Over 30 Russian specialists based at the Paleontological Institute RAS and Geological Institute RAS in Moscow, Zavaritsky Institute of Geology and Geochemistry RAS in Ekaterinburg, Institute of Geology and Geochronology of the Precambrian RAS in St. Petersburg, and Institute of Petroleum Geology and Geophysics RAS in Novosibirsk take part in the Project. Multidisciplinary field studies of the Vendian deposits and fossil excavations have been carried out in the White Sea Region, Northern and Middle Urals, Arctic Siberia, Mongolia and Namibia (PIN RAS). New abundant fossils of outstanding preservation are collected. New sedimentary and taphonomic models are developed for the Vendian siliciclastic and carbonate paleobasins, and the data on the biodiversity is essentially increased. Geochemical environmental indicators for the habitats of the oldest animals are established. Influence of the salinity fluctuations over the biodiversity is demonstrated. Stratigraphic range of the metazoan body and trace fossils as well as of the megascopic algal taxa is defined with a high precision. New horizons of the volcanic ash beds in the fossiliferous parts of the sequences are discovered and probed for the radiometric dating. New fossil taxa related to the Paleozoic groups are described from the Vendian deposits. A full catalogue of the Vendian fossil localities that includes data on stratigraphy, sedimentology, taphonomy, paleontology, and isotopic age is completed. Over 30 papers are published and 24 papers are accepted for publication, including a comprehensive monograph "Rise of Animalis" and a volume of Proceedings of the IGCP 493 meeting related to the Vendian biota (both in English). Internet site (www.vend.paleo.ru) devoted to the Vendian Period has been developed in regard to geo- and bio-events, typical fossils, research news, major publications, references, links etc., Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (PIN RAS). A computer data base related to the Vendian Fossil Collection is under construction: over 2000 specimens have been documented (picture, locality, stratigraphy etc.) from 21 fossil sites and 103 stratigraphic levers. Bibliographical data base related to the Neoproterozoic geology and paleontology is under construction. Paleontological Institute RAS in the collaboration with the Monash University (Melbome) arranged the traveling paleontological exhibition devoted to the origin of animals in the Fucui Museum (Japan).

Some publications:


Sokolov B.S. and Fedonkin M.A. The Vendian System (Period). Large Russian Encyclopedia. (in press).


Grazhdankin, D., Gerdes, G. Ediacaran microbial colonies. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of USA.

Leonov M. V. Terminal Proterozoic Lyamtsa algoflora (White Sea, Russia)//In: Ancient Life and Modern Approaches. Abstracts of the Second International Palaeontological Congress,
