

## **NEWLY PROPOSED MIDDLE-UPPER CAMBRIAN CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHICAL SCALE OF CHINA AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN INTERNATIONAL CORRELATION**

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All the current used Cambrian stages are directly introduced from the same-named formations of platform facies in North China and eastern Yunnan with rough subdivision of zones at generic level. As they are lithostratigraphically based and their boundaries are poorly defined, the concept of most existing Chinese stages is not clear. A gap or an overlap may occurs in between some adjacent stages. The shallow water, endemic trilobite faunas made those stages correlated only within limited areas. Four stratotype-based stages are proposed as new chronostratigraphical units for the Middle and Upper Cambrian in China. They are the Wangcunian stage with its base drawn at the FAD (first appearance date) of *Ptychagnostus punctuosus*, the Youshuian stage at the FAD of *Linguagnostus reconditus*, the Waergangian stage at the FAD of *Glyptagnostus reticulatus*, and the Taoyuanian stage at the FAD of *Agnostotes clavata*. The new stages are erected on the basis of continuous slope sequences in western Hunan with their lower boundaries defined by the FAD of worldwide spread species. The new chronostratigraphical scale therefore has great potentiality of global correlation. Some of stage bases may be considered as series or stage boundaries in the global stratigraphic chart of IUGS, while the stages themselves may qualified as formal Cambrian stages for the chart.