

Preface

The International Symposium and Field-Meeting “Alpine Algae ’93” was organized by the Institute for Palaeontology and Historical Geology, University of Munich, and the Institute for Palaeontology, University of Vienna, between 29th August and 5th September 1993 as a combined conference and field-meeting between Munich and Vienna. The main goal of the symposium was the presentation of the facial development of algae-bearing carbonate sequences in the Eastern Alps, for which purpose a field guide book (HÖFLING et al., 1993) has been prepared. Approximately midway between Munich and Vienna, in the alpine village of Gosau, the conference part included plenary talks on alpine algae followed by presentations open to all fields of algology. Most major groups of calcareous algae ranging from the Palaeozoic to the Recent were covered by oral and poster presentations, being documented in an abstract booklet. To make at least some of these presentations available to a broader audience the present volume of the “Beiträge zur Paläontologie” is dedicated to this symposium.

The contents of the volume reflect the broad range of topics. Besides the description of several algal assemblages and their facial relationships a large number of papers deal with basic taxonomic work. This is true for green algae (e.g., BARATTOLO et al., BUCUR, GÉNOT, GRANIER, GRANIER et al., HOFMANN, PARENTE) as well as for red algae (e.g., PILLER, RASSER & PILLER) and may mark a turning point in the taxonomy of fossil calcareous algae, in particular for the corallines. For these algae, a group of algologists agreed at the 5th International Symposium on Fossil Algae in Capri, 1991, to begin with a re-documentation of type material, to offer modern descriptions and, most important, good photographic presentations. The papers by PILLER and RASSER & PILLER have to be understood in this context. Another aspect covers the paper by HOFMANN & GRANIER, which deals with the availability of original material of PIA. In addition, this paper may also be seen as a tribute to the 50th anniversary of Julius Pia’s death in 1993, which was one of the reasons for organizing “Alpine Algae ’93” culminating in an unveiling ceremony of a memorial tablet at his birthplace in Purkersdorf in Lower Austria. Concerning the editorial work of this volume, the editor is very grateful to all colleagues who reviewed the contributions and thereby improved the quality of the volume: F. Barattolo, S. Berger, J. C. Braga, M. Conrad, R. Deloffre, E. Flügel, A. Freiwald, P. Génot, S. Golubic, B. Granier, M. J. Kaesler, W. Krumbein, J. Kuss, C. Mamet, E. Moussavian, M. Simmons, and M. Stachowitsch. Special thanks are due to M. Thoeni for her patient editorial assistance.

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