A NEW PALYNOFLORA FROM AUSTRIA: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF POLLEN AND SPORES FROM THE CLAY PIT AT SCHAßBACH (OBERAIGEN), LAVANTTAL, CARINTHIA

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The clay pit at Schaßbach (district Oberaigen) has been recently known for its leaf- and fish fossils. The sediments comprise silty clays and clayey silts, often with detrital micas covering sediment surfaces, and are intercalated with finely laminated clays (Papierschiefer containing the fish fossils), This sedimentary succession has been interpreted to be of Langhian age and probably belongs to the early Badenian Mühldorf Formation). The LM and SEM investigations revealed that the pollen and spores are mostly not very well preserved. They are strongly compressed, show abrasion and partly gelified pollen walls. The diversity of the palynoflora with up to now 65 taxa is not as diverse as other Miocene palynofloras. The pollen spectrum (so far three samples counted) is dominated by Pinaceae (*Pinus, Cathaya, Abies, Picea, Tsuga*) and *Taxodium* (which is also common in the macroflora), followed by angiosperm genera and families such as *Quercus* (?4 taxa), *Platanus* (2 taxa), 5 Juglandaceae taxa, *Lithocarpus*, *Fagus Myrica, Ulmus, Cedrelospermum, Zelkova*, 3 Betulaceae, etc. Remarkable are some accessorial elements such as *Liquidambar*, not yet identified Chloranthaceae, Curcubitaceae and Sapotaceae, *Ilex, Fraxinus*, *Ephedra* and 2 Ericaceae.