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ABSTRACT

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Corresponding author:

Zhifei Zhang
elizf@nwu.edu.cn

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Late Ordovician gastropods from the Zhaolaoyu Formation in the southwestern margin of the North China Platform

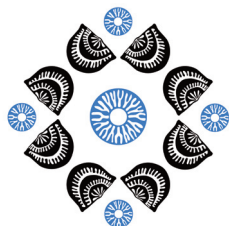
Rao Fu^a, Yue Liang^a, Lars E. Holmer^{a,b}, Yutong Lu^a, Yi Xiang^a,
Yazhou Hu^a and Zhifei Zhang^a

^a State Key Laboratory of Continental Dynamics, Shaanxi Key Laboratory of Early Life and Environments, Department of Geology, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, China

^b Institute of Earth Sciences, Palaeobiology, Uppsala University, SE-752 36 Uppsala, Sweden

The Ordos Basin is located in the western part of the North China Platform and is the second largest sedimentary basin in China; the basin has a huge thickness of the Early Palaeozoic marine deposits, especially the Ordovician ones. The Zhaolaoyu Formation is distributed in the Fuping area of the southern Ordos Basin, where brachiopods, gastropods, graptolites, sponge spicules and ichnofossils are abundant. Ordovician gastropods are abundant, widespread and well known from different palaeocontinents across the world and are important for the study of biogeography and palaeoenvironments of the Ordovician.

However, gastropods from the Ordovician in the Ordos Basin of North China have been rarely documented. The Early to Middle Ordovician of gastropod fauna from the Zhouzishan area, Inner Mongolia, western Ordos Basin, is dominated by the discoidal gastropods with a three to four whorls. Twelve genera of gastropods from the Ordovician of the western and southern Ordos Basin were documented, all with larger spire angle and up to four whorls. Since then, no other Ordovician gastropod fossils have been reported from the Ordos Basin. Herein, we reported and illustrated a gastropod fauna from the Late Ordovician in the Ordos Basin of North China. All gastropod specimens were preserved as internal moulds, which were manually picked from the residues after the samples were chemically dissolved in buffered acetic acid (5–10%). The fauna was recovered from the Zhaolaoyu Formation at the Zhaolaoyu section, Fuping County and consists of several species: *Hormotoma* sp., *Lophonema* sp., *Lophospira* sp. and *Lophospira* cf. *sinensis*. This fauna is dominated by high-spined gastropods with more than five whorls and provides an important supplement to the palaeontological information of the studied area.



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