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BOOK REVIEW:

Mittelmiozäne Ostracoden aus dem Wiener Becken (Badenium/Sarmatium, Österreich) [Middle Miocene Ostracods from the Vienna Basin (Badenian/Sarmatian, Austria)]

by MARTIN GROSS

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This book is a typical paleontological work concerning the Middle Miocene ostracodes from the Vienna Basin and their taxonomy and biostratigraphy. It consists of the following chapters: (1) Introduction, (2) Regional Geology, (3) Material and Sample Preparation, (4) Systematic part, (5) Biostratigraphy and (6) References. Technically, it is a correctly prepared book and illustrated with very high quality figures (6), tables (4) and plates (55).

All the samples originate from the area of Bad Deutsch Altenburg – Hainburg/Donau (eastern margin of the Vienna Basin, 40 km ESE from Vienna). 64 taxa (species) are described and illustrated on 55 plates with 591 SEMmicrophotographs. It represents 37 genera and 15 families of the Order Podocopida. Very good quality, high-resolution SEM pictures document the intraspecific variability, juvenile forms and sexual dimorphism of these species as well as the carapace/valve ornamentation.

The terms and morphological features of the ostracodes use here are based on MOORE (1961), MORKHO-VEN (1962), HARTMANN (1966), OERTLI (1985) and HINZ-SCHALLREUTER & SCHALLREUTER (1999). Paleoenvironmental and paleobatimetric interpretations were made on the basis of criteria by MORKHOVEN (1963), HARTMANN (1975), LIEBAU (1980), GRAMANN (2000) and MEISCH (2000). The systematic part was based on LIEBAU (1975) and MADDOCKS & STEINER (1987), as well as HARTMANN & PURI (1974) and MEISCH (2000).

Based on this study, the author demonstrates that some earlier known ostracodes have a wider stratigraphic range (for example, *Callistocythere postvallata* and *Hemicythe*- *ria omphaloedes*). Likewise, *Aurila hispidula, Xestoleberis tumida* and *Tenedocythere sulcatopunctata* were discovered for the first time from the Lower Sarmatian.

From the (paleo)ecological point of view, the ostracodes association are grouped into four taphocoenosis and the first three correspond to epineritic, epineritic/phytal taphocoenosis and the last one to epi/mesoneritic taphocoenosis.

In comparison to the foraminifer fauna, most of the ostracod samples (59) belong to the Upper Badenian and only 7 samples are assigned to the Lower Sarmatian. In the chapter of Biostratigraphy (5), one comparative biostratigraphical review of the Middle Miocene (Badenian and Sarmatian) of Central Paratethys is given based on the ostracodes and foraminifers biozonation (after JIRICEK & RIHA, 1991; ZELENKA, 1990). The author distinguished eight ostracod biozones (NO 7 – NO 14), which correspond to the six-foraminifer biozones. This study of ostracodes is complementary to the early-adopted model of ostracod development in the Vienna Basin.

Finally, the very detailed and wide-ranging list of references (341) shows that the author employed both classic papers (MUENSTER, 1830; ROEMER, 1838; REUSS, 1850; BOSQUET, 1852, etc.) as well as modern literature.

At the end of this review, a few important remarks can be given:

This book represents an important contribution to study of ostracodes of the Middle Miocene of the Vienna Basin, as well as of the Central (Western) Paratethys area. It is a very high quality, distinct article, both professionally and technically, with numerous SEM-microphotographs which give this book a high professional level. Eventually, some paleo(environmental) interpretations and conclusions are discussed. The absolutely competent approach to the research of fossil ostracodes, as well as the results given here, make this monograph a new upgrades for future taxonomic and biostratigraphic studies of the Middle Miocene of Paratethys.

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