

# The Marginatia-Syringothyris-Rotaia brachiopod assemblage from the Lower Carboniferous of the South Kitakami Belt, northeast Japan, and its palaeobiogeographical implications

Author: TAZAWA, JUN-ICHI

Source: Paleontological Research, 10(2): 127-139

Published By: The Palaeontological Society of Japan

URL: https://doi.org/10.2517/prpsj.10.127

The BioOne Digital Library (<u>https://bioone.org/</u>) provides worldwide distribution for more than 580 journals and eBooks from BioOne's community of over 150 nonprofit societies, research institutions, and university presses in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences. The BioOne Digital Library encompasses the flagship aggregation BioOne Complete (<u>https://bioone.org/subscribe</u>), the BioOne Complete Archive (<u>https://bioone.org/archive</u>), and the BioOne eBooks program offerings ESA eBook Collection (<u>https://bioone.org/esa-ebooks</u>) and CSIRO Publishing BioSelect Collection (<u>https://bioone.org/csiro-ebooks</u>).

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Digital Library, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at <u>www.bioone.org/terms-of-use</u>.

Usage of BioOne Digital Library content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non-commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne is an innovative nonprofit that sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Paleontological Research, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 127–139, June 30, 2006 C by the Palaeontological Society of Japan

# The *Marginatia-Syringothyris-Rotaia* brachiopod assemblage from the Lower Carboniferous of the South Kitakami Belt, northeast Japan, and its palaeobiogeographical implications

JUN-ICHI TAZAWA

Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, Niigata University, Niigata, 950-2181, Japan (e-mail: tazawa@geo.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp)

Received 26 September, 2005; Revised manuscript accepted 12 January, 2006

Abstract. Three brachiopod species, *Marginatia burlingtonensis* (Hall), *Syringothyris transversa* Minato and *Rotaia hikoroichiensis* sp. nov., are described from the Lower Carboniferous (Lower Visean) of the Shimoarisu, Yokota and Hikoroichi areas in the South Kitakami Belt (southern Kitakami Mountains), northeast Japan. The *Marginatia-Syringothyris-Rotaia* assemblage from the South Kitakami Belt indicates a palaeobiogeographical similarity between the South Kitakami Belt and the north Xinjiang-Inner Mongolia-Jilin region, i.e., the North China Province of S. Yang (1980) in Early Carboniferous time. Furthermore, the rugose corals *Sugiyamaella*, *Yuanophyllum* and *Kueichouphyllum* from the Lower Carboniferous (Upper Visean) of the South Kitakami Belt are strong evidence of a close connection between this region and the southern part of the North China Province, i.e., the Tianshan-Jilin Province of F. Yang (1994). These palaeobiogeographical data suggest that the South Kitakami region was the eastern extension of the Tianshan-Jilin Province, and located at the continental shelf bordering the eastern margin of North China (Sino-Korea) in the Early Carboniferous.

Key words: brachiopod, Early Carboniferous, *Marginatia-Syringothyris-Rotaia* assemblage, South Kitakami Belt, Tianshan-Jilin Province

#### Introduction

Palaeozoic geography and biogeography of the South Kitakami Belt, northeast Japan are important and useful for understanding the geotectonic development of the South Kitakami Belt and also the Japanese Islands. Recently the present author proposed the strike-slip model (Tazawa, 2004), which suggested that the South Kitakami Belt is part of the South Kitakami Terrane, the oldest terrane in Japan, and was born at the subduction zone bordering the eastern margin of North China (Sino-Korea) in the Early Ordovician. The palaeoposition of the South Kitakami Belt remained almost unchanged until the Late Permian, although large-scale strike-slip motion occurred afterwards around this area, namely, a dextral strike-slip faulting in the Late Permian to Late Jurassic and a sinistral strike-slip faulting in the Early Cretaceous to Palaeogene. This model is based mainly on the palaeobiogeographical data from the late Palaeozoic (Devonian-Permian) brachiopod faunas of South Kitakami and adjacent regions in East Asia.

Brachiopods are most common in the Early Carboniferous macrofauna of the South Kitakami Belt (southern Kitakami Mountains). Since the pioneering works of Minato (1951, 1952), the brachiopod fauna consisting of 79 species in 47 genera has been described by Tachibana (1956, 1963, 1964, 1969, 1981), Minato and Kato (1977), Tazawa and Katayama (1979), Tazawa (1980, 1981, 1984a, b, 1985, 1989, 1996), Tazawa and Kurita (1986) and Tazawa and Miyake (2002). Many biostratigraphical and tectonic interpretations of the Lower Carboniferous of the South Kitakami region have been made based mainly on these brachiopods (e.g., Minato, 1950a, b, 1955a; Tachibana, 1952; Minato et al., 1953, 1979; Tazawa, 1980, 1984b, 1985; Tazawa and Katayama, 1979). However, there are not many detailed palaeobiogeographical studies on the brachiopod faunas, although some articles have been published by Minato (1956), Minato and Kato (1984) and Tazawa (1996, 2002).

The Early Carboniferous (Early Visean) brachio-

pod biogeography of the South Kitakami region was briefly discussed by Tazawa (1996, 2002), in which he concluded that this region was palaeobiogeographically close to the North China Province of S. Yang (1980, 1983), particularly its southern part, i.e., the Tianshan-Jilin Province of F. Yang (1994), and that it was located at the continental shelf bordering the eastern margin of North China in the Early Carboniferous. In this paper the Early Carboniferous brachiopod biogeography of South Kitakami is discussed in comparison with that of China. Three brachiopod species, Marginatia burlingtonensis (Hall), Syringothyris transversa Minato and Rotaia hikoroichiensis sp. nov., all collected from the Lower Visean formations of the southern Kitakami Mountains, are described as the representatives of the index taxa.

All specimens described in this paper are housed in the following institutions as indicated by the prefix to the registered numbers, NU-B: Department of Geology, Niigata University in Niigata; OCM.G.: Ofunato Museum in Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture; UHR: Hokkaido University Museum in Sapporo.

# Stratigraphy

The brachiopod specimens described in this paper were collected from nine localities in the Arisu Formation of the Shimoarisu (locality MM1 in Figure 1) and Yokota (localities TK1, KF207, 208 in Figure 1) areas, and the upper part of the lower Hikoroichi Formation of the Hikoroichi area (localities KF171, 172, 174, 182, 202 in Figure 1). The Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy of these areas has been studied by many researchers, in particular, by Takeda (1960) and M. Kawamura (1985a) in the Shimoarisu area; by Minato (1941), Tazawa and Katayama (1979) and M. Kawamura (1985b) in the Yokota area; and by Okubo (1951), T. Kawamura (1983) and Tazawa (1984b) in the Hikoroichi area.

The Arisu Formation is distributed in the Shimoarisu and Yokota areas. It consists of mafic to intermediate tuff in the lower part and shale and sandstone in the upper part, with thin limestone beds, reaching about 400–700 m in thickness (Figure 2). The Hikoroichi Formation is distributed in the Hikoroichi area and consists mostly of sandstone, with a basal conglomerate and intercalations of shale, felsic to intermediate tuff and limestone, and is 560 m in total thickness. Table 1 indicates the brachiopods, described from the Arisu Formation in the Shimoarisu and Yokota areas and the upper part of the lower Hikoroichi Formation in the Hikoroichi area. The age of both the Arisu Formation and the upper Lower



**Figure 1.** Index map showing the fossil localities in the Shimoarisu, Yokota and Hikoroichi areas. NA, Nashirozawa; ON, Onimarusawa; OT, Otsubosawa.

Hikoroichi Formation are considered to be Early Visean based on corals and brachiopods (T. Kawamura, 1983; Tazawa, 1985).

The stratigraphical and geographical positions of the fossil localities and the brachiopods described here (*Marginatia burlingtonensis*, *Syringothyris transversa* and *Rotaia hikoroichiensis*) are as follows:

- MM1: Midstream of Nashirozawa (39°11′43″N, 141°33′24″E) in the Shimoarisu area, green intermediate tuff of the lower Arisu Formation, with *Syringothyris transversa*.
- KF171: Hill along the eastern side of Onimarusawa (39°7'14"N, 141°39'35"E) in the Hikoroichi area, black shale of the upper part of the lower Hikoroichi Formation, with *Marginatia burlingtonensis*.
- KF172: Hill along the eastern side of Onimarusawa (39°7′15″N, 141°39′29″E) in the Hikoroichi area, black shale of the upper part of the lower Hikoroichi Formation, with *Marginatia burlingtonensis*.

Marginatia-Syringothyris-Rotaia assemblage from Japan



Figure 2. Columnar sections of the Lower Carboniferous of the Shimoarisu, Yokota and Hikoroichi areas, showing the stratigraphical horizons of the fossil localities. Redrawn and adapted from Tazawa and Katayama (1979), Tazawa (1984b) and M. Kawamura (1985a).

- KF174: Hill along the eastern side of Onimarusawa (39°7′24″N, 141°39′40″E) in the Hikoroichi area, black shale of the upper part of the lower Hikoroichi Formation, with *Marginatia burlingtonensis*.
- KF188: Hill along the eastern side of Onimarusawa (39°7′27″N, 141°39′44″E) in the Hikoroichi area, black shale of the upper part of the lower Hikoroichi Formation, with *Marginatia burlingtonensis*.
- KF202: Onimaru quarry (39°7'18"N, 141°39'33"E) in

the Hikoroichi area, dark grey calcareous fine-grained sandstone of the upper part of the lower Hikoroichi Formation, with *Marginatia burlingtonensis* and *Rotaia hikoroichiensis*.

- KF207: Midstream of Otsubosawa (39°4′57″N, 141°33′59″E) in the Yokota area, black shale of the upper Arisu Formation, with *Marginatia burlingtonensis*.
- KF208: Midstream of Otsubosawa (39°4'56"N, 141°34'5"E) in the Yokota area, black shale of the upper Arisu Formation, with *Marginatia burlingtonensis*.
- TK1: Myojinsawa (39°5′5″N, 141°33′42″E), a tributary of Otsubosawa in the Yokota area, green intermediate tuff of the lower Arisu Formation, with *Syringothyris transversa*.

## Marginatia-Syringothyris-Rotaia assemblage

S. Yang (1980, 1983) was the first to study the Early Carboniferous brachiopod biogeography of China and proposed three provinces, the North China Province, South China Province and Himalayan Province. Afterwards S. Yang et al. (1984) refined this provincial classification, and suggested four provinces: the North China, South China, Western China and Himalaya (Gondwana) Provinces (Figure 3). The North China Province occupies the area north of Tarim and Sino-Korea, i.e., the Junggar-Inner Mongolia-Jilin region, and is characterized by the presence of brachiopods Marginatia, Tolmatchoffia, Syringothyris and Rotaia. The South China Province occupies the Yangtze and its surrounding areas, and is characterized by brachiopods such as Yanguania, Eochoristites and Martiniella. The Western China Province occupies the vast areas south of Tarim and the regions west of the Yangtze, including north Gansu and north Sichuan, and is characterized by mixed types from the North and South China Provinces. The Himalaya (Gondwana) Province occupies the Himalaya-Tibet region, and contains brachiopods closely related to the Gondwanan fauna, such as Fusella, Ovatia, Marginirugus and Girtyella. In the extent of area and faunal composition, the Northern Province of Ching and Liao (1985), the Boreal Realm of S. Yang (1990) and the Tianshan-Hinggan Province of Liao (1995) are almost the same as S. Yang's North China Province.

The Lower Carboniferous brachiopod fauna of the South Kitakami region contains the genera *Marginatia*, *Syringothyris* and *Rotaia*. Figures 6–8 show the specimens of *Marginatia burlingtonensis*, *Syringothyris transversa* and *Rotaia hikoroichiensis* from the Lower

Locality				
Species	SHIMOARISU	YOKOTA	HIKOROICHI	Author
Leptagonia convexa (Weller)	+		+	Minato (1951)
Planoproductus gigantoides	+	+		Minato (1951)
Minato				
Buxtonia sp.			+	Tazawa (1989)
Marginatia burlingtonensis		+	+	Tazawa (1985, 1989, this
(Hall)				paper)
Pustula cf. tenuipustulata		+		Minato (1952)
Thomas				
Linoprotonia sp.			+	Tazawa (1984a, 1989)
Orthotetes keokuk (Hall)	+	+		Minato (1952)
Orthotetes sp.		+		Minato (1952)
Derbyia depressa var.		+		Minato (1952)
transversa Minato				
Schizophoria resupinata		+		Minato (1952)
(Martin)				
Schizophoria pinguis	+			Tazawa and Kurita (1986)
Demanet				
Lamellosathyris lamellosa	+	+	+	Minato (1951, 1952), Tazawa
(Léveillé)				(1989)
Cleiothyridina royssii	+	+		Minato (1951, 1952)
(Léveillé)				
Plicatosyrinx singulare		+		Minato (1952)
Minato				
Plicatosyrinx? kumanoi		+		Minato (1952)
Minato				
Syringothyris jumonjiensis	+			Minato (1951)
Minato				
Syringothyris transversa	+	+		Minato (1951, 1952), Tazawa
Minato				(this paper)
Syringothyris kitakamiensis		+		Minato (1962)
Minato				
Syringothyris sp.		+		Minato (1952)
Spirifer ohmoriensis Minato			+	Minato (1952)
Fusella nipponotrigonalis	+	+		Minato (1951, 1952)
Minato				N.C. (1952)
Fusella nipponotrigonaris		+		Minato (1952)
var. <i>minor</i> Minato				
Unispirifer kozuboensis	+	+		Minato (1952), Tazawa and
(Minato)				Kurita (1986)
Unispirifer sp.		+	+	Tazawa (1985, 1989)
Kitakamithyris semicircularis		+	+	Minato (1952)
Minato				T (1006 db
Kolala nikoroichiensis			+	razawa (1996, this paper)
Tazawa				

**Table 1.** Early Carboniferous brachiopods from the Arisu Formation of the Shimoarisu and Yokota areas

 and the upper Lower Hikoroichi Formation of the Hikoroichi area in the South Kitakami Belt.

Visean of this region. As mentioned by Tazawa (1996, 2002), it is noteworthy that the Early Visean brachiopod fauna of South Kitakami contains *Marginatia, Syringothyris*, and *Rotaia*, which are index genera of the North China Province in that time. Recently Shi *et al.* (2005) described some Early Carboniferous (Late Tournaisian) brachiopod faunas, including all *Marginatia, Syringothyris* and *Rotaia*, from the Baoshan block, western Yunnan. But the

Lower Carboniferous biota of the western Yunnan area is clearly distinguished from that of South Kitakami by its marine invertebrates and palynomorphs of Gondwanan affinities (Gao, 1998; Wang *et al.*, 2001).

## Discussion

The Marginatia-Syringothyris-Rotaia assemblage of the Lower Carboniferous of the South Kitakami



**Figure 3.** Early Carboniferous brachiopod biogeography of China and adjacent regions, including Japan (South Kitakami), showing the geographical distribution of the index genera. Lined areas were land. Redrawn and adapted from S. Yang (1983) and S. Yang *et al.* (1984).

region indicates clearly that the Early Carboniferous (Early Visean) brachiopod fauna of this region demonstrates a close relationship to that of the North China Province. According to F. Yang (1994), S. Yang's North China Province is further subdivided into two provinces, the Tianshan-Jilin Province in the south and the Junggar-Xingan Province in the north (Figure 4). The Tianshan-Jilin Province is differentiated from the Junggar-Xingan Province by the presence of some rugose corals, such as Sugiyamaella, Yuanophyllum and Kueichouphyllum. The coral assemblage is very similar to the Early Carboniferous (Late Visean) coral fauna of South Kitakami (Minato, 1955b; Minato et al., 1979). Based on the brachiopod and coral faunas. South Kitakami is considered to be the eastern extension of the Tianshan-Jilin Province of F. Yang (1994) in the Early Carboniferous. This suggests that the South Kitakami region was located at the eastern margin of North China (Sino-Korea) in the Early Carboniferous (Late Visean) (Figure 5).

Concerning the Early Carboniferous biogeography of Japan (South Kitakami), Minato (1956) mentioned faunal affinities of Japan with northeast China and eastern Australia, although no specific data was indicated. In this time, he emphasized the dissimilarities between the faunas of South Kitakami and southern China. S. Yang (1980) also mentioned that the Early Carboniferous brachiopod faunas of the North China Province were closely related to the contemporaneous brachiopod faunas of northern Russia and North America. In addition, Minato and Kato (1984) suggested that certain Tournaisian fossils of South Kitakami showed an intimate relationship with the faunas of northern China, Russia and North America. These opinions are in agreement with the conclusion of this study, especially the close affinity between South Kitakami and northern China. However, Kato (1990) and Kawamura et al. (1999) suggested that Early Carboniferous South Kitakami coral faunas have a close affinity to those of Australia and South China. Further investigation on the faunal relationship between South Kitakami and the other regions, such as Russia, North America, Australia and South China, is called for.



**Figure 4.** Early Carboniferous biogeography of China, showing especially the Tianshan-Jilin Province (I<sub>2</sub>). 1, boundary of realms; 2, boundary of regions; 3, boundary of provinces; 4, boundary of biomes; 5, boundary of communities; 6, roman numeral = realm mark, subscript numeral = province mark, superscript numeral = biome mark; 7, oldland; 8–12, marine and paralic regions; 8, South China; 9, North China; 10, Gondwana; 11, Junggar-Xingan; 12, transitional; I, Palaeo-Tethyan Realm, Cathaysian Region; I<sub>1</sub>, South China Province; I<sub>1</sub>, Jiangsu-Zhejiang-Anhui Biome; I<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>, Hunan-Guizhou-Guangxi Biome; I<sub>1</sub><sup>3</sup>, Qinling-Longmenshan Biome; I<sub>2</sub>, Tianshan-Jilin Province; I<sub>3</sub>, Tarim-Qilian Province; I<sub>3</sub><sup>1</sup>, Tarim Basin Margin Biome; I<sub>3</sub><sup>2</sup>, Qaidam Biome; I<sub>3</sub><sup>3</sup>; Qilian Biome; I<sub>4</sub>, Northern Tibet-Western Yunnan Province; II, Boreal Realm, Central Asia-Mongolia Region; II<sub>1</sub>, Junggar-Xingan Province; II<sub>1</sub><sup>1</sup>, Jiangsu-Altay Biome; II<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>, Kingan Biome; III, Gondwana Realm; III<sub>1</sub>, Himalaya-Gangdise-Nianqingtanggula Province; III<sub>1</sub><sup>1</sup>, Himalaya Biome; III<sub>2</sub><sup>1</sup>, Gangdise-Nianqingtanggula Biome. Adapted from F. Yang (1994).

#### Systematic descriptions

Order Productida Sarytcheva and Sokolskaya, 1959 Suborder Productidina Waagen, 1883 Superfamily Productoidea Gray, 1840 Family Productidae Gray, 1840 Subfamily Buxtoniinae Muir-Wood and Cooper, 1960 Genus *Marginatia* Muir-Wood and Cooper, 1960

Type species.—Productus fernglenensis Weller, 1909

#### Marginatia burlingtonensis (Hall, 1858)

#### Figures 6.1-6.8

Productus flemingi var. burlingtonensis Hall, 1858, p. 598, pl. 12, figs. 3a-g.

Productus burlingtonensis Hall. Weller, 1914, p. 104, pl. 9, figs. 1–10. Productus (Productus) burlingtonensis Hall. Nalivkin, 1937, p. 66, pl. 7, figs. 7–11. Productus sp. Minato, 1951, p. 366, pl. 1, figs. 4a, b.

- Marginatia burlingtonensis (Hall). Sarytcheva, in Sarytcheva et al., 1963, p. 191, pl. 28, figs. 5–8; text-figs. 81, 82; Grechishnikova, 1966, p. 116, pl. 8, figs. 11–13; Bublitschenko, 1976, p. 50, pl. 2, figs. 12a, b, v; pl. 4, figs. 6a, b, v; pl. 5, figs. 4–6; pl. 6, figs. 9a, b; Galitskaya, 1977, p. 83, pl. 22, figs. 6–10; Nalivkin, 1979, p. 94, pl. 32, figs. 1–10; pl. 34, figs. 3, 4; Carter, 1987, p. 39, pl. 9, figs. 1–8; Shi et al., 2005, p. 44, figs. 5D, I–K, M.
- *Marginatia* sp. Tazawa, 1985, p. 459, figs. 2.3–7; Tazawa, 1989, p. 60, pl. 1, figs. 1a, b; Tazawa, 2002, figs. 7.1, 2.

*Material.*—Twenty-two specimens, from the hill along the eastern side of Onimarusawa and the Onimaru quarry, Hikoroichi (localities KF171, 172, 174, 188, 202), and midstream of Otsubosawa, Yokota (localities KF207, 208): (1) external and internal moulds of a conjoined valve, NU-B629; (2) external and internal moulds of two ventral valves, NU-B630, 631: (3) external moulds of a ventral valve, NU-B632:



**Figure 5.** Early Carboniferous reconstruction map of the world, showing especially the Tianshan-Jilin Province (continental shelf) and the South Kitakami region (continental shelf). NC: North China, SC: South China. Redrawn and adapted from Scotese (1997).



**Figure 6.** *Marginatia burlingtonensis* (Hall, 1858), from the Lower Carboniferous of the South Kitakami Belt (natural size). **1.** external latex cast of a ventral valve, NU-B629. **2.** external mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B642. **3a**, **3b**. internal latex cast and external mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B633. **4a**, **4b**. external latex cast and external mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B643. **5**. external mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B648. **6**. external mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B645. **7**. external mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B634. **8**. external mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B640.

(4) external and internal moulds of seven dorsal valves, NU-B633-639; (5) external moulds of eleven dorsal valves, NU-B640-650.

*Description.*—Shell medium to large for genus, transversely subrectangular in outline, with greatest width at hinge; length 28 mm, width about 49 mm in the best preserved specimen (NU-B629); length 36 mm, width about 55 mm in the largest dorsal valve specimen (NU-B641).

Ventral valve gently convex on venter, strongly geniculated and followed by long trail; umbo small, pointed and protruding a little beyond hinge line; ears rather small, pointed, often mucronate and well demarcated from venter; lateral slopes steep; sulcus shallow on both venter and trail; trail about 26 mm long so far as it is preserved. External ornament of ventral valve consisting of concentric rugae and costae on venter, costae only on trail; rugae strong, regular, having a density of 4 in 5 mm near anterior margin of venter; costae rounded, often intercalated, having a density of 5–6 in 5 mm near anterior margin of venter. A few long and straight halteroid spines scattered on trail. Other spines or spine bases not observed. Dorsal valve nearly flat on venter, geniculated to form short trail and having low fold over venter and trail. External ornament similar to that of the opposite valve; rugae having a density of 4 in 5 mm at midventer; costae having a density of 6-7 in 5 mm at midventer. Spines or spine bases absent.

Internally, ventral valve having a pair of large, fanshaped and striated diductor scars in posterior half of valve. Dorsal valve having a thin median septum, extending to half length of valve; buttress plates parallel, about 5 mm long, situated on either side of median septum near posterior margin; lateral ridges short, diverging slightly from hinge line; adductor scars subtrigonal in shape, smooth or faintly dendritic, placed just anterior to buttress plates. Other internal structures not observed in the present specimens.

*Remarks.*—The Kitakami specimens are referred to *Marginatia burlingtonensis* (Hall, 1858), originally described by Hall (1858) from the Burlington Limestone of Iowa and Illinois, U.S.A., as they are identical in size and shape of the shells, and in particular, the strongly convex ventral valve and pointed, often mucronate ears.

Marginatia patersonensis Roberts (1965, p. 63, pl. 10, figs. 1–5; 1976, p. 67, pl. 12, figs. 1–10) from the lower and upper Visean of Trevallyn, New South Wales, Australia, somewhat resembles *M. burlingtonensis* in size and outline, but the former differs from the latter in having finer costae and a larger number of spines on the ventral valve.

*Marginatia toriyamai* Yanagida (1973, p. 41, pl. 1, figs. 1–5; pl. 2, figs. 1–9; text-figs. 6–8) from the Lower Carboniferous (probably Visean) of Akiyoshi, southwest Japan is easily distinguished from *M. burlingtonensis* by its smaller size and finer costellate ornament.

*Productus* sp. of Minato (1951, p. 366, pl. 1, figs. 4a, 4b) from the Arisu and Odaira Formations of the southern Kitakami Mountains is a probable synonym of the present species because of their close similarities in size, shape and external ornament of the ventral valve.

Distribution.—Upper Tournaisian to Lower Visean of Russia (Urals and Kuznetsk Basin), east Kazakhstan, northern Kirgiz and southwest China (Yunnan). Lower Visean of Japan (southern Kitakami Mountains). Osagean of U.S.A. (Mississippi Valley) and Canada (western Alberta).

Order Spiriferida Waagen, 1883 Suborder Spiriferinidina Ivanova, 1972 Superfamily Syringothyridoidea Fredericks, 1926 Family Syringothyrididae Fredericks, 1926 Subfamily Syringothyridinae Fredericks, 1926 Genus **Syringothyris** Winchell, 1863

Type species.—Spirifer carteri Hall, 1857

# Syringothyris transversa Minato, 1951

### Figures 7.1a-7.2b

*Syringothyris transversa* Minato, 1951, p. 377, pl. 5, figs. 1a–f; Minato, 1952, *pars*, p. 167, pl. 11, figs. 5a, b only; Minato *et al.*, 1979, pl. 21, figs. 11a–c; Tazawa, 2002, figs. 7.6a, b.

*Material.*—Two specimens, from midstream of Nashirozawa, Jumonji, Shimoarisu (locality MM1), and Myojinsawa, a tributary of Otsubosawa, Yokota (locality TK1): (1) internal mould of a conjoined valve with external mould of the ventral interarea, UHR16925 (holotype); (2) internal mould of a conjoined valve, NU-B651.

*Remarks.*—The holotype, from the upper Arisu Formation (AR3) in Nashirozawa, Jumonji, has been fully described by Minato (1951, p. 377). Another specimen (NU-B651), collected from float in Myojinsawa, a tributary of Otsubosawa, Yokota, is identical with *Syringothyris transversa* in its size, shape and external ornament of the shell, although this specimen is heavily abraded.

*Syringothyris textus* (Hall), described and figured by Weller (1914, p. 399, pl. 69, figs. 6–9; pl. 70, figs. 1–4; pl. 71, figs. 1–2), from the Keokuk Limestone and the Knobstone Formation of the Mississippi Valley Basin, is like *S. transversa* in the size, shape and external



Figure 7. *Syringothyris transversa* Minato, 1951, from the Lower Carboniferous of the South Kitakami Belt (natural size). **1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e.** dorsal, ventral, posterior and anterior views of internal mould of a conjoined valve, and external latex cast of the ventral internal area, UHR16925. **2a, 2b.** dorsal and posterior views of abraded internal mould of a dorsal valve, NU-B651.

ornament. However, comparison of these species is difficult owing to the bad preservation of the Kitakami specimens.

*Distribution.*—Lower Visean of Japan (southern Kitakami Mountains).

Order Rhynchonellida Kuhn, 1949 Superfamily Rhynchotetradoidea Licharew in Rzhonsnitskaya, 1956 Family Tetracameridae Licharew in Rzhonsnitskaya, 1956 Genus **Rotaia** Rzhonsnitskaya, 1959 *Type species.—Rhynchonella subtrigona* Meek and Worthen, 1860

### Rotaia hikoroichiensis sp. nov.

Figures 8.1a-8.3c

Rotaia sp. Tazawa, 1996, p. 8, figs. 4a, b; Tazawa, 2002, figs. 7.3-5.

*Material.*—Three specimens, from the Onimaru quarry, Hikoroichi (locality KF202): (1) one conjoined valve, OCM.G.881; (2) external and internal moulds of two ventral valves, OCM.G.732, NU-B49.



**Figure 8.** *Rotaia hikoroichiensis* sp. nov., from the Lower Carboniferous of the South Kitakami Belt (natural size unless otherwise specified). **1a**, **1b**, **1c**, **1d**. ventral, dorsal, anterior and lateral views of a conjoined valve, OCM.G.881. **2a**, **2b**. internal mould and external latex cast of a ventral valve, NU-B49. **3a**, **3b**, **3c**. external latex cast and internal mould of a ventral valve (3c ×3), OCM.G.732.

*Diagnosis.*—Large, transverse *Rotaia*, with illdefined sulcus and fold, ornamented by coarse costae on both valves.

Description.-Shell large size for genus, transversely subpentagonal in outline, with greatest width slightly anterior to midvalve; length 36 mm, width 40 mm in the best preserved but smaller specimen (OCM.G.881); length about 37 mm, width about 44 mm in the larger ventral valve specimen (OCM.G.732). Ventral valve moderately convex near umbo, becoming slightly convex to flat anteriorly. Sulcus shallow, wide and ill-defined. Dorsal valve more strongly convex than opposite valve, having a low, wide and ill-defined fold. External ornament of both valves consisting of broad and rounded costae, numbering 15–17 on the whole ventral or dorsal valve, 6 costae in sulcus, and 5 costae on fold. Interior of ventral valve with a small, elongate spondylium, extending to one-third the length of the valve.

*Remarks.*—*Rotaia hikoroichiensis* sp. nov. is distinguished from *Rotaia subtrigona* (Meek and Worthen, 1860) by its larger, more transverse shell,

and by having an ill-defined sulcus and fold and coarser costae on both valves. The large, longer ventral valve specimen (NU-B49) is severely deformed, and the original outline is not preserved.

Rotaia kusbassi (Rotai, 1938) from the Serpukhovian of the Kuznetsk Basin is distinguished from *R. hikoroichiensis* by its strongly inflated dorsal valve and more fine and many costae on both valves (*see* Sarytcheva *et al.*, 1963, pl. 41, figs. 12–15).

Rotaia dowhatensis (Diener, 1915), originally described as *Camarophoria dowhatensis* by Diener (1915, p. 45, pl. 5, figs. 1–4) from the Fenestella Series (Visean) of Kashmir, is distinguished from the present species by its finer and more numerous costae in the ventral sulcus.

*Rotaia* sp. of Shi *et al.* (2005, p. 72, figs. 19F–J, 20) from the Upper Tournaisian of west Yunnan, China differs from the Kitakami species in having a deeper ventral sulcus.

*Distribution.*—Lower Visean of Japan (southern Kitakami Mountains).

# Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Nachio Minoura and Yoshitsugu Kobayashi of the Hokkaido University Museum, Sapporo, and Yutaka Shiroto of the Ofunato City Museum, Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture for loan of the brachiopod specimens. I also wish to thank Guang R. Shi of Deakin University, Melbourne and one anonymous reviewer for their valuable comments.

#### References

- Bublitschenko, N. L., 1976: Brakhiopody nizhnego karbona Rudnogo Altaya (svity bukhtarminskaya, ulbinskaya i pravoloktevskaya), 211 p. Nauka, Alma-Ata. (in Russian)
- Carter, J. L., 1987: Lower Carboniferous brachiopods from the Banff Formation of western Alberta. *Geological Survey of Canada, Bulletin*, 378, p. 1–183.
- Ching (Jin), Y. and Liao, Z., 1985: Carboniferous brachiopod faunas of China. *IX-ICC*, *Compte Rendu*, vol. 5, p. 245– 250.
- Diener, C., 1915: The Anthracolithic faunae of Kashmir, Kanaur and Spiti. *Palaeontologia Indica, New Series*, vol. 5, no. 2, p. 1–135.
- Fredericks, G.N., 1926: Tablitsa dlya opredeleniya rodov semeystva Spiriferidae King. Akademiya Nauk SSSR, Izvestiya, Ser. 6, vol. 20, p. 393–442. (in Russian)
- Galitskaya, A. Ya, 1977: Ranne- i srednekamennougolnye produktidy Severnoy Kirgizii, 298 p. Ilim, Frunze. (in Russian)
- Gao, L. D., 1998: On the discovery of a Gondwana affinity microflora from Baoshan, west Yunnan and its geologic significance. *Acta Geoscientia Sinica*, vol. 19, p. 105–112.
- Gray, J.E., 1840: Synopsis of the contents of the British Museum, 42nd edit., 370 p. London.
- Grechishnikova, I.A., 1966: Stratigrafiya i brakhiopody nizhnego karbona Rudnogo Altaya. Trudy Moskovskogo Obschestva Ispytateley Prirody, vol. 20, p. 1–184. (in Russian)
- Hall, J., 1857: Descriptions of new species of Palaeozoic fossils, from the Lower Helderberg, Hamilton and Chemung Groups. New York State Cabinet of Natural History 10th Annual Report, Part C, p. 41–186.
- Hall, J., 1858: Palaeontology, vol. 1, pt. 2. *In*, Hall, J. and Whitney, J. D., eds., *Report on the Geological Survey of the State of Iowa; embracing the results of investigations made during portions of the years 1855–1857*, p. 473–724. Des Moines.
- Ivanova, E.A., 1972: Osnovnye zakonomernosti evolyutsii spiriferid (Brachiopoda). *Paleontologicheskiy Zhurnal*, 1972, no. 3, p. 28–42. (in Russian)
- Kato, M., 1990: Palaeozoic corals. In Ichikawa, K., Mizutani, S., Hara, I., Hada, S. and Yao, A., eds., Pre-Cretaceous terranes of Japan, Publication of IGCP Project No. 224, Nippon Insatsu Shuppan, Osaka, p. 307–312.
- Kawamura, M., 1985a: Lithostratigraphy of the Carboniferous formations in the Setamai region, Southern Kitakami Belt, northeast Japan (Part I)—Shimoarisu district of the Setamai Subbelt—. Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, vol. 91, no. 3, p. 165–178. (in Japanese)
- Kawamura, M., 1985b: Lithostratigraphy of the Carboniferous

formations in the Satamai region, Southern Kitakami Belt, northeast Japan (Part II)—Yokota district of the Setamai Subbelt—. *Journal of the Geological Society of Japan*, vol. 91, no. 4, p. 245–258. (*in Japanese*)

- Kawamura, T., 1983: The Lower Carboniferous formations in the Hikoroichi region, southern Kitakami Mountains, northeast Japan (Part I)—Stratigraphy of the Hikoroichi Formation—. Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, vol. 89, no. 12, p. 707–722. (in Japanese)
- Kawamura, T., Machiyama, H. and Niikawa, I., 1999: Carboniferous and Permian coral-bearing carbonates from the South Kitakami Terrane, northeast Japan. 8th International Symposium on Fossil Cnidaria and Porifera, Field Trip B2, 56 p., Sasaki Printing & Publishing, Sendai.
- Kuhn, O., 1949: *Lehrbuch der Paläozoologie*, 326 p. E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart.
- Liao, Z., 1995: Faunal provinces of Carboniferous brachiopods in China and their variations across the Carboniferous boundaries. *Palaeontologia Cathayana*, vol. 6, p. 365–374.
- Meek, F.B. and Worthen, A.H., 1860: Descriptions of new Carboniferous fossils from Illinois and other western states. Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Proceedings, Ser. 2, vol. 12, p. 447–472.
- Minato, M., 1941: On the Lower Carboniferous deposits at Setamai, Kesen-gori, Iwate prefecture. *Journal of the Geological Society of Japan*, vol. 48, no. 576, p. 469–490. (*in Japanese*)
- Minato, M., 1950a: Zur Orogenese und zum Vulkanismus im Jüngeren Palaeozoikum des Kitakami-Gebirges, Honshu, Japan. Journal of the Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, Ser. 4, vol. 7, no. 3, p. 277–302.
- Minato, M., 1950b: Stratigraphische Stellung der Hikoroiti-Serie. Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, vol. 56, no. 655, p. 143–148. (in Japanese)
- Minato, M., 1951: On the Lower Carboniferous fossils of the Kitakami Massif, northeast Honsyu, Japan. *Journal of the Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, Ser. 4*, vol. 7, no. 4, p. 355–372.
- Minato, M., 1952: A further note on the Lower Carboniferous fossils of the Kitakami Mountainland, northeast Japan. *Journal of the Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University*, *Ser. 4*, vol. 8, no. 2, p. 136–174.
- Minato, M., 1955a: Zur stratigraphischen Lücke der Prä-Onimaru-Serie (Ober Visé). Journal of the Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, Ser. 4, vol. 9, no. 1, p. 31–41.
- Minato, M., 1955b: Japanese Carboniferous and Permian corals. Journal of the Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, Ser. 4, vol. 9, no. 2, p. 1–202.
- Minato, M., 1956: Palaeogeography of the Japanese Islands and their adjacent lands in the Upper Palaeozoic Era. *Earth Science (Chikyu Kagaku)*, no. 28, p. 1–13. (*in Japanese*)
- Minato, M., Hashimoto, S., Suyama, K., Takeda, H., Suzuki, Y., Kimura, S., Yamada, K., Kakimi, T., Ichikawa, T. and Suetomi, H., 1953: Biostratigraphie des Karbons im Kitakami-Gebirges, nordöstliches Honshu, Japan. Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, vol. 59, no. 695, p. 385– 399. (in Japanese)
- Minato, M., Hunahashi, M., Watanabe, J. and Kato, M., 1979: Variscan geohistory of northern Japan: The Abean Orogeny, 427 p. Tokai University Press, Tokyo.
- Minato, M. and Kato, M., 1977: Two spiriferids from the Hikoroichi Formation (Tournaisian) in the Kitakami

Mountains, Japan. Journal of the Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, Ser. 4, vol. 17, no. 4, p. 613–617.

- Minato, M. and Kato, M., 1984: Carboniferous paleogeography and geotectonics of Japan. *IX-ICC, Compte Rendu*, vol. 3, p. 256–262.
- Muir-Wood, H. M. and Cooper, G. A., 1960: Morphology, classification and life habits of the Productoidea (Brachiopoda). *Geological Society of America, Memoir*, 81, p. 1–447.
- Nalivkin, D.V., 1937: Brakhiopody verkhnego i srednego devona i nizhnego karbona severo-vostochnogo Kazakhstana. *Trudy TSNIGRI*, fasc. 99, p. 1–200. (*in Russian*)
- Nalivkin, D. V., 1979: Brakhiopody turneyskogo yarusa Urala, 248 p. Nauka, Leningrad. (in Russian)
- Okubo, M., 1951: Zur Hikoroichi-Serie und der bedeutenden Diskordanz vor der Hikoroichi-Epoche. *Journal of the Geological Society of Japan*, vol. 57, no. 669, p. 195–209. (*in Japanese*)
- Roberts, J., 1965: A Lower Carboniferous fauna from Trevallyn, New South Wales. *Palaeontology*, vol. 8, pt. 1, p. 54–81.
- Rotai, A. P., 1938: Stratigrafiya nizhnekamennougolnykh otlozheniy Kuznetskogo basseyna. *Trudy TSNIGRI*, fasc. 102, p. 1–91. (*in Russian*)
- Rzhonsnitskaya, M. A., 1956: Semeystvo Pentameridae i Camarotoechiidae. In, Khalfin, L. L., ed., Atlas rukovodyashchikh form iskopaemykh fauny i flory zapadnoy Sibiri, p. 49–50, 53–55. Nedra, Leningrad. (in Russian)
- Rzhonsnitskaya, M. A., 1959: K sistematike rinkhonellid. Paleontologicheskiy Zhurnal, 1959, no. 1, p. 25–35. (in Russian)
- Sarytcheva, T. G. and Sokolskaya, A. N., 1959: O klassifikatsii lozhnoporidtykh brachiopod. *Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR*, vol. 125, no. 1, p. 181–184. (*in Russian*)
- Sarytcheva, T. G., Sokolskaya, A. N., Beznosova, G. A. and Maksimova, S. V., 1963: Brakhiopody i paleogeografiya karbona Kuznetskoy kotloviny. Akademiya Nauk SSSR, Trudy Paleontologicheskogo Instituta, vol. 95, p. 1–547. (in Russian)
- Scotese, C.R., 1997: Palaeogeographic Atlas, PALEOMAP Progress Report 90-0497. Department of Geology, University of Texas, 45 p. Arlington, Texas.
- Shi, G. R., Chen, Z. Q. and Zhan, L. P., 2005: Early Carboniferous brachiopod faunas from the Baoshan block, west Yunnan, southwest China. *Alcheringa*, vol. 29, p. 31–85.
- Tachibana, K., 1952: On the Tobigamori Group of the Nagasaka district, Kitakami Mountainland. Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, vol. 58, nos. 683, 684, p. 353– 360, 445–455. (in Japanese)
- Tachibana, K., 1956: New spiriferids from the lowest Carboniferous of the Nagasaka district, Kitakami Mountainland, northeast Japan. Science Reports of the Faculty of Arts and Literature, Nagasaki University, no. 5, p. 11–16.
- Tachibana, K., 1963: On the lowest Carboniferous Syringothyris of the Nagasaka district, northeast Japan. Bulletin of the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Nagasaki University, vol. 3, p. 53– 62. (in Japanese)
- Tachibana, K., 1964: Upper Devonian and lowest Carboniferous formations in the vicinity of Minamiiwairi, Higashiyamamachi, Iwate Prefecture, Pt. 1. (Study on the Devonian-Carboniferous boundary in the southern

part of the Kitakami Mountainland, 1). Bulletin of the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Nagasaki University, vol. 4, p. 31–43. (in Japanese)

- Tachibana, K., 1969: Stereoscopic photographs and descriptions of new syringothyroid brachiopods from the lowest Carboniferous of the southwestern Kitakami region, northeast Japan. Annual Report of the Faculty of Education, University of Iwate, vol. 28, pt. 3, p. 19–27.
- Tachibana, K., 1981: Some species of late Devonian and lowest Carboniferous brachiopods from the Higashiyama district, Iwate Prefecture, north Japan. Annual Report of the Faculty of Education, Iwate University, vol. 41, no. 1, p. 59–73.
- Takeda, H., 1960: Paleozoic formations in Shimoarisu village, southern Kitakami Massif, northeast Honshu, Japan. *Journal of the Geological Society of Japan*, vol. 66, no. 782, p. 689–699. (*in Japanese*)
- Tazawa, J., 1980: Viséan brachiopods from the Karaumedate Formation, southern Kitakami Mountains. *Transactions* and Proceedings of the Palaeontological Society of Japan, New Series, no. 119, p. 359–370.
- Tazawa, J., 1981: An Early Carboniferous brachiopod fauna from the Karoyama Formation in the Kitakami Mountains, northeast Japan. Saito Ho-on Kai Museum Reserch Bulletin, no. 49, p. 63–78.
- Tazawa, J., 1984a: Occurrence of Gigantoproductus (Carboniferous Brachiopoda) from the lower Hikoroichi Formation, Kitakami Mountains and its significance. Earth Science (Chikyu Kagaku), vol. 38, no. 2, p. 132–134. (in Japanese)
- Tazawa, J., 1984b: Early Carboniferous (Viséan) brachiopods from the Hikoroichi Formation of the Kitakami Mountains, northeast Japan. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Palaeontological Society of Japan, New Series*, no. 133, p. 300–312.
- Tazawa, J., 1985: Carboniferous brachiopods Marginatia and Unispirifer from the Hikoroichi and Arisu Formations, Kitakami Mountains, northeast Japan. Earth Science (Chikyu Kagaku), vol. 39, no. 6, p. 459–462. (in Japanese)
- Tazawa, J., 1989: Brachiopoda. In, Ofunato City Museum, ed., Fossils from Ofunato, p. 51–65. Kawashima Insatsu, Ichinoseki. (in Japanese)
- Tazawa, J., 1996: Rotaia (Rhynchonellida, Brachiopoda) from the Lower Carboniferous of northeast Japan and its palaeobiogeographical significance. Science Reports of Niigata University, Ser. E, no. 11, p. 1–11.
- Tazawa, J., 2002: Late Paleozoic brachiopod faunas of the South Kitakami Belt, northeast Japan, and their paleobiogeographic and tectonic implications. *The Island Arc*, vol. 11, issue 4, p. 257–301.
- Tazawa, J., 2004: The strike-slip model: A synthesis on the origin and tectonic evolution of the Japanese Islands. *Journal of the Geological Society of Japan*, vol. 110, no. 9, p. 503–517. (*in Japanese*)
- Tazawa, J. and Katayama, T., 1979: Lower Carboniferous brachiopods from the Odaira Formation in the southern Kitakami Mountains. Science Reports of the Tohoku University, 2nd Ser., vol. 49, no. 2, p. 165–173.
- Tazawa, J. and Kurita, H., 1986: Brachiopods and correlation of the Lower Carboniferous Shittakazawa Formation, southern Kitakami Mountains, northeast Japan. *Journal* of the Geological Society of Japan, vol. 92, no. 2, p. 167– 170. (in Japanese)
- Tazawa, J. and Miyake, Y., 2002: Gigantoproductus (Brachio-

poda) from the Lower Carboniferous (Upper Viséan) Onimaru Formation of the southern Kitakami Mountains, NE Japan. *Science Reports of Niigata University, Ser. E*, no. 17, p. 1–6.

- Waagen, W., 1883: Productus-Limestone fossils. Palaeontologia Indica, Ser. 13, vol. 1, pt. 4, fasc. 2, p. 391–546.
- Wang, X. D., Ueno, K., Mizuno, Y. and Sugiyama, T., 2001: Late Paleozoic faunal, climatic, and geographic changes in the Baoshan block as a Gondwana-derived continental fragment in southwest China. *Palaeogeography*, *Palaeoclimatology*, *Palaeoecology*, vol. 170, p. 197–218.
- Weller, S., 1909: Kinderhook faunal studies, V. The fauna of the Fern Glen Formation. *Geological Society of America*, *Bulletin*, vol. 20, p. 265–332.
- Weller, S., 1914: The Mississippian Brachiopoda of the Mississippi Valley Basin. *Illinois State Geological Survey*, *Monograph*, 1, p. 1–508.
- Winchell, A., 1863: Descriptions of fossils from the yellow sandstones lying beneath the "Burlington Limestone" at Burlington, Iowa. Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Proceedings, Ser. 2, vol. 7, p. 2–25.
- Yanagida, J., 1973: Carboniferous brachiopods from Akiyoshi,

southwest Japan, Part IV. *Marginatia* from the lower part of the Akiyoshi Limestone Group. *Bulletin of the Akiyoshi-dai Science Museum*, no. 9, p. 39–51.

- Yang, F., 1994: Carboniferous. In, Yin, H., ed., The Palaeobiogeography of China, p. 131–162. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Yang, S., 1980: The stratigraphical and geographical distribution of Fengninian brachiopods of China. *Geological Review*, vol. 26, no. 6, p. 471–476. (*in Chinese*)
- Yang, S., 1983: Palaeozoogeographic provinces of the Lower Carboniferous of China. *In*, Lu, Y., Mu, A., Wang, Y. *et al.*, eds., *Palaeobiogeographic provinces of China*, p. 64–73. Science Press, Beijing. (*in Chinese*)
- Yang, S., 1990: On the biogeographical provinces of Early Carboniferous Brachiopoda in China and its adjacent regions. *In*, Wang, H., Yang, S. and Liu, B., eds., *Tectonopalaeogeography and palaeobiogeography of China and adjacent regions*, p. 317–335. China University of Geosciences Press, Wuhan. (*in Chinese*)
- Yang, S., Hou, H., Gao, L., Wang, Z. and Wu, X., 1984: The Carboniferous System in China. *IX-ICC, Compte Rendu*, vol. 1, p. 31–42.