CALCAREOUS MICROPLANKTON AND NANNOPLANKTON ASSEMBLAGES RECORDED IN THE WEST CARPATHIAN LATE JURASSIC/EARLY CRETACEOUS SEDIMENTARY SEQUENCES – TOOLS FOR BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION

Daniela REHÁKOVÁ, Eva HALÁSOVÁ

This contribution discusses the results of an integrated study of three microplankton groups (calpionellids, calcareous dinoflagellates and calcareous nannofossils) and partially with the stable isotope data ($\delta^{18}$O, $\delta^{13}$C) as well, in the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous pelagic sedimentary sequences. Generally, in the Western Carpathians these sequences are lack of ammonite fauna. At that time, calpionellids, calcareous dinoflagellates and nannofossils were the most important constituents of tropical and subtropical calcareous microplankton and calcareous nannoplankton. Calpionellids rarely dominated over the phytoplankton associations and they were always eliminated in environments in which radiolarians prevailed in abundance. The bio-events investigated emphasises the potential of these planktonic groups as proxies in biostratigraphy, palaeoecology and palaeoceanography. The stable isotope data underline environmental changes. Correlation of the calcareous microplankton distribution and stable isotope analyses was used in the characterization of the J/K boundary interval and also the Aptian anox called there as Koňhora event (Michalík et al. in print).

The high-resolution quantitative analysis of calpionellids, dinoflagellates and calcareous nannofossil assemblages indicates major variations in relative abundance of species, species variability and assemblage diversity and also in the structural composition of their tests. In the West Carpathian sequences studied, the mass abundance of these microfossils was closely connected predominantly with shallow intrashelf basins and its elevated ridges. These environments were characterized by the permanent current regime positively influencing the nutrient input. The high nutrient potential (in accordance to the composition) activated the explosion waves in evolution of specific planktonic association and also selected forms. Such relatively dense environment invoked the feedback pressure on the planktonic organisms. It seems that small usually less calcite calpionellid forms coincided with the environments rich in nutrients and they occurred with higher fertility-related
nannofossils. On the other hand, the big elongated calpionellid forms with composed collars (created usually diversified associations) were bind directly with the food specialization. Diversified calpionellid associations are linked with blooms of k-selected highly calcified coccoliths/nannoliths. It is worth of mentioned, that the abundance and size of calpionellid loricas decrease also towards to open marine environments.

During calpionellid evolution the loria composition changed several times, probably in connection with changes in sea-water temperature and chemistry. Two distinct overturn events (change of microgranular loria into the hyaline one) recorded in the Middle Tithonian and during the Middle Aptian were synchronous with investigated peaks in nannoplankton abundance. Microgranular calpionellids were replaced by hyaline forms. The increase of water temperature (result of enhanced ? volcanic activity) and contemporaneous climate change could influence the depletion of microgranular forms or could lead to cessation of their loricas production. The rests of ? cysts/bags visible locally in microgranular loricas could be signalize the stress in environmental conditions. On the other hand, the increase of water temperature and high concentration of CaCO$_3$ influenced the flourishing of nannoplankton. Ciliate protozoans feeding on calcareous phytoplankton started to agglutinate their loricas with the rests of nannofossils. It seems that the nannoplankton diversity influenced strictly calpionellid diversification. The radiation and diversification of hyaline calpionellids coincided with diversification of calcareous nannoplankton. Intervals in which small hyaline calpionellid forms were dominated coincided with the abundance radiations of nannoconids. Salinity variations should have been also responsible for thinning of calpionellid loricas observed during the Late Tithonian, Latest Berriasian and Early Valanginian. Valanginian episode of greenhouse climate associated with increased evolutionary rates in competitive planktonic communities (foraminifera, calcareous nannoplankton, radiolarians) could led to total calpionellid decimation.

The ecological calcidinocyst events caused by the blooming of one single species characterized by composed oblique wall structure combined with nannofossil indicators of warm water condition could be a proxy of increasing sea surface temperature. Cooling trends is corralble with onset of tabulated cyst species. If compare their distribution with eustatic pulses, calpionellid and dinoflagellate associations are dominated during transgressive and highstand interval, in the frame of which their acme accumulation, radiation and diversification events were identified.

References


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Daniela REHÁKOVÁ
Department of Geology and Palaeontology
Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University
Mlynská dolina G 1
842 12 Bratislava
Slovakia
e-mail: rehakova@nic.fns.uniba.sk

E. HALÁSOVÁ
Department of Geology and Palaeontology
Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University
Mlynská dolina G-1
842 15 Bratislava,
Slovak Republic
e-mail: halasova@fns.uniba.sk