

THE CORALS OF THE ILERDIAN (PALEOCENE-EOCENE) STRATOTYPE AND PARASTRATOTYPE. PYRENEES, SPAIN

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The E-W Graus-Tremp Foreland Basin lies to the south of the Pyrenees on top of the Cretaceous Montsec Unit (Seguret 1972). Transported by the Montsec Thrust, the basin progressively divided into two, the Tremp Basin to the east and that of Graus to the west (Serra-Kiel et al. 1994).

The Ilerdian stratotype was defined by Schaub (1969) as part of the Ager Fm.. Subsequently Barbera et al. (1997) updated the stratigraphy, locating it instead in the Figols Group. It lies within in the Tremp Basin and contains an important coral record. This study has identified 21 species of corals, of which eight are cited for the first time in this area. *Turbinolia sulcata*, *Tubicora aylmeri*, *Rhizangia brauni* and *Pachygyra flexuosissima* are species which, in the South-Pyrenean Eocene Basins, only appear in the Ilerdian. The coral associations found have been studied and assigned to shallow benthic biozones (SBZ) recognised in this area (Serra-Kiel et al. 1998).

The Campo section in the Graus Basin, was considered by Schaub (1969) as the parastratotype of the Ilerdian. This study describes the corals found here and in the adjacent areas to the east. Systematic study has allowed us to identify 10 species in the Campo section and 12 more nearby. *Astreopora tecta* and *Actinacis cognata* are the most important colonial species. All the coralline species have been assigned to the biozones described by Schaub (1969), and the shallow benthic biozones recognised in this area by Serra-Kiel et al. (1998).

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