

Editorial

Since the year 2007, one of the main activities of the department of Paleontology at the Geological Survey of Austria is research on type specimens in the vast collections of our institution. The first documentation of this effort is a special volume of the yearbook of the survey published in 2010. It contains eight papers dealing with type material of different fossil groups and was dedicated to Herbert Stradner, one of the pioneers in calcareous nannoplankton research. In the following years, papers on Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous cephalopod specimens and an additional paper on brachiopods were printed in the same periodical. For most of these fossil groups there is no expertise anymore at the survey, and the situation gets worse and worse as the department lost half of its academic staff by retirement during the last few years. Therefore, we highly depend on the co-operation of external national and international researchers, and we gratefully acknowledge the wide commitment and continuing activity of many colleagues in this respect. The idea to the volume at hand arose from such co-operation.

I met Dr. Rosemarie Baron-Szabo two years ago. Rosemarie is one of the leading specialists in Cretaceous scleractinian corals, and responsible for the planned volume on this group in the Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology. She works as a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC, USA) and as a Honorary Researcher at the Senckenberg Research Institute (Frankfurt, Germany). We are very pleased and happy that Rosemarie agreed to author a monograph on Cretaceous corals from the Eastern Alps and adjacent areas. This publication deals with about one third of all scleractinian genera known from the Cretaceous and will become an important reference publication for the Cretaceous marine fossil record of the area, and for the revised Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology volume.

Many colleagues helped to accomplish this publication. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to Monika Brüggemann-Ledolter for designing the envelope of the book, to Markus Kogler for lay-outing the entire publication, to Benjamin Sames and Christian Cermak for proof-reading the text, to Ilka Wünsche for assistance in the collections, and to Irene Zorn for preparing the specimens for study in our collection and for cross-checking the inventory numbers, the species names, the type status and the localities of GBA material.

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