

***Blechschildtia* n. gen. And *Tjerkium* n. gen., a case of phyletic gradualism of the Triassic saturnalid Radiolaria**

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Abstract

The paper describes two new Late Triassic saturnalid radiolarian genera (*Blechschildtia* n. gen. and *Tjerkium* n. gen.) and several new species of these genera from Oman and Sicily. They seem to represent a lateral lineage of the family Saturnalidae developed from the same oertlispongid stock as all the saturnalids. These genera constitute a rather homogenous group that differs from the other Triassic saturnalid radiolarians by having usually a ring with 4 main spines and outer margin of ring turned up and down. The evolution of the genus *Blechschildtia* from its first appearance from the oertlispongid genus *Streigerispongus* KOZUR & MOSTLER up to its extinction is followed and described in detail.