

MAASTRICHTIAN BIVALVE BIOSTRATIGRAPHY - DOES THE CONCEPT TETHYS STILL HAVE A MEANING TOWARDS THE END OF THE CRETACEOUS?

An. V. Dhondt

Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussels, Belgium

In the latest Campanian - Maastrichtian interval inoceramid and pectinid species have been used or can be used as index fossils.

Among the inoceramids, *Trochoceras* species are restricted to the latest Campanian - Lower Maastrichtian interval, and the individual species are shorter lived. Similarly the monospecific genera *Spyridoceras* and *Tenuipteria* can be used thus for recognising different Maastrichtian zones.

Among the pectinids *Merklina palassoui* (LEYMERIE, 1851) (= *Pecten catalaunicus* VIDAL, 1921 = *P. peromatus* COTTREAU, 1922) is indicative for the Lower Maastrichtian from Cuba to Oman; *Microchlamys acuteplicata* (ALTH, 1850) is indicative for the Upper Maastrichtian from Maastricht to the Middle East.

The geographical distribution of the taxa from lower Cretaceous strata is clearly either temperate or Tethyan, possibly indicating distributions mainly by occur in both realms and their distributions are probably along latitudinal currents.

CHARACTERISTIC FOSSIL ASSEMBLAGES BELOW THE K/T BOUNDARY IN THE NW PART OF THE ADRIATIC CARBONATE PLATFORM

K. Drobne^{*}, B. Ogorelec^{**} & M. Plenica^{*}

^{*}Paleontološki inštitut Ivana Rakovca, Ljubljana

^{**}Geološki zavod, Ljubljana

In the area where Guido Stache has established the Liburnian Formation, Upper Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) and Paleocene beds are outcropping. According to Stache, the Liburnian Formation represented the transition between marine Cretaceous beds and marine beds containing foraminifera of the genus *Atveolina*. The strata are characterized by numerous oscillations of sea level and by abundant environmental changes. Based on the observations in coal pits- among them those between Lipica and Vremški Britof- Stache recorded sections continuously passing the Cretaceous / Tertiary boundary. These observations were confirmed by later researchers.

Changes between marine assemblages and those of brackish and freshwater origin with characeans and lagynophores occur further to the south, close to former land areas.