

LATE OLIGOCENE TO EARLY MIOCENE AGGLUTINATED FORAMINIFERA OF THE MOLASSE BASIN IN UPPER AUSTRIA

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The stratigraphical and regional distribution of agglutinated foraminiferal assemblages was studied in the Molasse Basin – the Alpine foredeep – in Upper Austria. Throughout the Oligocene–Early Miocene a change in the faunal composition is observed which is connected with the basin development and facies distribution. In the Oligocene, the Molasse Basin underwent a time of strong deepening with slumpings and turbiditic sedimentation; a gradual shallowing occurred in the Early Miocene. The material originated predominantly from deep drill sites. Generally the number of species and individuals decreases gradually from the Oligocene to the Miocene. The relative abundance of the different agglutinated foraminifera, however, shows individual tendencies – e.g., there is an opposite trend in the abundance of *Bathysiphon taurinensis* (decreases from the Oligocene to the Miocene), while *B. filiformis* increases.

The Lower Puchkirchen Formation is characterized by a great amount of forms such as *Bathysiphon taurinensis*, *Cyclammina tenuissima*, *C. acutidorsata*, *Haplophragmoides* div. sp., *Rhabdammina* div. sp., and *Glomospira charoides*.

In the Upper Puchkirchen Formation *Bathysiphon filiformis*, *B. taurinensis*, *Cyclammina tenuissima*, *Haplophragmoides* div. sp., *Cribrostomoides subglobosus*, and *Karrerella* sp. are dominant. The main forms in the Hall Formation are *Bathysiphon filiformis*, *Ammodiscus incertus*, *Cribrostomoides subglobosus*, and *Valvulina flexilis*.