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PALAEOWORLD online submission:

<http://ees.elsevier.com/palwor/>

PALAEOWORLD full-text (Volume 15 –) available at:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/1871174X>

MIDDLE CAMBRIAN TRILOBITES AND STAGES OF THE MALYI KARATAU RIDGE (SOUTHERN KAZAKHSTAN)

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Middle Cambrian interval includes strata from the *Probowmania asiatica* Zone (the lowermost Amydaian Stage) up to the *Glyptagnostus stolidotus* Zone. The composition of the Middle Cambrian trilobite fauna of the Kyrshabakty section of the Malyi Karatau Ridge is characterized from the *Triplagnostus gibbus* Zone up to the *Glyptagnostus stolidotus* Zone. The agnostoids and polymeroid complexes determine the volumes and boundaries of nine zones and four stages, as follows: the *Triplagnostus gibbus* Zone -the Amydaian Stage; the *Ptychagnostus intermedius* and *Ptychagnostus atavus* zones -the Tyesaian Stage; the *Ptychagnostus punctuosus*, *Goniagnostus nathorsti* and *Lejopyge armata* zones -the Zhanaarykian Stage and the *Lejopyge laevigata*, *Kormagnostus simplex* and *Glyptagnostus stolidotus* -the Ayusokkanian Stage. The correlation of the Malyi Karatau Middle Cambrian stages and zones with the corresponding Middle Cambrian subdivisions of China and Australia belonging to the common Indo-Australian paleobiogeographical realm or the peri-Gondwana faunal belt is also presented. The report is illustrated by a geologic map of the central part of the Aksai block to 1:100,000 scale; 40 paleontological plates and the combined stratigraphic correlation charts of the Middle Cambrian of the Malyi Karatau Ridge region, China, and Australia.