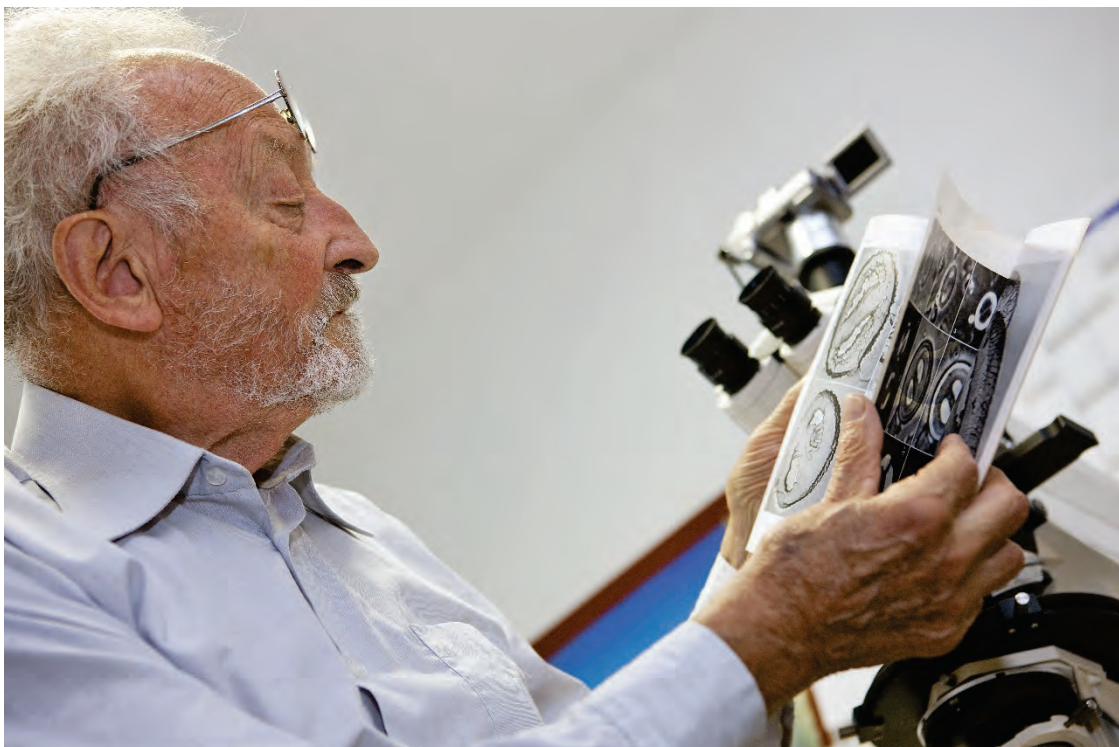


Tribute to DR. HERBERT STRADNER
in recognition of the bestowal of the
Eduard Suess-Medal
by the Austrian Geological Society, 2017



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To Herbert Stradner

By **Hans Egger**

Department of Paleontology and Stratigraphy, Geological Survey of Austria, Vienna

In 1980 Herbert Stradner gave a course on calcareous nannoplankton at Salzburg University. Me and the other students were impressed, not only by Herbert's knowledge but also by his generous and kind personality. After the last lesson, Herbert was busy to travel to the US to join the ship party of the "Glomar Challenger" for LEGXXV in the Southern Atlantic. He was busy, nevertheless, he did not forget to send a picture postcard from California to each of his Salzburg students.

Later, calcareous nannofossils became an important tool for my thesis in Cretaceous and Paleogene deep-water deposits and Herbert did not hesitate to give me a deeper insight into nannoplankton stratigraphy. He is one of the pioneers in that field since he published the first paper on the stratigraphic value of discoasterids in 1959 at the 5th World Petroleum Congress. At the time of this publication, Herbert still worked as a teacher for the English language at a secondary school in Vienna and he had to take care for his growing family. So he could follow his scientific passion only in his spare leisure time.

Despite his tight schedule in the late 1950's, Herbert contacted a local oil company and tried to convince them of the stratigraphic value of nannofossils. Actually, he got the chance to demonstrate this value by working on drill cores from the Matzen oil field north of Vienna and he was able to decipher the top of the Oligocene there for the first time. This was the begin of a consultant career, which continued also after his employment at the Geological Survey of Austria, where he was a member of the staff between 1960 and 1990.

In the newly established nannoplankton laboratory Herbert biostratigraphically analysed thousands of samples for the field geologists and by this contributed essentially to the understanding of the evolution of the Eastern Alps. The publication of many modern geological maps of alpine sedimentary units would not have been possible without the biostratigraphic framework given by Herbert. Besides he found time for over one hundred descriptions of new species (archaeomonadins, diatoms, calcareous nannofossils and silicoflagellates), many of them important stratigraphical markers. A revision of his taxonomic work on nannofossils was presented on the occasion of his 85th birthday in 2010, when he was honoured by a special volume by the Geological Survey of Austria. A revision of his work on silicoflagellates followed a few years later. Herbert contributed to both publications as one of the authors and we are very happy and grateful that Herbert is still coming to our department and helps with his advice.

On behalf of the department of Paleontology and Stratigraphy it is a great honour and pleasure for me to convey my best congratulations to my friend and mentor Herbert Stradner for being awarded the Eduard Suess Medal.

Hans Egger

Dr. Herbert Stradner

By **Jeremy R. Young**

Department of Earth Sciences, University College London, UK

On behalf of the International Nannoplankton Association I am delighted and honoured to convey my congratulations to Dr. Herbert Stradner on the occasion of his being awarded the Eduard Suess-Medal. Nannofossil palaeontology is now one of the most commonly used tools in modern biostratigraphy with experts across the globe. In the late nineteen-fifties, however, when Herbert Stradner began his micropaleontological studies the subject hardly existed. Nonetheless, he rapidly recognised the potential of silicoflagellates, coccolithophores, discoasters and other nannofossils to solve biostratigraphic problems, and he became one of the pioneers of the field. He was especially active in nannofossil studies during the decade from 1959 to 1969, publishing some 25 papers and describing over a hundred taxa in this period. He also applied them in practical biostratigraphy both in Austria and internationally and this applied aspect increasingly dominated his work including participation in DSDP Legs to the Mediterranean, Caribbean and South Atlantic. In recognition of this a total of eight species and three genera of nannofossils have been named after him, by colleagues from seven different countries.

Herbert was one of the founding members of the International Nannoplankton Association, and I am pleased to share a photograph of him from the meeting in Rijswijk, the Netherlands, where it was initiated. Later, he helped Katharina von Salis with hosting of the first INA conference in Vienna in 1985 and he both co-lead the fieldtrip – which ended with a particularly memorable evening in a Heuriger – and co-edited the Proceedings. During his career Herbert has mentored, encouraged and co-published with numerous nannofossil workers and is universally remembered with respect and affection.

With all best wishes, Jeremy Young, President of the International Nannoplankton Association.



Herbert Stradner at the foundation of the International Nannoplankton Association in 1977, and rather more in his element during our first conference in Vienna 1985 (Photographs: Ben Prins and Shirley van Heck).

List of nannotaxa named in honour of Dr. Herbert Stradner

Genera: *Stradneria* REINHARDT (1964), *Stradnerius* HAQ (1968), *Stradnerlithus* BLACK (1971).

Species: *Cyclococcolithus stradneri* JAFAR (1975), *Discoaster stradneri* MARTINI (1961), *Haslingfieldia stradneri* BLACK (1973), *Lithastrinus? stradneri* PERCH-NIELSEN (1973), *Microrhabdulus stradneri* BRAMLETTE & MARTINI (1964), *Micrantholithus stradneri* CHANG (1969), *Tegumentum stradneri* THIERSTEIN in ROTH & THIERSTEIN (1972), *Vekshinella stradneri* ROOD, HAY & BARNARD (1971).

Dr. Herbert Stradner

By **William W. Hay**

University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

I first met Herbert Stradner in 1959, while I was on a year of postdoctoral work at the University of Basel, Switzerland, sponsored by the US National Science Foundation. Through a special arrangement with Chevron Oil Company I had additional funds that allowed me to travel to collect samples for study and to meet with colleagues all over western Europe.

In Basel I had followed up on the idea of the possible significance of calcareous nannofossils as stratigraphic indicators suggested by Milton Bramlette and William Riedel at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California in 1954. I had examined samples of the shale layers of the Schlierenflysch that had been collected by Hans Schaub, and discovered that the calcareous nannofossils were indeed valuable stratigraphic markers.

Professor Louis Vonderschmitt made me aware of recent papers by a young Austrian micropaleontologist, Herbert Stradner, in the *Erdoel-Zeitschrift* concerning Paleocene discoasterids and their potential for stratigraphic zonation. I resolved to visit him, his mentor, Adolf Papp, and the famous specialist on modern calcareous nannoplankton, Erwin Kamptner, in Vienna. We met for the first time in the spring of 1960. Herbert told me of his just completed work with Paul Brönnimann on using discoasterids and planktonic foraminifera as stratigraphic markers in Cuba and showing how they could be used for global correlation. After the visit in Vienna, I went on to collect samples from the stratigraphic sections in western Austria that Herbert had studied, and later used them for comparative purposes.

It was Herbert Stradner who first realised the significance of discoasters and other calcareous nannoplankton fossils as stratigraphic markers levels with a refinement equal to or greater than the planktonic foraminifera that were the standard of the time. He expanded these studies from the Paleogene to the Neogene over the next few years and demonstrated their importance in global correlations. In many ways, Herbert Stradner was the father of the stratigraphic use of calcareous nannoplankton.

Later I became intensively involved with the Deep Sea Drilling project, and was able to recommend enthusiastically that Herbert be invited as an onboard specialist describing the calcareous nannoplankton and their stratigraphic significance.

Over the years, we were able to meet a number of times, and I always enjoyed discussing the progress of his investigations. His studies of calcareous nannoplankton and the fossil silicoflagellates that had been the topic of his doctoral dissertation continued throughout the rest of his distinguished career.

William W. Hay

A personal Tribute to *Herbert Stradner*: a consummate discoverer and an incomparable scholar of the “inner space”

By **Bilal U. Haq**,
Sorbonne Universités, Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France



Herbert Stradner in 1977

I met my friend and mentor Herbert Stradner in 1965 in Vienna when I was a mere lad and attending a yearlong post-graduate research program sponsored by UNESCO and the Geologische Bundesanstalt (Geological Survey of Austria). Here I also met many other eminent Austrian geoscientists of that time, including Rudolf Grill, Heinrich Kuepper, Kuno Bruno Kuntz, Rudolf Oberhauser and Manfred Schmid, among others, all of who were great teachers for a young budding geologist. Initially, I worked with Rudolf Oberhauser and a distinguished Vienna University professor, Adolf Papp, on Miocene planktonic foraminifera from the Vienna Basin. However, later in the program, Herbert Stradner introduced me to the wonders of the “inner space” through the electron-microscopic world of calcareous nannoplankton (marine microplankton with an evolutionary history going back to the Triassic). Herbert was already mentoring another student (who was to become my life-long friend from Japan, Toshiaki Takayama), but he readily took me under his wing as well. I was immediately smitten with these nanno-critters and decided to study them for my thesis at the University of Stockholm where I had been invited by a Swedish professor, Ivar Hessland, on a PhD fellowship.

On my first meeting with Herbert, we immediately developed a great rapport. He was an imposing and striking figure with well-chiseled Viennese countenance and a most kindly disposition. In the short two months before my departure, he patiently taught me whatever he could so that upon arrival in Stockholm I could get started on my thesis without delay. This was a tremendous help. He accepted the role of being my mentor with enthusiasm, even though I was not officially assigned to him as a student and he encouraged me to pursue my newfound passion for the “inner space”. At Stockholm University, Ivar Hessland generously provided me with my own electron microscope and I went wild exploring the “inner space” and the nanno-world beyond the power of ordinary light microscopes. During the next four years, I regularly consulted with Herbert and eventually defended my doctorate thesis in Stockholm in 1972 with Herbert as one of my external examiners (see above).



Two views of Herbert Stradner with the author in 1972, at the conclusion of the author's doctoral dissertation. Left: Herbert congratulating the author at the conclusion of the thesis defense, and right: Herbert and Ivar Hessland flanking the author at dinner that night in a Stockholm Gamla Stan (old city) restaurant.

Since that time, I have occasionally visited with Herbert in Vienna and met him in other places while attending scientific conferences, and throughout this time, my memories of Herbert have been very pleasant ones. He is amongst the most soft-spoken and kindest people I have ever met. My most recent visit with him was during the EGU annual meeting in 2012, when he invited me to visit the Albertina Museum, followed by lunch at his favorite restaurant in the center of city, with a typical Viennese meal of asparagus soup, followed by beef goulash, and downed with Krügel of Gösserbräu.



Left: Herbert Stradner teaching the author how to make a proper Wiener Schnitzel at his Klosterneuburg home in 1977. Right: Sharing a nice Viennese meal in Herbert's favourite restaurant in the centre of Vienna in 2012. Notice how during this time Herbert has remained youthful and handsome as ever.

Herbert Stradner's active career as one of the world's most eminent calcareous nannoplankton researchers spans over five decades, publishing nearly 70 research papers, predominantly on nannofossils, but also including other micro-fauna and flora. Three decades of this interval (1960s through 1980s), was a period of great discovery in nannofossil taxonomy and biostratigraphy and Herbert has a lion's share of discovering new taxa (nearly a 100 at the last count) and documenting their biostratigraphic utility. His passion for the discovery of new forms (new genera, species and subspecies) is demonstrated by the fact that he described new taxa in most of his published works since he started publishing in 1958.

Herbert's doctoral thesis at Vienna University was on the Tertiary silicoflagellates of Austria (1956). Soon thereafter, several papers of discovery (1958–1961) followed this, many of them first reports on the occurrence of nannofossils in basins in Europe and elsewhere. Most of these early papers had a special focus on the nannofossils that are restricted to the Tertiary, the Discoasters. This culminated in a profusely illustrated tome on Discoasters of Austria, Rumania, Italy and Mexico and their biostratigraphic significance (1961), published together with Adolf Papp. This volume, with beautifully hand-drawn figures by Herbert, became the must-have reference for all Tertiary nannofossil researchers and remains important to this day.

After the Tertiary, Herbert diverted his attention to the Mesozoic (1962–1963) while still continuing to discover new taxa in the Tertiary. Several papers reported on the nannoflora of the regional Tertiary stratotypes and neostatotype sections in Europe, e.g., Tortonian, Helvetian, Wemmelian, Biarritzian, Messinian, Ergerian and Sarmatian (1963–1980).

Herbert also participated in a number of Deep Sea Drilling Program legs, either as a shipboard nannofossil expert, or as shore-based contributor, starting with the all-important Leg 13 in Mediterranean (1970) that was first to document the Messinian Salinity Crisis and the desiccation of the Mediterranean Sea in latest Miocene. His expertise contributed to accurate biochronology of the basins that were drilled (DSDP Leg 13, Mediterranean; Leg 29, South Pacific; Leg 42, Aegean Basin; Leg 66, Middle America Trench; and Leg 75, Angola Basin) with his studies of nannofossils, Archaeomonadaceae, diatoms and silicoflagellates (1973–1984). He also contributed to the resolving of the controversy across the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary with nannofloral evidence from sections in Austria (1987–1988).

Herbert has continued to be active since his retirement in the late 1980s, writing papers on nannofossils and silicoflagellates together with many well-known Austrian and international researchers and contributing with his special knowledge of stratigraphy of the European basins. Herbert has remained engaged with the pursuit of his passion for science well into his late 1980s, his most recent contributions having been in cataloguing the type specimens of nannoplankton, silicoflagellates and archaeomonids in the collections of the Geological Survey of Austria (2010–2014).

Herbert Stradner's bibliography clearly illustrates his standing as the indefatigable scholar of the "inner space" who has not only contributed a large body of basic scientific knowledge to micropaleontology, but has also inspired many young researchers to take up the same pursuit and develop a passion for the unravelling the hidden mysteries of nature.

Bilal U. Haq

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