

## Campanian to Maastrichtian planktic foraminifera of the Pálava Formation from the southern Waschberg-Ždánice-Unit, Lower Austria

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In the Austrian part of the Waschberg-Ždánice-Unit, the Pálava Formation consists of glauconite sands/sandstones and grey marls. In order to reveal the areal distribution of Meso- and Cenozoic sediments, several hundreds of near-surface samples were taken by hand-drillings (50 to 200 cm depth), with 26 samples from the Pálava Formation. Both facies of the Pálava Formation contain basically the same original foraminiferal composition but those from the glauconite sands are much more corroded, resulting in biased assemblages with predominantly thick-shelled, resistant taxa. The state of preservation of the near-surface samples varies from nearly pristine (glassy tests) to highly corroded. A general trend of better preserved assemblages towards the northern areas and poor state in the south can be observed. The found foraminiferal assemblages yielded at least 33 planktic species: *Abathomphalus intermedius*, *A. mayaroensis*, *Archaeoglobigerina blowi*, *A. aff. bosquensis*, *A. cretacea*, *Contusotruncana contusa*, *C. fornicata*, *C. plicata*, *C. walfishensis*, *Globotruncana aegyptiaca*, *G. arca*, *G. bulloides*, *G. cf. lapparenti*, *G. linneiana*, *G. cf. ventricosa*, *Globotruncanella havanensis*, *G. pschadae*, *Globotruncanita stuarti*, *Heterohelix globulosa*, *Laeviheterohelix dentata*, *Macroglobigerinelloides alvarezi*, *M. multispinus*, *M. prairiehillensis*, *M. cf. subcarinatus*, *Plummerita cf. reicheli*, *Pseudoguembelina hariaensis*, *Pseudotextulatia elegans*, *Racemiguembelina fructicosa*, *Rugoglobigerina hexacamerata*, *R. rugosa*, *Rugotruncana subcircumnodifer*, *R. subpennyi*, and *Ventilabrella riograndensis*. The ages of the found assemblages range from (middle) Campanian to latest Maastrichtian (*Abathomphalus mayaroensis*-Zone). It is remarkable that *Gansserina gansseri* has not been found in any of the investigated samples and *A. mayaroensis* is the most frequent keeled species in the youngest samples. This may be attributed to the relatively northern position of the sites ("cool water"-assemblages). The results confirm the age assignments for the Pálava Formation of the northern parts of the Waschberg-Ždánice-Unit in Lower Austria.