

Micropalaeontological definition and correlation of Permian stage boundaries

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The base of the Asselian (appearance of *Streptognathodus isolatus*) and the base of the Sakmarian (appearance of *Streptognathodus barskovi* and *Sweetognathus merrilli*) can be recognised both in the Tethys and in the Boreal Realm. The base of the Kungurian (appearance of *Neostreptognathodus pnavi*) coincides with the appearance of *N. exsculptus* in the Tethys.

The base of the Roadian (=base of the Guadalupian Series) at the appearance of *Mesogondolella nankingensis* coincides with the appearance of *M. saraciniesis* in the open-sea Tethyan conodont faunas, with the base of the *Armenina-Eoverbeekina* fusulinid zone and with the base of the *Spinodeflandrella foremanae*-*Parafollicucullus cornelli* radiolarian zone. The traditional base of the Wordian with the appearance of *Waagenoceras* should be preserved because this event has a high correlation potential throughout the Tethys (appearance of *Waagenoceras*, base of the *M. siciliensis* Zone of the open-sea Tethyan conodont faunas, base of the *Neoschwagerina simplex* fusulinid zone, base of the *Parafollicucullus longtanensis* radiolarian zone).

The base of the Lopingian Series can be defined either by the appearance of *Clarkina altudaensis*, which coincides with the appearance of *Iranognathus* in shallow-water conodont faunas, of *Mesogondolella britannica* in the Boreal Realm, and of typical Lopingian *Ishigaconus scholasticus* radiolarian fauna, and with a distinct change in fusulinid faunas, or by the appearance of *C. dukouensis*, which is well recognisable in the Tethys. The base of the Dorashamian is defined by the appearance of *C. subcarinata*.