COMPARISON OF THE GIVETIAN RUGOSE CORAL ARGUTASTREA
OF DUSHAN (SOUTH CHINA) AND GRAZ (AUSTRIA)

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The genus Argutastrea was established by Crickmay in 1960 with its type species Argutastrea arguta Crickmay, 1960. Representatives of Argutastrea are known from Europe, Asia, West Australia, North Africa and western North America.

Formerly, many Devonian cerioid corals were attributed to Hexagonaria Gürich 1896. Restudies of the neotype of the type species Hexagonaria hexagonum (Goldfuss) from Bensberg, Germany (probably upper Givetian or lower Frasnian) resulted in the new view that the bulk of the so-called „Hexagonaria“ in reality belong to Argutastrea. Hexagonaria Gürich is mainly distinguished from Argutastrea Crickmay by its spindle-shaped dilatation of septa with typically carinae.

The genus Prismatophyllum Simpson, 1900 differs from Argutastrea Crickmay by its thinner septa with yardarm carinae.

We are greatly indebted to the exchange-program between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Academy of Sciences that supported a comparisional study of cerioid rugosa of the Hochlantsch area north of Graz, Austria and Dushan, southern Guizhou, China in 2000 and in 2002 respectively.

Cerioid corals of the Hochlantsch area were already mentioned by Frech (1888) who determined them as Cyathophyllum quadrigemminum. Our recent collecting activities within the Zachenspitz Fm. (middle to upper varcus-zone) yielded individuals which are better preserved than the previous material known from here (Flügel & Schimunek 1961). However taxonomic studies confirmed Flügel & Schimunek's determination as Argutastrea darwini (Frech).

In 2002 we studied the Devonian section at eastern and northern suburbs of Dushan County town, southern Guizhou Province, China and collected some species of Argutastrea (Middle Devonian, Givetian).

Nearly two decades ago, Liao & Birenheide (1985) published some species of Argutastrea from the Givetian of Dushan, Guizhou Province, South China. They are Argutastrea dushanensis Liao and Birenheide, 1985, A. jiwozhaiensis Liao and Birenheide, 1985, A. elegans (Kong in Kong and Huang), 1978 and A. endeca (Kong in Kong and Huang) 1978. Among them, Argutastrea dushanensis is closely related to Argutastrea darwini.

References

