BRACHIOPODS OF THE GENUS AUSTRIELLULA STRAND, 1928 IN THE TRIASSIC OF THE TETHYS

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Austriellula-species with their smooth shells are characteristic element of the Triassic brachiopod fauna in the Northern Alps, a series of them being restricted to the Hallstatt facies. The genus can be traced both in the western and eastern parts of Tethys, extending through the Alps, Carpathians and Caucasus to the Himalayas and Timor as a distinctive member of the Upper Triassic faunas.

Recently I had the possibility to study a new, small brachiopod collection coming from the Anisian of Gebze, Turkey / coll. by L. Krystyn/. Basing on the internal characters ascertained in "Rhynchonella" kavakensis Arthaber, 1914 from this type-area, the affiliation of "kavakensis" to Austrie-llula showed justifiable. This finding testifies the existence of Austriellula already in the Middle Triassic, and documents Turkey as a new point in the occurrence map of this genus within Tethys.