

# Frasnian – lower Famennian stratigraphy and biota in the northern Gondwana margin preserved in Armenia

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The Upper Devonian sequences of Armenia consist of carbonate and siliciclastic sedimentary rocks, which deposited on a shallow water platform in the northern margin of Gondwana. Although they crop out only in a few places (Ertych, Djravank and Noravanak sections), they are rich in fossils (brachiopods, corals, bryozoans). These faunas were being studied since the 19th century and more systematically during the 1950s to 70s.

More particularly, the Frasnian–lower Famennian sequences of Armenia were subdivided into three ‘formations’ (Baghrsagh, Noravank and Ertych), which regrettably were mainly characterized by their fossil record, rather than distinct lithological differences. In practice, they have very similar lithological characteristics and they cannot be distinguished on the field without knowledge of their brachiopod assemblages.

Recent studies on brachiopods established that these benthic organisms are present essentially in two distinct limestone intervals, each one bearing a distinct brachiopod assemblage.

The lower limestone interval contains eleven brachiopod species; the assemblage is characterized by the presence of atrypides, in addition to some rhynchonellides and spiriferides. We establish a

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