

ORENBURGIAN STAGE: AN OLD STAGE IN NEW USAGE IN GLOBAL SCALE.

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Orenburgian stage as highest unit in the Carboniferous succession was established by V.E. Ruzhenzev (1945) in the southern Urals with stratotype in Nikolsky section. Ruzhenzev suggested that Orenburgian is equivalent of two fusulinid zonal horizons in the Samarskaya Luka (Horizon D with *Triticites jigulensis* and *Pseudofusulina* Horizon of Rauser-Chernousova, 1938). In the southern Urals this stage was equal only to the *Pseudofusulina* horizon of Rauser-Chernousova. In the late 1960's Orenburgian was removed from the stratigraphical scale because of miscorrelation between the Russian Platform and southern Urals. Orenburgian is the time for the several major in Late Paleozoic sea-level fluctuations and probably climatic changes. In Russian Platform these sea-level fluctuations are represented by series of significant sequence boundaries and therefore unconformities. The scale and character of these unconformities was not clearly recognized in carbonate succession of Russian Platform and that is why Orenburgian was replaced by Gzhelian (*sensu lato*). In last decade after study of a relatively complete Gzhelian-Orenburgian-Asselian succession in southern Urals and after the GSSP for C/P boundary was established and officially accepted it is clear that Orenburgian is a significant and independent stage which should take place in global stratigraphic scale between Pennsylvanian Gzhelian (*sensu stricto*) stage and Cisuralian Asselian stage. Orenburgian is characterized by a significant assemblage of conodonts, ammonoids and fusulinids and can be recognized globally.