TRIASSIC AND JURASSIC BRACHIOPOD FAUNA OF THE CLASSICAL MESOZOIC AREA NEAR HALLSTATT (UPPER AUSTRIA)

BRACHIOPODEN-FUNDPUNKTE DER KLASSISCHEN ALPINEN TRIAS UND DES JURA IM GEBIET UM HALLSTATT (OBERÖSTERREICH)

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The region around Hallstatt has been well-known thanks to its Mesozoic series with abundance of fossils not only to scientists - geologists and palaeontologists - but also to private collectors from all over the world since the first half of the 19th century. Above all, a varied ammonite fauna, containing a seríes of leading species and genera, plays an important role in biostratigraphy, and nice ammonite specimens are on show both in museum and private collections also abroad. The specimens of another fossil group – brachiopods - are locally very numerous both in the Triassic and Jurassic of the area. They are probably not so important for detailed biostratigraphy and not so attractive as ammonites. However, they are very useful if ammonites are absent and moreover, they supply interesting data for palaeoecology and palaeoenvironment. The only monographs on them originated already in 19th century and brought very detailed information on the group. The large monograph on the Triassic species was published by Bittner (1890), on the Liassic ones by Oppel (1861) and Geyer (1889), and on the Middle Jurassic ones by Oppel (1863). The most famous localities in the Middle Triassic are Schreyeralm and Schiechlinghöhe NW of Plassen yielding characteristic species like *Pexidella marmorea* and *Norella refractifrons*. Upper Triassic Hallstatt Limestone (mostly Norian) of the Sommeraukogel, Steinbergkogel on Salzberg, and Taubenstein near Gosau yielded interesting smooth rhynchonellids like *Austriellula nux, Austriellula longicollis* and *Norella geyeri*.

Rich Liassic brachiopod fauna containing mainly coarsely ribbed rhynchonellids of the "*variabilis"* group, *Securina partschi*, several species of *Liospiriferina, Lobothyris* and *Zeilleria* (*Zeilleria mutabilis* and *Zeilleria stapia*) is known from the Mitterwand, and then from the classical locality on Hierlatz (Feuerkogel) and from many other fissure-fillings on the Dachstein Plateau. The bulk of the Middle Jurassic brachiopods originate from Klauskogel (Klausalpe) and Mitterwand SW of Hallstatt, where well-preserved specimens of some interestingly shaped species as *Apringia atla, Septocrurella* (?) *defluxa* and *Linguithyris curviconcha* can be found only exceptionally in recent times, in comparison to the period of Mojsisovics and Oppel.

Study of the local Triassic and Jurassic brachiopod fauna brings many interesting data elucidating past life on bottom of the Tethys ocean. It contributes also to better, enlarged knowledge of geology and palaeontology of the Hallstatt surroundings, included 1997 in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Explanations to the Plate I (all photos by J. Brožek, Prague):

Triassic

1. *Austriellula longicollis* (Suess). Feuerkogel near Bad Aussee. Norian. Reported also from Taubenstein in Gosau and from Someraukogel. Magnified, x1,5.
2. *Austriellula nux* (Suess). Taubenstein in Gosau. Norian, coll. PIW, x2.

Lower Jurassic

3. *Phymatothyris cerasulum* (Zittel). Hierlatz, x2.
4. *Prionorhynchia greppini* (Oppel). Mitterwand, x1,5.
5. *Liospiriferina alpina* (Oppel). Mitterwand, x1,5.
6. „*Rhynchonella*" ex gr. *variabilis* (Schloth.). Hierlatz, x1,5.
7. *Furcirhynchia* aff. *emmrichi* (Oppel). Hierlatz, x1,5.
8. *Calcirhynchia* (?) *plicatissima* (Quenst.). Hierlatz, x1,5.
9. *Lobothyris punctata* (Sow.). Hierlatz, x1.5.
10. *Linguithyris beyrichi* (Oppel). Wildkarkogel on Dachstein Plateau., x2.
11. *Liospiriferina brevirostris* (Oppel). Hierlatz, 1:1.
12. *Zeilleria mutabilis* (Oppel). Hierlatz, x1,5.
13. *Homoeorhynchia* (?) *prona* (Oppel). Mitterwand, x1,5.
14. *Pisirhynchia inversa* (Oppel). Mitterwand, x3.

Middle Jurassic

15. *Striirhynchia subechinata* (Oppel). Mitterwand, x2.
16. *„Terebratula" fylgia* Oppel. Mitterwand, x1,5.

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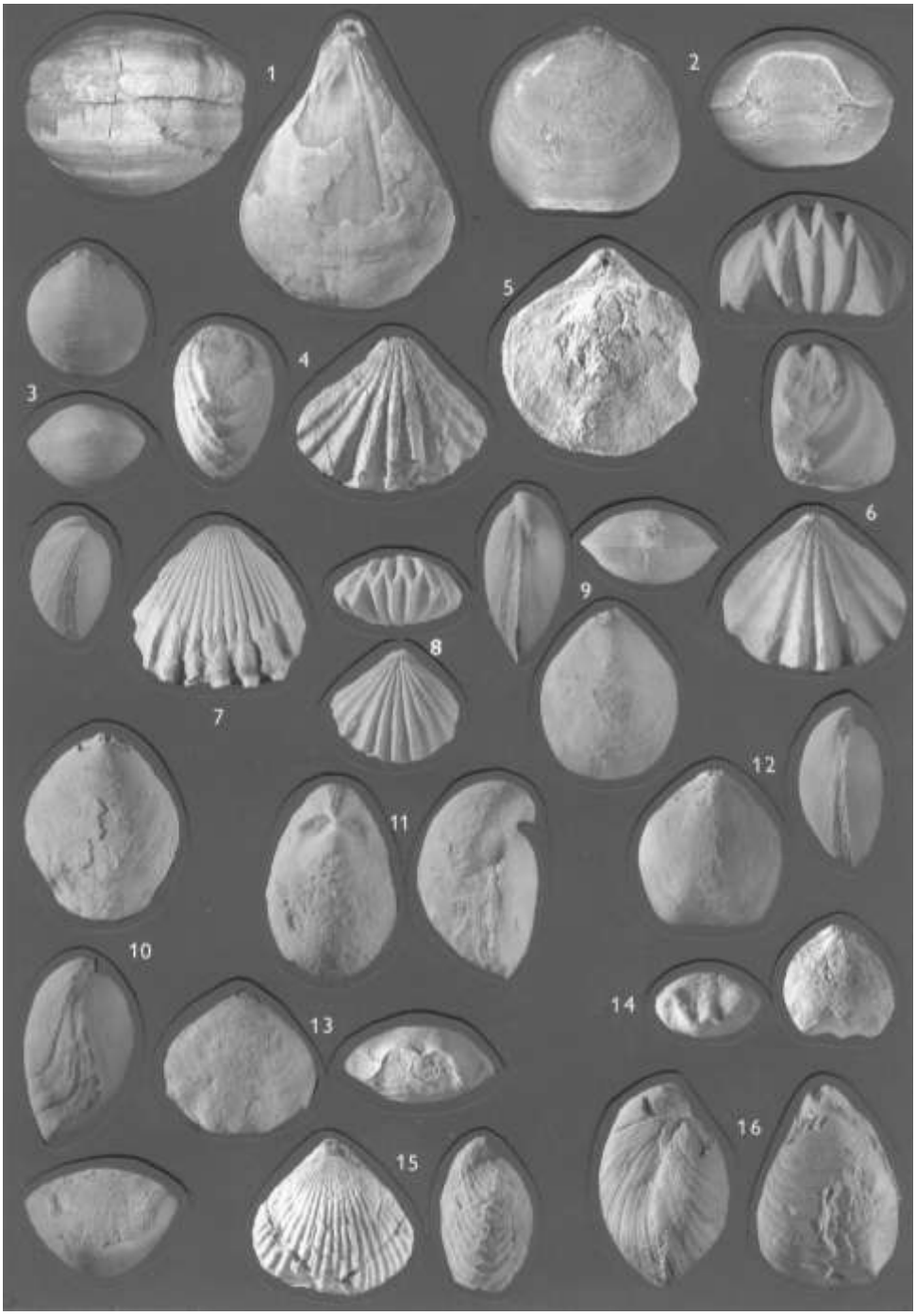

Plate I

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