Palaeoscolecid sclerites from the Upper Cambrian Mila Formation of the Shahmirzad section, Alborz Mountains, northern Iran

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ABSTRACT: Phosphatic, discoidal sclerites with prominent nodes on the external surface have been found in Upper Cambrian inter-reef calcareous grainstone of the Mila Formation in the Shahmirzad section, Alborz Mountains, northern Iran. This is the first record of a palaeoscolecid worms from Iran. Isolated sclerites demonstrate a complex ornamentation characteristic of the widely known species *Hadimopanella oezgueli* GEDIK, 1977 and are interpreted as dermal plate elements of Palaeoscolecida. *Hadimopanella* sclerites are known outside Iran from adjacent areas including Turkey, Kirgizia and China and from the more distant continents of Australia, Antarctica, Siberia, Baltica (Sweden, Estonia) and peri-Gondwanan Europe (Spain). The Iranian palaeoscolecid worms were probably infaunal constituent of bentic marine community in inter-reef environment. The utility of isolated sclerites for Cambrian biozonation is still rather low.

http://www.geo.uw.edu.pl/agp/table/abstracts/51-2.htm#S1