

**Zeitschrift:** Eclogae Geologicae Helvetiae  
**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Geologische Gesellschaft  
**Band:** 57 (1964)  
**Heft:** 2

**Artikel:** Studies in some Globorotalia from the Paleocene and Lower Eocene of the Central Appenines  
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**Kapitel:** Acknowledgements  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-163158>

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localities of uppermost Cretaceous and Paleogene in the Netherlands, Belgium, Southern France, Northern Spain and Northern Italy have been visited. A visit at the Geological Institute of the Academy of Science of the Soviet Union in Moscow during August 1963 has been very instructive.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Professor Dr. M. REICHEL for suggesting the present thesis, and mainly for his invaluable help and advice during the investigations and the preparation of the manuscript and the illustrations. I am greatly indebted to him for introducing me to the methods and problems of micropaleontology.

Professor Dr. L. VONDERSCHMITT, Director of the Geological Institute of the University of Basel, is acknowledged for granting all kinds of facilities during the study at the Institute, for the interest he has taken in my work and the financial aid he granted me.

I want to thank Professor Dr. H. SCHAUB, Director of the Museum of Natural History, Basel, for introducing me to the stratigraphy of the Paleogene, for helpful suggestions and criticism, for giving me numerous samples and for his guidance during several excursions.

Dr. O. RENZ, at the Museum of Natural History, Basel, has kindly read and corrected the manuscript. It was a great honour for me to discuss many problems with him, who is the author of the fundamental work on the micropaleontology and stratigraphy of the Central Apennines.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. H. G. KUGLER, at the Museum of Natural History, Basel, for his stimulating interest and help in my studies, for much advice based on his vast experience and for having placed at my disposal his type-collection of Foraminifera from Trinidad.

I am pleased to thank Dr. M. B. CITA, Professor at the University of Milan, for discussing with me several problems concerning my investigations, for her aid in procuring literature not available in Basel and for having shared with me her vast experience in micropaleontological problems of the Scaglia.

Much is owed to Dr. I. PREMOLI SILVA, University of Milan, for her collaboration, for her guidance to numerous localities in Northern and Central Italy and for her help in obtaining literature and samples for comparison.

Professor Dr. W. W. HAY, University of Illinois, has contributed important samples from the Paleogene of the United States and Mexico and much information on stratigraphic problems related to them.

I want to express my gratitude to the Presidium of the Academy of Science of the Soviet Union for an invitation to the Geological Institute of the Academy, to Professor Dr. D. M. RAUZER-CHERNOUSOVA and to Professor Dr. V. V. MENNER for their generous help, and especially to Dr. V. A. KRASHENNINIKOV for his introduction to the Paleogene of Southern Soviet Union, for numerous samples and literature and for all the trouble he took to help me during my stay in Moscow.

Professor Dr. N. N. SUBBOTINA, VNIGRI Leningrad, and Dr. E. K. SHUTZKAYA, VNIGNI Moscow, have kindly discussed many taxonomic and stratigraphic prob-

lems and have given me an invaluable set of topotypes and samples from Southern Soviet Union. Professor Dr. N. I. MASLAKOVA, Professor Dr. D. P. NAIDIN and Professor Dr. G. I. NIEMKOV of the Moscow University have furnished me with valuable information and samples.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. P. NATURAL, chargé d'affaires, and Dr. K. FRITSCHI, Secretary of the Swiss Embassy in Moscow, for their help and hospitality.

Dr. E. GASCHE, head of the Geological Department of the Museum of Natural History, Basel, facilitated the study of type-material deposited in the Museum.

The excursions in the Central Apennines have been made possible by the generous help of my colleagues H. G. LORENZ and Dr. F. STUMM.

Sincere thanks for helpful advice and/or gifts or the loan of material or literature are also due to: Dr. V. P. ALIMARINA, Moscow, Dr. P. J. BERMUDEZ, Caracas, Prof. Dr. H. M. BOLLI, Zürich, Prof. Dr. P. BRÖNNIMANN, Geneva, Dr. R. LEHMANN, Bègles, Dr. L. HOTTINGER, Basel, Prof. Dr. R. MARLIERE, Mons, Prof. Dr. J. SIGAL, Paris, Dr. H. FARKHAN, Teheran, Dr. F. ALLEMANN, Bern, Dr. C. G. ADAMS, London, Dr. A. CASTELLARIN, Bologna, Dr. R. HERB, Zürich, Prof. Dr. O. L. BANDY, Los Angeles, Prof. Dr. V. G. MOROZOVA, Moscow, Dr. W. GIGON, The Hague, Prof. Dr. M. F. GLAESSNER, Adelaide, Mr. and Mrs. C. SCHILLER-FISCHER, Mexico, H. MOHLER, Basel, and Dr. H. FISCHER, Basel.

Dr. D. GROENHAGEN, Basel, helped me in the translation of some Soviet literature.

I am also indebted to Mrs. T. MANGER and Mr. E. WAGNER, Geological Institute, Basel, and Miss D. GROENHAGEN, Museum of Natural History, Basel, for their assistance in several technical problems.

Part of the costs connected with the field work in the Central Apennines has been granted by the «August Tobler-Fund» of the Museum of Natural History, Basel. My studies have been made possible by a scholarship from my native town.

Above all, I want to thank my parents, who made possible the present work by many sacrifices.

## INTRODUCTION

The last two decades have been marked by a rapid increase in the research on planktonic foraminifera and their application to the stratigraphical subdivision of the Paleogene. Two main centres of research have greatly contributed to this progress:

For the Western Hemisphere, it is the Caribbean region and mainly Trinidad, where a detailed zonation of world-wide applicability has been worked out (BOLLI, BRÖNNIMANN, BERMUDEZ, H. H. RENZ, CUSHMAN).

In the European part of the Southern Soviet Union, equivalent work has been done by Soviet specialists (SUBBOTINA, MOROZOVA, SHUTZKAYA, ALIMARINA and others).

By this almost independent and parallel development concerning the knowledge of planktonic foraminiferal faunas during the Paleogene, numerous differences, concerning the interpretation of different species and their stratigraphic range, have been inevitable.