

NEW RESULTS ON STRATIGRAPHY, FACIES AND SEDIMENTOLOGY OF LATE JURASSIC TO EARLY CRETACEOUS PLATFORM CARBONATES OF THE AUSTRIAN SALZKAMMERGUT (PLASSEN LIMESTONE FORMATION, TRESSENSTEIN LIMESTONE)

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The Plassen Limestone Formation (PLF) of the Trisselwand near Altaussee/Salzkammergut comprises Upper Kimmeridgian to Berriasian platform carbonates that correspond to a retrograde, transgressive succession. The Formation includes the inner to outer platform and the autochthonous talus. The proximal talus contains abundant echinoids and bryozoa with typical microproblematica including *Mercierella? dacica* DRAGASTAN and *Tubiphytes morronensis* CRESCENTI. In the middle part of the talus the siliceous sponge facies, which is widespread along the European northern shelf of the Tethyan sea, prevails. Microfacies are pelletal packstones with the typical association of *T. morronensis* CRESCENTI and the agglutinated polychaet *Terebella lapilloides* MÜNSTER. The platform-basin transition is marked by the Oberalm Formation transitional facies, which contain *Neotrocholina valdensis* REICHEL and *Meandrospira favrei* (CHAROLLAIS et al.), indicating an Early? Valanginian age. The brecciated Tressenstein Limestone (TL) of the type-locality occurs intercalated in the basin facies of the Oberalm Formation showing that it neither corresponds to coastal deposits (HÖTZL 1966) nor to a „fore-reef talus“ (TOLLMANN 1976). The TL contains clasts of the platform margin and the talus, and in contrast to the alldapic Barmstein Limestones, clasts of the inner platform have not been observed. The occurring hydrozoans/corals have been transported as single components evidenced by their infillings of micritic calpionellid-bearing matrix. The TL s. str. is interpreted as a gravity induced mass-flow deposit that originated from the platform margin / talus and was transported into the basin. Therefore, the platform talus has been included in the PLF. The carbonate platform sedimentation of the PLF ended as a result of drowning during a time (Berriasian) when a global lowering of the sea-level happened. The Early? Valanginian age obtained from the Oberalm Formation transitional facies reduces the stratigraphic gap that exists between the end of the PLF and the beginning of the siliciclastic coarsening-upward cycle of the Rossfeld Formation, starting in the Upper Valanginian (WEIDICH 1990).

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