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Inhaltsverzeichnis

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Towards a better definition of the Anisian/Ladinian boundary: New biostratigraphic data and correlations of boundary sections from the Southern Alps

By PETER BRACK¹⁾ and HANS RIEBER²⁾

Abstract, Zusammenfassung, Riassunto

1. Introduction	418
2. Middle Triassic stratigraphy and fossiliferous Anisian/Ladinian boundary sections	420
2.1. A few steps in the Anisian to Ladinian evolution	421
2.1.1. Early to Middle Anisian	421
2.1.2. Late Anisian to Early Ladinian	423
2.1.3. Late Ladinian to Early Carnian	423
2.2. Nature of fossiliferous Anisian/Ladinian boundary successions	424
3. Anisian/Ladinian boundary intervals in basinal "Buchenstein Beds"	425
3.1. Opinions on the stratigraphy and range of the "Buchenstein Beds"	425
3.2. The main lithologies and depositional environments of the "Buchenstein Beds"	426
3.2.1. Standard subdivisions in the Dolomites	426
3.2.2. Distribution and environments of deposition of the "Buchenstein Beds"	430
3.3. Fossiliferous sections and correlations of "Buchenstein Beds" in the Northwestern Dolomites and the Brescian and adjacent Prealps	431
3.3.1. Northwestern Dolomites	431
3.3.2. Brescian and adjacent Prealps (Eastern Bergamask Alps; Giudicarie)	435
3.3.3. Val Gola (Trento)	439
4. Anisian to Ladinian carbonate platforms	440
4.1. Ammonoid bearing platform carbonates and intra-platform deposits	441
4.1.1. Monte San Giorgio (Ticino; Southern Switzerland)	441
4.1.2. Latemar (Western Dolomites)	442
4.1.3. Cenera (Dolomites)	445
5. The South Alpine ammonoid record:	
Its zonal subdivision and the position of the Anisian/Ladinian boundary	448
5.1. The fossil succession and resulting scheme of ammonoid zones	448
5.2. The positions of the Anisian/Ladinian and of the substage boundaries	450
5.3. Indications for the Anisian/Ladinian boundary in South Alpine sections	452

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6. Additional information on chronostratigraphy and time-scales	455
6.1. The calibration of the stratigraphic scheme (Fig. 2)	455
6.2. The numerical time-scale and duration of the Ladinian	457
7. Conclusions	459
8. Systematic descriptions	460
8.1. Class CEPHALOPODA	460
8.1.1. Family Hungaritidae WAAGEN, 1895	460
<i>Hungarites</i> MOJSISOVICS, 1879	460
8.1.2. Family Ceratitidae MOJSISOVICS, 1879	465
<i>Parakellnerites</i> RIEBER, 1973	465
<i>Lardaroceras</i> BALINI, 1992	467
<i>Stoppaniceras</i> RIEBER, 1973	469
<i>Kellnerites</i> ARTHABER, 1912	469
<i>Reitziites</i> n. gen.	471
8.1.3. Family Danubitidae SPATH, 1951	473
<i>Ticinites</i> RIEBER, 1973	473
<i>Latemarites</i> n. gen.	475
8.1.4. Family Aplococeratidae SPATH, 1951	478
<i>Aplococeras</i> HYATT, 1900	478
8.1.5. Family indet.	479
<i>Nevadites</i> SMITH, 1914	479
8.1.6. Family Arpaditidae HYATT, 1900	484
Protrachyceratinae TOZER, 1971	484
8.2. Class BIVALVIA	487
8.2.1. Family Posidoniidae	487
<i>Daonella</i> MOJSISOVICS, 1874	487
Acknowledgments	490
References	490

ABSTRACT

Stratigraphic sections of basinal "Buchenstein Beds" in the northwestern Dolomites and eastern Lombardy are correlated on the basis of the distribution of macrofossils (ammonoids, Daonellas) and volcanoclastic layers. In Lombardy, these strata are bracketed by other Middle Triassic basinal sediments (Prezzo Lst., "Wengen Beds"), and the entire succession hosts a clear macrofossil (ammonoids, Daonellas) record ranging from the Late Anisian to the Late Ladinian. In the Anisian/Ladinian boundary interval this record appears to be relatively coherent when compared to equivalent standard sections in the western Tethys area. It allows the full integration of rich faunas from isolated localities in coeval platform carbonates (Latemar and Cerneria) and intra-platform deposits (Monte San Giorgio). The combined series of fossils includes successive levels with key species of *Judicarites*, *Paraceratites*, *Kellnerites*, *Hungarites*, *Reitziites*, *Parakellnerites*, *Aplococeras*, *Ticinites*, *Halilucites*, *Stoppaniceras*, *Nevadites*, *Chieseiceras*, *Eoprotrachyceras*, *Arpadites* and *Protrachyceras* among other ammonoids and Daonellas. The non-condensed ammonoid succession is suitable for a partial revision of the Tethyan zonal subdivision. It also indicates a slightly, but distinctly diachronous base of the "Buchenstein Beds" or its single members. Thus the original location of the Anisian/Ladinian boundary at the base of the "Buchenstein Beds" (Bittner 1892) is ambiguous. The boundary between the Nevadites Zone and the Curionii Zone is at present the best constrained alternative. Not only can this marker be pinpointed in stratigraphic columns in the Southern Alps (i.e. the original "type-area" of the stage boundary) but it can also be traced to sections further afield in western Tethys and in North America.