

HETEROMORPH AMMONITES FROM THE TATA LIMESTONE FORMATION (LOWER CRETACEOUS, APTIAN-ALBIAN), HUNGARY

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The highly condensed basal beds of Tata Limestone Formation (TLF) from four localities include a huge amount of determinable ammonites. According to the latest studies (SZIVES 1996) the rich ammonite fauna belongs to Lower Aptian (Furcata Zone), Middle (Subnodosocostatum Zone), Upper Aptian (Nolani and Jacobi Zones) and Lower Albian (Tardefurcata Zone) also, so the age of the TLF should be determined as Lower Albian. The faunal elements of the TLF came from a highly condensed basal bed, so fossils are preserved as phosphatized and glauconitized internal moulds and therefore the good preservation of sutures is very rare.

The rich ammonite fauna of the basal beds of the Aptian-Albian crinoideal limestone yielded many heteromorphs also. Most of them belong to the genus *Ptychoceras*, to a probably new, "*Hamites*"-like genus and there is only one fragment of *Ancyloceras* sp. Most interesting are the ribbed, nontuberculate, "*Hamites*"-like forms. The lack of ventral spines and the suture lines makes sure that these heteromorphs are not Ancylocerataceae. The nontuberculate, ribbed fragments, according to the ongoing suture line determination, belong to Turrilitaceae, they are in close relationship with Hamitidae and Anisoceratidae, but not similar to these groups.

The family Hamitidae includes 5 Albian genera. There is no sure Hamitidae known from the Aptian except JACOB's (JACOB & TOBLER 1906) specimen from the Upper Gargasian of Luitere Zug of Switzerland, however, recent authors (e. g. CASEY 1961) refer JACOB's specimen to genus *Helicancyclus*. BREISTROFFER (1933) have recorded *Hamites* from the Tardefurcata Zone associated with *Leymeriella*. CASEY (1961) summarised his opinion about the Hamitidae of the Lower Greensand as follows: "... the gap in the heteromorph succession below the Mammilatum Zone makes it unprofitable to speculate on a possible link between *Hamites* and the *Ancyloceratidae*". Hopefully the nontuberculate, ribbed, probably new forms of the TLF can fill a small part of this gap.

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