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A new protolepidodendrid lycopsid from the Middle Devonian of Hunan, South China and its palaeogeographical implications

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Abstract

Well-preserved plant compression from the Middle Devonian Tiaomachian Formation of Hunan, the central area of South China allow establishing a new species of protolepidodendrid, morphologically *Colpodexylon*-like lycopsid, *Tiaomaphyton fui* gen. et sp. nov.. The new plant is small-sized and consists of three-tipped leaves with a tiny heel and longitudinal dehiscent sporangia. *Tiaomaphyton* is the first unequivocal protolepidodendrid lycopsid from the Middle Devonian of central Hunan, which palaeogeographically belongs to the Cathaysia Block, one of the two sub-regions of the whole South China Plate. The study gives a better understanding of the Middle Devonian flora of

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