

## **PALAEOBIOGEOGRAPHIC LINK OF THE URALS AND ALASKA IN THE MIDDLE PALAEOZOIC**

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Upper Silurian reefs in the Western Urals, southwestern (Nixon Fork terrane) and southeastern (Alexander terrane) Alaska include stromatolite-like microbial-metazoan association in their organic structures. Diverse consortium of cyanobacteria, calcareous algae, microproblematica, sphinctozoan sponges (aphrosalpingids), and problematic hydroids, *Fistulella* were the main constructors of these reefs. The stromatolites boundstones share are characterized by a high degree of similarity of composition, biofabrics and environmental setting. Cyanobacterial genera *Ludlowia*, *Hecetaphyton*, and *Sphaerina* recorded only from upper Silurian reefs of southeastern Alaska and Urals. The associated fauna of gipidulinid brachiopods are common in Nixon Fork and Uralian reefs. Aphrosalpingids, and hydroids, *Fistulella* geographic distribution are restricted by upper Silurian reefs of the Urals, southern Siberia and Alaska (Nixon Fork and Alexander terranes). Origin of these Alaskan terranes are still debated. Specific aphrosalpingid-hydroid-microbial reefal deposits under investigation in the Urals (Baltica) and Alaska (northwestern Laurentia or Siberia) indicate that in the late Silurian Alaska was located at a site that enabled transmigration of biotas between Alaska and Urals. In addition, brachiopod assemblages of *Atrypa* and *Phacops* faunas first described in Alaska are widespread in the upper Silurian (Pridolian) in the Baltica, Canadian Arctic, Greenland and Alaska. Many taxa of late Ordovician-early Devonian conodont faunas of North Atlantic and Midcontinent provinces show greatest affinities in the northern Baltica and northern Laurentia. Therefore we infer that palaeobiogeographic link of the Urals and Alaska was provided with Uralian Seaway