

## REVIEW

### MOLLUSC FAUNA OF THE HUNGARIAN UPPER OLIGOCENE (EGERIAN).

*Studies in stratigraphy, Palaeoecology, Palaeogeography and Systematics.* By Dr. Tymas Baldi. Translated by Balint Balkay. Published by Akademiai Kiado, Budapest 1973, pp. 1-511, 4 tables and 51 plates. Price 21.00 dollars.

The author with his 10 years' experience in the study of Cenozoic molluscs of Hungary and close association with the Working group for Paratethys of the Committee on Mediterranean Neogene stratigraphy has understood the difficulties and controversies of stratigraphical classification of Neogene deposits in Europe and particularly in Hungary.

The present work is an attempt by the author to prove that strata contemporaneous with the Chattian as per definition and underlying the Eggenburgian (Girundian) are widespread and identifiable in Hungary and the Central Paratethys. This Paratethyan stratigraphic unit, by and large contemporaneous in his opinion with the Chattian stage, would receive the new regional sequence of stages, the name Egerian, with the Eger profile as its stratotype.

The book is a detailed account of the geology, palaeoecology, palaeogeography and stratigraphic setting with the description and illustration of the molluscan fauna of the stratotype (Egerian) described from Eger and other regions of Hungary. The fauna has been compared with the other European palaeozoogeographic provinces viz. Atlantic, Boreal and Mediterranean.

The book is divided into six chapters. The first chapter of introduction deals with the problems and stratigraphic nomenclature controversies. The author emphasises that 'we cannot agree with the view that the advent of new forms necessarily heralds a new era' and considers the proportion of 'surviving' and 'new' species as criteria for defining stratotype boundaries. The second chapter deals with the geological setting of Upper Oligocene deposits in six different areas of Hungary; both bore-hole log sections and outcrop profiles are illustrated. The third chapter deals with palaeoecology. Five different palaeoecological environments beginning with lagoon and littoral to shallow bathyal are recognised in the Egerian stage of Hungary on the basis of isocoenose method to define the palaeoenvironments. The fourth chapter deals with the palaeogeographical part. The author compares the fauna with other European faunal provinces and concludes that one third species described are endemic being restricted to Paratethys indicating cool climate during Egerian times. The fifth chapter deals with the stratigraphic correlation with other areas and basins in Europe and Hungary. The sixth chapter deals with systematic description of fossils which includes description of 240 taxa, ten of them being new species. The taxonomic descriptions are brief and to the point. The fossil material is preserved in Budapest at the Geo-Palaeontological collection of the Natural History Museum.

The book is well illustrated and neatly printed. It would be very useful for the student of Neogene stratigraphy of Europe, and for comparative studies in other parts of the world.

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