Preface

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This thematic issue, the first part of the 50th Volume of the Bulletin of the Geological Society of Denmark, arises from the seventh meeting of the Working Group on the Ordovician Geology of Baltoscandia (WOGOGOB), the first such meeting in the Øresund region of Scandina-via. The working group promotes research on all aspects of the Ordovician geology of Baltoscandia and this the-matic set extravagantly demonstrates this aim, with papers ranging from brachiopod biodiversity to rare earth element geochemistry. The meeting was hosted by the Geological Museum, Copenhagen from May 16th to May 19th, 2001. Some 60 delegates registered for the conference and during the two days of technical sessions, much new data was communicated in over 40 oral and poster presentations by delegates from Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden (Harper & Stouge 2001). A signifi-cant number of delegates were involved in the subse-quent two days of field trips to the Ordovician rocks of Scania, led and organized by researchers from the Insti-tute of Historical Geology and Palaeontology, Univer-sity of Lund, Sweden. The eleven papers published here represent a sample of the core research areas of the WOGOGOB network, whereas some of the presenta-tions have been published elsewhere since the meeting in both regional and international journals.

The papers in this volume on the Ordovician geology of Baltoscandia cover a wide range of topics. The authors use one of three possible chronostratigraphic systems as standard reference viz. the global system, the Baltoscandian regional system and the British sys-tem. The global Ordovician chronostratigraphic system is currently in the progress of being established (Cooper 1999; Webby *et al*. in press) and has not yet achieved universal status as the standard reference for the Ordo-vician System in the Baltoscandian region. The Balto-scandian regional chronostratigraphic system is com-monly used in Baltoscandia and western Russia (e.g. Männil & Meidla 1994) and it is also frequently referred to in the papers of this volume. The British chronostratigraphic system (Fortey *et al.* 2000) is mostly used in the western part of the Baltoscandian region, where graptolitic fine-clastic deposits prevail. We have not tried to unify the papers in the sense of adopting one of these systems throughout in the volume; thus the Lower, Mid-dle and Upper Ordovician series are not directly equiva-lent in all the papers. The relationship between the three chronostratigraphical schemes applied in this volume is given in Hammar (2003, fig. 3).

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