

## Integrated biostratigraphy of the Schattaugraben, type section of the Hochmoos Formation (Late Santonian, Gosau Group, Salzburg)

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Well exposed, measurable sections are comparatively rare in most Gosau Basins. Here we present new data on the Hochmoos Formation as exposed at its type section Schattau creek (or Schattaugraben, Hochmoosgraben in Felix, 1908). The outcrops are located at the northern slopes of the Bibereck, south of the village Rußbach, Salzburg. The creek exposes approximately 90 metres of marl, silts and sandstone belonging to the Hochmoos Formation. The contact to the underlying Grabenbach and overlying Bibereck Formations are not exposed.

Although being a classical locality known since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the stratigraphic placement of these beds was subject to discussion, some authors suspecting a Campanian age for parts of the succession, others a Santonian one. Micropalaeontological sampling yielded rather poor faunas with few age-indicative forms.

Renewed sampling effort in the exposed “Sandkalkbank” and *Micraster* beds yielded a rich fauna comprising bivalves, gastropods, ammonites and echinoderms. Inoceramids obtained from the former bed signalling a Late Santonian age (Tröger & Summesberger, submitted). The ammonite faunas of both beds confirm this, including several taxa indicative of the Late Santonian *paraplanum*-zone. Independent evidence from the echinoderm fauna of the *Micraster* bed corroborates these results. During recent sampling the crinoid *Marsupites testudinarius* (SCHLOTHEIM, 1820), an index fossil for the late Late Santonian was discovered in this bed. Despite more than 150 years of scientific effort this form was unknown from the Gosau Basin previously, despite its common occurrence in Late Santonian sediments world wide. The name-giving echinoids are common in this bed but of low diversity, the fauna being dominated by burrowing heart urchins of the genus *Micraster*. Previously thought to be endemic forms of the Austrian Gosau Basin, they have now been found to be closely similar to *Micraster coranguinum* (Leske, 1778), another index fossil of the Santonian.

No evidence for a Campanian age could be found in the section, the uppermost beds exposed, still yielding Late Santonian taxa.