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The Early Triassic epeiric ramp depositional sequence in the Dinarides

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The Early Triassic Plavno section (Croatia) was investigated litho-, bio- and chemostratigraphically. It begins with the second Griesbachian conodont zone *Isarcicella staeschei* and *I. isarcica*, and low C-isotope curve values, steadily increasing towards the Griesbachian-Dienerian boundary (GDB), where a minor, short, negative excursion occurs. In the Dienerian the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values increase towards the GDB with a maximum of +5‰V-PDB, followed by a steep and continuous drop to low, often negative values in the Smithian. Just before the Smithian-Spathian boundary a steep rise to a second maximum is documented, followed by decline in the Spathian and a gentle increase to a rounded peak at the Spathian-Anisian boundary.

In sedimentological sense the Plavno sequence has a characteristic threefold division: i) carbonates representing the oldest Early Triassic strata, followed by ii) dominantly red clastics (shale, siltstones and sandstones) and iii) dominantly grey carbonaceous lime mudstones, marls and calcisiltites with ammonoids representing Spathian-Anisian strata. The basal Griesbachian is represented by carbonates deposited after the initial transgression. Deposition in the broad shallow sea lasted up to the end of Spathian. In the uppermost Griesbachian, Dienerian and Smithian strong input of siliciclastics occurred, periodically influenced by waves, storm waves and currents. There is no barrier shoal separating the subtidal mid-ramp from the back-barrier lagoon and tidal flat regions of the inner ramp. In the Spathian slightly deeper conditions were established with deposition still above storm wave base. The nature and distribution of facies represent deposition on an extensive area, best described as epeiric ramp. An epeiric ramp is defined as having a very low bathymetric slope (negligible in its inner regions), no grainy shoreface facies, water depths of tens of meters, a width of many hundreds of kilometers and depositional processes dominated by storms.

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