

## **CISURALIAN (LOWER PERMIAN) SERIES: HISTORY, CURRENT STATUS, AND PROPOSED STAGE DEFINITIONS**

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The southern Ural Mountains and eastern margin of Russian Platform contain the type area for the Cisuralian, which includes the Asselian, Sakmarian, Artinskian and Kungurian stages. The Orenburgian (uppermost Carboniferous) also occurs there. These stages were defined initially and widely recognized based on ammonoid phylogenies. However in the past four decades, stage and substage (horizons) definitions were established and practically used on the basis of fusulinids - the most abundant and one of the best studied upper Paleozoic fossil group of the southern Urals and other regions. In the last decade, conodonts have become the primary basis for refining these definitions because of their utility in global correlation. The GSSP for the base of the Permian and basal Cisuralian Asselian stage was ratified in 1996 by the IUGS and occurs at Aidaralash Creek, Aktöbe region, Kazakhstan. It is defined by the first occurrence of the conodont *St. isolatus* in the *S. wabaunsensis* chronocline. This level closely approximates the traditional boundary definition based on cephalopods and fusulinacean foraminifers. It is expected that rest of the GSSP definitions for the Cisuralian will similarly be defined within conodont chronoclines in the Southern Urals. These definitions will be selected as close as possible to the traditional bases of the stages and be consistent with fusulinacean and ammonoid phylogenetic changes. Several suggestions of the possible GSSP for the bases of the Cisuralian stages will be discussed.