

## **BREAKING THE BARRIER BETWEEN PROVINCIALISM AND GLOBAL CORRELATION: PERMIAN MARINE TRANSITIONAL FAUNAS AS GATEWAYS FOR GLOBAL CORRELATION**

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On the one hand, the development of biotic endemism during the Permian on a global scale has hindered the intercontinental correlation of Permian sequences. However, biogeographically well-defined transitional biotas also developed through much of the Permian between neighbouring biogeographic realms. These transitional biotas, by virtue of their admixed nature of biotic elements from adjacent realms and, at places, association with conodonts, fusulinids and/or ammonoids, have the potential to serve as 'biostratigraphic gateways' for correlation between contrasted biogeographic realms. In this paper I report two of such areas with Permian transitional faunas: the Lhasa terrane in central Tibet and the Baoshan block of western Yunnan, both belonging to the transitional Cimmerian biogeographic region. The Sazipo Formation of Western Yunnan contains a characteristic mixed brachiopod fauna with both typical South China Lower Maokouan brachiopod species *Cryptospirifer omeishanensis* and *Pseudoantiquatonia mutabilis*, a species elsewhere known only from the Xiala Formation of the Lhasa terrane in central Tibet. The Xiala brachiopod fauna, associated with Middle Permian fusulinids, contains brachiopods of even more mixed nature, with characteristic Gondwanan/peri-Gondwanan elements, including, inter alia, *Tomiopsis xizangensis*. This species resembles *T. cessnockensis* from the *T. brevis* and *T. undulosa* Zones of eastern Australia, therefore implying that the two eastern Australian zones may be equated with the Lower Maokouan of South China.