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**KIMASPIS, A NEW PALAEACANTHASPID FROM THE
EARLY DEVONIAN OF CENTRAL ASIA**

In 1967, on the southern slope of Merishkor mountain, the North Nuratau ridge, South Tien Shan, two arthrodira remains were discovered by A. Kim and N. Larin (the Trust "Tashkentgeology", Uzbek SSR). They come from the Dzhalpak Formation, i. e. from an equivalent of the Kunzhak Stage of the Turkestan ridge and the Lochkovian of Barrandian (Kim, Larin, Lesovaya, 1971). The lower part of the Dzhalpak Formation is correlated with the lowermost part of the Lower Devonian, the Borshchov Stage (zone of *Monograptus uniformis*) of Podolia. And thus the finds are of great interest as they belong to one of the oldest arthrodiras.

The palaeacanthaspid and related forms are distributed in the Gedinnian and Siegenian. T. S. Westoll (1967, Text-fig. 1) gave a review of the occurrences of palaeacanthaspid, radotinids and other early arthrodiras in Europe. In addition to them and to *Kimaspis* n. gen. from Central Asia, some other occurrences can be indicated. These are the palaeacanthaspid in Pechora Region, to the north-west from the Urals (Gedinnian), in the north-west of the Siberian platform (Siegenian, Kureika formation) and on Kotelny Island, Soviet Arctic (Siegenian?).

According to the classification given by D. Obruchev (1964), the order Palaeacanthaspidida (Acanthothoraci) contains three genera: *Kosoraspis*, *Palaeacanthaspis* and *Dobrowlania*. The first one occurs in the Upper Lochkovian of the Barrandian (zone of *Monograptus hercynicus*), and the other genera in the Chortkov Stage of Podolia. The order Radotinida is represented by two genera: *Radotina* and *Holopetalichthys*. The first genus comes from the Upper Lochkovian and Pragian of Barrandian and from the Siegenian (Taunus Quartzite) of Rhineland. *Holopetalichthys novaki*, as far as the "Steinkern" of the skull-roof, the holotype, the only specimen figured by A. Koenen (1895, Pl. 4 fig. 2) is considered, does not markedly differ from the Pragian *Radotina* species, *R. tessellata* Gross and *R. prima* (Barrande) = *R. tuberculata* Gross. Both these forms and *Holopetalichthys* are found in the Upper Konieprus Limestone, and so a revision is necessary. There exists, moreover, a third order, Kolymaspidida, represented only by one genus (and species), *Kolymaspis*. The latter is of the Early Devonian age and is found in north-east Siberia (Kolyma Basin).

It has been pointed out several times that the radotinids are closely related to palaeacanthaspid (Gross, 1959; Westoll, 1967; Miles, 1967, etc.). Here these arthrodiras will be considered as belonging to one

group, Palaeacanthaspidida. *Kolymaspis* stands apart from the representatives of this group. The new genus *Kimaspis* exhibits a number of similarities to *Kolymaspis*. The palaeacanthaspids have some remarkable characters, such as the presence of tesserae on the skull-roof in most of the forms, and a specific pattern of lateral line canals. E. Stensiö (1944), T. S. Westoll (1967) and other authors have shown that there is a relationship between the palaeacanthaspids and such groups as ptyctodonts and macropetalichthyids. The early occurrence, the limited stratigraphical distribution and the incompletely known structure of the representatives of this group render any find of palaeacanthaspids especially valuable. I am much indebted to colleagues A. Kim and N. Larin for the possibility to study the specimens of the new palaeacanthaspid. The specimens are in the Geological Museum of the Estonian Academy of Sciences (G.M.E.A., Pi).

Kimaspis n. gen.

Diagnosis: Small form. The postethmoidal portion of the skull-roof about 2 cm in length, lateral edges almost parallel, occipital margin with an embayment of moderate depth; the component plates of the skull-roof closely fused; external surface entirely (?) covered by tesserae; median face of the skull-roof separated from the lateral ones by well developed ridges. Large and long nuchal with a median elevation in its posterior portion. Centrals suture with each other. Posterior paranuchals large. Main lateral line and infraorbital canals enclosed into the bone tissue; partly open posterior pit-line grooves end at prominent pits with external openings of endolymphatic ducts. On the posterior paranuchal occurs the occipital cross commissure canal developed as an open groove. Median dorsal plate oblong and comparatively flat, with a weakly developed median ventral ridge.

Species: *K. tienshanica* n. sp.

Kimaspis tienshanica n. sp.

Type specimen: G.M.E.A. Pi 972, the holotype is a skull-roof (Text-figs. 1—4, Pl. I figs. 1—3).

Diagnosis: Like for the genus (the only known species).

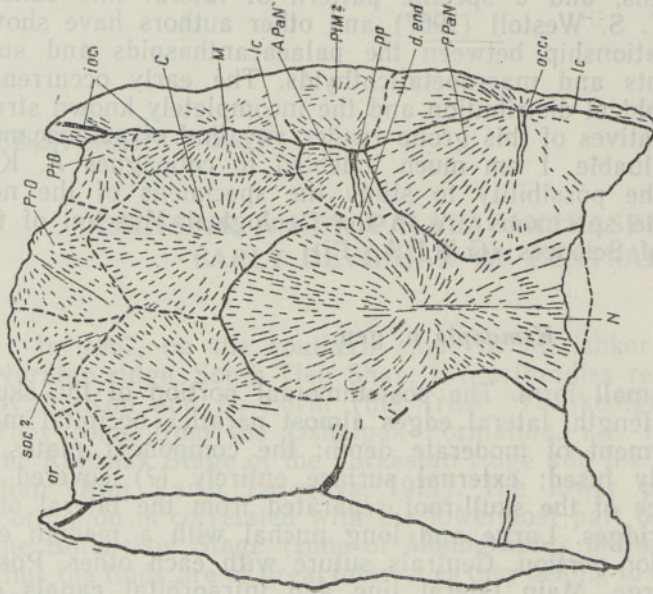
Material: Skull-roof (Pi 972) and median dorsal plate with its counterpart (Pi 973).

Formation: Lower Devonian, Gedinnian, Dzhalspak Formation.

Locality: South Tien Shan, the North Nuratau ridge, the southern slope of Merishkor mountain, lower part (beds No. 23) of the Dzhalspak Formation, by unpublished data of A. Kim and N. Larin. The specimens occur in organogenic limestone with algae, brachiopods and tabulata.

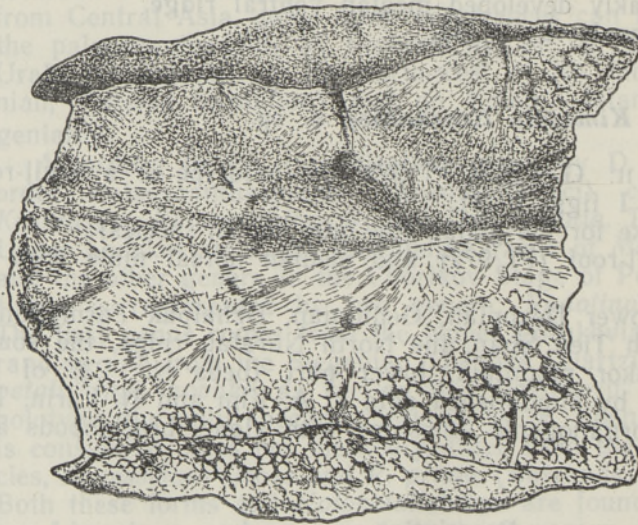
Description

Skull-roof. The specimen Pi 972; the holotype (Text-figs. 1—4, Pl. I figs. 1—3) represents the postethmoidal shield of a small skull-roof of an almost equal length (1.8 cm) and width (1.7 cm). The specimen is slightly deformed, its natural convexity being preserved. The shape of the edges of the skull-roof cannot be established in detail.



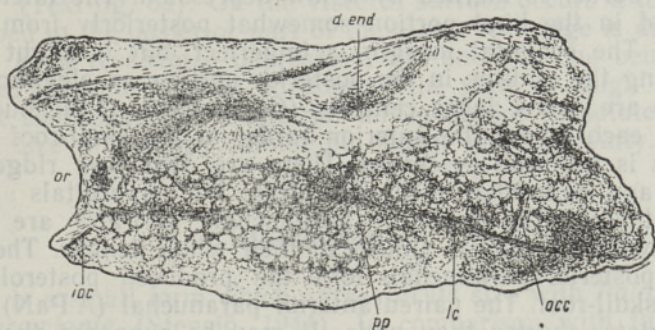
Text-fig. 2. *Kimaspis tienshanica*, skull-roof, somewhat restored; dorsal view, X4.

A PaN — anterior paranuchal, C — central, N — nuchal, M — marginal, PIM? — postmarginal, P PaN — posterior paranuchal, PrO — preorbital, PrM — postorbital, d. end — external opening of endolymphatic duct, ioc — infraorbital canal, lc — main lateral line, occ — occipital commissure canal, or — orbital notch, pp — posterior pit-line, soc? — supraorbital canal?; tube-like sensory line canals, striated.



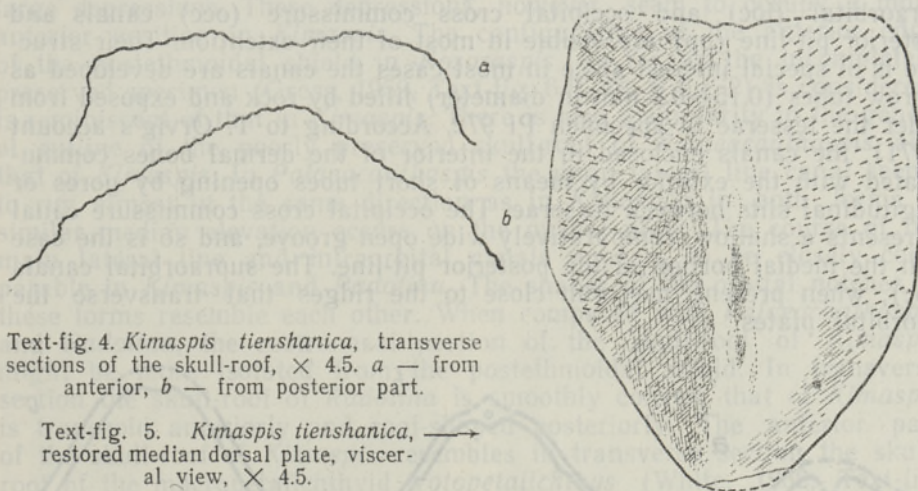
Text-fig. 1. *Kimaspis tienshanica* n. gen., n. sp., skull-roof, the holotype, dorsal view, X4.

The skull-roof is divided into wide median and narrow lateral faces which are separated from each other by prominent longitudinal ridges produced by a change in the angle of the lateral slope from the median line and/or the thickening of the tissue. In the middle these ridges have



Text-fig. 3. *Kimaspis tienshanica*, skull-roof, lateral view, approx. $\times 4$. For lettering see Text-fig. 2.

medially directed embayments. Not far from the latter are placed rather deep depressions or pits with external openings of endolymphatic ducts (d. end, Text-figs. 2, 3). In transverse section the anterior portion of the skull-roof is trapezoid with a concavity in the middle (Text-fig. 4a). The posterior portion (Text-fig. 4b) is roof-shaped. Here the flanks of the medial face form an angle of 118° .



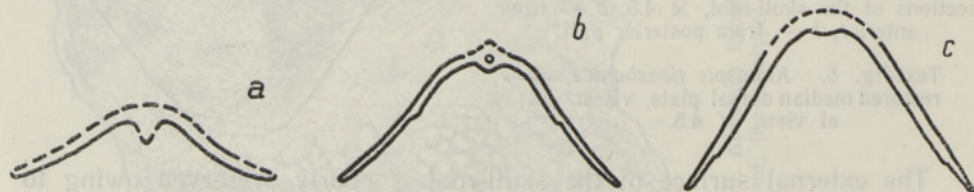
Text-fig. 4. *Kimaspis tienshanica*, transverse sections of the skull-roof, $\times 4.5$. a — from anterior, b — from posterior part.

Text-fig. 5. *Kimaspis tienshanica*, — restored median dorsal plate, visceral view, $\times 4.5$.

The external surface of the skull-roof is poorly preserved owing to the weathering or to the diagenetic alternations of the rock. On the left side tesserae can be traced almost in the whole length of the skull-roof. The single tesserae or their groups are scattered over the remaining portion of the skull-roof. It may be supposed that they covered the whole skull-roof or the major part of its surface. The tesserae (Pl. I figs. 2, 3) are variable in size, small, the diameter of the larger ones being 0.5—0.7 mm. They are high, with an irregular polygonal configuration and bear one or a few simple stellate tubercles on their tops. Most of these tubercles, however, have been destroyed.

On the surface exposed from ornamentation, closely fused plates can be distinguished with the help of bone radiation (Text-figs. 1, 2). Their sutures are indistinct in many cases. The nuchal (N) is a large plate which occupies more than a half of the whole length of the skull-roof. Its anterior border is marked by a low depression. The lateral margins are embayed in the hind portion somewhat posteriorly from the radiation centre. The occipital margin is imperfect, but it might have been convex. Along the midline in the posterior portion an elevation is developed. There are rather large centrals (C) in front of the nuchal, which suture with each other. The anterior border of the skull-roof in front of the centrals is not well preserved. There are two low ridges running backwards and somewhat medially. Here the preorbitals (PrO) are probably situated. The posterior paranuchals (PPaN) are also large and suture with the nuchal almost in their whole length. The hind portion of the posterior paranuchals form the produced posterolateral corners of the skull-roof. The paired anterior paranuchal (APaN) is a small polygonal plate, shorter than wide. It may be supposed that the post-marginal plate (PtM) occurs laterally from the anterior paranuchal. Some slight traces of a radiation centre and a convexity of the lateral margin of the skull-roof indicate its presence. The marginal (M) is elongated, with a radiation centre approximately half-ways along the midline. The postorbital (PtO) occupies a position in the anterolateral corner of the skull-roof. The anterior margin bounds the orbital notch (or) posteriorly. The plate is sinuous in transverse section. The lateral longitudinal ridge transverses the postorbital, marginal, anterior and posterior paranuchals.

Of the lateral line system (Text-figs. 1—3) the main lateral line (lc), infraorbital (ioc) and occipital cross commissure (occ) canals and posterior pit-line (pp) are visible in most of their extension. Their structure is of special interest since in most cases the canals are developed as narrow tubes (0.15—0.2 mm in diameter) filled by rock and exposed from under the tesseræ in specimen Pi 972. According to T. Orvig's account (1971), the canals enclosed in the interior of the dermal bones communicated with the exterior by means of short tubes opening by pores or longitudinal slits between tesseræ. The occipital cross commissure canal represents a shallow, comparatively wide open groove, and so is the case with the medial portion of the posterior pit-line. The supraorbital canals (soc), when present, may run close to the ridges that transverse the preorbital plates.



Text-fig. 6. Transverse sections of the median dorsals of palaeacanthaspids.
 a — *Kimaspis tienshanica*, $\times 3$; b — *Dobrowlania podolica*, $\times 3$; c — *Palaeacanthaspis vasta*, $\times 2.5$;
 a — section through the plate at its maximum width; b, c — by E. Stensiö (1944).

Median dorsal plate. The specimen Pi 973 (Text-figs. 5, 6a; Pl. I fig. 4, Pl. II fig. 1) is splitted into two parts: a fragment of the median dorsal plate exposed from the visceral surface and with broken lateral margins (Pl. I fig. 4), and a counterpart that shows the configu-

ration of the lateral edges and bears some fragments with poorly preserved small round tubercles. The almost complete length of the plate is 1.4 cm. The plate is longer than wide (Text-fig. 5); when restored the breadth: length index is 80. The plate is rather flat; the flanks form an angle of 120° (Text-fig. 6a). On the visceral surface occurs a low median ridge developed in the posterior part of the plate. The ridge is divided into two portions by a transverse depression, the anterior one being higher. The surface of the anterolateral portions of the plate is rough and seems to outline the contact faces for anterior and posterior dorsolateral plates, though their size and shape cannot be shown with certainty.

Discussion

Kimaspis is a small form which agrees in its size with *Palaeacanthaspis* and *Dobrowlania* (Stensiö, 1944). In comparison with these forms, *Kosoraspis* and *Radotina* are more than twice larger (Barrande, 1872; Gross, 1958, 1959; Westoll, 1967). The elongated skull-roof with roughly parallel lateral edges is characteristic of palaeacanthaspids in general, and so are the concave occipital margin and produced posterolateral corners of the skull-roof. In *Kimaspis* the posterior embayment seems to be shorter than in *Kosoraspis* and *Radotina*. The general shape of the skull-roof in *Kimaspis* is closest to that in *Kosoraspis*. There are also some other features which agree in both genera, such as the course of the main lateral line canal and the posterior pit-line, the position of the external openings of the endolymphatic ducts, which are situated in large depressions. These depressions, however, seem to occupy a more anterior position in *Kimaspis*. The configuration of the anterior edge of the postethmoidal shield in *Kosoraspis*, as far as the incompletely preserved specimen (Gross, 1959, Text-fig. 6 B, Pl. 6 fig. 2) is considered, is reminiscent of that in *Kimaspis*. There is also a similarity in the general outline of the poorly preserved skull-roof of *Palaeacanthaspis* and that of *Kimaspis*. In *Palaeacanthaspis* the main lateral line canal seems to run almost in the same direction as in *Kimaspis*; in both forms a similar median elevation occurs on the nuchal plate. The course of the main lateral line and infraorbital canals appears to be closely comparable in *Kimaspis* and *Radotina*. The shapes of the orbital notches of these forms resemble each other. When compared with *Palaeacanthaspis* and *Radotina*, the rostronasal portion of the skull-roof of *Kimaspis* might be more isolated from the postethmoidal shield. In transverse section the skull-roof of *Radotina* is smoothly convex, that of *Kimaspis* is trapezoid anteriorly and roof-shaped posteriorly. The anterior part of the skull-roof of *Kimaspis* resembles in transverse section the skull-roof of the macropetalichthyid *Notopetalichthys* (White, 1952, Text-fig. 37). The nuchal plate of *Kimaspis* is larger and longer than in *Kosoraspis* and *Palaeacanthaspis*. The nuchal and posterior paranuchal plates suture with each other in *Kimaspis* and *Kosoraspis*, which is not the case in *Radotina*. In the latter these plates are separated by long central plates.

Of the lateral line canals pattern in *Kimaspis* the presence of the occipital cross commissure canal is a feature of note, as it is not known in other palaeacanthaspids. In this respect *Kimaspis* resembles some arctolepids, such as *Actinolepis* and its related form from Spitzbergen (Mark-Kurik 1973). Both in these forms and *Kimaspis* the occipital region of the skull-roof is remarkably lengthened.

The structure of the lateral line canals in *Kimaspis* deserves attention since it differs from that in other palaeacanthaspids. In the latter the canals are developed as open grooves, being often wide, especially in *Radotina*. In *Kimaspis* most of the canals (the main lateral line, the infraorbital canals and partly the posterior pit-line) are enclosed in narrow tubes in the interior of dermal bones, resembling the sensory line canals of some ptyctodonts (Ørvig, 1960, 1971) from the Middle and Upper Devonian. In *Kimaspis* the canals transverse the radiation centres of the component plates, which is not always the case, e.g., in *Radotina*.

The most remarkable feature of palaeacanthaspids is the tesseration of the skull-roof. On their skull-roof, the tesserae can be developed to a different degree. Some *Radotina* species seem to lack tesserae entirely, such as *Radotina* sp. from the Taunus quartzite and *R. prima* and so is the case with some *Kosoraspis* specimens. However, in the latter form the tesserae are sometimes very small, as W. Gross (1959) has noticed, and cannot always be distinguished from tubercles. When one compares *Kimaspis* with *Kosoraspis* and *Radotina* in this respect, the tesseration seems to be more developed in the first form. The tesserae occur in the radiation centres of centrals, which is not the case in *Radotina*.

There is a number of similarities between *Kimaspis* and *Kolymaspis*, an Early Devonian form from north-east Siberia. *Kolymaspis*, primarily considered as an ostracoderm (Bystrow 1956), needs a further detailed description, especially for the remarkably well preserved endocranium. *Kolymaspis* is much larger than *Kimaspis*. In the first form the rostronasal portion is connected with the remaining portion of the skull-roof in a short stretch. Here lies one of the similarities between *Kimaspis* and *Kolymaspis*. In transverse section the anterior part of the postethmoidal shield is somewhat rounder in *Kolymaspis* (Pl. II fig. 2). The lateral line systems of *Kimaspis* and *Kolymaspis* show a number of similarities, primarily in their structure. It is highly probable that the ridges in the lateral portion of the skull-roof of *Kolymaspis* (Pl. II fig. 3) mark the position of the lateral line canals enclosed in the dermal bones. The lateral portion of the posterior pit-line has also a tube-like structure in *Kolymaspis*. The medial portion of this line as well as the middle pit-line and supraorbital canal are developed as narrow open grooves. The ornamentation of *Kolymaspis* (Pl. II figs. 4, 5) consists of tubercles, larger and stellate in the rostral region and smaller and simpler on the greater part of the skull-roof.

Of the plates of the trunk-shield, only the median dorsal plate can be compared. The median dorsal plates of *Palaeacanthaspis* and *Kosoraspis* have a high median crest. In *Kimaspis* the dorsal side of the median dorsal is not exposed. The outline shape of the plate in *Kimaspis* resembles more that of *Dobrowlania*, but the median dorsal of the first form has more projecting anterolateral corners, and is slender posteri-

Plate I

Kimaspis tienshanica n. gen., n. sp.

Lower Devonian, Gedinnian, lower part of the Dzhalpak Formation, Merishkor mountain, North Nuratau, South Tien Shan.

Fig. 1. Skull-roof, the holotype, G.M.E.A., Pi 972, dorsal view, $\times 3.5$.

Figs. 2, 3. Ornamentation of the left flank of the holotype. Fig. 2, $\times 5$; fig. 3, $\times 10$.

Fig. 4. The counterpart of the median dorsal plate, Pi 973, $\times 4$.



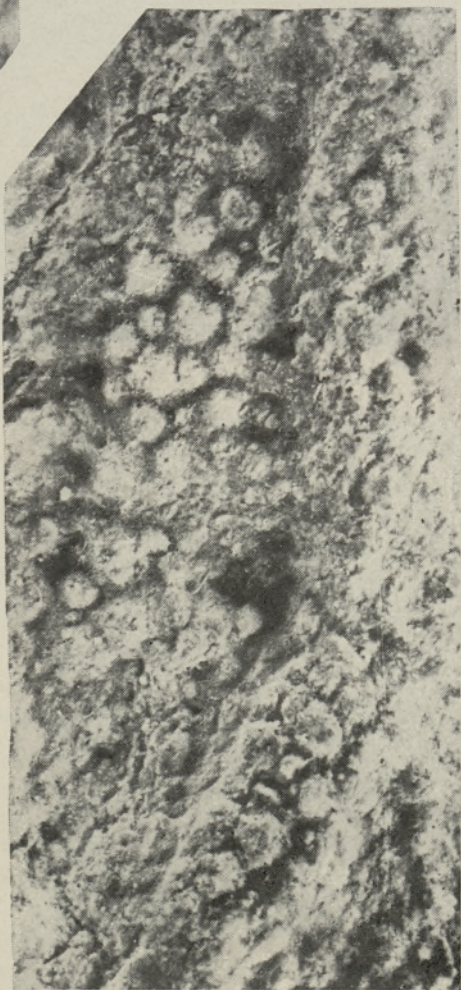
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4



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3



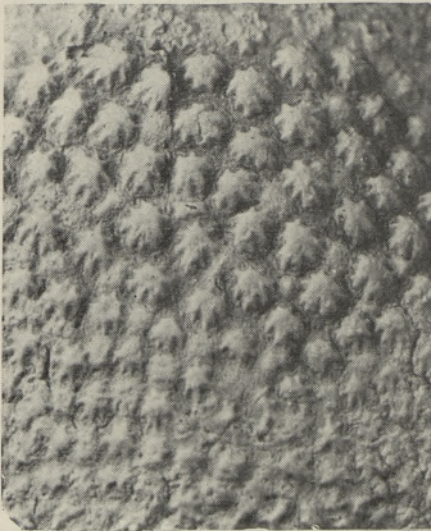
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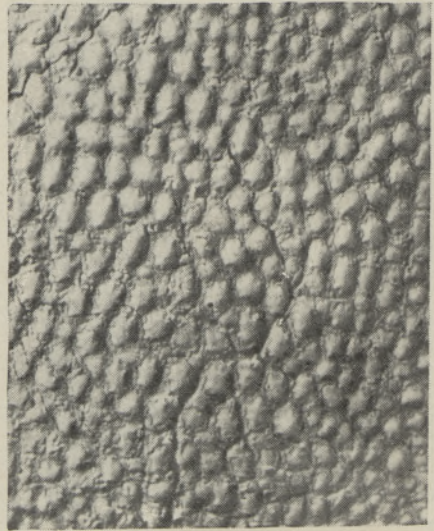
2



3



4



5

only. In transverse section (Text-fig. 6) the median dorsal plates of *Kimaspis*, *Dobrowlania* and *Palaeacanthaspis* have a similar configuration, but their convexity is different. *Kimaspis* has the flattest plate, a condition that indicates the presence of a flatter thunk-shield in this form. The median ventral ridge is developed in all the mentioned palaeacanthaspid, being rather low, but differing in length.

Conclusions

Kimaspis n. gen. is one of the oldest arthrodires that can be placed in the family Palaeacanthaspididae Stensiö, 1944. It is closest to *Kosoraspis*, a palaeacanthaspid from the Upper Lochkovian, the Radotin limestone of Barrandian, as far as the skull-roof is considered. *Kimaspis* has some similarities with the other members of the family, *Palaeacanthaspis* and *Dobrowlania* from the Chortkov Stage (Gedinnian) of Podolia, as well as with *Radotina* from the Upper Lochkovian and Pragian of Barrandian. Such a feature of *Kimaspis* as the well developed tesseration seems to be connected with the early occurrence (in the zone of *Monograptus uniformis*), and can be considered as a primitive condition. The structure of the lateral line system and particularly the presence of the canals enclosed in the tubes, known so far only in ptyctodonts, may perhaps be regarded as a condition caused by the close relationship of *Kimaspis* to the hypothetical common ancestor of placoderms. The study of *Kimaspis* and its comparison with *Kolymaspis* has revealed some new characters in the structure of the latter form. Both *Kimaspis* and *Kolymaspis* have a similar structure of the lateral line system, some canals being developed as tubes enclosed in the bones of the dermal skeleton.

As to the biostratigraphical value, *Kimaspis* confirms the authenticity of the correlation of the lower part of the Lower Devonian in the North Nuratau region with that of Podolia and Barrandian given by A. Kim, N. Larin and A. Lesovaya (1971).

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Plate II

Kimaspis tienshanica n. gen., n. sp.

Fig. 1. Median dorsal plate, Pi 973, visceral view, $\times 4$.

Kolymaspis sibirica Bystrow, 1956

Lower Devonian, river Taskan, Kolyma basin, north-east Siberia.

Fig. 2. Skull-roof, type specimen (Chernyshev CNIGR Museum, Leningrad, No. 7656), anterior view, $\times 1$.

Fig. 3. The type specimen, lateral view, $\times 1$.

Fig. 4. Ornamentation of the rostral region of the type specimen, $\times 6$.

Fig. 5. Ornamentation of the central portion of the postethmoidal shield of the type specimen, $\times 6$.

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KIMASPIS, UUS PALEAKANTASPIID KESK-AASIA ALAMDEVONIST

Artiklis kirjeldatakse vanimaid artrodiiride perekonda *Kimaspis* n. gen. Nuratau mäeaheliku (Lõuna Tjan-San) alamdevoni Džalpaki kihistikust. Džalpaki kihistik vastab Borštšovi lademele Podoolia ning Lohkovi lademele Tšehhi läbilõikes ehk *Monograptus uniformis*'e tsoonile. Uus paleakantaspidiidide perekond sarnaneb kõige enam perekond *Kosoraspis*'ega Tšehhi ülemlohkovist. Tal on ka ühiseid jooni Kolõma basseini alamdevonin esineva *Kolymaspis*'ega. Huvitavaks iseärasuseks nii *Kimaspis*'el kui ka *Kolymaspis*'el on torutaoliste küljeonte kanalite olemasolu, mida seni teati esinevat vaid kõrgematel artrodiiridel-ptüktodontiididel.

ЭЛЬГА МАРК-КУРИК

KIMASPIS, НОВЫЙ ПАЛЕАКАНТАСПИД ИЗ РАННЕГО ДЕВОНА СРЕДНЕЙ АЗИИ

Остатки древних артродир палеакантаспид, распространенных в нижнем девоне (жедин-зиген) Евразии, довольно редкие. Находки из Южного Тянь-Шаня (Северный Нуратау, южный склон горы Меришкор) принадлежат новому представителю этой группы — *Kimaspis* n. gen. Остатки *Kimaspis* собраны в 1967 г. А. И. Кимом и Н. М. Лариным (трест «Ташкентгеология», КГГПЭ) из нижней части джалпакской свиты, т. е. из аналогов кунжакского горизонта Туркестанского хребта и лохкова Баррандиена на уровне зоны *Monograptus uniformis*.

У *Kimaspis tienshanica* n. gen., n. sp. известны крыша черепа (голотип, Геологический музей АН ЭССР, Pi 972; рис. 1—4, табл. I, фиг. 1—3) и mediodorsale, Pi 973 (рис. 5, 6а; табл. I, фиг. 4, табл. II, фиг. 1). Диагноз рода (и единственного вида): Небольшая форма. Постэпимойдальный щит крыши черепа длиной около 2 см, боковые края почти параллельны, задний край умеренно вогнут. Крыша черепа состоит из сливающихся костей, покрытых полностью (?) тессерами. Nuchale крупное и длинное. Centralia граничат друг с другом. Задние parapuchalia крупные. Собственнобоковой (lc) и подглазничной (ioc) каналы имеют вид трубочек, проходящих под тессерами; задняя ямочная линия (pp) кончается в виде открытой борозды возле наружного отверстия эндолимфатического канала (d. end); на заднем parapuchale имеется затылочная поперечная борозда (occ.). Mediodorsale удлиненное, довольно плоское со слабо развитым продольным валиком на висцеральной стороне.

По строению крыши черепа род *Kimaspis* наиболее близок к *Kosoraspis* из верхнего лохкова Баррандиена (зона *Monograptus hercynicus*), но имеет ряд общих признаков с другими палеакантаспидами, а также с родственной им формой *Kolymaspis* (ранний девон северо-востока Сибири).