

### **Stop 3 – Abandoned Quarry Near Base of Trail # 149 to Rifugio Marinelli**

Trail # 149 branches off from the track # 148 to Rifugio Marinelli. At the base of this trail a large ridge of fossiliferous limestone is exposed and higher up the trail are large angular blocks of limestone cut from the rock walls. They provide an excellent and easily accessible exposure of Middle or upper Devonian reef limestone.

The blocks are composed of bioclastic limestone with large colonies of overturned or in situ stromatoporoids along with various accessory reef builders such as solitary rugose corals, ramose, laminar and massive tabulate corals and much crinoidal debris. The presence of *Heliolites* suggests Middle Devonian age. However, this needs to be confirmed through thin section study.

Most stromatoporoids are massive and reach up to 70 cm in diameter but laminar, encrusting, nodular and ragged shapes are also present along with *Stachyodes* and *Amphipora*. The matrix is fine-grained micrite with a large percentage of coarse bioclastic debris. Centimetre to decimetre sized cavities are lined with fibrous calcite.

The lithology most likely represents a southern equivalent of the Kellergrat Limestone described by KREUTZER (1992) from the Kellergrat and also present at the southern side of Hohe Warte.



Plate 1: Devonian reef limestone slabs at the abandoned quarry at trail no. 145 to Rifugio Marinelli at alt. 1520 m.