

DISTRIBUTION OF ALBIAN INOCERAMIDS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

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Inoceramids are pteroid bivalves disappeared at the end of the Cretaceous period and have a reputed biostratigraphical value. They are of high importance to develop biostratigraphic Cretaceous frameworks, similar to that of a classical biostratigraphic tool, the ammonites. They are very abundant in basin and outer platform sequences and their record allow precise correlations, as in Western and Eastern European areas. Nevertheless, Albian inoceramids are not so diversified as those from Upper Cretaceous, and in many areas are restricted to the distribution of *Actinoceras* genus.

Inoceramids are a very abundant bivalve group in the Spanish Upper Cretaceous sequences; but they are very scarce on Albian sequences. They are just represented by few species at the Internal Prebetic (Alicante province), Mallorca Island and the Navarro-Cantabrian Basin.

Heinz (1936) studied Albian inoceramids from Spain for first time, describing species collected in few localities at the Mallorca Island, and Wiedmann and Kauffman (1978) studied later some specimens from the same locality. Albian sequences at the Internal Prebetic show some beds with abundant inoceramids (Gallemí et al. 1997); but these inoceramids are just restricted to two species widely distributed in Europe: *Actinoceras concentrica* (Parkinson) represented by abundant specimens and *Inoceras anglicus*

Woods represented by scarce specimens. *Inoceras athabaskensis* McLearn is the only species recognised in the Albian sequences of the Navarro-Cantabrian Basin (Santamaría and López, 1996). This species of big size is abundant in North America but has not been yet described in other European areas.

Radial ribs species, as *Actinoceras sulcatus* (Parkinson) and *Actinoceras subsulcatus* (Wiltshire), are not present in Spain, at despite that they are abundant in France, especially at the Bouches du Rhône in Southern France and in the Paris Basin at Northern France. Rebutty, Vergons and other southern France localities show close similarities with Spanish faunas; main differences are the absence of radial ribs species in Spain and the absence of big size species as *I. athabaskensis* in France.

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