

Section 5

The Waterfall Section near Dr. Steinwender Hütte (fig.11)

by Hans Peter Schönlaub

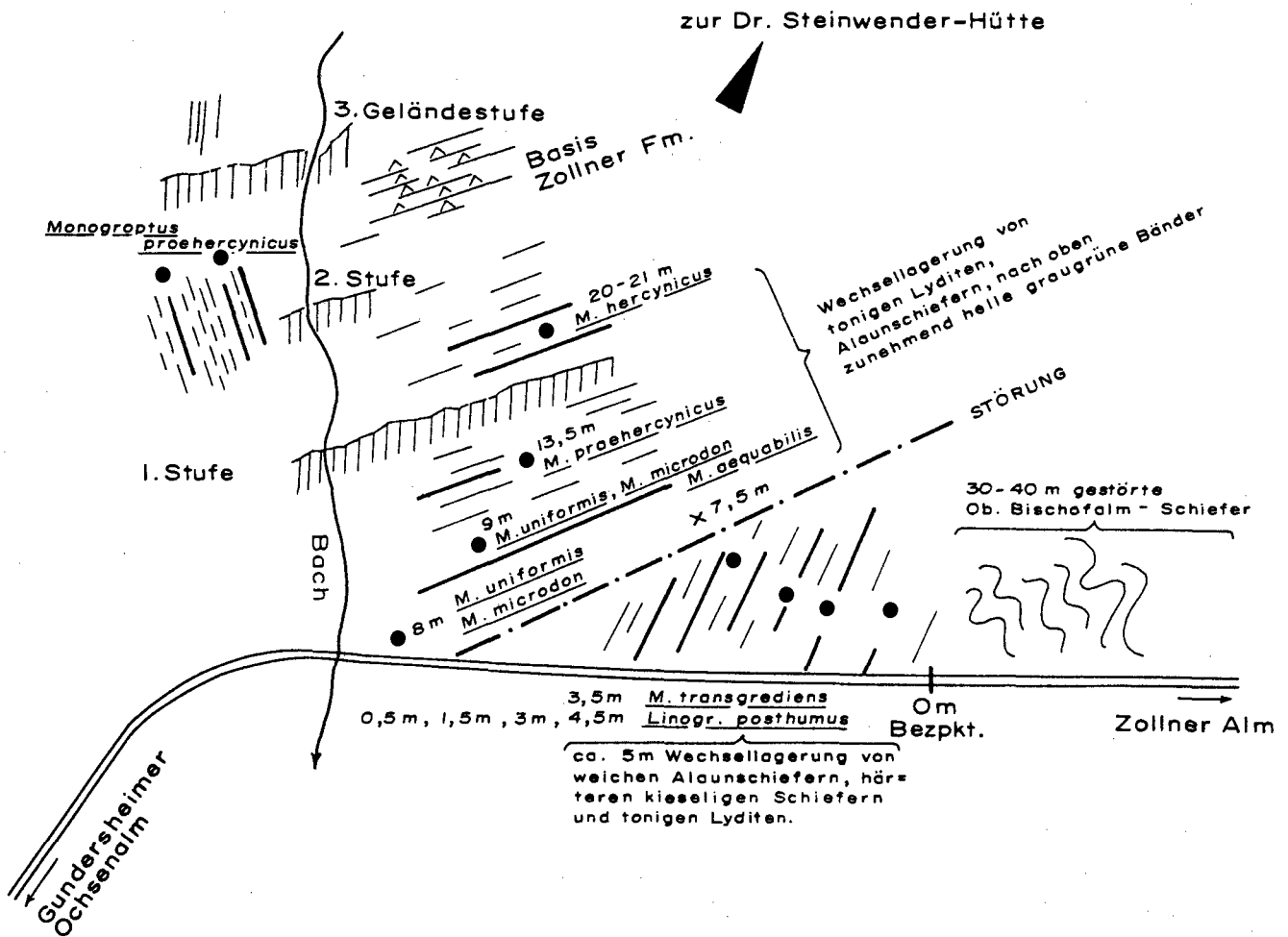


Fig. 11: The upper part of the Waterfall Section between the street and the Alpine Hut "Dr. Steinwender-Hütte" after JAEGER 1985.

In the gorge northeast of the hut a sequence of predominantly black cherts of the Bischofalm facies is exposed which ranges from the base of the Silurian to the Devonian. Conodonts from greyish radiolarites of the Zollner Fm. even suggest its continuation into the Lower Carboniferous. The graptolite-bearing strata correspond to

those rocks which were visited north of the Upper Bischofalm. In the stratigraphic framework of the Carnic Alps they represent the Bischofalm Formation which can further be subdivided into three members, i.e. lower, middle and upper Bischofalm Shales.

Based on the comprehensive study of H. JAEGER in the waterfall section several graptolite-bearing horizon were found (see fig. 11). Although the general succession of strata has more or less been preserved, the section was affected by some faults. In particular such faults can be seen along the road crossing the brook below the upper waterfall. At this level the Silurian/Devonian boundary beds are exposed.

The base of the section is exposed some 50 m below the road. This part is accessible by steep downward climbing along a meadow on the western side of the lower and eastern waterfall. At its base an overturned section occurs in which sandstones of presumably Upper Ordovician age are succeeded by black shales. According to H. JAEGER in black cherty shales 1 m below the sandstone the index graptolite for the base of the Silurian, *Akidograptus acuminatus* was discovered. Some 30 m above the normal sequence starts. This level corresponds to the middle Bischofalm Shales which in JAEGER's terminology were named e β -shales. They are best exposed along the northern margin of the road some 80 m to the west of the brook crossing the road.