

IGCP 635 (2016-2021): The onset of the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE)

Thomas Servais^{1*}, David A.T. Harper², Olga T. Obut³, Christian M.O. Rasmussen⁴, Alycia L. Stigall⁵ & Yuandong Zhang⁶

¹CNRS, Université de Lille, UMR 8198 Evo-Eco-Paléo, F-59000 Lille, France

²Department of Earth Sciences, Durham University, Durham DH1 3LE, UK

³A.A. Trofimuk Institute of Petroleum Geology and Geophysics, Pr. Akademica Koptyuaga 3, Novosibirsk, 630090, Russia.

⁴Natural History Museum, University of Copenhagen, 1350, Denmark.

⁵Department of Geological Sciences, Ohio University, Athens, 45701, USA.

⁶Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology. 39 East Beijing Road, Nanjing 210008, China.

The 'Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event' (GOBE) comprises the rapid diversification of marine organisms during the Ordovician Period. It is now clear that this adaptive radiation started for some organisms already in the late Cambrian and continued for others beyond the end of the Ordovician, making the GOBE the sum of a number of diversifications that completely modified marine food webs and that, for the first time in geological times, established modern marine ecosystems. The project IGCP 653 focuses on interdisciplinary investigations, including case studies from international sites, involving specialists from the fields of palaeontology, sedimentology, stratigraphy, geochemistry, palaeoceanography, palaeoclimatology, etc., in collaboration with the Subcommittee on Ordovician Stratigraphy (SOS). The results of the project contribute to the understanding of the triggering causes of the establishment of modern marine ecosystems, but also to the identification of the reasons of the first collapse of these environments during the Late Ordovician mass extinction. The project involves scientists from all over the world, and through the organization of dedicated workshops, integrates graduate and doctoral students, in particular from developing countries. Running from 2016 to 2020, the project is on extended term during 2021, and will be succeeded by IGCP 735 (2021–2025): Rocks and the Rise of Ordovician Life: Filling knowledge gaps in the Early Palaeozoic Biodiversification (Rocks n'ROL).

Key-words : Ordovician, biodiversification, radiation, GOBE

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