

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF SHELLY PHOSPHORITE ACCUMULATION IN THE RAKVERE PHOSPHORITE REGION, NORTHERN ESTONIA

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Abstract. The established conodont zones in the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary beds in northern Estonia serve as a basis for the interpretation of the succession of changes in the facies conditions of sedimentation. The facies maps compiled by time intervals correspond to the *Westergaardodina*, *Cordylodus andresi*, *C. proavus*, *C. lindstromi*, and *C. rotundatus*–*C. angulatus* conodont zones. Phosphorite accumulation was the most intensive during the *C. proavus* time. The rugged topography of the underlying Lower Cambrian Tiskre and Vaki formations on the territory of the Rakvere phosphorite region was of great significance in the phosphorite accumulation. At the initial stages of phosphorite accumulation three bottom swells (islands) existed there. The most intensive piling up of phosphorite was related to these swells. They coincide in direction with the present Aseri and Ahtme disturbance zones.

Key words: Cambrian–Ordovician boundary beds, shelly phosphorite, Estonia.

The Rakvere phosphorite region (RPR) is situated in northeastern Estonia; it comprises the Toolse and Aseri deposits in its northern part and the Rakvere deposit in its southern part. The latter is subdivided into large areas, the most important among them being the Assamalla, Rägavere, and Kõbala areas (Fig. 1). The lithostratigraphy of the phosphorite-bearing rocks and correlation of the sequences of the RPR were suggested by Heinsalu and Raudsepp (1993).

The present paper aims mostly at a biostratigraphic subdivision of these sediments and lithofacies analysis by the time intervals established.

The RPR is a kind of juncture in the lithologic-stratigraphic structure of the phosphate-bearing beds adjoining the Cambrian–Ordovician boundary. All the distinguished members of the Kallavere Formation occurring to the west (Maardu and Suurjõgi members) as well as to the east (Rannu Member) of the RPR are represented there. In the northern part of the RPR the Suurjõgi and Rannu members are overlain by the

Katela Member, which gradually goes over into the Orasoja Member approximately to the east of Aseri. Apart from the above five members of the Kallavere Formation, the phosphate-bearing beds of the RPR include also the Tsitre Formation (Figs. 2, 3).

The phosphate-bearing beds in the RPR are underlain by sediments of the Lower Cambrian Tiskre (in the north) and Vaki (in the south) formations.

After a long break from the early to late Cambrian, sedimentation did not start simultaneously on the whole RPR territory. Of great importance for the accumulation of phosphate-bearing sediments in the RPR was the rugged topography of the underlying Tiskre and Vaki sediments. At the initial stages of the accumulation of phosphate-bearing sediments the observed region comprised three elevated areas (bottom swells). Two northern ones constituted rather large, southwest—northeast-directed non-sedimentation areas (islands?) with a dissected coastline, called Rakvere—Aseri and Väike-Maarja—Tudu swells. The third, yet unnamed swell, has been established in the southernmost part of the studied region. The bulk of it is obviously located to the south of the region described.

The biostratigraphic subdivision of the phosphate-bearing strata, which serves as a basis for the lithofacies analysis, is mainly based on the results of conodont studies (V. Viira). Scarce finds of *Obolus apollinis* (identifications by I. Puura and L. Popov) and acritarch data by I. Paalits have also been used.

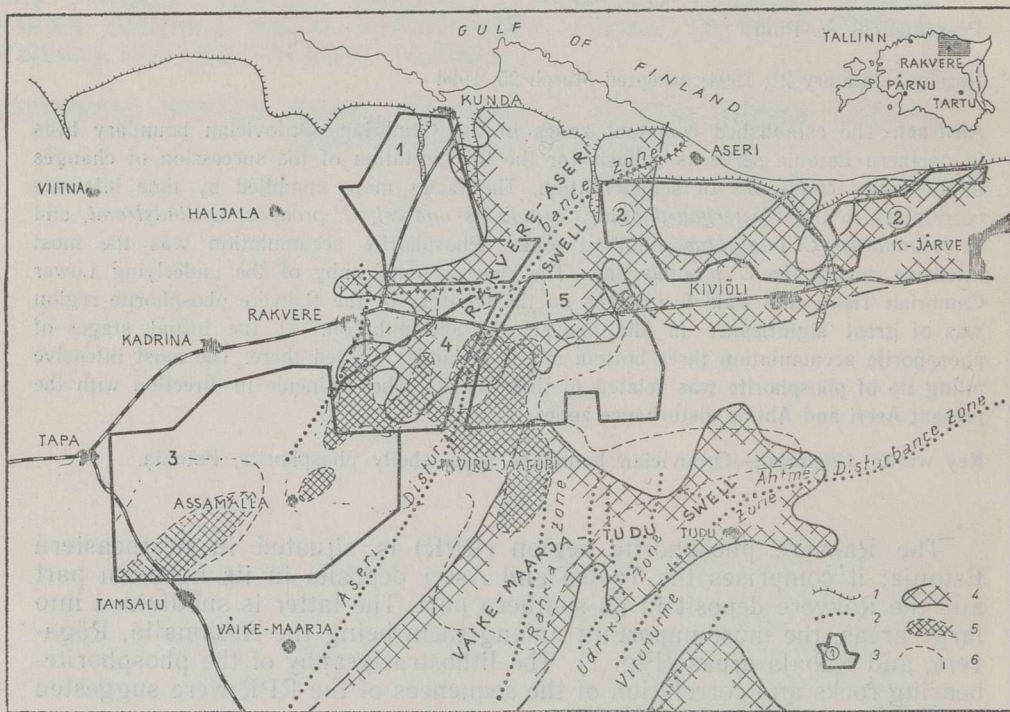


Fig. 1. Areas of maximum phosphorite accumulation and the location of phosphorite deposits in the Rakvere phosphorite region.

1 North-Estonian klint; 2 tectonic disturbance zones; 3 phosphorite deposits and areas: 1 Toolse and 2 Aseri deposits, 3 Assamäe, 4 Rägavere, and 5 Kabala areas; 4 bottom swells (islands) at early stages of the deposition of phosphate-bearing sediments; 5 areas of maximum phosphorite accumulation (thickness of the phosphorite bed over 6 m); 6 areas of phosphorite beds with a thickness of 4–6 m.

CONODONTS

In the studied sections (Vihula, Toolse, Aseri, Saka outcrops, and P-2162, P-2087, P-2176, P-2290 boreholes; Fig. 3) conodonts are of sporadic distribution. They are the most diverse in the Toolse and Saka sections (Kaljo et al., 1986). In the borehole sections of the southern area of the RPR conodonts have been recorded from some levels only.

The oldest conodonts were identified from the Upper Cambrian of the Saka section. These are paraconodonts *Westergaardodina* cf. *bicuspidata*, *Prooneotodus* cf. *gallatini*, and *Furnishina* sp. All of them are representatives of the *Westergaardodina* Zone.

In the next zone, the *Cordylodus andresi* Zone, the euconodonts, s. c. real conodonts, made their first appearance. The zone has been established in Vihula and Toolse sections. Apart from the index species, it comprises *C. primitivus*, *C. viruanus*, *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis*, the transitional species *W.* cf. *bicuspidata*, *F.* cf. *furnishi*, *P.* cf. *gallatini*, coming from the Upper Cambrian, and even the protoconodont *Phakelodus tenuis*, mainly restricted to the Cambrian.

The index species of the *C. proavus* Zone is morphologically closely connected with *C. andresi*. The zone is established in the Vihula, Toolse, and Saka sections, containing besides the index species *C. caboti*, *C. viruanus*, *E. notchpeakensis*, rarely *Westergaardodina* sp., *Furnishina* sp., and in the Toolse section also *C. intermedius*.

The next zone is the *C. lindstromi* Zone, established in the Toolse, Saka, and Aseri outcrops and P-2162, P-2087, and P-2176 borehole sections. Other conodonts are represented by *C. proavus*, *C. intermedius*, *C. prion*, *C. drucei*, and *E. notchpeakensis*. The Saka section has yielded the first specimens of *Oneotodus altus*, forming morphological transitions with the species *E. notchpeakensis* and replacing the latter in higher strata. In one sample from the P-2176 borehole section *C. lindstromi* occurred together with *Drepanodus* sp., which has probably come here from higher layers.

The evolutionary lineage of the genus *Cordylodus* ends up in the *C. rotundatus*—*C. angulatus* Zone. The index species of the zone have been established in the Saka and Aseri sections. Besides them, here occur *C. lindstromi*, *C. prion*, *O. altus*, rarely *C. proavus*, all transitional from lower strata. The Toolse section has also yielded *Iapetognathus* sp. In the P-2290 borehole section the upper part of the Rannu Member contains also *C. rotundatus* and *C. aff. angulatus*, occurring together with conodonts of the Upper Tremadoc *Drepanoistodus deltiifer* Zone. This co-occurrence may have two reasons. Firstly, this level itself may be the *D. deltiifer* Zone, characterized by the occurrence of *Cordylodus* sp. However, this version seems unlikely. Secondly, these species might have been carried into this interval from the higher Varangu Formation. This explanation seems quite truthful. In addition to the zonal species, it contains *Drepanodus arcuatus*, *Paroistodus numarcuatus*, and *Scolopodus* sp. As a rule, the *D. deltiifer* Zone is subdivided into *D. deltiifer pristinus* (lower) and *D. deltiifer deltiifer* (upper) subzones. The specimens of *D. deltiifer* from the P-2290 borehole section cannot be identified up to the subspecies level on the basis of the material available.

However, *D. deltiifer pristinus* was identified in the Toolse Member of the Saka section, where it is concurrent with *C. rotundatus*, *C. angulatus*, *C. prion*, and *O. altus*.

Below we shall present the distribution of the sediments corresponding to the conodont zones distinguished.

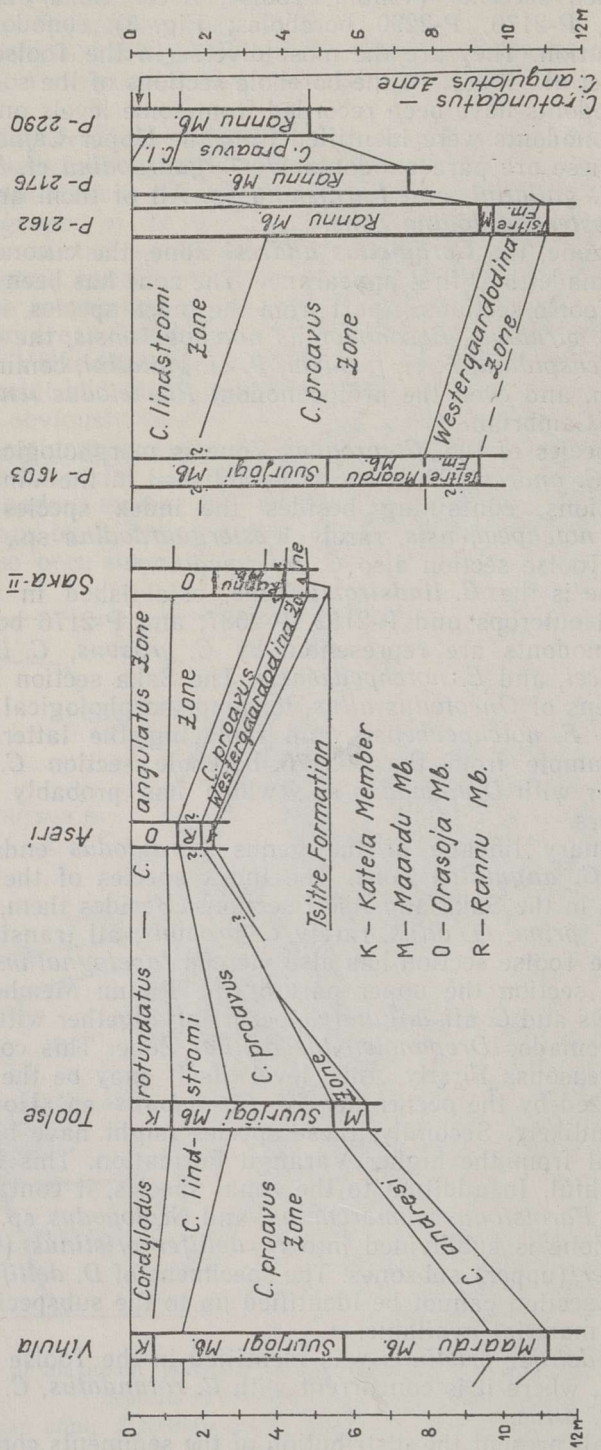
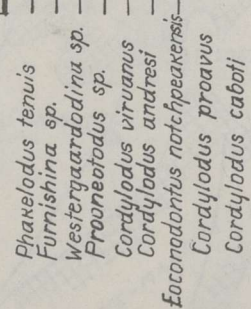
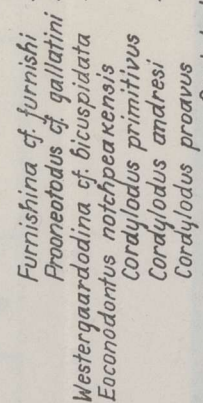


Fig. 2. Correlation of lithostratigraphic units (members, formations) and conodont zones.

DISTRIBUTION AND LITHOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF SOILS BY TIME INTERVALS (CONODONT ZONES)



Cordylopus sp. —



Cordylodus intermedius

Cordylodus lindstromi

Cordylodus drucei

Cordylopus prion

Cordylodus rotundatus

Cordylodus angulatus

Japetoanathus sp.

Oneotodus altus

D_1/rT			AS-91-11
$D_1/K/D$			AS-91-10
			AS-91-9
	1.25		AS-91-8
			AS-91-7
$D_1/K/D$			AS-91-6
$\epsilon_3 -$			AS-91-5
$-D_1/K/R$	0.55		AS-91-4
ϵ_2/τ_5	0.35		AS-91-3
ϵ_1/τ_5			AS-91-1

Cordylodus lindstromi

Oneotodus altus

Cordylopus aff. anq

Cordylodus prion

Cordylodus rotundus

Geological column diagram showing stratigraphic units and their corresponding lithological descriptions. The column is divided into sections by horizontal lines, with labels on the left and right. The left labels include D_1/H , D_1/H , 2.35, D_1/H , $D_1/K/O$, 2.20, $D_1/K/O$, $E_5 D_1/K/R$, 1.85, $E_5 D_1/K/R$, $E_5 D_1/K/R$, and 0.60. The right labels include Sa-84-1, Sa-84-2, Sa-84-3, Sa-84-4, Sa-84-5, Sa-84-6, Sa-84-7, Sa-84-8, Sa-84-9, Sa-84-10, Sa-84-11, and Sa-84-12. The lithological descriptions include various patterns of dots, lines, and wavy lines, representing different rock types and structures.

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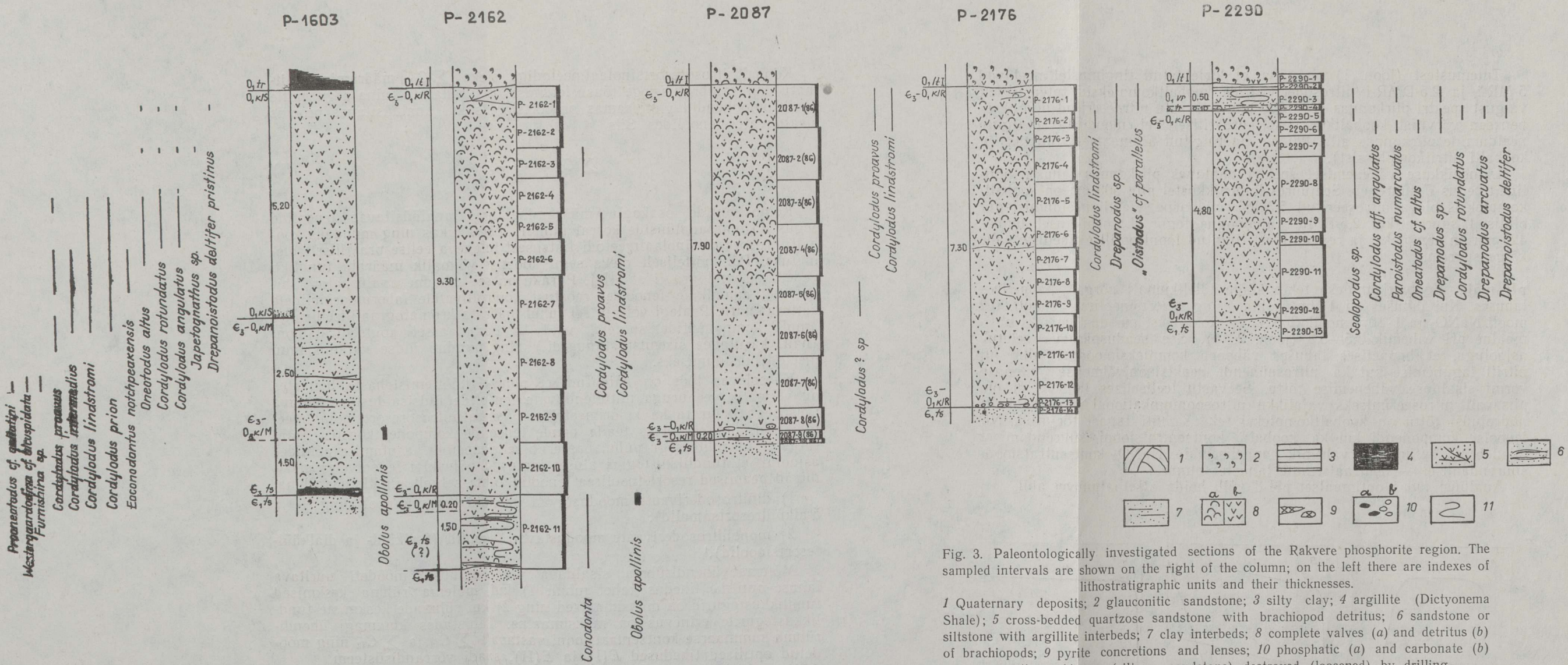


Fig. 3. Paleontologically investigated sections of the Rakvere phosphorite region. The sampled intervals are shown on the right of the column; on the left there are indexes of lithostratigraphic units and their thicknesses.

1 Quaternary deposits; 2 glauconitic sandstone; 3 silty clay; 4 argillite (Dictyonema Shale); 5 cross-bedded quartzose sandstone with brachiopod detritus; 6 sandstone or siltstone with argillite interbeds; 7 clay interbeds; 8 complete valves (a) and detritus (b) of brachiopods; 9 pyrite concretions and lenses; 10 phosphatic (a) and carbonate (b) concretions; 11 core (silt- or sandstone) destroyed (loosened) by drilling.

DISTRIBUTION AND LITHOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF ROCKS BY TIME INTERVALS (CONODONT ZONES)

Westergaardodina time

The oldest among the phosphate-bearing beds under study is the late Cambrian Tsitre Formation (C_{3ts}), belonging to the *Westergaardodina* Zone. The formation is represented by quartzose siltstones with relatively rare clay interbeds and thin interlayers of Inarticulata brachiopod coquina, usually occurring at the base of the section.

The Tsitre Formation has been established reliably in the northeastern part of the studied territory in the Aseri—Saka area and in borehole P-2162 (to NE of the settlement of Viru-Jaagupi (Fig. 2)). The approximate distribution area of the Tsitre Formation ranges from the northeastern part of the territory to southwest between the Rakvere—Aseri and Väike-Maarja—Tudu bottom swells (Fig. 4). Tsitre sediments occur probably also in the Assamalla area, i.e. on the territory between the towns of Rakvere and Tapa and the settlement of Väike-Maarja, although this has not been proved yet by faunal data,

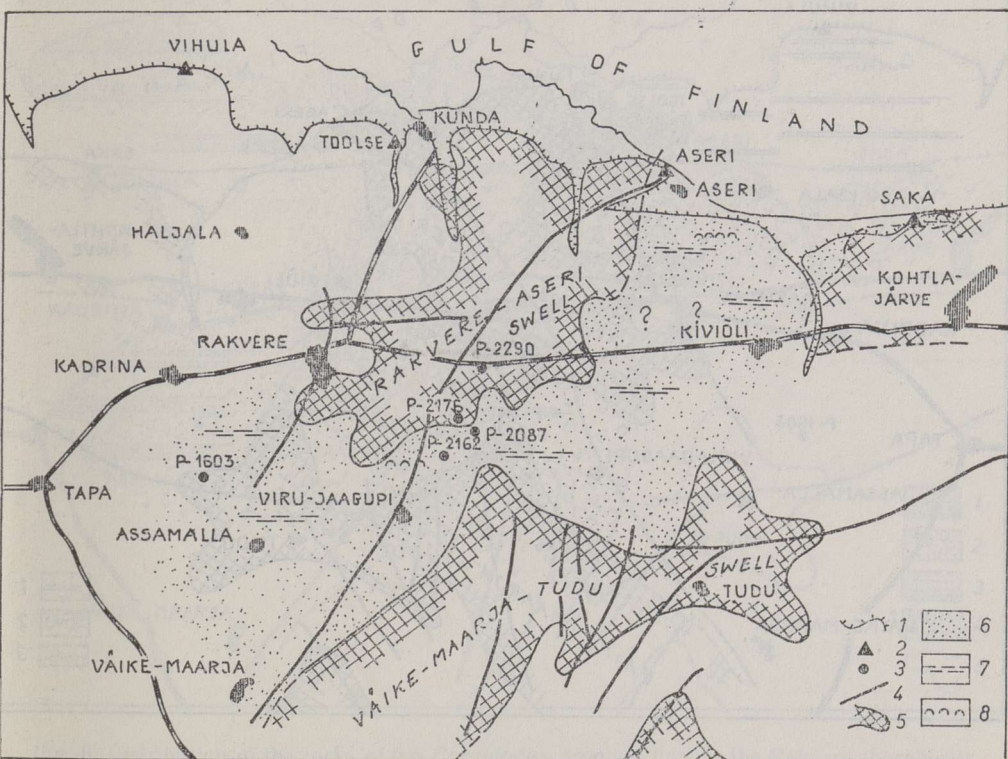


Fig. 4. Distribution of the rocks of the *Westergaardodina* time in the Rakvere phosphorite region.

1 North-Estonian klint; 2 outcrops; 3 boreholes; 4 tectonic disturbance zones; 5 bottom swells; 6 quartzose siltstones; 7 clay interbeds; 8 thin interlayers of brachiopod coquina.

Cordylodus andresi time

This time is represented by the oldest part of the above-lying Kallavere Formation (\mathcal{E}_3 — $O_1 kl$). These beds have been established in the north-western part of the RPR (Fig. 5) in the Vihula and Toolse outcrop sections and belong to the Maardu Member (\mathcal{E}_3 — $O_1 klM$). In the Toolse outcrop the *C. andresi* Zone covers the whole Maardu Member with a thickness of 0.9 m, which in its lower part is represented by Inarticulata brachiopod coquina ("Obolus conglomerate"), in the upper part by quartzose siltstone with interbeds of dark graptolitic argillites (Dictyonema Shale). In the Vihula outcrop the *C. andresi* Zone corresponds only to the lowermost third of the Maardu Member (1.5 m), composed of quartzose siltstones with dark graptolitic argillite interbeds and a thin (a few centimetres) interlayer of coquina at the base of the member.

The study of conodonts in other outcrop sections of northern Estonia has shown the sediments of the *C. andresi* Zone to be of a restricted distribution. Apart from the above-described Toolse and Vihula sections, the *C. andresi* Zone has been established also in the Turjekelder outcrop (about 30 km west of Viitna); outside Estonia it occurs in the Lomashka River section of the Leningrad District (Kaljo et al., 1986; Опорные разрезы..., 1989).

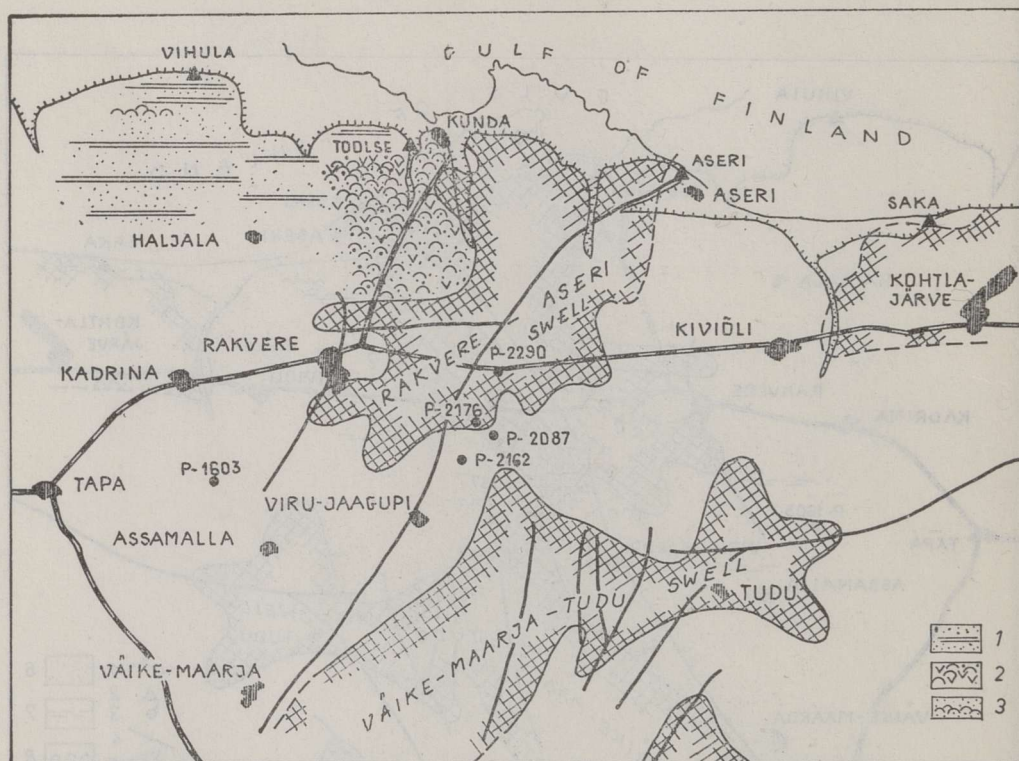


Fig. 5. Distribution of the rocks of the *Cordylodus andresi* time in the Rakvere phosphorite region.

1 quartzose siltstone with interbeds of dark graptolitic argillite (Dictyonema Shale);
2 brachiopod coquina of thin-walled valves; 3 thin interlayers of brachiopod coquina.
Explanation of other signs see Fig. 4.

Cordylodus proavus time

Compared to the underlying beds, those of the *C. proavus* Zone have a wider distribution on the territory of the RPR (Fig. 6) as well as in the whole northern Estonia. In the RPR the zone is distinguished by the index species *C. proavus* in the Vihula, Toolse, and Saka sections. In the Vihula section the *C. proavus* Zone comprises the upper $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Maardu Member (about 3.5 m), represented by quartzose sandy—silty rocks with dark graptolitic argillite interbeds, and almost the whole Suurjõgi Member ($O_1 k/S$, 4.5 m), composed of cross-bedded mainly medium-grained sands or sandstones with brachiopod detritus. In the Toolse outcrop the *C. proavus* Zone coincides with the lower half of the Suurjõgi Member, which is also represented by 1.7 m thick cross-bedded sands or sandstones with brachiopod detritus.

In the northeast of the RPR, in the Saka outcrop section, the *C. proavus* Zone is only 0.5 m thick coinciding with the lower part of the second, upper cyclite of the Rannu Member ($\epsilon_3-O_1 k/R$), represented by brachiopod coquina (Хейнсалу, Курвитс, & Оя, 1991). The lower cyclite (thickness 0.5 m) has not yielded conodonts here. This allows of its different treatment, either as corresponding to the *C. proavus* or *C. andresi* zones, or even to the uppermost part of the *Westergaardodina* Zone (Хейнсалу, Вийра & Паалитс, 1991).

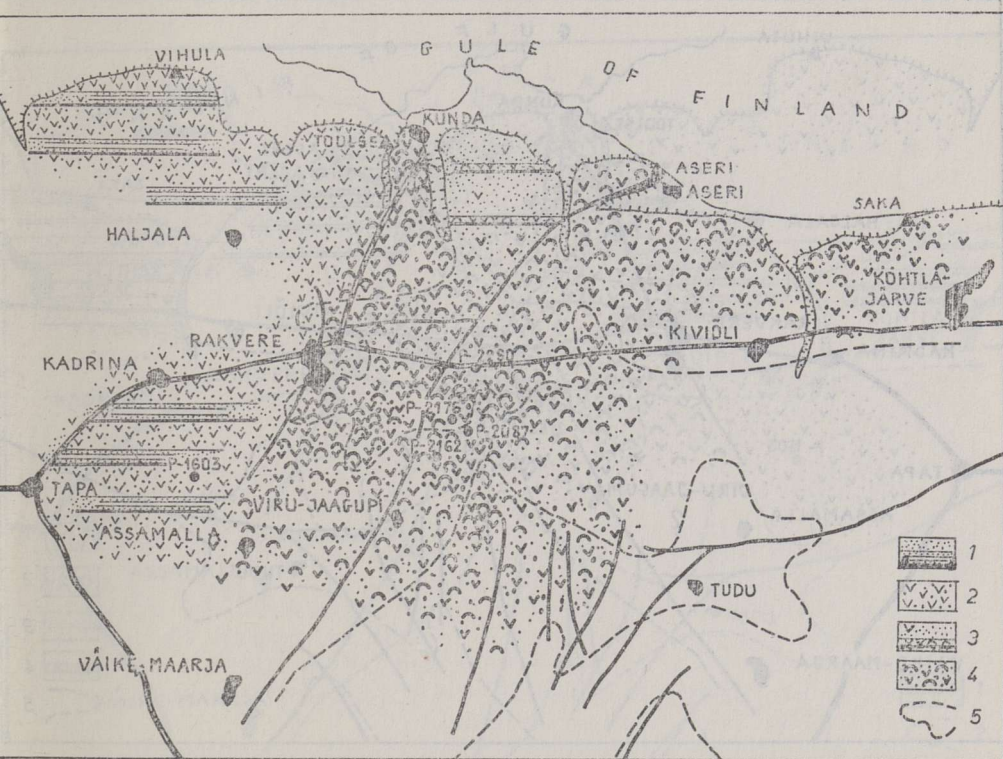


Fig. 6. Distribution of the rocks of the *Cordylodus proavus* time in the Rakvere phosphorite region.

1 quartzose siltstone with interbeds of dark graptolitic argillite; 2 cross-bedded sand or sandstone with relatively fine brachiopod detritus; 3 quartzose fine-grained sand or sandstone with thin interlayers of brachiopod coquina; 4 brachiopod coquina of thick-walled valves; 5 buried bottom swells. Explanation of other signs see Fig. 4.

Conodonts are lacking also in a very thick lower part of the phosphate-bearing section on the territory of the Kabala area. This area is characterized by the richest and thickest (6—9 m, even up to 12 m) layer of brachiopod coquina in the RPR. Therefore it is essential to establish the exact time of its formation; this, unfortunately, has not been possible by conodont data. The study of eight borehole sections has shown the absence of conodonts in the lowermost six metres of four sections. The remaining four sections with a thickness of up to 7.2 m were completely devoid of conodonts. They appear only in the uppermost part of the section of the Rannu Member (Fig. 3) and are already represented by the index species of the higher zones: *C. lindstromi* (boreholes P-2162, P-2087, and P-2176) and *C. angulatus* (borehole P-2290). In the sections of boreholes P-2162 and P-2087 *C. lindstromi* occurs simultaneously with *C. proavus*. This could serve as indirect evidence for the assignment of the lower non-conodont part of the section to the *C. proavus* Zone. This supposition is confirmed by the recovery of *Obolus apollinis* Eichw. (identifications by I. Puura) from the lower part of the underlying Maardu Member in the sections of boreholes P-2162 and P-1603. As is known, co-appearance of *C. proavus* and *O. apollinis* in the sections of the Tosna Formation (*O₁t_s*) of the Leningrad District has been proved by the investigations of Popov and Khazanovich (Опорные разрезы..., 1989).

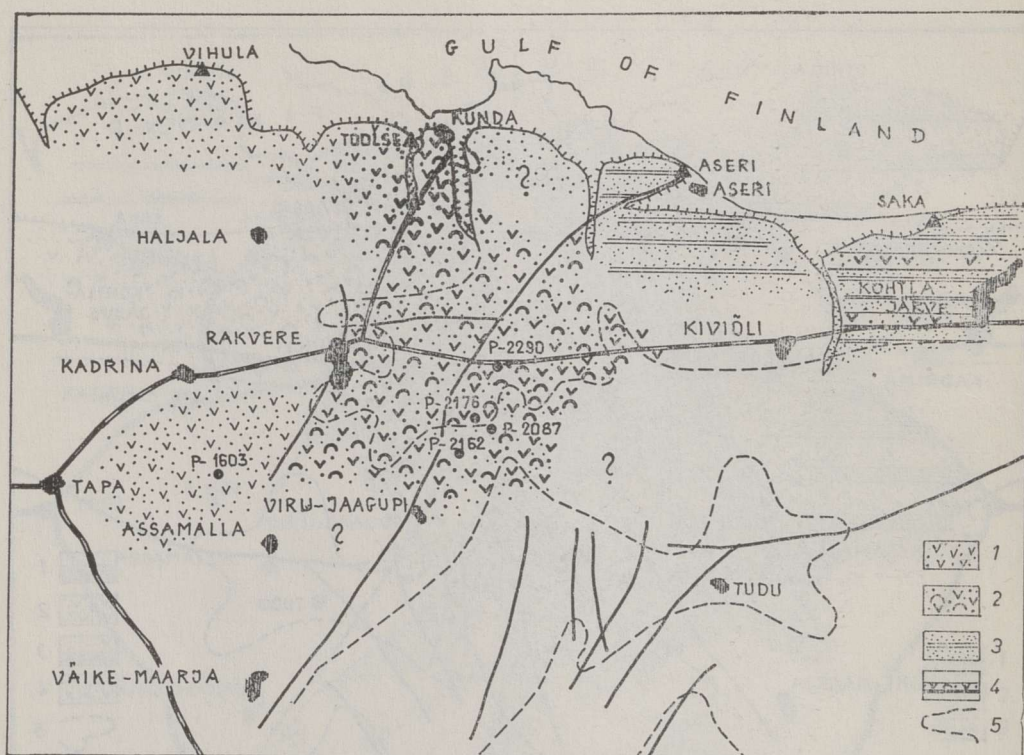


Fig. 7. Distribution of the rocks of the *Cordylodus lindstromi* time in the Rakvere phosphorite region.

1 cross-bedded quartzose sand or sandstone with relatively fine brachiopod detritus; 2 brachiopod coquina of thick-walled valves; 3 quartzose siltstone with interbeds of dark graptolitic argillite; 4 quartzose varigrained sand or sandstone with brachiopod detritus; 5 buried bottom swells. Explanation of other signs see Fig. 4.

Consequently, analogously with the above-mentioned boreholes, in the Kabala and Rägavere areas the *C. proavus* Zone would probably comprise the thickest lower part of the Rannu Member, represented by brachiopod coquina and enriched with detritus with varigrained quartzose sand or sandstones. In the northwestern part of the Assamalla area the *C. proavus* Zone obviously coincides with the upper half of the Maardu Member (siltstones alternating with graptolitic argillites) and the lower half of the Suurjõgi Member (varigrained quartzose sands or sandstones with relatively fine brachiopod detritus).

Cordylodus lindstromi time

In the Vihula and Toolse sections the *C. lindstromi* Zone (Figs. 2 and 7) comprises the uppermost part of the section of cross-bedded sandstones with brachiopod detritus of the Suurjõgi Member with a thickness of 0.5 and 1.5 m, respectively. In the Kabala area the *C. lindstromi* Zone is known to take up a short interval (about 0.5–1.0 m) of brachiopod coquina in the upper part of the Rannu Member. In the Saka outcrop this zone embraces the upper half (about 1 m) of the Rannu Member (quartzose sands or sandstones with brachiopod detritus) and the lower half (1 m) of the Orasoja Member (*O₁klO*), represented by quartzose siltstones with graptolitic argillite interbeds. In the Aseri outcrop the *C. lindstromi* Zone comprises only the 0.6 m thick lower part of the Orasoja Member.

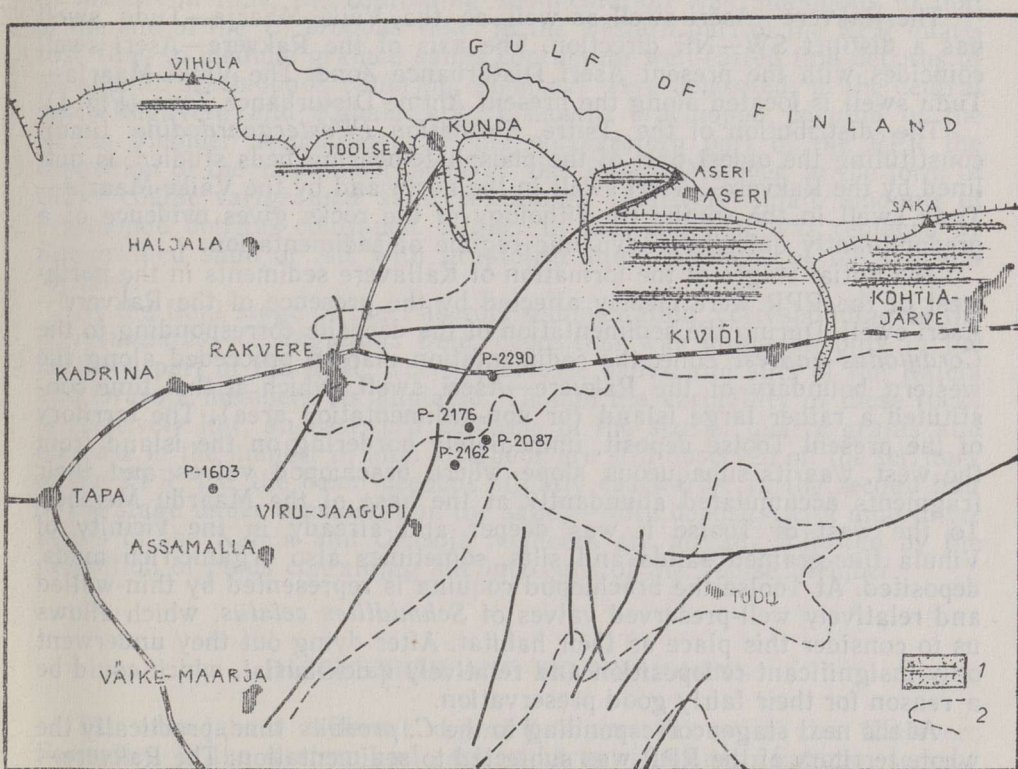


Fig. 8. Distribution of the rocks of the *Cordylodus rotundatus*—*C. angulatus* time in the Rakvere phosphorite region.

1 quartzose fine-grained sand or sandstone and siltstone with interbeds of dark graptolitic argillite; 2 buried bottom swells. Explanation of other signs see Fig. 4.

The Katela Member in the northwestern part of the RPR and the uppermost beds of the Orasoja Member in the northeastern area of the RPR (Fig. 8) correspond to the highest *C. rotundatus*—*C. angulatus* conodont Zone of the phosphate-bearing Cambrian—Ordovician boundary beds. Rocks belonging to this zone are distributed only in the northern part of the RPR. In the west they are represented by quartzose silty fine-grained sands with rare thin, mostly only 1—2 mm thick interlayers of graptolitic argillite (Katela Member, O₁k/K). In the east siltstones with relatively frequent argillite interbeds of about 0.5—1 m in thickness (Orasoja Member) occur.

DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

The lithostratigraphic (Heinsalu & Raudsep, 1993), faunal, and lithofacies analysis of the Cambrian—Ordovician phosphate-bearing boundary beds in the RPR has revealed the following aspects.

At the first stages of sedimentation during the period studied the territory of the RPR was characterized by some submarine swells with non-sedimentation or islands. The most significant among them was the Rakvere—Aseri swell. Its eastern part may have been divided into several smaller swells.

The Rakvere—Aseri swell as well as the Väike-Maarja—Tudu swell has a distinct SW—NE direction. The axis of the Rakvere—Aseri swell coincides with the present Aseri Disturbance Zone. The Väike-Maarja—Tudu swell is located along the present Ahtme Disturbance Zone (Fig. 1).

The distribution of the Tsitre Formation (*Westergaardodina* time), constituting the oldest part of the phosphate-bearing beds studied, is outlined by the Rakvere—Aseri swell in the north and by the Väike-Maarja—Tudu swell in the south. The lithology of the rocks gives evidence of a predominantly quiet hydrodynamic regime of sedimentation.

The initial stages of the formation of Kallavere sediments in the northwest of the RPR were clearly affected by the presence of the Rakvere—Aseri swell. During the sedimentation of the deposits corresponding to the *Cordylodus andresi* Zone, the sedimentation margin proceeded along the western boundary of the Rakvere—Aseri swell, which at that time constituted a rather large island (or non-sedimentation area). The territory of the present Toolse deposit, immediately bordering on the island from the west, was its subaqueous slope where brachiopod valves and their fragments accumulated abundantly at the base of the Maardu Member. To the west of Toolse it was deeper and already in the vicinity of Vihula fine-grained sands and silts, sometimes also organic-rich muds, deposited. At Toolse the brachiopod coquina is represented by thin-walled and relatively well-preserved valves of *Schmidtites celatus*, which allows us to consider this place as their habitat. After dying out they underwent only insignificant redeposition and relatively quick burial, which could be a reason for their fairly good preservation.

At the next stage, corresponding to the *C. proavus* time, practically the whole territory of the RPR was subjected to sedimentation. The Rakvere—Aseri and Väike-Maarja—Tudu swells turned into subaqueous elevations with intensive hydrodynamic conditions of sedimentation, which resulted in the deposition of brachiopod coquina of the Rannu Member. Phosphorite accumulation was the most intensive on the south-southeast slope of the Rakvere—Aseri swell (Kabala and Rägavere areas) and somewhat weaker on the north-northwest slope of the Väike-Maarja—Tudu swell. Such piling

up of phosphorite could have lasted for a very short period, for instance, during a heavy storm.

During the *C. proavus* time, phosphorite accumulation on the west slope of the Rakvere—Aseri swell (Toolse deposit) took place in the form of cross-bedded sand with abundant relatively fine and well-graded phosphatic detritus of brachiopods (Suurjõgi Member).

Westwards (Vihula section) the basin became deeper, since at the beginning of the *C. proavus* time quartzose silts with graptolitic mud interbeds continued to accumulate. With time they gradually turned into fine- to medium-grained cross-bedded quartz sands enriched with brachiopod detritus, resembling the sands of the Toolse deposit. The conditions and the course of sedimentation could have been similar also further to the south, in the Rakvere—Tapa region, i. e. in the northwestern half of the Assamalla area. This assumption is based on the recovery of *O. apollinis* in the lower half of the Maardu Member (identified by I. Puura in borehole section P-1603), where it has an analogous position with the appearance of *C. proavus* in the Vihula section. At the same time in the northeasternmost Saka section of the RPR the interval of the *C. proavus* time is characterized by a 0.45 m thick layer of brachiopod coquina, marking only the very beginning of the transgressive cyclite, which proceeds through all the subsequent stages and ends in the accumulation of graptolite muds. The uppermost part of this cyclite corresponds already to the *Drepanoistodus deltiifer pristinus* time.

At the following stage of the basin evolution, corresponding to the *C. lindstromi* time, the continuing sedimentation was analogous to that of the end of the *C. proavus* time: in the western part of the RPR quartzose fine- to medium-grained sands containing well-sorted fine detritus of phosphatic brachiopods (Suurjõgi Member) were deposited; in the central part (Rägavere and Kabala areas) mostly brachiopod coquina of the Rannu Member accumulated; in the northeastern part of the RPR the deposition of the uppermost beds of the Rannu Member in the form of rather coarse variegated sand containing relatively small amounts of brachiopod detritus continued. Higher in the section it was replaced by fine-grained sand or silt with graptolitic mud interbeds of the Orasoja Member.

At the final stage of the Pakerort sedimentation, corresponding to the *C. rotundatus*—*C. angulatus* time, deposition was going on only in the northern part of the RPR, where quartzose sands and silts of the Katela and Orasoja members accumulated. Though the variability of these rocks is relatively low, an eastward decrease in the size of quartz grains and increase in the number of mud interbeds are still observed on the territory of the RPR, i. e. the basin deepens slightly eastwards. In the second half of the stage under consideration the sandy—silty deposits with mud interlayers of the Katela and Orasoja members are already followed by the deposition of muds containing silt interbeds of the Toolse Member.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The idea about different depositional conditions of the Kallavere Formation in the western and eastern parts of northern Estonia, serving as a basis for the distinction of the western and eastern Estonian subregions, has already been expressed in earlier publications (Хейнсалу, 1981; 1987). The boundary of these subregions was supposed to lie on the territory of the RPR, but its exact position was not yet established.

The conditions of phosphorite accumulation in the RPR were also interpreted by Popov and Khazanovich (Опорные разрезы..., 1989),

who compiled lithofacies maps of northern Estonia and the western part of the Leningrad District comprising the formations and subformations they had distinguished. The units established by Popov and Khazanovich differ from those fixed in the stratigraphic scheme of Estonia. According to our data, the boundaries of the units distinguished in both schemes are not synchronous. The relations between these schemes have been analysed by the present authors also earlier (Хейнсалу & Райдсеп, 1992).

In the opinion of the authors the most important factor determining the course of sedimentation and facies differences in the Cambrian—Ordovician boundary phosphate-bearing beds on the territory of the RPR, was the occurrence of bottom swells of the rocks of the Lower Cambrian Tiskre and Vaki formations serving as a base for the phosphate-bearing sediments considered.

Two larger swells (Rakvere—Aseri and Väike-Maarja—Tudu) have a clear SW—NE orientation. In the axial part of the Rakvere—Aseri swell the present Aseri Disturbance Zone is located. The Väike-Maarja—Tudu swell coincides in direction with the present Ahtme Disturbance Zone and its branches.

At the initial stage of the accumulation of phosphate-bearing sediments both swells were evidently islands (non-sedimentation areas). Since the *Cordylodus proavus* time these swells existed as submarine elevations, which were characterized by a high-intensity hydrodynamic regime of sedimentation. Phosphate accumulation was the most intensive on the slopes of these swells (Figs. 1 and 6).

On the studied territory of the RPR the greatest variability of facies sedimentary conditions was recorded at the early *C. proavus* time. At that time probably major phosphorite accumulation took place in the Kabala and Rägavere areas and also at the Toolse and Aseri deposits.

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FOSFORIIDITEKKE LITOLOOGILIS-FATSIAALSED ASPEKTID RAKVERE FOSFORIIDIRAJONIS (PÕHJA-EESTI)

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Mikropaleontoloogiliste uuringutega väljaselgitatud konodontide tsoonaalsus on litofatsiaalsete kaartide koostamise alus. Kaardid on koostatud järgmistele konodontitsoonidele vastavate ajalõikude kohta: *Westergaardodina*, *Cordylodus andresi*, *C. proavus*, *C. lindstromi* ja *C. rotundatus*—*C. angulatus*. Kõige intensiivsem fosforiidikuhje on seotud *C. proavus*'e ajaga. Olulist rolli fosforiidisetendite tekkeloos on etendanud siinses basseinosas eksisteerinud kolm kerkeala (saart?, nullsedimentatsiooniala), mille nõlvadel toimus kõige intensiivsem fosforiidikuhje. Need kambriumi ja ordoviitsiumi piirimail eksisteerinud kerkealad paiknevad nii, et nende telgjooned langevad üsna hästi kokku praeguste Aseri ja Ahtme tektooniliste rikkevöönditega.

ЛИТОЛОГО-ФАЦИАЛЬНАЯ ОБСТАНОВКА ФОСФОРИТОНАКОПЛЕНИЯ В РАКВЕРЕСКОМ ФОСФОРИТОНОСНОМ РАЙОНЕ, СЕВЕРНАЯ ЭСТОНИЯ

Хельо ХЕЙНСАЛУ, Вийве ВИЙРА, Рейн РАУДСЕП

Микрофаунистическими исследованиями на территории Раквереского фосфоритоносного района выявлены все установленные ранее в пограничных отложениях кембрия—ордовика Северной Эстонии конодонтовые зоны. Последние служат основой для расшифровки последовательности изменений литолого-фациальных обстановок осадконакопления. Литолого-фациальные карты составлены по временным отрезкам, соответствующим конодонтовым зонам *Westergaardodina*, *Cordylodus andresi*, *C. proavus*, *C. lindstromi* и *C. rotundatus*—*C. angulatus*. Наибольшее фосфоритонакопление приурочено ко времени *C. proavus*. Важную роль в фосфоритонакоплении сыграл расчлененный рельеф подстилающих нижнекембрийских тискреских и вакиских отложений. На начальных стадиях фосфоритонакопления здесь существовало три приподнятых участка (острова?, территории нулевой седиментации), к которым приурочено основное фосфоритонагромождение. Приподнятые участки, в свою очередь, явно тяготеют к ныне существующим Азериской и Ахтмеской зонам тектонических нарушений.