

CEPHALOPOD COQUINA BEDS IN THE WETTERSTEIN LIMESTONE OF THE EASTERN HÖLLENGBIRGE MTS. (SALZKAMMERGUT, UPPER AUSTRIA)

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In the Middle Triassic, large Wetterstein-type platforms developed on the passive margins of the western Neotethys Ocean. On the platforms thick platform carbonates, i.e. cyclic peritidal–lagoonal sequences and marginal reef facies were formed.

The Höllengebirge plateau in the northern part of the Northern Calcareous Alps is predominantly built up by an up to 500 m thick sequence of Wetterstein Limestone. On the Feuerkogel the studied beds of the Wetterstein Limestone are made up predominantly of 2-5 mm-sized fragments of dasycladacean algae. The texture is typically grain-supported most commonly packstone, and locally grainstone. The algae flora is dominated by *Diplopora annulata annulata*, together with *Teutloporella herculea*.

Cephalopod bearing coquina interbeds consisting predominantly of orthocone cephalopods were found within the Dasycladacean inner platform lagoon facies. The collected assemblage contains *Mojsisovicsteuthis* ? sp., *Ptychites* sp., *Flexoptychites* cf. *flexuosus*, *Megaphyllites* ? sp., *Proarcestes* sp., *Norites dieneri*, *Hungarites* sp. and *Parakellnerites* sp. The coquina layers alternate with thin layers of oncoidal grainstone, fine-grained calcarenite and yellowish loferites. The cephalopod coquina beds consist of peloidal microsparite nodules, probably of microbial origin and bioclasts surrounded by microbial coating. Among the bioclasts small ammonites or fragments of ammonites are common, usually also covered by microbial coating.

In the Alpine sections, the genera *Hungarites* and *Parakellnerites* range in the higher part of the Reitzi Zone (Reitzi and Avisianum Subzones). *Norites dieneri* was found exclusively in the uppermost Avisianum Subzone of the Reitzi Zone corresponds to the upper part of the Anisian.

Microfacies characteristics of the cephalopod-bearing beds do not differ significantly from those of the typical development of the Wetterstein Limestone, implying similar depositional and diagenetic conditions. It means that a significant facies change i.e. relative sea-level rise could hardly be responsible for the peculiar cephalopod accumulation. Storm accumulation appears to be a more realistic interpretation. Subsequent to the storm event the cephalopod shells were encrusted by microbial coating which may have contributed to the preservation of the remnants. Similar interpretation was given for the occurrence of cephalopods in channels and in teepee structures in the cyclic lagoonal succession of the Latemar platform of the Dolomites.