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Austria's contribution to Micropaleontology

As "Nautilids" FICHEL & MOLL described fossil and modern foraminifera in "Testacea microscopica". This paper, published 1803 at Vienna, was one of the first on this group of animals. The types of FICHEL & MOLL could be traced again some years ago at the Wiener Naturhistorisches Museum; first examination showed, that the effect of these old types on foraminiferal nomenclature, strictly using the old names, would certainly involve difficulties.

Nevertheless the great french paleontologist A. D'ORBIGNY thought FICHEL & MOLL's paper to be the first scientific treatise on foraminifera. 1846 D'ORBIGNY who first recognized the independence of forams from "Nautilus", described 228 species from the Vienna Basin. This Material was sent to him by FR. V. HAUER who very early recognized the importance of foraminifera.

After D'ORBIGNY many papers on Foraminifera were published. Outstanding is the work of A. E. REUSS, who was originally medical doctor in the Bohemian Bilin and 1849 came to Vienna. Besides his work on mollusca, bryozoa and corals he published a large number of papers on foraminifera and ostracodes; his material still exists, but would need a revision.

Besides the work of REUSS a great number of special papers on foraminifera was published at Vienna in the second half of 19th century. One of the outstanding scientific events was the Novaraexpedition (1857 to 1859). STACHE (1864) and KARRER (1864) worked also on foraminifera.

A new epoch of problem-oriented micropaleontological investigation began after World War II. Stratigraphic and phylogenetic work has been done in all fields of micropaleontology.

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