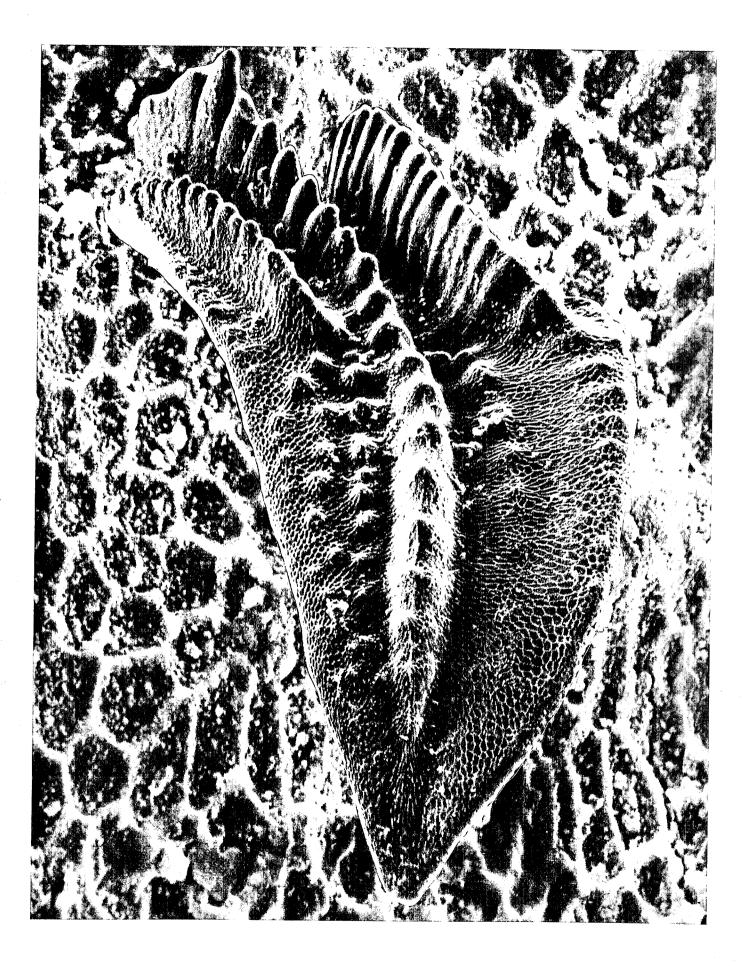
BRICHAMIYOUNGUNIVERSITY



# Brigham Young University Geology Studies Volume 26, Part 3

# Conodont Biostratigraphy of the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains

The proceedings of the Pander Society symposium, workshop, and post-meeting field trip held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain section, Geological Society of America, at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, on April 28-May 2, 1978

Charles A. Sandberg and David L. Clark Editors

Front cover: Late Devonian conodont Palmatolepis rugosa ampla.

Inside front cover: Early Mississippian conodont Siphonodella isosticha. Both are SEM photomicrographs. See preface for details.



A publication of the Department of Geology Brigham Young University Provo, Utah 84602

Editors W. Kenneth Hamblin Cynthia M. Gardner

Issue Editors Charles A. Sandberg David L. Clark

Brigham Young University Geology Studies is published by the department. Geology Studies consists of graduate-student and staff research in the department and occasional papers from other contributors. Studies for Students supplements the regular issues and is intended as a series of short papers of general interest which may serve as guides to the geology of Utah for beginning students and laymen.

ISSN 0068-1016 Distributed September 1979 9-79 600 40089

## CONTENTS

Preface		٧
Conodonts from the Pre-Eureka Ordovician of the Great Basin	R. L. Ethington	1
Aspects of Middle and Upper Ordovician Conodont Biostratigraphy of Carbonate Facies in Nevada and Southeast California and Comparison with Some Appalachian Successions		7
Late Ordovician Conodonts and Biostratigraphy of the Western Midcontinent Province		45
Devonian and Lower Mississippian Conodont Zonation of the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains		87
Guide to Conodont Biostratigraphy of Upper Devonian and Mississippian Rocks along the Wasatch Front and Cordilleran Hingeli Utah		107
The Lower Permian (Sakmarian) Portion of the Oquirrh Formation, Utah	John A. Larson and David L. Clark	135
Permian Conodont Biostratigraphy in the Great Basin	David L. Clark, Tim R. Carr, Fred H. Behnken, Bruce R. Wardlaw, and James W. Collinson	143
Youngest Permian Conodont Faunas from the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain Regions	Bruce R. Wardlaw and James W. Collinson	151
Structure and Stratigraphy of a Lower Triassic Conodont Locality, Salt Lake City, Utah	Mark A. Solien, William A. Morgan, and David L. Clark	165
Triassic Conodont Biostratigraphy in the Great Basin	David L. Clark, Rachel K. Paull, Mark A. Solien, and William A. Morgan	179
Publications and Maps of the Geology Department		187

.

1

### **PREFACE**

The distribution of papers of this symposium volume among the various geologic systems is a good representation of the focus of regional conodont biostratigraphic work in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains, with one notable exception. Work on the Cambrian System by J. F. Miller is not included because it either had been already published or was scheduled for publication elsewhere. Moreover, the guidebook for the Pander Society field trip on Cambrian and Ordovician rocks, held on April 26–27, 1978, immediately preceding the symposium at Provo, Utah, has already been published (Miller 1978). Judging by the numbers of papers published here and elsewhere, conodont work in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain regions appears to be focused primarily on the Ordovician, Permian, and Triassic Systems, and secondarily on the Cambrian, Devonian, and Mississippian Systems. It is noteworthy that no papers in this volume are devoted to the Silurian and Pennsylvanian Systems. Although some work on these systems in the Great Basin has appeared in the past, the editors were unable to find workers actively enough engaged in studies of these systems on a regional basis to contribute to the present symposium. Hence the Silurian and Pennsylvanian Systems appear to offer fertile, uncrowded fields for future investigators.

In editing the papers of this symposium volume, an increasing awareness of conodont biofacies was noted among authors of all systems. Although there is still some indication that provinciality of conodont faunas existed in the western United States during limited intervals of geologic time, it is becoming evident that more and more seemingly provincial conodont faunas are being encountered as conodont studies extend westward off the former shelf into more offshore, deeper-water realms in central Nevada. Continued work on several systems in the Great Basin region may eventually discern as many lateral biofacies as the eight that have been recognized in the *Polygnathus styriacus* Zone of the Upper Devonian in the same region by Sandberg (1976) and Sandberg and Ziegler (1979). As demonstrated by Sandberg (1976), the combined Rocky Mountain and Great Basin regions offer an unparalleled opportunity for conodont workers to study faunas of the same age in a transect of environments, ranging from

peritidal to far offshore pelagic-even including rises surrounding island arcs.

The front cover and inside front cover of this volume, which show the Late Devonian conodont *Palmatolepis rugosa ampla* and the Early Mississippian conodont *Siphonodella isosticha*, respectively, against a background of platform-conodont microornamentation, were composited from SEM photomicrographs made at the Fachbereich Geowissenschaften, Philipps-Universität, Marburg, Federal Republic of Germany, under the direction of Prof. Dr. Willi Ziegler, to whom we are grateful for permission to use them.

### REFERENCES

Miller, J. F. (ed.), 1978, Upper Cambrian to Middle Ordovician conodont faunas of western Utah; 1978 Pander Society field trip: Southwest Missouri State
University, Geoscience Series, no. 5, 44p.

University, Geoscience Series, no. 5, 44p.

Canadaga Palacasala and Canadaga Palacasa Palacasa

Sandberg, C. A., 1976, Conodont biofacies of Late Devonian *Polygnathus styriacus* Zone in western United States: In Barnes, C. R. (ed.), Conodont paleoecology: Geological Association of Canada Special Paper 15, p. 171–86.

Sandberg, C. A., and Ziegler, Willi, 1979, Taxonomy and biofacies of important conodonts of Late Devonian styriacus-Zone, United States and Germany: Geologica et Palaeontologica, v. 13, p. 173–212, 7 pls.

•

## Triassic Conodont Biostratigraphy in the Great Basin

DAVID L. CLARK, RACHEL K. PAULL, MARK A. SOLIEN, AND WILLIAM A. MORGAN University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 <sup>2</sup>Exxon Company USA, Houston, Texas 77001 3 Continental Oil Company, Casper, Wyoming 82601

ABSTRACT.—The first Triassic conodont fauna described and illustrated was from the Great Basin in 1956. The definite occurrence of conodonts in post-Paleozoic rocks had been confirmed by Idaho specimens only 4 years earlier. Thus, the Great Basin was pivotal for worldwide Triassic studies. Research in succeeding years and on a worldwide basis established the presence of at least 22 Triassic faunal assemblages, many of which were described first from Nevada.

Since 1971, when Triassic conodont biostratigraphy was organized formally, most Great Basin work has been with the Lower Triassic. Multiple Griesbachian and Dienerian faunas are known now. Smithian sequences in Utah have yielded specimens that support the refinement and expansion of chirognathus/Furnishius assemblage (interval 7) including elimination of Neospathodus conservativus as a zonal species and the restriction of the Neogondolella milleri assemblage. Also, Smithian and Spathian conodont assemblages, not found in sequence prior to 1971, are now known to be continuous and support earlier but more tenuous biostratigraphic interpretations. At least 11 Great Basin Lower Triassic cornodont faunas are recognized. Considerable work is in progress on Middle and Upper Triassic strata in the Great Basin, but a redefini-tion of the 4 Middle and 5 Upper Triassic faunas would be premature.

The Great Basin may have the most complete Triassic conodont sequences worldwide. More important, correlation of diversity and abundance of Great Basin taxa with multiple cycles of marine transgressional and terrigenous progradational lithofacies suggests that the ecologic control for conodont distribution may be interpreted.

#### CONTENTS

Abstract	179
Introduction	179
Historic development	179
Current research	180
Lower Triassic	180
Griesbachian	180
Anchignathodus typicalis assemblage	180
Negandalella carinata assembla ca	
Neogondolella carinata assemblage	180
Dienerian	180
Neospathodus peculiaris assemblage	180
Neospathodus spp. assemblage	180
Smithian	180
Furnishius triserratus assemblage	180
Parachirognathus/Furnishius assemblage	181
Parachirognathus ethingtoni assemblage	181
Neogondolella milleri assemblage	181
Spathian	181
Platyvillosus assemblage	181
Neospathodus collinsoni assemblage	181
Neogondolella jubata assemblage	181
Neospathodus timorensis assemblage (?)	182
Middle Triassic	182
Anisian	182
Neogondolella regale assemblage	182
Neogondolella constricta assemblage	182
Ladinian	182
Neogondolella mombergensis assemblage	182
Epigondolella mungoensis assemblage	182
Upper Triassic	182
Kamian	
Neospathodus newpassensis assemblage	182
Danagandololla polyanathicamia acca- Llana	182
Paragondolella polygnathiformis assemblage Norian	182
	182
Epigondolella abneptis assemblage	182
Épigondolella multidentata assemblage	182
Épigondolella bidentata assemblage	182
Triassic conodont paleoecology	182
References	182
Figure	
1Triassic conodont assemblages and their classification in the	
Great Basin	180

1.-SEM photomicrographs of name-giving species of Triassic as-

#### INTRODUCTION

The development of Triassic conodont biostratigraphy has relied heavily on Great Basin sections. Müller (1956) published the first description and illustration of Lower Triassic conodonts, and Mosher (1968a) developed the first biostratigraphy for the Middle and Upper Triassic, all on the basis of Great Basin collections. In addition, the confirmation that conodonts occurred in post-Paleozoic strata was based on northern Great Basin conodonts (Youngquist 1952). The historic importance of the Great Basin Triassic sequence is well documented.

Advances in Triassic conodont biostratigraphy outside the Great Basin have been primarily in the Lower Triassic and from the Tethyan region (Sweet 1970a, 1970b; Teichert and others 1973). The first worldwide synthesis of Triassic conodont distribution shows both the Lower Triassic Tethyan bias and the importance of Great Basin Middle and Upper Triassic (Sweet and others 1971). It is appropriate that the first conodont symposium held in the Great Basin should include both a review and an updating of Great Basin Triassic research.

#### HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Following Müller's (1956) initiatory publication on Great Basin Lower Triassic conodonts, research flourished. Clark (1957, 1959, 1960) and Clark, Sincavage, and Stone (1964) published additional details concerning Lower Triassic conodonts, and Mosher and Clark (1965) published descriptions of Middle Triassic taxa. The great thicknesses of Cordilleran geosyncline Triassic carbonate rocks discouraged the detailed sampling needed for precise biostratigraphy, and in these early days of Triassic research presence or absence was considered profound. Because of this, early attempts at biostratigraphy were crude (e.g., Clark 1960), and some errors introduced in the 1960s have only been recently corrected. For example, the type species for Platyvillosus was based on material submitted by oil company geologists, who reported that the sample had been obtained from strata below the Smithian ammonoid Meekoceras (Clark and others 1964, Mosher and Clark 1965). Detailed sampling later established that the ammonoids associated with Platyvillosus were Tirolites, not Meekoceras, and consequently were early Spathian, not Smithian, in age. This error was corrected by Sweet and others (1971).

Detailed sampling of the Triassic section was initiated in

Mosher and Clark (1965) compared the relatively slow evolution of Middle Triassic conodonts to evolution of Middle Triassic ammonoids. Detailed Middle and Upper Triassic Great Basin conodont biostratigraphy was developed in connection with European studies by Mosher (1967, 1968a, 1968b). Additional Lower Triassic work was reported by Collinson (1968). All this Great Basin work was incorporated with work in Europe and Asia for the first synthesis of worldwide Triassic conodont biostratigraphy by Sweet and others (1971). Since then most Triassic conodont research in the Great Basin has concentrated on the Lower Triassic (Clark and Rosser 1976, Collinson and others 1976, Clark and others 1977, Solien 1979).

#### CURRENT RESEARCH

Recently published and unpublished Lower Triassic Great Basin research by the University of Wisconsin group includes a report on a single section of the Thaynes Formation in Salt Lake City by Solien (1979); detailed study of Griesbachian and Dienerian faunas in Utah and Nevada by Paull; and Smithian and Spathian studies in Utah and Nevada by T. R. Carr. Middle and Upper Triassic studies by Clark are currently in progress. Although the principal objective of some of these investigations is paleoecologic, the detailed sampling involved will provide some refinements of previous biostratigraphy.

## LOWER TRIASSIC

#### Griesbachian

Anchignathodus typicalis Assemblage

The oldest Triassic assemblage includes species that are known to occur also in the youngest Permian. Sweet (1973) has pointed out that this assemblage evidently survived the Permo-Triassic extinction without significant change. This assemblage includes the name-giving species, A. isarcicus, Neogondolella carinata, and Ellisonia spp.; in the Great Basin it may be best developed in the Terrace Mountains of northwest Utah (Clark and others 1977). This assemblage is presumed to include the same fauna as Zone 1 of Sweet and others (1971). See figure 1 for names of all 21 Triassic conodont assemblages and plate 1 for illustrations of the name-giving conodonts of these assemblages.

Neogondolella carinata Assemblage

The name-giving species ranges above the upper limits of

TRIASSIC	UPPER	NORIAN	Epigondolella bidentata Epigondolella multidentata Epigondolella abneptis
		Karnian	Paragondolella polygnathiformis Neospathodus newpassensis
	MIDDLE	LADINIAN	Epigondolella mungoensis Neogondolella mombergensis
		Anisian	Neogondolella constricta Neogondolella regale
	LOWER	Spathian	Neospathodus timorensis Neosondolella jubata Neospathodus collinsoni Platyvillosus
		Smithian	NEOGONDOLELLA MILLERI Parachirognathus ethingtoni Parachirognathus/Furnishius Furnishius triserratus
		DIENERIAN	NEOSPATHODUS SPP NEOSPATHODUS PECULIARIS
		GRIESBACHIAN	Neogondolella carinata Anchignathodus typicalis

FIGURE 1.-Triassic conodont assemblages and their classification in the Great Basin.

A. typicalis in the Terrace Mountains, Utah, and in the Crittenden Springs area, Nevada. It distinguishes an interval that apparently corresponds at least in part to Zone 2 of Sweet and others (1971).

#### Dienerian

Neospathodus peculiaris Assemblage

In the Crittenden Springs area, Nevada, and in the Terrace Mountains, Utah, N. peculiaris is a distinctive element. Sweet (1970a) did not report N. peculiaris occurring with Neogondolella carinata in West Pakistan. In fact, N. peculiaris evidently occurs there only in younger strata. Neogondolella carinata and N. peculiaris occur together in the Great Basin. This suggests that in Nevada and Utah, either N. carinata ranges into younger strata or N. peculiaris ranges into older strata than in West Pakistan. In the Dinwoody Formation of the Terrace Mountains, N. peculiaris occurs with N. carinata in the lower part of its range, but it also occurs in strata higher in the section without N. carinata. If these ranges are confirmed elsewhere, the joint occurrence of N. peculiaris with N. carinata may define a distinct interval in the lower Dienerian or upper Griesbachian, and the occurrence of N. peculiaris without N. carinata may indicate a younger Dienerian interval. Study of this problem is in prog-

Neospathodus spp. Assemblage

Several Neospathodus species occur in the Sublett and Terrace Mountains and evidently occupy an interval higher than the last occurrence of N. peculiaris. For example, N. n. sp. A. occurs in Idaho and Utah and has some characteristics of N. pakistanensis, except that the posterior end is strongly upturned as in N. waageni and N. dieneri. A few neospathodids from the Dinwoody Formation in the Sublett Mountains, Idaho, probably also belong to N. pakistanensis. This pattern suggests that this interval is equivalent to at least part of Zone 6 of Sweet and others (1971), and perhaps to parts of Zones 5 and 7, as well. This interval, which is represented in several parts of the Great Basin, is being studied by Paull.

#### Smithian

Above the Dienerian Neospathodus intervals and approximately equivalent to the Dienerian-Smithian boundary (Sweet and others 1971), a sequence of Parachirognathus/Furnishius faunas is well developed in the Great Basin. In many parts of the Great Basin, components of this fauna are the first conodonts found above the Permian-Triassic boundary (Collinson and others 1976). A widespread, well-developed sequence of Parachirognathus/Furnishius taxa was placed in a single zone by Sweet and others (1971), but detailed work by Clark and Rosser (1976) and Solien (1979) has demonstrated that the Parachirognathus/Furnishius Zone 7 (Sweet and others 1971), can be divided into three intervals. These intervals are distinguished throughout the Great Basin and include a lower interval of Furnishius triserratus without Parachirognathus, an intermediate interval with both Parachirognathus and Furnishius, and an upper interval in which Parachirognathus occurs alone or is the dominant taxon. These three intervals are widespread in the Great Basin (Clark and Rosser 1976). Solien (1979) and Solien, Morgan, and Clark (this volume) have proposed recognition of three formal zones based on their occurrences.

Furnishius triserratus Assemblage

The name-giving species occurs with *Ellisonia*, triassica, Pach-ycladina sp., and *Hadrodontina* sp. in Utah. This interval in-

cludes strata from the first occurrence of Furnishius upward to the first occurrence of Parachirognathus.

One of the problems of Zone 7 (Sweet and others 1971, McTavish 1973) is that it may not directly succeed Zone 6. This is because Neospathodus pakistanensis s. s. has not been found directly beneath and in sequence with Parachirognathus/Furnishius. Also, N. waageni, diagnostic of the West Pakistan Zone 7 of Sweet (1970a), has not been reported previously in Parachirognathus/Furnishius-bearing strata in the Great Basin. Solien (1979) has reported N. waageni in the Thaynes Formation in Utah in association with the Parachirognathus/Furnishius assemblage, and all three species occur with N. conservativus. This is of particular significance because the Parachirognathus/Furnishius assemblage must be equivalent to a part of the N. waageni Zone 7 of Sweet (1970a) and because McTavish (1973) reported N. waageni together with elements of N. conservativus and N. pakistanensis. This latter occurrence suggests that the Furnishius (alone) assemblage may be equivalent in part to the N. pakistanensis Zone 6 (Sweet and others (1971) rather than to the lower part of the thick West Pakistan N. waageni Zone 7 (Sweet 1970a).

Parachirognathus/Furnishius Assemblage

The first occurrence of *Parachirognathus* marks the base of an interval of overlap of the two name-giving taxa that range through as much as 60 m of the Smithian in the Great Basin (Clark and Rosser 1976). In this interval, one taxon commonly dominates the other although either or both may be dominant in different parts of the zone. In the Weber River section (Clark and Rosser 1976, p. 298), *Parachirognathus: Furnishius* ratios range from 11:3 and 26:0 in the lower part of the interval to 0:86, 9:98, and 26:99 in the upper part of the zone. Ecologic factors have been used to explain the dominance (Clark and Rosser 1976).

Parachirognathus ethingtoni, Furnishius triserratus, Neospathodus conservativus, N. bicuspidatus, N. waageni, Neogondolella nevadensis, Pachycladina symmetrica, and Ellisonia triassica compose the taxa of this interval.

The stratigraphic position of Neospathodus nevadensis is of some interest. On the basis of large collections from West Pakistan, Sweet (1970a) suggested that N. nevadensis, N. planata, and N. carinata represented a single species, N. carinata. Sweet's expanded N. carinata included only Zones 1-4 (pre-Smithian) with maximum abundance in Zone 2. Neospathodus nevadensis (Clark 1959) is distinctly Smithian, however. This suggests that N. nevadensis can be used as a distinct taxon and that Mosher (1973) and McTavish (1973) were correct in recognizing it.

Parachirognathus ethingtoni Assemblage

This assemblage is distinguished by the presence of Parachirognathus ethingtoni, above the last occurrence of Furnishius triserratus. In this interval the name-giving species occurs with Neospathodus bicuspidatus, N. conservativus, N. waageni, Pachycladina spp., and Ellisonia triassica. Clark and Rosser (1976) reported isolated Furnishius occurring with Parachirognathus in two sections in this interval. More detailed work by Solien (1979) has shown that one of the sections (Salt Lake City) does not have this overlap, and we suspect that similar work on all sections would produce similar results. In some sections N. bicuspidatus is more abundant in this interval than Parachirognathus, but in most of the Great Basin Parachirognathus is more common. The upper boundary of the assemblage is defined by the lowest occurrence of Neogondolella milleri.

Neogondolella milleri Assemblage

A short-ranging assemblage dominated by members of the name-giving species, *Neogondolella milleri* occurs commonly with the maximum abundance of *Meekoceras* and *Anasebirites*, but ammonoids of this interval also range at least 60 m lower. In the Salt Lake City and Crittenden Springs localities, *N. milleri* is restricted to an interval 0.7 m thick or less.

Other conodonts of this assemblage include *Neospathodus* waageni (at its peak abundance and uppermost limit), *Pachycladina* spp., and *Ellisonia triassica*. The assemblage is considered to be uppermost Smithian (Sweet and others 1971).

## Spathian

Solien (1979) pointed out that a significant break in conodont faunas occurs at the Smithian-Spathian boundary. In the Salt Lake City section, he found that with the exception of *Ellisonia triassica*, the faunas are exclusive with 11 species of the Smithian that do not reach the Spathian and seven species of the Spathian that do not occur in the Smithian. Solien (1979) compared this conodont disconformity to the Early Permian conodont crisis of Clark (1972). There is a change in lithofacies in the Great Basin at this time, and the conodont disconformity needs to be documented in other areas.

Platyvillosus Assemblage

In the most continuous Great Basin Triassic section studied to date, the uppermost Smithian Neogondolella milleri assemblage is separated by a covered interval from the next highest exposure, which contains Neospathodus triangularis. This 27-m-thick interval of no conodonts may contain a higher part of the N. milleri assemblage or a lower part of the Platyvillosus assemblage. As far as we know, these assemblages have not been found in succession previously (Sweet and others 1971). The succession established in the Thaynes Formation at Salt Lake City demonstrates that these assemblages are sequential but may be separated or may overlap by 27 m at most.

Elements of the *Platyvillosus* assemblage include *Neogondolella jubata*, *Neospathodus homeri*, *N. collinsoni*, and, in some areas, *Platyvillosus costatus*. This latter species evidently characterizes the lower part of the *Platyvillosus* assemblage in some areas, whereas *P. asperatus* is common in the upper part. *Platyvillosus asperatus* occurs through more than 43 m of the Salt Lake City section but not in the lowest exposures above *Neogondolella milleri*.

•

Neospathodus collinsoni Assemblage

The taxon referred to as Neospathodus n. sp. G by Sweet and others (1971) has recently been described as N. collinsoni Solien. This characteristic form appears first in the underlying Platyvillosus assemblage but reaches its maximum abundance above the highest strata bearing Platyvillosus. It occurs with the longerranging Neospathodus triangularis, N. homeri and Neogondolella jubata, all characteristic of the comprehensive N. jubata interval of Sweet (1970a) in West Pakistan.

Neogondolella jubata Assemblage

The base of this assemblage is above the last occurrence of Neospathodus collinsoni. Besides the name-giving species, Neospathodus homeri, N. triangularis, Xaniognathus elongatus, Cypridolella unialata, and Ellisonia triassica characterize this assemblage.

In the Salt Lake section, representatives of this assemblage range through more than 300 m of rocks. The upper beds of the Thaynes Formation at this section are part of a sequence of

mixed terrestrial and marine sediments and contain only a few broken conodonts that cannot be assigned with confidence to any younger Triassic assemblage.

Neospathodus timorensis Assemblage(?)

The relationship of this assemblage of taxa to the older Lower Triassic sequence of assemblages in the Great Basin is uncertain. Sweet (1970a) recognized the N. timorensis assemblage as a distinctive zone on the basis of material collected from a single bed at one locality in the Salt Range, West Pakistan. An additional sample collected by J. W. Collinson and W. A. Hasenmueller from the upper Tobin Formation of Nevada is reported to bear the same taxa as the West Pakistan sample. We are uncertain of the precise sequence for this assemblage but assume that it occurs in the Great Basin at the top of the Lower Triassic.

### MIDDLE TRIASSIC

# Anisian

Neogondolella regale Assemblage The oldest Middle Triassic has been defined in Nevada in the Humboldt Range on the basis of the name-giving species (Mosher 1970). The associated fauna is not well studied. The name-giving species has been reported outside Nevada in British Columbia. Neogondolella mombergensis also occurs in this interval.

Neogondolella constricta Assemblage

The name-giving species is abundant in Gymnotoceras-bearing strata in the Humboldt Range of Nevada, where it occurs with a few multielement species (Mosher and Clark 1965) and N. mombergensis. The late Anisian age has been confirmed by its occurrence in samples with Ceratites trinodosus in Austria (Mosher 1968a).

## Ladinian

Neogonodolella mombergensis Assemblage

The name-giving species occurs through the Middle Triassic, but in the poorly studied lower Ladinian strata of Nevada it is the most distinctive species. It defines an interval above the last occurrence of Neogondolella constricta and below the occurrence of Epigondolella mungoensis.

Epigondolella mungoensis Assemblage

Upper Ladinian rocks of the New Pass Range, Nevada, contain the name-giving species. It does not occur in younger Karnian rocks (Mosher 1968a). Neogondolella mombergensis occurs in this assemblage along with a few poorly defined multielement species.

UPPER TRIASSIC

## Karnian Wina (1977) - Sure 1

Neospathodus newpassensis Assemblage

Above the youngest Middle Triassic occurs an assemblage characterized by the name-giving species. It represents a significant change in conodont faunas because Neogondolella became extinct at this time, and several new taxa along with descendants of Middle Triassic Epigondolella appeared. Mosher (1968a) reported that this interval was poorly understood but that it occurs in sequence with the underlying E. mungoensis assemblagements โดย ทางสถาสทั่งจาก ที่ มักสาขาดเรียกเป็น

Paragondolella polygnathiformis Assemblage

The name-giving species occurs in younger Karnian rocks but evidently does not occur above the Karnian. It occurs in the upper Karnian with Epigondolella primitia and E. abneptis plus a few multielement species in Nevada.

# Norian

Mosher (1968a) and Sweet and others (1971) pointed out that Late Triassic conodont faunas, and particularly those of the Norian, show no provincialism. Similarity coefficients for Norian species in the Great Basin and Europe suggest a slight decrease in faunal similarity in the youngest Triassic, however. This is based on a greater species diversity in the Austrian section. The decrease in species similarity could be a signal for the early stages of development of the modern North Atlantic (Clark 1977).

Epigondolella abneptis Assemblage Mosher (1968b) concluded that the name-giving species was the descendant of Paragondolella polygnathiformis and that the division between the two zones was based on the last occurrence of the ancestor. The name-giving species occurs sporadically throughout the Upper Triassic along with a few multielement species.

Epigondolella multidentata Assemblage

Middle Norian rocks in Nevada are distinguished by the name-giving species, E. abneptis, and a few multielement species and the first of the second of (Mosher 1968a).

Epigondolella bidentata Assemblage

The name-giving species is the principal conodont of the upper part of the Upper Triassic, and its extinction marks the end of conodont evolution in Nevada. Slightly younger-conodonts survived in Austria, but even the Austrian forms were extinct by the Lower Jurassic. i grande de la companya de la compa

#### TRIASSIC CONODONT PALEOECOLOGY AND RECORD

Current emphasis of Great Basin Triassic conodont studies is on paleoecology. Particularly well suited to facies studies are the Lower Triassic Thaynes Formation and its equivalents. We have determined that in the Thaynes, successive transgressional and progradational events deposited six distinct lithofacies that range from semi-marine dolomite-sandstone-evaporite deposits to thick normal-marine packstone-wackestone deposits. Deposition of the six lithofacies was cyclic, and conodonts occur almost exclusively in the marine parts of the cycles. This relationship is described in greater detail by Solien, Morgan, and Clark (this volume). It is of significance to general Triassic paleoecology to note that carbonate texture, an often used paleoecologic parameter, is important only in terms of its position in the environmental gradient, and not by itself. This aids in the understanding of conodont abundance and diversity and may answer questions that have been raised concerning Triassic conodont distribution by Clark and Rosser (1976).

Clark, D. L., 1957, Marine Triassic stratigraphy in eastern Great Basin: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, v. 41, p. 2192-2222. 1959; Conodonts from the Triassic of Nevada and Utah: Jour-..

nal of Paleontology, v. 33, p. 305-12.

1960, Triassic biostratigraphy of eastern Nevada, Intermountain Association of Perfoleum Geologists Guidebook, 11th Annual
Field Conference, p. 122-25.

- Clark, D. L., Sincavage, J. P., and Stone, D. D., 1964, New conodont from the Lower Triassic of Nevada: Journal of Paleontology, v. 38, p. 375–77.
- Clark, D. L., and Rosser, S. V., 1976, Analysis of paleoecologic factors associated with the Triassic Parachirognathus/Furnishius conodont fauna in Utah and Nevada: In Barnes, C. R. (ed.), Conodont paleoecology: Geological Association of Canada Special Paper 15, p. 295-311.
   Clark, D. L., Peterson, D. O., Stokes, W. L., Wardlaw, B., and Wilcox, J. D.,
- Clark, D. L., Peterson, D. O., Stokes, W. L., Wardlaw, B., and Wilcox, J. D., 1977, Permian-Triassic sequence in northwest Utah: Geology, v. 5, p. 655-58.
- Collinson, J. W., 1968, Permian and Triassic biostratigraphy of the Medicine Range, northeastern Nevada: Wyoming Geological Association, Earth Science Bullerin v. 1, p. 25-44
- Science Bulletin, v. 1, p. 25-44.

  Collinson, J. W., Kendall, C. G. St. C., and Marcantel, J. B., 1976, Permian-Triassic boundary in eastern Nevada and west-central Utah: Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 87, p. 821-24.
- McTavish, R. A., 1973, Triassic conodont faunas from western Australia: Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie Abhandlungen 143, p. 275–303.
- Mosher, L. C., 1967, Are there post-Triassic conodonts?: Journal of Paleontology, v. 41, p. 1554-55.
- \_\_\_\_\_\_, 1968a, Triassic conodonts from western North America and Europe and their correlation: Journal of Paleontology, v. 42, p. 895-946.
- \_\_\_\_\_\_, 1968b, Evolution of Triassic platform conodonts: Journal of Paleontology, v. 42, p. 947–54.
- of Paleontology, v. 44, p. 737–42.

  1973, Triassic conodonts from British Columbia and the north-
- 1973, Triassic conodonts from British Columbia and the northern Arctic islands: Canada Geological Survey Bulletin 222: Contributions to Canadian Paleontology, p. 141–92.

- Mosher, L. C., and Clark, D. L., 1965, Middle Triassic conodonts from the Prida Formation of northwestern Nevada: Journal of Paleontology, v. 39, p. 551-65.
- Müller, K. J., 1956, Triassic conodonts from Nevada: Journal of Paleontology, v. 30, p. 818–30.
- Solien, M. A., 1979, Conodont biostratigraphy of the Lower Triassic Thaynes Formation, Utah: Journal of Paleontology, v. 53, p. 276-306.
- Solien, M. A., Morgan, W. A., and Clark, D. L., 1979, Structure and stratigraphy of a Lower Triassic conodont locality, Salt Lake City, Utah. In Sandberg, C. A., and Clark, D. L. (eds.), Conodont biostratigraphy of the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains: Brigham Young University Geology Studies, v. 26, pt. 3, pp. 165-177.
- Sweet, W. C., 1970a, Uppermost Permian and Lower Triassic conodonts of the Salt Range and Transindus Ranges, West Pakistan: Kansas University, Department of Geology, Special Publication 4, p. 207-75.
- Sweet, W. C., 1970b, Permian and Triassic conodonts from a section at Guryul Ravine, Vihi District, Kashmir: Kansas University Paleontological Contributions, Paper 49, p. 1–11.
- Pub. 2, p. 630-46.
  Sweet, W. C., Mosher, L. C., Clark, D. L., Collinson, J. W., and Hansenmueller, W. A., 1971, Conodont biostratigraphy of the Triassic: In Sweet, W. C., and Bergström, S. M. (eds.), Symposium on conodont biostratigraphy: Geological Society America Mem. 127 p. 441-465
- Geological Society America Mem. 127, p. 441-465.

  Teichert, C., Kummel, B., and Sweet, W. C., 1973, Permian-Triassic strata, Kuh-E-Ali Bashi, northwestern Iran: Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, v. 145, no. 8, p. 359-472.
- Youngquist, Walter, 1952, Triassic conodonts from southeastern Idaho: Journal of Paleontology, v. 26, p. 650-55.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 1

Figure 1.—Neogondolella constricta (Mosher and Clark), upper Anisian, Nevada, X75; Figure 2.—Epigondolella mungoensis (Diebel), upper Ladinian, Africa, X75; Figure 3.—Epigondolella bidentata Mosher, upper Norian, Austria, X105; Figure 4.—Epigondolella multidentata Mosher, middle Norian, British Columbia, X75; Figure 5.—Epigondolella abneptis (Huckreide), lower Norian, Nevada, X105; Figure 6.—Neospathodus newpassensis Mosher, lower Katnian, Nevada, X100; Figure 7.—Paragondolella polygnathiformis (Budurov and Stefanov), upper Katnian, California, X70; Figure 8.—Neogondolella mombergensis (Tatge), lower Ladinian, Germany, X60; Figure 9.—Neogondolella jubata Sweet, upper Spathian, Utah, X80; Figure 10.—Neogondolella regale Mosher, lower Anisian, Nevada, X65; Figure 11.—Platyvilloss asperatus Clark, Sincavage, and Stone, lower Spathian, Nevada, X130; Figure 12, 13.—Neospathodus sp., upper Dienetian, Idaho, X50; Figure 16.—Parachirognathus ethingtoni Clark, middle Smithian, Utah, X45; Figure 17.—Furnishius triserratus Clark, lower Smithian, Nevada, X50; Figure 18.—Neospathodus peculiaris Sweet, lower Dienetian, Nevada, X20; Figure 19.—Anchignathodus isarcicus (Huckriede), lower Griesbachian, Utah, X95; Figure 20.—Neogondolella carinata (Clark), upper Griesbachian, Utah, X80; Figure 21.—Anchignathodus typicalis Sweet, lower Griesbachian, Utah, X95.

