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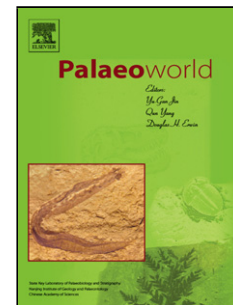
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Authors: Xin Wei, Ren-Bin Zhan

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# A late Rhuddanian (early Llandovery, Silurian) trilobite association from South China and its implications

Xin Wei <sup>a, b</sup> \*, Ren-Bin Zhan <sup>a, b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> State Key Laboratory of Palaeobiology and Stratigraphy, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing 210008, China

<sup>b</sup> University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

*E-mail addresses:* xwei@nigpas.ac.cn (X. Wei); rbzhan@nigpas.ac.cn (R.B. Zhan)

\* Corresponding author.

## Abstract

A recovery trilobite association after the end-Ordovician mass extinction, the ‘*Encrinuroides*’ Association, is documented from the lower Niuchang Formation (upper Rhuddanian, lower Llandovery, Silurian) of Gaojiang, Meitan, northern Guizhou, South China paleoplate, including 10 genera of eight families. Three subassociations of this association could be differentiated, i.e., ascendingly the ‘*Encrinuroides*’-*Eoleonaspis* Subassociation, the ‘*Encrinuroides*’-*Aulacopleura* (*Paraaulacopleura*) Subassociation, and the ‘*Encrinuroides*’-*Meitanillaenus* Subassociation. The succession of these subassociations in the section indicates a shallowing upward trend of the environment as a result of regional tectonic activities (i.e., the Qianzhong Uplift) against the background of the Rhuddanian global transgression. A relatively complete trilobite succession in South China across the Ordovician–Silurian transition has been summarized and its implications for the trilobite macroevolution of this particular time interval are discussed in detail.

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