



## Putative Ordovician green alga *Krejciella* reinterpreted as enteropneust hemichordate tube (Czech Republic)

Oldřich Fatka and Jakub Vodička

### ABSTRACT

Fossil and extant representatives of Enteropneusta play an important role in the interpretation of early evolution of animals, such as echinoderms, hemichordates and chordates. However, remains of fossil Enteropneusta are rare. Re-examination of available specimens of organic tubes of the Ordovician putative green alga *Krejciella putzkeri* Obrhel 1968 does not show any morphological difference from the Cambrian *Margaretia dorus* Walcott, 1931. The latter species has been recently interpreted as an organic tube produced and inhabited by the worm-like enteropneust hemichordate *Oesia disjuncta* Walcott, 1911. However, the absence of the subterranean lateral extension in Ordovician specimens excludes the synonymy of *Krejciella* and *Margaretia*. Geographic distribution of Cambrian organic tubes classified as *Margaretia* Walcott, 1931 indicates a possible latitudinal control, as all occurrences are apparently restricted to tropical and subtropical belts when plotted in Cambrian palaeogeographic maps. In comparison, the occurrence of the herein studied specimens of *Krejciella* is restricted to cold-water localities of West Gondwana. The micropalaeontological analysis of a rock sample bearing one specimen of *Krejciella* shows the presence of moderately preserved chitinozoans, including the zonal species *Linochitina pissotensis*. This taxon is, for the first time, documented from the Prague Basin and determines the Middle/Late Ordovician boundary interval of the analysed sample. The herein studied specimens of *Krejciella* extend the record of organic tubes produced by enteropneust hemichordates both stratigraphically and palaeogeographically to the Middle/Late Ordovician cold-water area.

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## INTRODUCTION

There are numerous poorly substantiated reports of algal macrofossils from the Lower Paleozoic. The recent research has shown that some of these putative algae are related to animal groups (e.g., Kenrick et al., 1999; Steiner and Maletz, 2012; Maletz and Steiner, 2016; LoDuca et al., 2017), but the affinities of others remain controversial (e.g., Handle and Powell, 2012; LoDuca et al., 2015).

Recently, the interpretation of two of the well-known Cambrian fossils, particularly of *Margaretia dorus* Walcott, 1931 from the Burgess Shale, formerly assigned to algae and *Aldanophyton antiquissimum* Krishtofovich, 1953 from the Sinsk Formation, formerly assigned to ?Lycophyta or algae; see Krishtofovich (1953), Obrhel (1968) and Krassilov (1982, p. 28) has been questioned by Nanglu et al. (2016, p. 1).

The occurrence of numerous specimens of the vermiform enteropneust hemichordate *Oesia disjuncta* Walcott, 1911 preserved inside tubes classified as *Margaretia dorus*, has been recently published from the Kootenay National Park of British Columbia and interpreted as an original association (Nanglu et al., 2016). Consequently, the earlier classification of *Margaretia* Walcott, 1931 as a putative green alga changed, and *M. dorus* has been re-interpreted as an organic tube produced and inhabited by an enteropneust hemichordate (Nanglu et al., 2016). Nanglu et al. (2016) also followed the synonymization of the Early Cambrian genus *Aldanophyton* Krishtofovich, 1953 from Yakutia (Siberian Platform) with *Margaretia* proposed by Conway Morris and Robison (1988, p. 6).

The rare tubicolous fossil genus *Krejciella* Obrhel, 1968 (type species *Krejciella putzkeri* Obrhel 1968) from the Middle-Upper Ordovician Dobrotivá Formation of the Prague Basin (Czech Republic) is morphologically very similar to the Cambrian genus *Margaretia*. *Krejciella* was originally interpreted to represent an early land plant of Lycophyta by Obrhel (1968); later it was regarded as similar to *Margaretia* and classified as a non-calcareous alga of Chlorophyta by Havlíček et al. (1993).

The aim of this contribution is to provide new data on the putative alga *Krejciella*, to analyse its morphology and to specify its stratigraphic occurrence. Based on morphological comparison with specimens classified as *Margaretia* and *Aldanophyton*, the genus *Krejciella* is re-interpreted as an enteropneust hemichordate. Earlier opinions on systematic position of *Margaretia*, *Aldanophyton*

and *Krejciella* are summarised. Stratigraphic range, taphonomy and palaeogeographical distribution of all known Cambrian and Ordovician organic tubes produced by enteropneust hemichordates are discussed. The assemblage of chitinozoans obtained from the rock-sample containing on its surface remain of *Krejciella* is analysed to refine the stratigraphic position of the rock-sample.

## GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Prague Basin comprises Lower Ordovician to Middle Devonian sediments and volcanites preserved in a Variscan-developed syncline (see Havlíček, 1998; Vacek and Žák, 2017) in the central part of the Bohemian Massif, Czech Republic (Figure 1A). The Ordovician is dominated by siliciclastic sediments with local volcanites (Figure 1B). The first lithostratigraphic subdivision was proposed by Barrande (1846). Havlíček and Marek (1973) summarized all earlier data and distinguished 12 formations, including the Dobrotivá Formation.

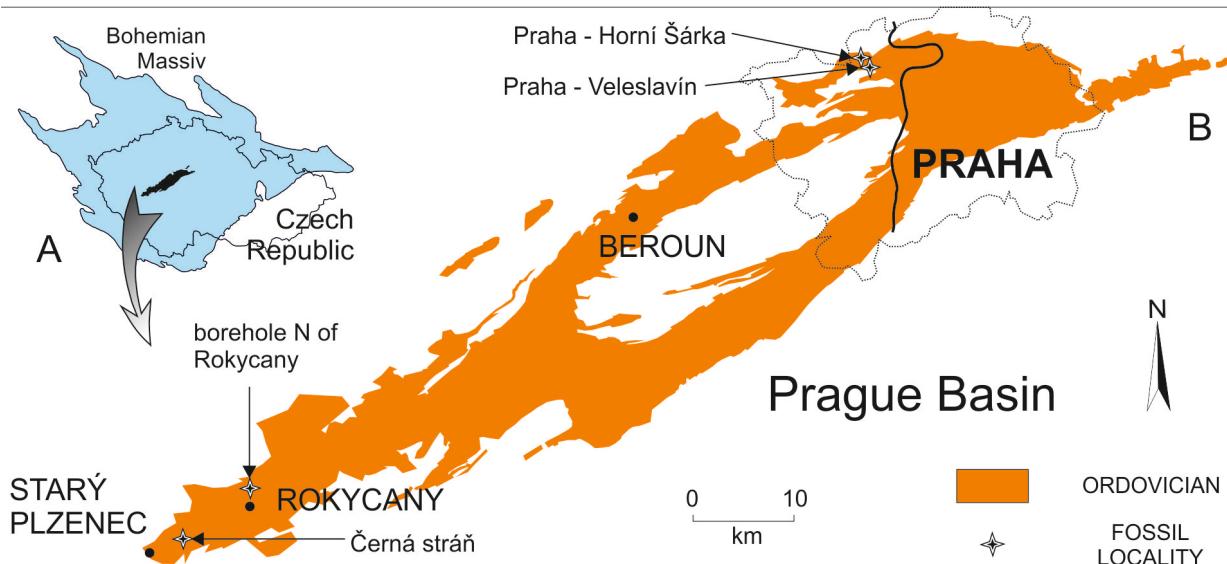
### Dobrotivá Formation

The Dobrotivá Formation was established as a separate unit by Kettner and Kodym (1919). General overviews on stratigraphy and depositional setting are available in Kukal (1957), Havlíček and Vaněk (1966), Havlíček (1982, 1998), Havlíček and Fatka (1992) and Servais et al. (2008).

In the Dobrotivá Formation, two main lithofacies have been distinguished: quartzose sandstones of the Skalka Member are developed in the shallow water environment, while fine-grained Dobrotivá Shales are characteristic for the deeper water setting (Havlíček and Vaněk, 1966). The abrupt onset of the quartzose sandstones of the Skalka Member led Havlíček and Marek (1973) to the proposal of the Dobrotivian Series in the Prague Basin.

Traditionally, the Dobrotivá Formation was considered isochronous with the British Llandeilo Series (more broadly, the British-Avalonian Regional Series) by Havlíček and Vaněk (1966) and Fortey et al. (2000). The Dobrotivá Series of Havlíček and Marek (1973) has been accepted as the Dobrotivian Stage (Fatka et al., 1995) in the Ibero-Bohemian regional chronostratigraphical scale and is correlated with the latest Darriwillian to the earliest Sandbian (Gutiérrez-Marco et al., 2017).

**Fossils of the Dobrotivá Formation.** The Dobrotivá Formation contains locally common, highly diverse skeletal fauna (e.g., Havlíček and Vaněk,



**FIGURE 1.** Location map of the study area, showing the location of each of the studied localities within the Ordovician of the Prague Basin. A. Map of the Czech Republic and the Bohemian Massif showing the distribution of Ordovician rocks in the Prague Basin. B. Ordovician of the Prague Basin with the location of five outcrops that yielded the studied specimens.

1966, 1990; Fatka and Mergl, 2009). Diverse trilobites, brachiopods, gastropods, echinoderms, phyllocarids, ostracods, bivalves, agnostids, hyoliths, cephalopods and conulariids associated with graptolites and ichnofossils have been studied for more than 150 years (see Havlíček and Vaněk, 1966). Detailed lists of fauna established in the Dobrotivá Formation were compiled by Havlíček and Vaněk (1966, 1990); they were later supplemented by Mikuláš (1991), Havlíček et al. (1993), Vaněk (1995, 1999), Mergl (2002), Mergl et al. (2007, 2008), Manda (2008), Peršík and Budil (2009), David and Budil (2015) and Aubrechtová and Turek (2018).

**Biostratigraphy of the Dobrotivá Formation.** The Dobrotivá Formation has been divided into two graptolite biozones, i.e., *Hustedograptus teretiusculus* and *Cryptograptus tricornis* (see Havlíček and Vaněk, 1966, 1990). However, graptolites are generally rare, and no graptolite specimen is known to occur together with herein studied tubiculous fossils. The chitinozoan record of the Dobrotivá Formation is rather poor. Eisenack (1948) studied chitinozoans from 11 nodules collected at six outcrops, most probably representing several stratigraphic levels. However, the research of Eisenack (1948) did not contribute to the biostratigraphy of the Dobrotivá Formation. Fatka et al. (1997) reported the co-occurrence of chitinozoans *Laufeldochitina clavata* (Jenkins, 1967) and *Linochitina* aff. *pissotensis* (Paris, 1981) associated

with the Baltic graptolite *Gymnograptus linarssonii* (Moberg) in one core sample (Cekov HJ 1 drill core) from the Dobrotivá Formation. These specimens were, however, not figured.

#### Localities with *Krejciella*

Specimens of *Krejciella* have been collected at four different fossil sites in the Prague Basin, (1) at the Praha – Horní Šárka locality (Pod libockým hřbitovem), (2) at the Praha – Veleslavín locality, (3) in an unnumbered borehole north of Rokycany, (4) at the Černá stráň slope locality near Starý Plzenec (Figure 1B). The herein examined material comprises three originals of Obrhel (1968) and seven other specimens (Table 1).

**Praha – Horní Šárka locality.** Type specimens of Obrhel come from loose siliceous nodules collected at this locality (see Table 1). Early diagenetic siliceous nodules originate from distinct levels of the sedimentary sequence and such individual levels could contain fauna of various fossil associations (Loi and Dabard, 2002). During the weathering, these nodules were freed and mixed in the Quaternary soil. Consequently, loose nodules collected at one locality could belong to several fossil associations. Generally, several fossil species co-occur in one nodule, in such a case the original fossil association can be determined. However, the herein studied tubiculous fossils are preserved in two small nodules that do not contain other fossil remnants.

**TABLE 1.** Length, width and lithology of specimens of tubicolous fossils of *Krejciella putzkeri*. Dimensions in millimetres, + indicates the internal mould, – indicates the external mould.

| Number | Length       | Width | Locality | Lithology                         | Figure           |           |
|--------|--------------|-------|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1      | NML D497a    | 19.7  | 6        | Praha – Horní Šárka               | Siliceous nodule | Figure 2A |
| 2      | NML D497b    | 21.9  | 4.6      | Praha – Horní Šárka               | Siliceous nodule | Figure 2B |
| 3      | NML D498     | 17.5  | 7.4      | Praha – Horní Šárka               | Siliceous nodule | Figure 2C |
| 4      | ČGS JP2015a- | 117   | 11.7     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | Figure 3A |
| 5      | ČGS JP2015b+ | 124   | 12.3     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | Figure 3C |
| 6      | ČGS JP2016a+ | 75.2  | 17.2     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | Figure 3D |
| 7      | ČGS JP2016b- | 61.3  | 10.8     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | -         |
| 8      | ČGS 2016c-   | 38.6  | 12.8     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | -         |
| 9      | ČGS JP2017+  | 74    | 13.7     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | Figure 3E |
| 10     | ČGS JP2018a- | 90    | 16       | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | -         |
| 11     | ČGS JP2018b+ | 113   | 14       | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | -         |
| 12     | OMR 56003+   | 71.4  | 11.5     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | -         |
| 13     | OMR 56003-   | 73.3  | 14.5     | Praha – Veleslavín                | Dark mudstone    | -         |
| 14     | OMR 19316    | 35.8  | 11.1     | unnumbered borehole N of Rokycany | Dark mudstone    | -         |
| 15     | OMR 11794-   | 46.7  | 11.3     | Černá stráň slope locality        | Dark mudstone    | -         |

**Praha – Veleslavín locality.** Specimens reported by Havlíček et al. (1993) and part of other herein studied specimens (see Table 1) were collected from excavations of a water pipe and sewerage system at Praha – Veleslavín (details see Peršín and Budil, 2009, p. 32, locality number 19). At this outcrop, specimens of *Krejciella* were collected together with articulated exoskeletons of the cyclopypgid trilobite *Emmrichops* are associated with *Cyclopyge*, *Placoparia*, diverse echinoderms (e.g., *Aristocystites*), linguliformean brachiopods and the gastropod *Grandostoma* (Peršín and Budil, 2009, p. 32).

**Černá stráň locality near Starý Plzenec.** From this large outcrop (locality no. 57 of Mergl, 2002, p. 8) a small fragment of *Krejciella* (specimen OMR 11794; see Table 1) preserved in dark mudstone was reported by Mergl and Vohradský (2000, p. 108). The associated skeletal fauna is dominated by brachiopods (*Paterula* and *Benignites*) and trilobites (*Cyclopyge*, *Degamella*, *Zeliszkella*, *Dindymene*, *Ormathops*) associated with echinoderms (e.g., *Mitrocystella*) and conulariids. The level containing this fossil association was assigned to the middle through upper levels of the Dobrotivá Formation by Mergl (2002, p. 8).

**The unnumbered Borehole N of Rokycany.** One specimen (OMR 19316, collected by P. Kraft; see Table 1) comes from an unnumbered borehole N of Rokycany (see Mergl, 2002, p. 8, locality no. 41). No other fossil is preserved on the small slab of the dark shale originating from this borehole.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

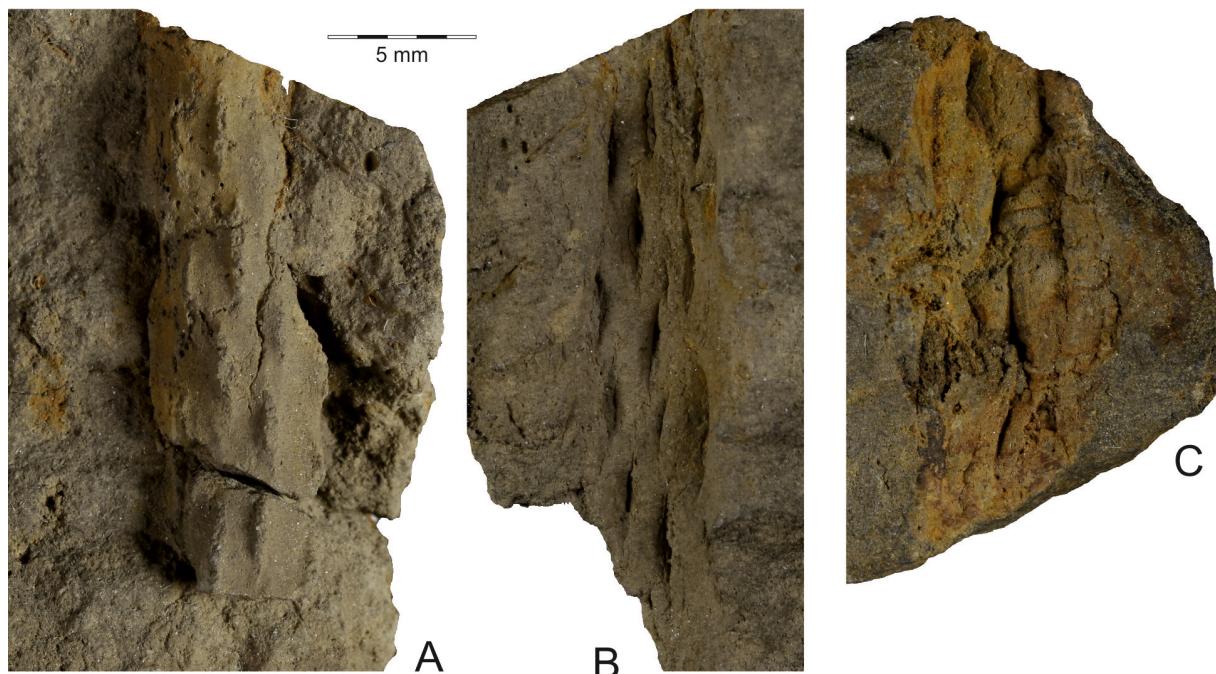
### Studied Material

The studied material is housed in the National Museum Prague (NML D), in the Czech Geological Survey, Prague (ČGS) and in the Museum of Dr. B. Horák in Rokycany (OMR).

**Type specimens of *Krejciella*.** Original specimens described by Obrhel (1968) were collected by an amateur collector F. Putzker in loose siliceous nodules; such loose siliceous nodules containing Middle Ordovician fossils are widely distributed in the Prague Basin and are known at numerous outcrops of Šárka and Dobrotivá formations (see Lajblová and Kraft, 2014). Type specimens of Obrhel (1968) are comparatively small fragments of three-dimensionally preserved tube-shaped fossils. The holotype represents both internal and external moulds (NML D497a, b, Figure 2A-B), while the paratype is only an external mould (NML D498, Figure 2C).

**Other material of *Krejciella*.** The material described by Havlíček et al. (1993) and the newly studied specimens, all from the Praha – Veleslavín locality, are preserved as incomplete, strongly flattened fragments of internal and external moulds in dark mudstones (specimens ČGS JP 2015a, b; ČGS JP 2016a, b, c; ČGS JP 2017; ČGS JP 2018a, b; see Table 1; Figure 3).

Small fragments of *Krejciella* were ascertained also at two localities in the western part of the Prague Basin (Figure 1B). One specimen



**FIGURE 2.** Type material of *Krejciella putzkeri* Obrhel 1968. Three-dimensionally preserved fragments of tube-shaped fossils. All specimens are in lateral view and are housed in the National Museum Prague. A. Holotype, NML D497a. B. Counterpart of the holotype, NML 497b. C. Paratype, NML 498.

(OMR 19316, collected by P. Kraft) comes from an unnumbered borehole N of Rokycany (see Mergl, 2002, p. 8, locality no. 41). The second specimen (OMR 11794) was reported by Mergl and Vohradský (2000, p. 108) from the locality Černá stráň slope near Starý Plzenec (see Mergl, 2002, p. 8, locality no. 57).

#### Methods

**Study of macrofossils.** Construction, width, length, fragility and disposition of pores on the tube surface and on the internal mould of the herein studied material are used for morphological comparison of remains of *Krejciella* and *Margaretia*.

Fossils associated with *Krejciella* are summarized and interpreted in respect to bathymetry of skeletal fauna associations (Figure 4), taphonomy and stratigraphy.

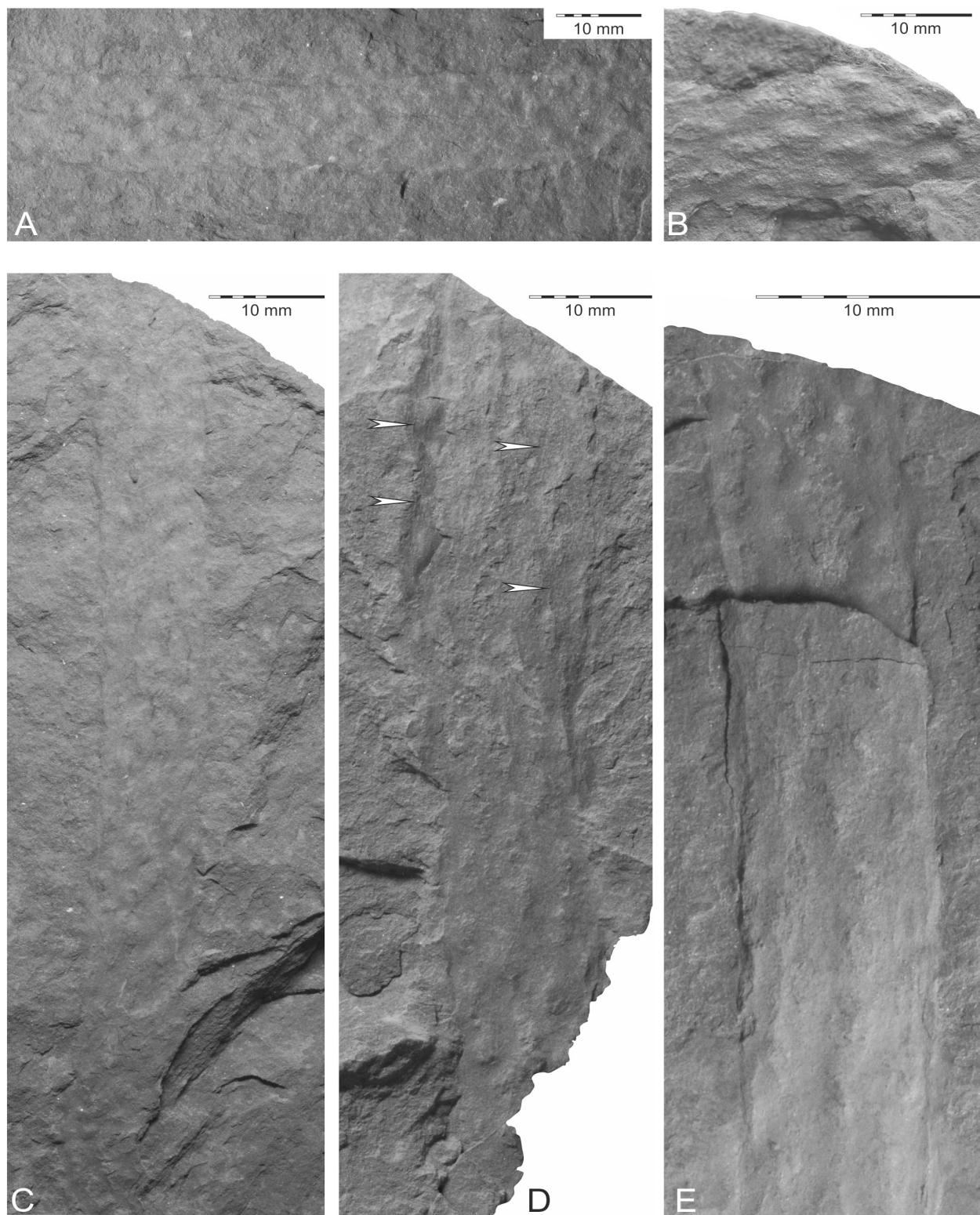
**Study of microfossils.** A standard palynological method based on the HCl and HF treating (e.g., Paris, 2006) was applied to a piece of 300 g dark mudstone from the sample ČGS JP2016a with the aim to study its micropalaeontological content. The organic residuum was examined using a stereomicroscope, individual microfossils were picked and documented using the optical microscope Carl Zeiss Jena and scanning electron microscope JEOL-JSM 6380; morphometric data were obtained from digital images.

## RESULTS

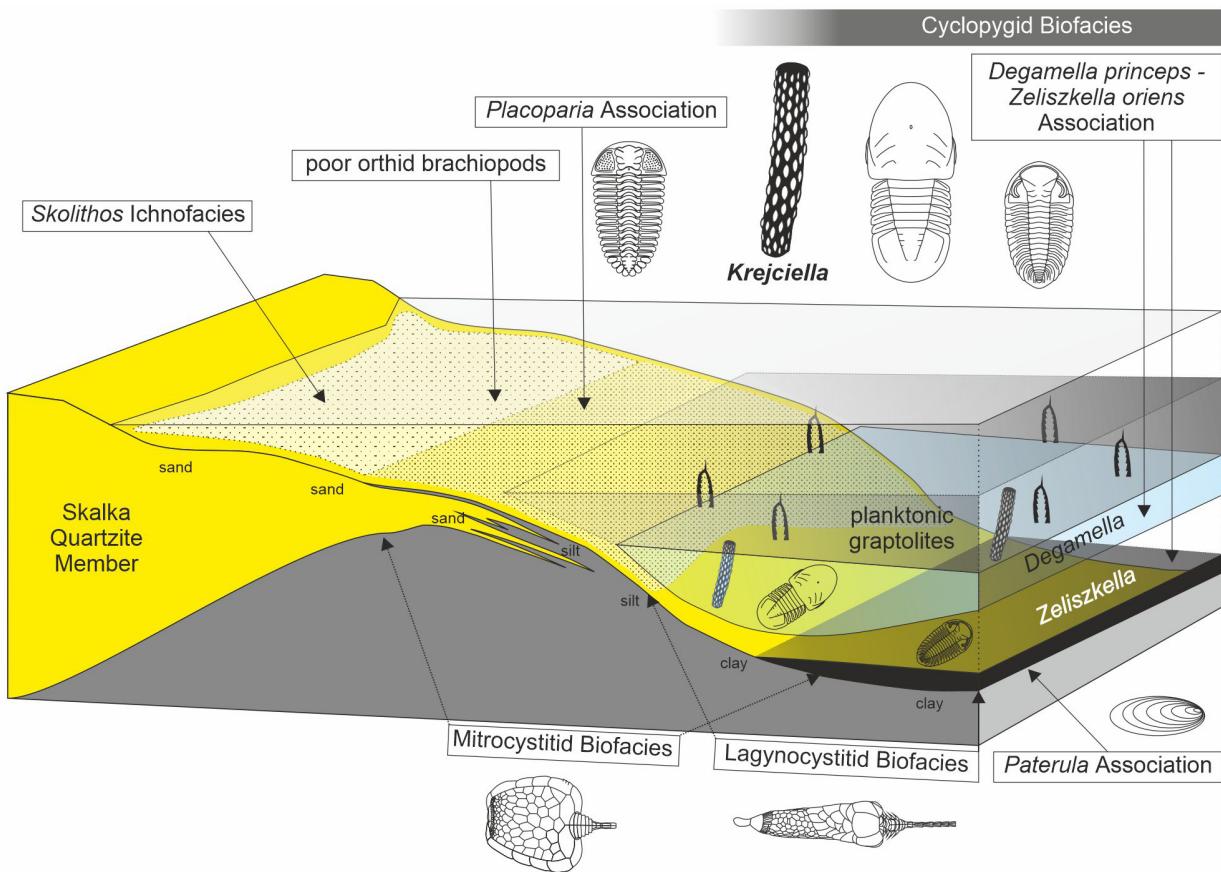
### Specimens of *Krejciella*

**Description.** The type material, internal and external moulds of short fragments is preserved in siliceous nodules (Figure 2). All more recently collected specimens originate from dark mudstones and are preserved as strongly flattened moulds. Internal moulds are slightly convex, and they measure less than 1 mm in thickness (Figure 3A-B, E); external moulds are either flat or very subtly concave (Figure 3C-E). Gentle mounds are usually seen on the surface of the internal mould (Figure 3B) while depressions prevail on the external mould. Mounds and depressions show a regularly spiral arrangement. The shape of wall perforations varies from a slightly opened elliptical slit through rhombic to circular. Some slits may be almost closed, while others are opened, and their width is equal to one-fourth of the width of the flattened tube (Figure 3A). The number of perforations ranges around eight to nine per revolution. In well-preserved parts of the tube wall, fine longitudinal fibres are discernible (white arrows in Figure 3D).

**Dimensions.** The three-dimensional holotype (NML D497a, b) is around 20 mm in length and is up to 6 mm wide; similarly, the preserved paratype (NML D498) is 17.5 mm long and reaches 7.4 mm in width. Other studied specimens are strongly flat-



**FIGURE 3.** Other material of *Krejciella putzkeri* Obrhel 1968. Flattened fragments of tube-shaped fossils. White arrows indicate fibres. A. External mould, ČGS JP2015a. B. ČGS JP 2016b detail of pores. C. Internal mould, ČGS JP2015b. D. Internal mould, ČGS JP2016a. E. Internal mould, ČGS JP2017.



**FIGURE 4.** Sketch showing the distribution of major biofacies associated with the late Darriwilian-early Sandbian Dobrotivá Formation. The shallowest part of the basin was inhabited by a sparse orthid brachiopod association. In the offshore direction it was replaced by the *Placoparia* Association, which is characterized by a rich skeletal fauna with trilobites and brachiopods. In the offshore slope settings, it grades into a low-diversity atheloptic trilobite association that also includes 'gardens' of benthic dendroids. The water column was inhabited by planktonic graptolites and taxa of the poorly diverse Cyclopypid Biofacies, particularly by *Degamella princeps*. Poorly oxygenated black shales in the central part of the basin were dominated by the *Paterula* Association, at some sites associated with the trilobite *Zeliszkella oriens*. Modified after Fatka and Mergl (2009, figure 11d) and Peršín and Budík (2009).

tended with the length ranging from 35.8 to 124 mm, and their width ranges from 11.1 to 17.2 mm (see Table 1).

## DISCUSSION

### Comparison of Morphology of *Krejciella* with *Margaretia* and *Aldanophyton*

Specimens classified as *Margaretia*, *Aldanophyton* and *Krejciella* have traditionally been interpreted as green algae or as early land plants (e.g., Walcott, 1931; Krishtofovich, 1953; Obrhel, 1968; Conway Morris and Robison, 1988). Recent re-examination of Cambrian material resulted in synonymization of *Margaretia* and *Aldanophyton* and re-interpretation of these tubicolous fossils as organic tubes produced and inhabited by a worm-

like enteropneust hemichordate (Nanglu et al., 2016). However, the Ordovician specimens of *Krejciella* were not considered. Therefore, the morphology of specimens of *Krejciella*, *Margaretia* including *Aldanophyton* is compared in detail.

More than 1,000 specimens are known in Cambrian *Margaretia* including *Aldanophyton*; in comparison about 15 Ordovician specimens of *Krejciella* are known (Table 1). The Czech material is, however, sufficient to allow comparison of a number of key details.

**Morphological details.** Specimens classified to all three genera show a common and very characteristic morphology. Cylindrical tubes with walls composed of longitudinal fibres bear spirally arranged rhombic to circular pores (= mounds on the internal mould and depressions on the external mould of

the tube wall; compare white arrows in Figure 3D with Nanglu et al., 2016, fig. 4f, g). Along individual tubes, the width is consistent in both Cambrian and Ordovician specimens. In addition, the tube width is also comparable. In Cambrian specimens it varies from 4 to 20 mm whilst in Ordovician specimens it ranges from 4.6 to 7.4 mm in 3D preserved material and from 11.1 to 17.2 mm in flattened specimens. A slight difference is also seen in the number of pores. Nanglu et al. (2016) reported 10 pores per revolution, while in specimens of *Krejciella* eight to nine pores per revolution seem to be present. Because of the apparent elasticity of wall fibres, it is not possible to measure exact dimensions of pores. The shape of pores in *Krejciella* is identical to *Margaretia*; the pore diameters reach about one-third of the tube width in both taxa.

Tubes are usually preserved as short fragments; longer (up to 544 mm long) or even complete tubes and branched tubes are rarely observed in the Cambrian material (Nanglu et al., 2016, p. 5). The absence of tubes longer than 124 mm as well as missing bifurcations in specimens of *Krejciella* can be explained by the limited material.

**Taphonomy.** The state of preservation as longer or shorter fragments combined with the possibly high fragility of the studied Ordovician material would suggest that tubes were probably quickly buried or transported on a short distance and represent paraautochthonous to autochthonous material. All studied fragments of tubes are empty, lacking remains of the supposed enteropneust hemichordate producer. However, the fossil record of enteropneust hemichordates is extremely poor due to the high fragility of their body and the absence of preservable hard parts (Mauviel et al., 1987; Cameron, 2005; Maletz, 2014, 2019; Nanglu et al., 2015). Soft tissue preservation of the enteropneust animal is restricted to several lagerstätten like the Cambrian Burgess Shale (Conway Morris, 1979; Caron et al., 2013; Nanglu et al., 2016), the Carboniferous Mazon Creek Biota (Bardack, 1997; Cameron, 2016) or the Jurassic La Voulte-sur-Rhône (Alessandrello et al., 2004) but even here, these organisms appear to be uncommon. Maletz (2014, p. 21) stressed that body fossils of enteropneust can be preserved only under very specific conditions in the marine environment, i.e., in Lagerstätten.

**Palaeolatitudinal distribution.** The Cambrian *Margaretia* and the Ordovician *Krejciella* show a distinctive difference in their palaeolatitudinal distribution.

*Margaretia:* Specimens classified as *Margaretia* have been documented from five biotas in Laurentia (Canada and U.S.A.) and in one biota in East Gondwana (China).

The occurrence in Laurentia: (1) Burgess Lagerstätte (see Walcott, 1931; Nanglu et al., 2016; B in Figure 5C). (2) Kinzers Formation of Pennsylvania (see Resser and Howell 1938, p. 211; K in Figure 5C). *Margaretia ramosa* Resser and Howell 1938 and *M. stosei* Resser and Howell 1938. Both taxa were revised and considered synonymous with the type species by Conway Morris and Robison (1988, p. 6). (3) Rennie Formation of Idaho (see Resser, 1938; R in Figure 5C). *M. angustata* Resser 1938 was accepted as a separate species by Conway Morris and Robison (1988, p. 6) and Nanglu et al. (2016, table 1). (4) Ravens Throat River Lagerstätte, Rockslide Formation of the Mackenzie Mountains, Northwest Territories, Canada contains rare specimens classified as *M. angustata* (see Kimming and Pratt, 2015a, b; RS in Figure 5C). (5) The early Cambrian Latham Formation (*Bristolia* suzone of the *Bonna-Olenellus* Zone, Dyeran Stage of the Waucoban Series) in Marble Mountains of California contains a separate species *M. chamblessi* (see Waggoner and Hagadorn, 2004; L in Figure 5C).

The occurrence in East Gondwana: Hu et al. (2010, figures 54, 55, p. 203; 2013, p. 1771, 1772) reported the occurrence of *Margaretia* sp. In the Guanshan Biota, Wulongqing Formation, Eastern Yunnan of China (G in Figure 5C).

*Aldanophyton* (= *Margaretia*): Krishtofovich (1953) and Ivantsov et al. (2005a, p. 10, 21) reported *Aldanophyton* from the outcrop called Tuoydakh (or Tuoydakhskoe) and wrote that *Aldanophyton* is usually abundant in numerous sections of Sinsk and Inikan formations (S in Figure 5C). Krassilov (2005, p. 41) reported the occurrence of this species in the Inikan Formation, middle Maya River, Yakutia.

The Sinsk biota of Ivantsov et al. (2005a, p. 70) belongs to the *Bergeroniellus gurarii* Trilobite Zone of the early Cambrian Botomian Regional Stage (see Rozanov et al. 2008). Krassilov (2005, p. 41) reported the occurrence in the Inikan Formation, middle Maya River, Yakutia) – Amganian Regional Stage (equals to upper Stage 4 to lower Drumian, after Peng et al., 2012).

*Krejciella:* Havlíček et al. (1993) described remains of several larger pieces of *Krejciella* collected by the late J. Vaněk from black shales from an extensive temporary excavation at Praha – Veleslavín (Figure 1B). Remains of *Krejciella* have been

reported solely from the Dobrotivá Formation of the Prague Basin (Figure 5).

**Palaeoenvironment.** The preservation of the Burgess Shale-type biota has been apparently related to oxygen deficient environments (e.g., Gaines, 2014). Deposition under dysoxic to anoxic conditions was proposed for the Burgess Shale Formation by Powell et al. (2003). Ivantsov et al. (2005b, p. 73) supposed a dysoxic environment for the Algal Lens of the Sinsk Lagerstätte. In the Wheeler and Marjum lagerstätten, dysoxic to anoxic bottom waters and dysoxic bottom conditions were responsible for the exceptionally preserved fossils, including the tubiculous fossils (Gaines and Droser, 2010, p. 656, 659). After Kimmings and Pratt (2015b, p. 14) the lack of bioturbation in the lime mudstone interbeds likely reflects rapid sedimentation rates or possible dysoxic conditions in the Ravens Throat River Lagerstätte of the Rockslide Formation, where dysoxic to anoxic conditions are supported also by the trace-element composition (Kimmings and Pratt, 2015b, p. 154). The above mentioned papers show that all known occurrences of *Margaretia* are apparently restricted to the Cambrian Burgess-type Lagerstätten (see also Nanglu and Caron 2016 and Nanglu et al. 2020).

At the Praha – Veleslavín and the Černá stráň localities, the Dobrotivá Formation is developed as a monotonous, dark-coloured shale without event layers, which indicates deposition below the Storm Wave Base. Dysoxic/anoxic bottom conditions are demonstrated by the absence of bioturbation in rock samples bearing tubiculous fossils of *Krejciella*. At both localities the associated fauna is dominated by cyclopygid trilobites indicating the Cyclopygid Biofacies of Fortey (1985) and Fatka and Mergl (2009); compare Figure 4.

At the Černá stráň locality near Starý Plzenec the associated fauna includes also elements of the *Paterula* Association (Havlíček and Vaněk, 1990; Fatka and Mergl, 2009) and rarely also echinoderms of the Mitrocystitid Biofacies (Lefebvre, 2007); compare Figure 4. Such an oxygen depleted, for benthos unsuitable environment in combination with the fragmentary preservation of *Krejciella* specimens could be explained by a short transport from a more oxygenated benthic habitat. The occurrence of elements of the Cyclopygid and Mitrocystitid biofacies and *Paterula* Associations combined with the absence of bioturbation at these two localities is comparable with the palaeoenvironment typical for the Burgess Shales-type preservation.

## Systematic Position

In the following text, the earlier opinions on systematic position of Ordovician specimens of *Krejciella* and Cambrian organic tubes produced and inhabited by worm-like enteropneust hemichordates are reviewed and discussed.

***Margaretia*.** The type specimen classified as *Margaretia dorus* was described in the posthumously published contribution assembled by Charles E. Resser (see prefatory statement in Walcott, 1931) from the “thick” Stephen Shale (Fossil Ridge Yoho National Park, British Columbia, Canada). Walcott (1931, p. 2) considered *M. dorus* as an alcyonarian coral, but he compared it also with living algae (see Handle and Powell, 2012, p. 306). In the original description of *Margaretia ramosa* Resser and Howell, 1938 and *M. stosei* Resser and Howell, 1938, both from the Kinzers Formation, Resser and Howell (1938) considered this taxon to be a possible coelenterate. Satterthwaite (1976), Conway Morris and Robison (1988) and Waggoner and Hagadorn (2004) classified *Margaretia* as a chlorophyte and compared it with an unspecified species of the extant, polymorphic genus *Caulerpa*. Zhuravlev and Wood (1996, p. 313) and Garcia-Bellido and Conway Morris (1999, p. 396) consider *Margaretia* as a chlorophyte caulerpacean. Burzin et al. (2001, p. 217) classified *Margaretia* as carbonaceous algae.

***Aldanophyton* (= *Margaretia*).** The type species *Aldanophyton antiquissimum* Krishtofovich 1953 was originally described from the Sinsk Formation, Yakutia (Lena River near the mouths of Achchagyy-Tuoydakh and Ulakan-Tuoydakh rivers). Originally, Krishtofovich (1953) supposed that *Aldanophyton* belongs to an early land plant of Lycopodiaceae. Satterthwaite (1976) and Conway Morris and Robison (1988, p. 6) considered *Aldanophyton* as synonymous with *Margaretia* and classified both as a chlorophyte; this view was followed by Rozanov and Zhuravlev (1992, p. 259, 261). The synonymy of both genera was accepted also by Ivantsov and Wrona (2004, p. 3) by mentioning *Margaretia antiquissima* as a caulerpacean chlorophyte in the list of fossils. Similarly, Ivantsov et al. (2005b, p. 80) reported *Margaretia* as a green siphonous algae. In comparison, Krassilov (2005, p. 41) provided a new diagnosis of *Aldanophyton antiquissimum* and prefers to treat it as a taxon of chlorophyta. After re-examination of the original material of Krishtofovich in St. Petersburg, Lemaigne (1975, p. 869) preferred, for the first time, an animal origin of *Aldanophyton*. More recently,

Luchinina (2013, p. 993) classified *Aldanophyton* as an organic walled “macroalgae”.

**Krejciella.** The type material described by Obrhel (1968) is 3D preserved in siliceous nodules. In agreement with the original classification of *Aldanophyton* by Krishtofovich (1953), also Obrhel (1968) assigned *Krejciella* to ?Lycophyta. However, Blazer (1975, p. 16) and Dijkstra and van Ameron (1994, p. 280) questioned the lycopod origin of both genera. Krassilov (1982, p. 28) classified *Aldanophyton* and *Krejciella* as poorly studied taxa showing features of Lycophyta. Havlíček et al. (1993) compared specimens of *Krejciella* with the Cambrian material of *Margaretia* from Laurentia. In agreement with Conway-Morris and Robison (1988), they assigned both taxa to non-calcareous algae and also briefly discussed their possible palaeoecology. Kvaček and Kraft (2015, p. 9) interpreted the Cambrian *Aldanophyton* and the Ordovician *Krejciella* as unspecified algae.

The fossil remain determined by Vokáč and Grigar (2010, p. 161) as *Krejciella putzkeri* from the area between Tymákov and Letkov municipalities west of Rokycany has been re-studied and is newly interpreted as an ichnofossil.

**Summary.** Conway Morris and Robison (1988, p. 6) synonymized the Early Cambrian genus *Aldanophyton* with *Margaretia*. Nanglu et al. (2016) followed this synonymization and interpreted *Margaretia* as remains of organic tubes produced by enteropneusts. Because of the above discussed morphological similarities of Cambrian specimens classified as *Margaretia*, including *Aldanophyton*, and the herein studied Ordovician specimens of *Krejciella*, we newly interpret *Krejciella* the remains of an organic tube produced by an enteropneust. The unknown morphology of the subterranean anchoring part (= prostrate rhizome of Conway Morris and Robison, 1988 or the subterranean lateral extension of Nanglu et al., 2016) of the tube in Ordovician specimens excludes the synonymy of *Krejciella* and *Margaretia* (see discussion in Havlíček et al. 1993, p. 82).

### Stratigraphy and Palaeogeography

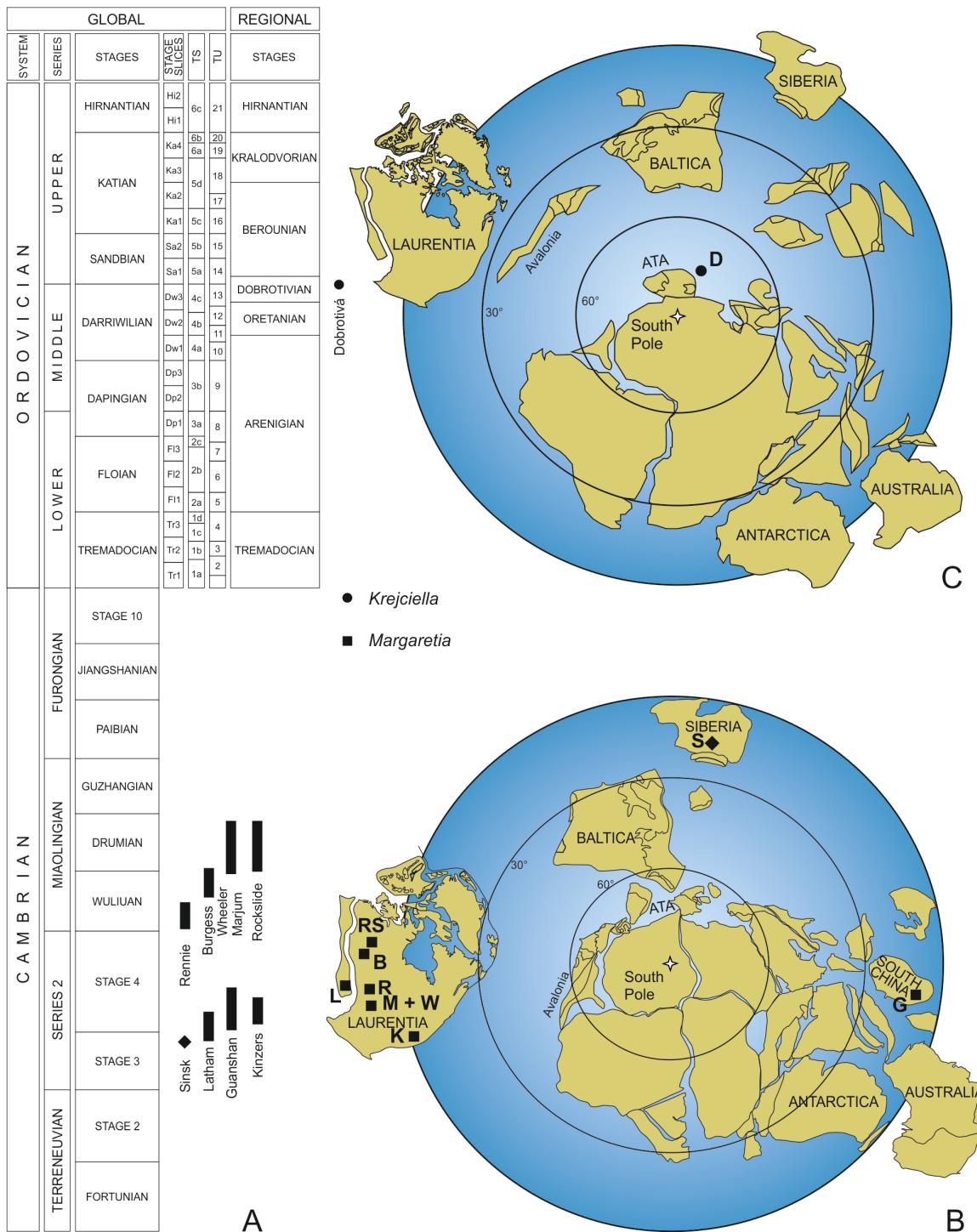
**Stratigraphy.** Up to now, specimens classified as *Margaretia* have been documented from the early Cambrian Stage 3 (Sinsk and Latham Lagerstätten), through the early Cambrian Stage 4 (Latham, Guanshan and Kinzers Lagerstätten) to the middle Cambrian Wuliuan (Rennie and Burgess Lagerstätten) and Drumian stages (Wheeler, Marjum and Rockslide Lagerstätten; Figure 5A). The herein studied specimens of *Krejciella* extend

the stratigraphic range of organic tubes produced by enteropneust hemichordates to the Middle/Late Ordovician (Figure 5A).

**Palaeogeography.** All above-mentioned occurrences of specimens classified as *Margaretia* and/or *Aldanophyton* are described from tropical and subtropical localities in Laurentia, Siberia and East Gondwana (Figure 5C). In comparison, the Middle/Late Ordovician record of specimens of *Krejciella* is from the cold-water subpolar area of European peri-Gondwana (see Havlíček et al., 1994; Fatka and Mergl, 2009; Figure 5B).

### Palaeobiological Significance of the *Krejciella* Interpreted as an Enteropneust Hemichordate Tube

Enteropneusts, known also as acorn worms, represent a group of crucial importance for elucidating the early evolution of hemichordates and deuterostomes (e.g., Simakov et al., 2015; Nanglu et al., 2016). Due to a limited fossil record of this group (see Maletz, 2014, 2019, 2020) the enteropneust research relied mainly on extant morphological and phylogenetic data (see Cameron, 2005; Maletz et al., 2014; Simakov et al., 2015; Li et al. 2018 and references therein). Only the recent findings of soft-bodied Cambrian acorn worms *Spartobranchus tenuis* (see Caron et al., 2013), *Oesia disjuncta* (see Nanglu et al., 2016) and *Spartobranchus*-like enteropneust (Nanglu and Caron, 2021) from the Burgess shale Konservat-Lagerstätte allowed to supplement the genetic data with fossils. These Cambrian taxa are associated with an external organic tube. Caron et al. (2013) proposed that the organic fibrous tube of *S. tenuis* could be a precursor of graptolite tubaria. Similar interpretation was proposed also for organic tubes formerly classified as *Margaretia* associated with *O. disjuncta* by Nanglu et al. (2016). These proposals were not unanimously accepted and have provoked a discussion (e.g., Caron et al., 2013, Halanych, 2013, Nanglu et al., 2015, 2016, Cameron, 2018). In the review of acorn worm classification, Cameron (2018) established the “Cambrian stem-group” containing *S. tenuis* and *O. disjuncta*. Maletz (2019, p. 62) expressed some doubts on the interpretation of *O. disjuncta* as an enteropneust. However, Maletz (2019, p. 59) noted that “...early hemichordates may already have had tube building capacities before the differentiation of the Enteropneusta and the Pterobranchia, or the tube building evolved independently in both groups. It would have considerable influence on the interpretation of the early evolution of the Hemichordata as



**FIGURE 5.** Distribution of tubiculous fossils classified as *Margaretia* in the middle Cambrian and specimens of *Krejciella* in the Middle Ordovician. A. Stratigraphic ranges of tubiculous fossils in Cambrian and Ordovician. B. Palaeogeographical reconstruction of the middle Cambrian. C. Palaeogeographical reconstruction of the Middle Ordovician. Palaeogeography modified after Cocks and Torsvik (2002, 2011), Fatka and Mergl (2009) and Torsvik and Cocks (2013). B - Burgess Lagerstätte. D - Dobrotivá Lagerstätte. G - Guanshan Lagerstätte. K - Kinzers Lagerstätte. L - Latham Lagerstätte. M - Marjum Lagerstätte. RS - Rockslide Formation Lagerstätte. S - Sinsk Lagerstätte. R - Rennie Lagerstätte. W - Wheeler Lagerstätte.

a group." Finally, Nanglu and Caron (2021) suggested the ability for tube building as a plesiomorphic trait in Hemichordata.

There is no "soft-bodied" remnant of the supposed acorn worm inhabitant inside of the *Krejciella* tubiculous fossil. Yet, the presence of *Krejciella* in the Middle/Late Ordovician of the Prague Basin significantly extends the stratigraphic range and palaeogeographic distribution of the enteropneust "Cambrian stem-group" fossils (sensu Cameron, 2018). *Krejciella* occurs in anoxic to dysoxic facies of the cold-temperate zone, i.e., in a different environment and some 53 million years after the previous youngest known record of enteropneust (Nanglu et al., 2016).

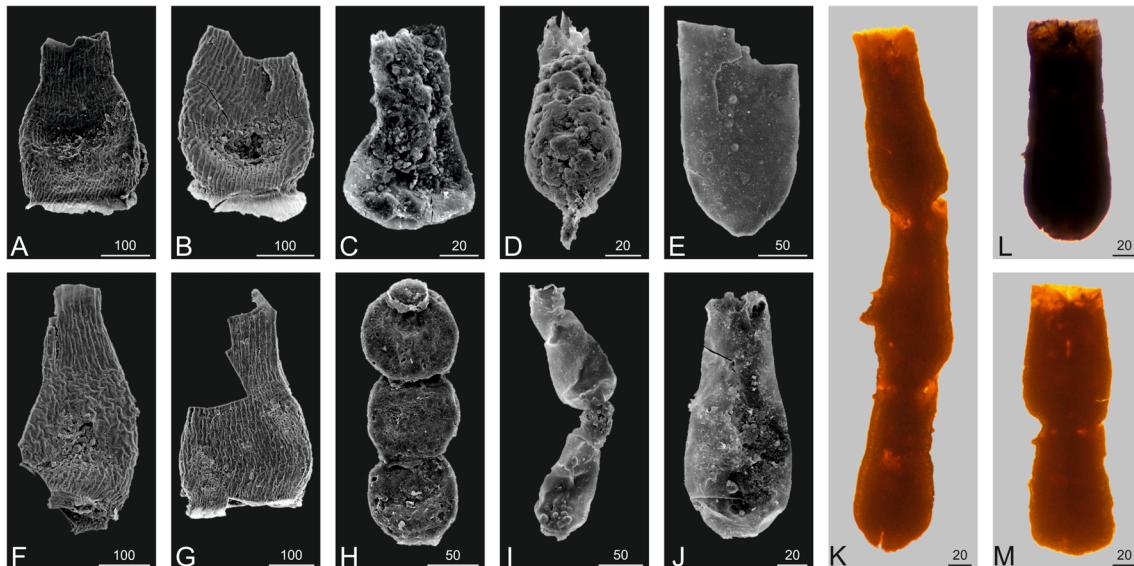
## DETERMINATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF STUDIED SPECIMENS

The biostratigraphy of Middle to Late Ordovician is usually based on restricted stratigraphic ranges of conodonts, graptolites and chitinozoans (e.g., Webby et al., 2004). However, the biostratigraphic application of conodonts is strongly restricted in West Gondwana (Gutiérrez-Marco et al., 2017) and this group is not applicable in the Ordovician of the Prague Basin (Havlíček and Vaněk, 1996). The Dobrotivá Formation has been

divided into two graptolite biozones, i.e., *Hustedograptus teretiusculus* and *Cryptograptus tricornis* (see Havlíček and Vaněk, 1966, 1990). However, graptolites are generally rare and no graptolite specimen is known to occur together with herein studied tubiculous fossils.

Chitinozoan biostratigraphy has been widely applied for correlation of Ordovician sequences (e.g., Paris, 1996; Paris et al., 2004). Paris (1990) established 22 chitinozoan biozones in the Ordovician of the Northern Gondwana Domain (= West Gondwana in actual terminology) and supposed a possible presence of the zonal species *Linochitina pissotensis* in the Dobrotivá Formation. Small dimensions of chitinozoan vesicles in combination with their abundant occurrence make it possible to obtain chitinozoa from small rock samples.

We utilized these attributes and analyzed chitinozoans from a piece of a rock separated from the sample ČGS JP2016. Observed chitinozoans are assigned to *Ancyrochitina* Eisenack, *Conochitina* Eisenack, *Desmochitina* Eisenack, *Linochitina* Paris, *Euconochitina* Taugourdeau, incompletely preserved specimens most probably belong to *Belonechitina* Jansonius, *Cyathochitina* Eisenack, and *Eremochitina* Taugourdeau and de Jekhowsky (Figure 6; see Supplementary material). From observed chitinozoan taxa, only one



**FIGURE 6.** Chitinozoans from the Dobrotivá Formation. A-G SEM photographs of chitinozoans from the sample No. ČGS JP2016a. K-M Photographs taken in transmitted light of chitinozoans from the Cekov HJ 1 drill core. A. ?*Cyathochitina* sp. A, Krej1\_S4-7451. B. ?*Cyathochitina* sp. A, Krej1\_S1-7140. C. *Euconochitina* ?*vulgaris*, Krej1\_S2-7184. D. *Linochitina pissotensis*, Krej1\_S4-7464. E. ?*Eremochitina* sp. indet., Krej1\_S3-7430. F. ?*Cyathochitina* sp. A, Krej1\_S2-7251. G. ?*Cyathochitina* sp. A, Krej1\_S2-7267. H. *Desmochitina* ex. gr. *minor*, Krej1\_S2-7220. I. *Linochitina pissotensis*, Krej1\_S2-7194. J. *Linochitina pissotensis*, Krej1\_S4-7468. K. *Linochitina pissotensis*, Cekov HJ1\_391. L. *Linochitina pissotensis*, Cekov HJ1\_463. M. *Linochitina pissotensis*, Cekov HJ1\_436. Scale bars in µm. Samples are housed as permanent slides in the Czech Geological Survey.

species, *Linochitina pissotensis*, could be used to assess the stratigraphic position.

Since the definition of the *Linochitina pissotensis* Biozone by Paris (1990), the zonal species has been recorded and figured from West Gondwana (Algerian Sahara, Oulebsir and Paris, 1995; Spain, Gutiérrez-Marco et al., 1996; Bohemia, Vodička and Fatka, 2017; Southeastern Turkey, Paris et al., 2007; north-western Saudi Arabia, Al-Hajri, 1995; central Saudi Arabia, Paris et al., 2000) and East Gondwana (Kuruktag area, Tarim, China, Tang et al., 2003).

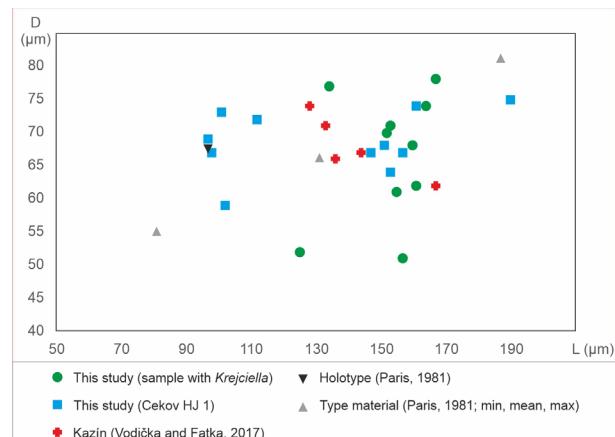
In West Gondwana, the boundary between the Middle and the Late Ordovician was originally defined by the LAD of *Linochitina pissotensis* (Paris, 1990, 1996, 2006; Paris et al., 2004; Videt et al., 2010). However, Dabard et al. (2015, p. 105) suggested a possible occurrence of *L. pissotensis* in the lowermost Sandbian of western France. Similarly, the application of the correlation software CONOP9 shows that *L. pissotensis* extends into the Late Ordovician in Gondwana (Sales, 2015, fig. 6). In East Gondwana, the range of *L. pissotensis* is not precisely established; it seems to be present only in the Darriwillian (Tang et al., 2003). In Gondwana, it is apparent that the occurrence of *L. pissotensis* indicates the Middle/Late Ordovician boundary interval.

The presence of *Linochitina pissotensis* was only presumed in the Dobrotivá Formation by Paris (1990) and by Fatka et al. (1997) who reported the occurrence of *L. aff. pissotensis* from one sample from the Dobrotivá Formation (Cekov HJ 1 drill core). *L. pissotensis* was figured from the Kazín section from the overlying Sandbian Letná Formation (Vodička and Fatka, 2017).

To prove the presence of *Linochitina pissotensis* in the Dobrotivá Formation, biometric parameters of original specimens of Fatka et al. (1997), Vodička and Fatka (2017) and the new herein studied specimens are compared with parameters of the type material of Paris (1981). Figure 7 shows that specimens from all three localities in the Prague Basin fall within the variability range of the original population of Paris (1981). Consequently, they all are classified as *L. pissotensis* and prove the *L. pissotensis* Biozone in the Prague Basin.

## CONCLUSIONS

- (1) The Ordovician tubicolous fossil *Krejciella putzkeri* as well as Cambrian *Margaretia* show a characteristic morphology combining the wall composed of longitudinal fibres and pore architecture. On the basis of the high morpho-



**FIGURE 7.** Size variation of *Linochitina pissotensis*. Green dots = the herein studied sample. Blue squares = Cekov HJ 1 drill core, Dobrotivá Formation (Fatka et al., 1997). Red crosses = Kazín section, Letná Formation (Vodička and Fatka, 2017). Grey triangles = type material (Paris, 1981). Black triangle = holotype (Paris, 1981).

logical similarity of *Krejciella* with *Margaretia*, we re-interpret *Krejciella* as remnants of organic tube produced by an enteropneust.

- (2) The presence of the zonal chitinozoan species *Linochitina pissotensis* in organic residue from the rock sample bearing on its surface a specimen of *Krejciella putzkeri* documents the *Linochitina pissotensis* Biozone in the Prague Basin for the first time.
- (3) The occurrence of tubicolous fossils gives evidence of the Burgess Shale-type preservation in the Middle/Upper Ordovician Dobrotivá Formation of the Prague Basin.
- (4) The occurrence of specimens of *Krejciella* in the Dobrotivá Formation extends both palaeogeographic and stratigraphic records of tubicolous enteropneusts to the Middle/Late Ordovician cold-water West Gondwana.
- (5) The Ordovician tubicolous fossil *Krejciella putzkeri* is the youngest occurrence of organic tubes produced by enteropneust hemichordates.
- (6) Diverse skeletal fauna associated with *Krejciella putzkeri* can be assigned to the Cyclopypgid Biofacies with elements of the *Placoparia* and *Paterula* associations.

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(Museum of West Bohemia, Rokycany). M. Mergl (University of West Bohemia Pilsen) consulted the associated fauna at the Černá stráň slope locality near Starý Plzenec. This research was supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic Project No.18-14575S and the program Cooperatio GEOL. Reviews by three anonymous referees significantly improved our contribution.

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