Lynna River section.

Drepanoistodus cf. *suberectus* (Branson & Mehl, 1933)

Fig. 6T

Drepanoistodus cf. *suberectus* (Branson & Mehl, 1933) – Löfgren 2003: fig. 7s–u. — Mellgren & Eriksson 2010: fig. 7k (only). — Hints *et al.* 2012: fig. 6h.

Material examined

Four geniculate elements including three from the Lynna section.

Remarks

Drepanoistodus cf. *suberectus* is included in the present work because it superficially resembles *Drepanoistodus viirae* sp. nov. Originally, *D. suberectus* was described as *Oistodus suberectus* from the Upper Ordovician strata of Missouri, USA, by Branson & Mehl (1933), but it was not until 1966 that conodont specialists included the geniculate element in the apparatus (see Bergström & Sweet 1966 and Webers 1966, for details). The *D. suberectus* type locality near Ozora, Missouri, was located and restudied by Bergström & Leslie (2010) who documented the conodont fauna and illustrated three different elements of *D. suberectus*, including the geniculate element. The Upper Ordovician geniculate *D. suberectus* elements (e.g., Stauffer 1935; Nowlan 2002; Bergström & Leslie 2010) are generally more rounded anteriorly and carry more pronounced keels on the cusp than the three geniculate elements at hand, thus leading us to leave the Lynna River specimens in open nomenclature.

Drepanoistodus cf. *suberectus* occurs only sporadically in the Lynna River section samples. It is characterised by a short upper margin of the base compared to the free cusp (b/c ratio near 0.20 in the three specimens found). Angle A between the upper margin of the cusp and the carina on the cusp (see Fig. 3) varies considerably (41–52°) but it is wider than that of the other *Drepanoistodus* species described here. Moreover, it is typified by a convex basal margin; weakly rounded anterior margin, and a weakly developed carina on the straight cusp, which is located on the lower half part of the cusp.

Superficially, *D. cf. suberectus* resembles *D. viirae* sp. nov. because of the relatively short base, but the latter species is distinguished by a narrower angle A (see Fig. 3); wider sides anteriorly on the cusp; laterally compressed cusp with distinct keels, and a median, as opposed to a lower, carina.

Occurrence

The *Yangtzeplacognathus crassus* Zone at Lynna River (samples LY12-34, LY14-2 and LY14-5). *Drepanoistodus* cf. *suberectus* has also been documented from the *L. variabilis* Zone of Hällekis, Sweden (Mellgren & Eriksson 2010).

Discussion

The present study not only assesses the debated Ordovician conodont genus, *Drepanoistodus*, but also adds to our general knowledge of this useful microfossil group from the St. Petersburg region – an area with an extensive historical research tradition. Herein, we show that morphotypes formerly interpreted as *Drepanoistodus basiovalis* include at least five separate species. Whereas two of these species were previously known as *D. basiovalis* and *D. contractus*, three are newly established herein; *D. iommii* sp. nov., *D. svendi* sp. nov. and *D. viirae* sp. nov. Notably, the establishment of *D. iommii* sp. nov. means that a conodont species is now rightfully inducted into the “rock fossil hall of fame”, and that *D. iommii* sp. nov. will become part of the *Rock Fossils* travelling exhibition (see Eriksson 2019). As such, it will also benefit palaeontological outreach.

Drepanoistodus basiovalis appears to have been stratigraphically (Fig. 2) and geographically more widespread than the four other *Drepanoistodus* species studied. Whereas the three new species seem to have been restricted to Baltica, *D. basiovalis* probably also inhabited other palaeocontinents in low numbers. Note, however, that we consider many of the records from outside Baltica (see the *D. basiovalis* synonymy above) to be questionable. In the Lynna River section, *D. svendi* sp. nov. is restricted to the lowermost part of the *L. variabilis* Zone, while *D. viirae* sp. nov. ranges through most of the *L. variabilis* Zone to a level just above the top of the *L. variabilis* Zone (Fig. 2). *Drepanoistodus iommii* sp. nov. appears earlier than *D. svendi* sp. nov. and *D. viirae* sp. nov. in the Lynna River Section (in the *L. antivariabilis* Zone) and this seems also to be the case in a regional scale, where the species has been recorded already from *P. originalis* Zone. More material is needed to assess if these range differences could be related to the cooling event and associated shallowing recorded in the lower Kundan (Rasmussen *et al.* 2016; Rasmussen & Stouge 2018), or it results from other causes.

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