

## ON CORALS FROM THE MAASTRICHTIAN TYPE AREA (UPPER CRETACEOUS, THE NETHERLANDS): *MICRABACIA* SP. AND A NEW CORAL SPECIES THAT LIVED ON THE ROOTS OF SEAGRASSES

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The corals from the Maastrichtian type area (Limburg, The Netherlands) are not only interesting for their proximity to the K/T-boundary and for their relatively northern occurrence in that time, but also for the interest that pioneer coral researchers in the eighteenth and nineteenth century showed for them. Of most of the corals only casts are preserved. Sometimes silicified specimens and specimens with recrystallized calcite are found. Umbgrove (1925) presented the most complete overview of the fauna and Leloux (1999) presented the local stratigraphical distribution of the 35 most common taxa. This lecture will present some results from the ongoing study.

One of the most common fossil corals in the Santonian to Danian sediments from Limburg, The Netherlands, is *Micrabacia*. In the Upper Campanian sands in the region a large amount of original fossils is found, while in the rest of the stratigraphic column it is present as casts. For the interpretation of these casts a statistical research on measurements of several populations in North West Europe is done. Wells (1933) did recognise evolutionary trends in *Micrabacia* species in America. He measured height, diameter and the relative length of the fifth cycle septum. The same dimensions are measured here and the hypothesis, that all specimens from the Upper Cretaceous and Danian of North West Europe do belong to the same species, is tested.

One of the more peculiar phenomena found in the Upper Maastrichtian is the presence of a probably new taxon which seems to have lived on the roots of sea grasses. Several casts and silicified fossils of these small colonial corals are found.

### References

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