

Campanian to Maastrichtian planktic foraminifera of the Pálava Formation may point to southward flow of boreal waters into the Penninic Ocean

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In the Austrian part of the Waschberg-Ždánice-Unit, the Pálava Formation consists of glauconite sands/sandstones and grey marls. In order to reveal the areal distribution of Meso- and Cenozoic sediments, several hundred of near-surface samples were taken by hand-drilling (50 to 200 cm depth), with 29 samples from the Pálava Formation. Both facies of the Pálava Formation contain basically the same original foraminiferal composition but those from the glauconite sands are much more corroded, resulting in biased assemblages with predominantly thick-shelled resistant taxa. The state of preservation of the near surface samples varies from nearly pristine (glassy tests) to highly corroded. A general trend of better preserved assemblages towards the northern areas and poor state in the south can be observed. The found foraminiferal assemblages yielded at least 53 planktic species. The ages of the found assemblages range from (middle) Campanian to latest Maastrichtian (*Abathomphalus mayaroensis*-Zone). It is remarkable that *Gansserina gansseri* has not been found in any of the investigated samples and *A. mayaroensis* is the most frequent keeled species in the youngest samples. These "cool water"-assemblages may be attributed to the relatively northern position of the sites or a possible southward flow of boreal waters into the Penninic Ocean.