

## To Herbert Stradner

By **Hans Egger**

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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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 85<sup>th</sup> 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*