

Introduction

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NOTE

Bramine Caudri completed her manuscript on the larger foraminifera of Trinidad consisting of 501 typewritten pages, 30 plates and 7 figures and range charts in 1985. Together with the illustrated specimens the manuscript was deposited for eventual publication at the Museum of Natural History, Basel. Because of its size, in particular the systematic part, it proved difficult to fund its publication. It was therefore decided to condense its size without however losing pertinent data including illustrations and charts. Basically the reductions affected the systematic part. While the newly proposed taxa remain fully documented, synonymy lists, detailed descriptions and discussions of already published forms were curtailed. In numerous instances reductions concerned taxa that were already treated by Caudri in her 1975 Soldado Rock publication. For additional information references to this paper is therefore recommended, and also to the Preliminary Report on the Cretaceous and Tertiary Larger Foraminifera of Trinidad British West Indies by Vaughan & Cole (1941). Together with these two publications Caudri's present contribution substantially complements the documentation on the systematics and the stratigraphic distribution of the larger foraminifera of the main island of Trinidad and nearby Soldado Rock.

An original unabbreviated copy of Caudri's manuscript is deposited in the geological library of the Museum of Natural History, Basel, where it is available for consultation. The manuscript as published here was edited by H.M. Bolli in collaboration with J.P. Beckmann.

1. Introduction

Vaughan & Cole's comprehensive work of 1941 on Trinidad larger foraminifera was presented as «preliminary» because the material at their disposal consisted of rather haphazardly collected samples without a sufficient stratigraphic background. Today, we have more advanced information on the stratigraphy and moreover are now more alert to the important factor of reworking. Consequently we are in a better position to report on the occurrence of the larger foraminifera and their place in the stratigraphic sequence of Trinidad.

Our material consists of a great number of samples collected over many years by geologists of the former Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. (T.L.L.), later taken over by Texaco Trinidad, Inc. and now nationalized. The collection was supplemented by the Shell subsidiary United British Oilfields of Trinidad (U.B.O.T.), a number of other oil companies and by the Government Geological Survey.

Our collection did not comprise the specimens described by Vaughan & Cole (1941) which are deposited at the U.S. National Museum, Washington D.C. However, from many of the localities mentioned by these authors duplicate material was left in the laboratory at Pointe-a-Pierre, where the greater part of the technical work for this paper was carried out. Most of the examined material is now stored at the Museum of Natural History in Basel where it is catalogued under the numbers C 31049–31259 and C 35911–36130. Also stored there are detailed fossil lists for each locality.