

LOWER DEVONIAN AGRELOPOS LIMESTONES (CHIOS ISLAND, GREECE) AND THE BIOGEOGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "LANCICULA FLORA"

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Palaeozoic rocks containing fossils are very restricted in the Aegean region. In the northwestern part of Chios Island a palaeozoic sequence variable in lithologic character and age is exposed. This sequence, Llandoveryian to upper Carboniferous in age, belongs to the autochthonous nappe of Chios. Due to several tectonic events only few persistent stratigraphic profiles are known.

The "Agrelopos Limestone" represents a highly fossiliferous shallow marine development whose stratigraphic range (Upper Silurian vs. Lower Devonian) is not clearly identifiable at this stage.

Since halimedacean greenalgae were reported from the lower Devonian (Siegenian-Emsian?) basal parts of the Agrelopos limestones (Fenninger 1983), a section of these limestones forming a morphologically prominent ridge was sampled bed by bed in the vicinity of Agrelia (a "ghost village" in the northwestern part of Chios Island).

Nearly all samples contain algal thalli differing in their modes of fragmentation and preservation. The majority of the algal fragments can be assigned to the 'lanciculoid group'. This algal group is characterised by typical thalli consisting of a series of bowl-shaped elements (internally build up with some central filaments) surrounding the thick central stems.

Some years ago all representatives of the 'lanciculoid group' were entirely summarised in the prominent genus *Lancicula*. Due to its simple recognisability representatives of "*Lancicula*" have been reported worldwide through publication of numerous taxonomic articles. In addition "*Lancicula*"s worldwide distribution resulted in biogeographic considerations for the lower Devonian.

Ref.:

Fenninger, A. (1983): Codiaceen aus dem Unterdevon von Karaburun (Türkei) und Chios (Griechenland).- Mitt. österr. geol. Ges., 76: 273-288, Wien.