

Introduction to ICOS 4 field trip in the Carnic Alps

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The Carnic Alps, located at the Italian-Austrian border, expose one of the more complete and better investigated Palaeozoic sequences of the world. Starting from the XIX century several workers investigated the area and published a huge amount of papers dealing with different topics in geological sciences (geology, palaeontology, stratigraphy, structural geology, etc.). Among them the research on conodonts plays an important role: more than 150 papers deal with conodonts from the Carnic Alps. These include a variety of studies ranging from taxonomy, biostratigraphy, C.A.I. to biofacies analysis. The majority of conodont specimens were obtained for the purpose of biostratigraphy and stratigraphic correlation of sedimentary sequences which resulted in a huge number of well documented sections, some of which represent now classic reference sections for geological studies in the entire world.

Because the Carnic Alps are located across a state border, it happened that for long time different groups of workers were active in both countries: this is the reason why in this guidebook the history of conodont works in the Carnic Alps is presented in two chapters, one dealing on Austria and one on Italy. Only recently, research started to be carried on together from an international working group, mainly of Italian and Austrian scientists, which resulted in a very fruitful cooperation.

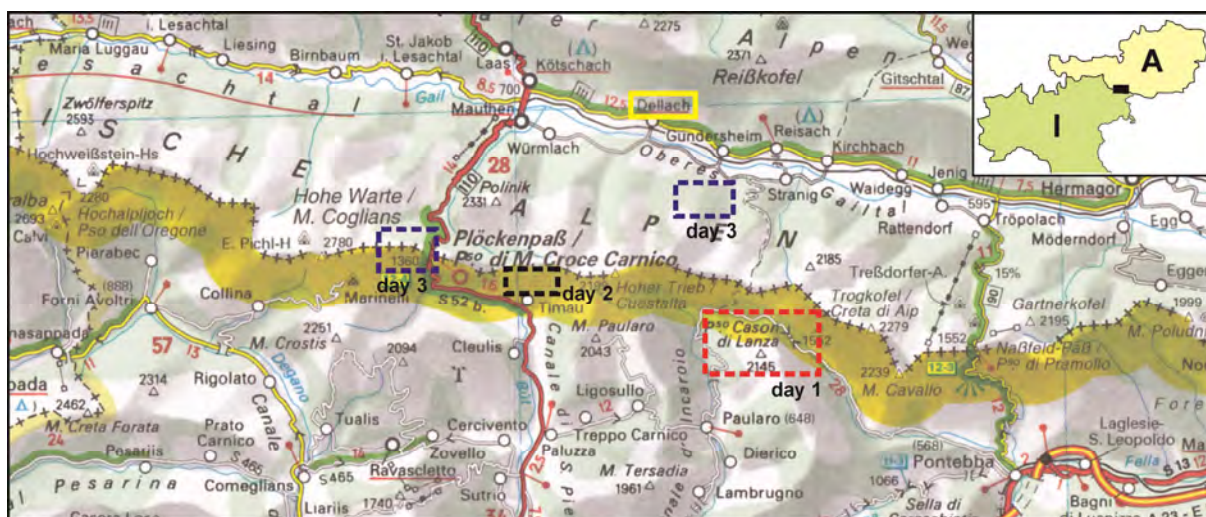


Figure 1. Road map of the Carnic Alps with indication of the areas visited during the field trip. The yellow rectangle highlights the village of Dellach, where the Visitor Centre of the Carnic Alps Geopark is located.

In this three days of field trip both classical and new sections will be visited in Italy and Austria. A visit to the Visitor Centre of the Carnic Alps Geopark is also scheduled.

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Day 1 – July 6th

The day will be dedicated to the Cason di Lanza Pass area, where several sections have been studied in the last twenty years:

- Stop 1 – Valbertad section (Katian-Hirnantian)
- Stop 2 – Rio Malinfier section (Lochkovian)
- Stop 3 – Rio Malinfier West section (Pridoli-?Pragian)
- Stop 4 – Zuc di Malaseit Basso section (Eifelian-Givetian)
- Stop 5 – Mt. Pizzul West section (Famennian)

Day 2 – July 7th

In the morning two classical section will be visited in Pramosio area; in the afternoon we will move to Austria to visit to the Visitor Centre of the Carnic Alps Geopark in Dellach.

- Stop 6 – Pramosio Bassa section (Famennian)
- Stop 7 – Malpasso section (Famennian)

Day 3 – July 8th

The day is dedicated to classical localities in Austria:

- Stop 8 – Cellon section (Katian-Lochkovian)
- Stop 9 [optional] – Grüne Schneid section (Famennian-Tournaisian)
- Stop 10 – Oberbuchach I and Ib sections (Hirnantian-Gorstian and Pridoli-Lochkovian)
- Stop 11 – Oberbuchach II sections (Pridoli-Givetian and Famennian)