

Dr. Herbert Stradner

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I first met Herbert Stradner in 1959, while I was on a year of postdoctoral work at the University of Basel, Switzerland, sponsored by the US National Science Foundation. Through a special arrangement with Chevron Oil Company I had additional funds that allowed me to travel to collect samples for study and to meet with colleagues all over western Europe.

In Basel I had followed up on the idea of the possible significance of calcareous nannofossils as stratigraphic indicators suggested by Milton Bramlette and William Riedel at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California in 1954. I had examined samples of the shale layers of the Schlierenflysch that had been collected by Hans Schaub, and discovered that the calcareous nannofossils were indeed valuable stratigraphic markers.

Professor Louis Vonderschmitt made me aware of recent papers by a young Austrian micropaleontologist, Herbert Stradner, in the *Erdoel-Zeitschrift* concerning Paleocene discoasterids and their potential for stratigraphic zonation. I resolved to visit him, his mentor, Adolf Papp, and the famous specialist on modern calcareous nannoplankton, Erwin Kamptner, in Vienna. We met for the first time in the spring of 1960. Herbert told me of his just completed work with Paul Brönnimann on using discoasterids and planktonic foraminifera as stratigraphic markers in Cuba and showing how they could be used for global correlation. After the visit in Vienna, I went on to collect samples from the stratigraphic sections in western Austria that Herbert had studied, and later used them for comparative purposes.

It was Herbert Stradner who first realised the significance of discoasters and other calcareous nannoplankton fossils as stratigraphic markers levels with a refinement equal to or greater than the planktonic foraminifera that were the standard of the time. He expanded these studies from the Paleogene to the Neogene over the next few years and demonstrated their importance in global correlations. In many ways, Herbert Stradner was the father of the stratigraphic use of calcareous nannoplankton.

Later I became intensively involved with the Deep Sea Drilling project, and was able to recommend enthusiastically that Herbert be invited as an onboard specialist describing the calcareous nannoplankton and their stratigraphic significance.

Over the years, we were able to meet a number of times, and I always enjoyed discussing the progress of his investigations. His studies of calcareous nannoplankton and the fossil silicoflagellates that had been the topic of his doctoral dissertation continued throughout the rest of his distinguished career.

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