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Larger benthic foraminiferal biostratigraphy and microfacies analysis of Priabonian shallow water limestones (Lower Austria and Burgenland)

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Papp (1958) reports on reworked boulders of Eocene limestone in Miocene deposits of eastern Austria. For our study, occurrences of such boulders at Kirchberg am Wechsel (Lower Austria) and Wimpassing an der Leitha (Burgenland) were re-sampled and thin sections were made to analyze microfacies and to up-date larger benthic foraminifera stratigraphy. At both localities, limestones display diverse fossil assemblages consisting essentially of fragmented coralline algae, larger benthic foraminifera, bryozoans, corals and smaller benthic foraminifera. At both localities, genera usually common in Tethyan assemblages as *Asterocyclina*, *Pellatispirella*, *Spiroclypeus* were not found and *Assilina* and *Orbitoclypeus* show very rare occurrences. Two microfacies types were identified which are characterized by foraminiferal assemblages: the *Asterigerina* facies and the orthophragminids facies.

(1) At Wimpassing, orthophragminids occur in the *Astigerina* facies. The assemblage is dominated by the species *Asterigerina rotula* in co-occurrences with *Nummulites stellatus* and the large miliolid *Borelis vonderschmitti*. The latter two species indicate the Priabonian Shallow Benthic Zones SBZ19 to SBZ20 in the zonation of Serra-Kiel et al. (1998).

(2) At Kirchberg, the orthophragminid facies contains bryozoans. This indicates an outer platform environment with deeper water conditions than at Wimpassing. The larger benthic foraminiferal assemblage is dominated by the genus *Discocyclina* that appears to be monospecific.

References

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