

Ammonite stratigraphy of a Toarcian (Lower Jurassic) section on Nagy-Pisznice Hill (Gerecse Mts, Hungary)

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In the Jurassic rocks exposed in a small abandoned quarry on the northwestern edge of Nagy-Pisznice Hill in the Gerecse Mts, fairly well preserved parts of a crocodile skeleton was found in 1996. The bed which yielded the skeletal remains is the uppermost layer of the Kisgerecse Marl Formation exposed here and was determined as belonging to the Upper Toarcian *Grammoceras thouarsense* Zone. The beds of the sequence above and below were carefully sampled in the late 1990s, and the encountered ammonites were evaluated biostratigraphically. As a result, the Lower Toarcian *Harpoceras serpentinum* Zone, the Middle Toarcian *Hildoceras bifrons* and *Merlaites gradatus* Zones, and the Upper Toarcian *Grammoceras thouarsense* and *Geczyceras speciosum* Zones were identified. Within most of these zones the subzones and even the faunal horizons were successfully recognized. The lowermost beds above the underlying Pliensbachian red limestone did not yield any fossils; thus the lowermost Toarcian *Dactylioceras tenuicostatum* Zone could not be documented. The highest Toarcian ammonite zones also remained unidentified, because the beds of the Tölgyhát Limestone above were not sampled all the way up. This paper presents the lithostratigraphic and biostratigraphic details of the sequence, and the paleontological descriptions of the most important ammonites.

Key words: Gerecse Mountains, Nagy-Pisznice Hill, Toarcian, Ammonoidea, biostratigraphy

Introduction

In summer of 1996 a minor sensation was created by the announcement that private collectors had unearthed a skeleton of a vertebrate – soon identified as that of a marine crocodile – from the Jurassic beds of the Gerecse Mts. One of the present authors, Géza Császár, then of the Hungarian Geological Institute,

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realized the importance of the find, and suggested a detailed investigation and bed-by-bed sampling of the sequence immediately above and beneath the skeleton-bearing bed.

The initial steps of the sampling work were carried out in November 1997 by Zoltán Sirányi, one of the collectors who discovered the vertebrate remains. In the spring of the following year Attila Fitos, another collector, joined Zoltán Sirányi. Up to the end of the year they collected 21 fossils from the beds. In 1998 Z. Sirányi collected ammonites from a further 15 beds; thereafter Géza Császár and András Galácz, with occasional help from István Szente and István Főzy, completed the collection. The beds sampled by Z. Sirányi are those with numbers 1 to 36; the ones sampled later (those of G. Császár and A. Galácz) are numbered from 100 to 128. [There was a deliberate overlap made for the lowermost (36) of the former and the uppermost (100) bed of the later sampling, to avoid an arbitrary hiatus.] The ammonites and the samples for micropaleontological studies went to the Department of Paleontology of the Eötvös L. University. The limestone bed yielding the crocodile skeleton was initially assigned to the upper part of the Toarcian.

Recently detailed work has begun to clarify the taxonomy and systematic position of the crocodile skeleton now identified as *Steneosaurus* sp. (see Ósi et al. 2010). Being a unique find, the determination of its stratigraphic position, as close as possible, could be also of value. Barnabás Géczy and Zoltán Kovács determined the collected ammonites and worked out the detailed ammonite stratigraphy of the section. Regarding the appearance of some rare forms, and the fact that the collected material enabled subdivision down to subzonal and even to faunal horizon level, it appeared justified to present a detailed report on the results.

Previous studies on the Toarcian rocks of Nagy-Pisznice Hill

Despite the excellent exposures (i.e. large quarries) and the centuries-old quarrying activity on Nagy-Pisznice Hill, surprisingly few geologic studies were made around this area. The first to mention Jurassic rocks in the closer area was Hantken (1872); later the Gerecse studies of Staff (1906) also included a discussion of the Jurassic formations. He provided stratigraphic descriptions of the Liassic and lower Middle Jurassic of Kis-Gerecse and the Pisznice Hills, evaluating the faunas together. It is clear from the definitions in his Table I that the sequence of "more clayey sediments of considerable thickness", where "more calcareous, harder beds alternate with more clayey, crumbly layers" (Staff 1906, p. 171) refers to the Lower, Middle and Upper Toarcian carbonates. It is worth mentioning that he recognized the dominance of phylloceratids among the ammonite fauna, since he reported that 54% of the Liassic and Middle Jurassic assemblages are represented by these forms. Prinz (1906a, b) described some *Frechiella* and *Dumortieria* specimens from the Toarcian material previously collected by Hantken from Nagy-Pisznice Hill.

Liffa (1909, p. 153) also mentioned the Upper Liassic red limestone on the southern slope of Nagy-Pisznice Hill. Kulcsár, in his first Gerecse paper (1913) listed Nagy-Pisznice Hill as one of the localities of the Upper Liassic clayey, dark red limestone. In his subsequent paper in the following year (1914) he mainly dealt with the Middle Liassic of Tölgyhát Quarry, briefly mentioning the Upper Liassic formations.

Gyula (Julius) Vigh, who undertook general studies of the Jurassic of the Gerecse Mts (see Vigh 1925), devoted a separate paper to the Triassic and Jurassic of Nagy-Pisznice Hill (Vigh 1940). Unfortunately the quarries which served as the basis for his studies and descriptions are all abandoned and almost impossible to identify now; nevertheless, his stratigraphic conclusions are mostly valid even today. He assigned the lower part of the Upper Liassic red, clayey, nodular limestone into the *Hildoceras bifrons* Zone, the upper part into the 'radians-zone', and he distinguished the two levels by the upward decreasing clay content. In a previous paper on *Paroniceras* (Vigh 1927) he reported a specimen named as "*Paroniceras sternale* Buch var. (forma *umbra* Renz)" from the Middle Toarcian "clayey, dark red, nodular beds" of Nagy-Pisznice Hill. The formations in the Crocodile section, and the rocks above and below, show the same lithologic features and thickness as those described by Vigh in the other parts of Nagy-Pisznice Hill. Gusztáv Vigh (1969) mentioned Nagy-Pisznice Hill as the place where the Toarcian clayey, nodular limestone occurs in its greatest thickness, i.e. 2.5–3 m.

In the 1970s the Geological Institute of Hungary, under the guidance of director J. Konda, carried out a detailed collection of the Middle and Lower Jurassic rocks in the large quarry of Nagy-Pisznice Hill. The sequence was described by Konda (1985). He recorded the 3.7 m-thick Kisgercse Marl between the ca. 9 m-thick Middle Liassic limestone below and the 7 m-thick Tölgyhát Limestone above. He distinguished three lithologically different parts within the Kisgercse Marl, just as in the type section on nearby Kis-Gerecse Hill (Konda 1986). The partly re-interpreted section of the large Nagy-Pisznice quarry was presented by Császár et al. (1998, fig. 8).

The ammonites of the Toarcian beds in the large quarry of Nagy-Pisznice Hill were studied by Géczy (1984). In a subsequent short summary (in Géczy and Szente 2006) he mentioned that in the 8.4 m-thick Toarcian sequence, comprising 74 numbered beds, all Toarcian zones except the *Dactylioceras tenuicostatum* Zone were able to be identified. He described a rich ammonite fauna from the middle Toarcian *Hildoceras bifrons* and *Gradata* Zones (fig. 5 in Géczy and Szente 2006). Kovács, in his papers on the Hammatoceratidae and Paroniceratidae of the Gerecse Mts (2009, 2010, respectively), also reported middle and upper Toarcian ammonites of these families from Pisznice Hill.

Locality and stratigraphic setting

The section yielding the crocodile skeleton – referred hereinafter as Crocodile section – is located in one of the most northwesterly quarries on the northern slope of Nagy-Pisznice Hill (Fig. 1, geographic coordinates 47°42'09"N, 18°29'41"E), forming the eastern wall of the quarry. Here, just as in all other quarries on Nagy-Pisznice Hill, quarrying was for the well-bedded, red Pliensbachian Pisznice Limestone and the overlying Törökbükk Limestone, both popular building- and facing-stones ('Gerecse red marble'). In the locality these strata are exposed below the beds of the Crocodile section, in a thickness of ca. 10 m.

The Crocodile section includes the Toarcian Kisgerecse Marl Formation and the lower part of the overlying Tölgyhát Limestone Formation, also belonging to the Toarcian (Fig. 2). The beds of this latter formation form the higher part in the wall of the quarry, but in lack of detailed fossil collecting, the exact age of these higher beds of the Tölgyhát Limestone remained unknown. Some ammonites found in the loose rubble indicate the Aalenian as age for the youngest beds exposed here.

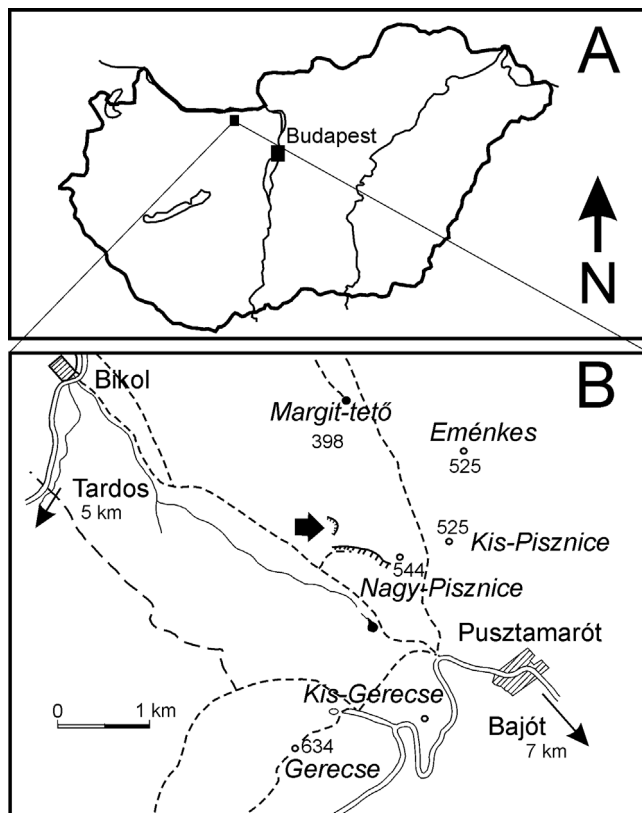


Fig. 1
Location of the Gerecse Mts. (A) and the quarry (solid arrow) with Crocodile section in Nagy-Pisznice Hill area (B)

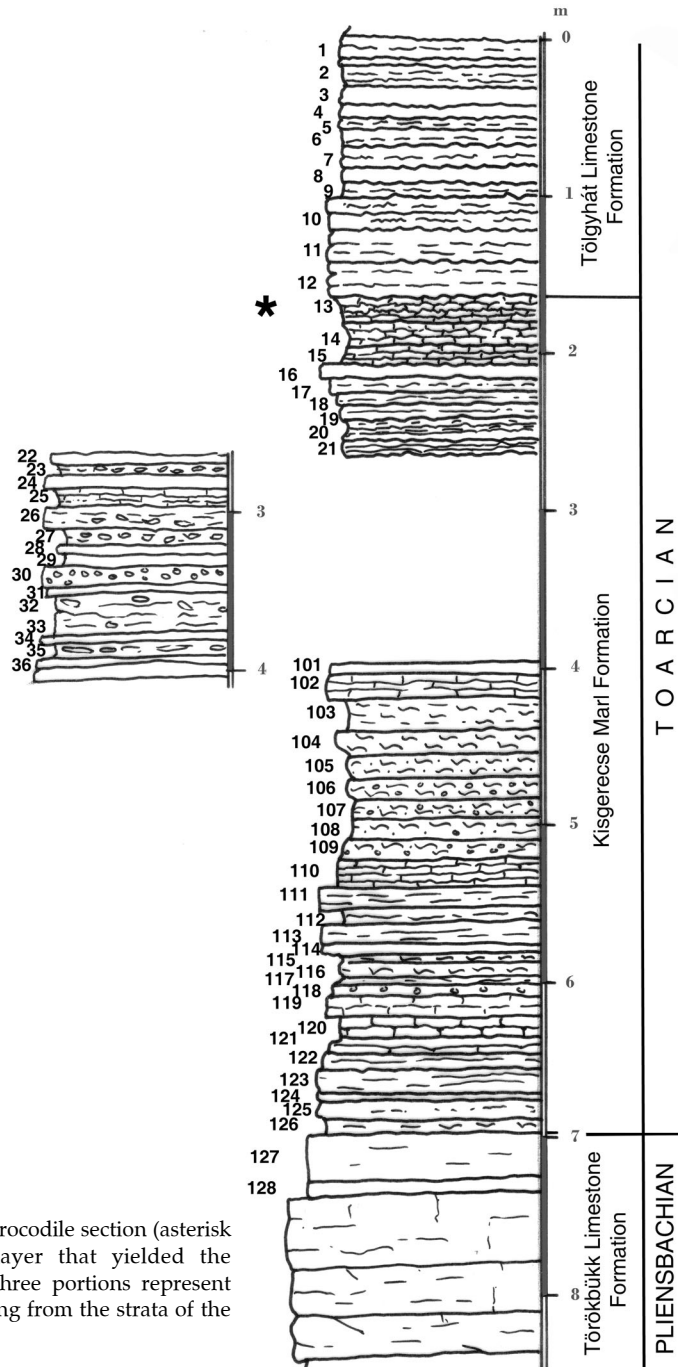


Fig. 2
Lithostratigraphy of the Crocodile section (asterisk indicates Bed 13, the layer that yielded the crocodile remains). The three portions represent the three stages of sampling from the strata of the section

The total thickness of the studied beds in the section is 8.4 m. There were 64 numbered beds distinguished while sampling, with 1–2 m² exposed surfaces. The lowermost two beds (Beds 128 and 127) yielded no diagnostic ammonites. Up to Bed 127 the lithology is red, nodular, clayey limestone. The microfacies of this wackestone-type limestone is characterized by fragments of ammonite shells, tiny ammonites, crinoid ossicles, calcareous foraminifers (e.g. *Lenticulina* and *Spirillina*), only one type of arenaceous foraminifer, and a few sponge spicules. These 15–30 cm thick beds belong to the Törökbükk Limestone containing small nodules with manganese encrustation. From Bed 126 upward the lithology is that of the typical Kisgerecse Marl Formation. The beds gradually become more clayey, with an average thickness of 10–15 cm. Maximum clay content occurs in Beds 110 to 102, while above, up to Bed 13, the beds are of calcareous marl. The texture of the typical Kisgerecse Marl is also wackestone, in which *Bositra* shell fragments are the most frequent elements. It also contains a few ammonite shell fragments, tiny brachiopods, globochaete, some calcitized radiolarians and small foraminifera. Carbonates are concentrated in nodules surrounded by clay-marl, enriched in iron oxide. From Bed 12 upward the less clayey, nodular limestone belongs to the Tölgyhát Limestone Formation. The typical texture of this limestone is *Bositra* wackestone to packstone. Further fossil components are tiny ammonites, calcareous foraminifera (*Lenticulina*, *Nodosaria*), globochaete and crinoid ossicles. Occasionally there is sharp dissolutional contact between the two textural types. In the type locality the Kisgerecse Marl shows similar tripartite lithology with more calcareous lower and upper parts and a clayey marl portion in between (Konda 1986). The same lithological subdivision could be recognized in the section in the large quarry of Nagy-Pisznice Hill (see Konda 1985).

Ammonites occur in the greatest quantity in the middle, clayey marl, corresponding roughly to the *Hildoceras bifrons* Zone. A smaller faunal enrichment appeared in the uppermost beds of the Kisgerecse Marl and the lowermost layers of the Tölgyhát Limestone. The preservation of the fossils is poor. All are internal casts with heavily subsolved upper halves. Ammonites are the most common fossils; additional elements include some nautilids, a few belemnite rostra and a single pelagic bivalve specimen. Earlier a single gastropod specimen (*Marmorella?* sp.) was also reported from the section (Galácz and Szabó 2001).

Biostratigraphic evaluation of the ammonite fauna from the Crocodile section

The investigation of the Crocodile section is part of the detailed studies on the Upper Liassic – lower Middle Jurassic ammonite faunas of the Gerecse Mountains. These studies were made possible by the extensive field collections carried out by the Hungarian Geological Institute under the guidance of its late director, József Konda, in the years 1976 to 1982. Four localities (Kis-Gerecse, Pisznice, Tölgyhát, Bánya Hill, all in abandoned or working quarries) yielded

very rich fossil material, some 15,000 specimens (mainly ammonites) collected bed-by-bed from measured sections. The studies of this exceptional material have begun with taxonomical and paleogeographic evaluations of the Toarcian assemblages (Géczy 1984, 1985a, 1985b, 1990). The almost constant dominance of the suborders Phylloceratina and Lytoceratina, as well as the occurrences of several characteristic Ammonitina genera assigned these Toarcian assemblages to the Mediterranean Province, with close affinities to those known from Italy and Greece. Nevertheless, sporadic appearances of zonal indices enabled the application of the detailed Northwest European zonal stratigraphy for these basically Mediterranean ammonite faunal successions.

As the next step of the studies, the faunal revision of the Middle Toarcian of the four sections were worked out (Géczy and Szente 2006), and the Toarcian ammonite assemblages of a previously lesser known section (Kis-Teke Hill, see Galácz and Szabó 2001) was also dealt with (Géczy et al. 2008). The taxonomy of the Upper Toarcian – Aalenian ammonite faunas was also established (Kovács and Géczy 2008; Kovács 2009, 2010). These studies precisely established the composition and stratigraphic distribution of the assemblages and the faunal elements on the basis of recent ammonite stratigraphic syntheses by Elmi et al. (1997); Contini et al. (1997); Rulleau et al. (2001); Venturi and Ferri (2001); Page (2003) and Bécaud et al. (2005), serving as a solid background for the stratigraphic evaluation of the ammonite fauna from the Crocodile section of Pisznice discussed here.

This section exposes a Toarcian succession of five ammonite chronozones (see below). The strata thicknesses of these zones are closely similar to those of given previously as averages for the Gerecse succession (Géczy 1985a), with the sole exception of the much thicker *H. serpentinum* Zone. The bed-by-bed sampling yielded numerous specimens of zonal index species, thus providing an opportunity not only to delineate zones, but, in several cases to distinguish subzones and faunal horizons within them.

Composition of the ammonite fauna

The beds of the section yielded 624 Ammonitida specimens, of which 314 (50.3%) belong to the suborder Ammonitina, 258 (41.3%) to the Phylloceratina, and 52 (8.3%) to the Lytoceratina. The suborder Ammonitina, appearing mostly in the *H. serpentinum* and *H. bifrons* Zones, loses its dominance upsection, amounting to only one-third of the whole fauna due to the steady increase of Phylloceratina and Lytoceratina species in number (Table 1). This shift in ratio of the Ammonitida suborders follows the tendencies seen in similar data given for the respective faunas from other sections in the Gerecse Mts (Géczy 1985a; Kovács and Géczy 2008).

Table 1
Proportions of the ammonite suborders in the Crocodile section by zones

Zone	Ammonitina	Phylloceratina	Lytoceratina
Speciosum	34	45	21
Thouarsense	33	51	16
Gradatus	47	42	11
Bifrons	56	40	4
Serpentinum	51	38	11

Detailed biostratigraphic subdivision of the Crocodile section

The following descriptions treat the section by zones, subzones and faunal horizons, wherever possible. The discussions are presented in ascending stratigraphic order (see Fig. 3).

Harpoceras serpentinum Zone

Lower Toarcian beds were excavated in three of the previously studied sections of the Gerecse Mts (Kis-Gerecse, Pisznice, and Bány Hill). The detailed studies on the stratigraphy and ammonite faunas were recently taken up again at the Department of Paleontology of the Eötvös L. University. These studies make use of the results of recent studies by Bilotta et al. (2010), and Comas-Rengifo (2010).

The lowermost two beds (127–128, 30 cm in thickness) did not yield any Ammonitina specimens; thus the presence of the basal Toarcian *Dactylioceras tenuicostatum* Zone cannot be demonstrated in the section. In the Mediterranean region, in the absence or extreme rarity of the genera *Eleganticeras* and *Harpoceras*, the lower boundary of the *H. serpentinum* Zone could be drawn by the appearance of the genus *Hildaites*, whereas the upper boundary is indicated by the first occurrence of *Hildoceras*. In the Northwest European region the zone is generally subdivided into two subzones (*Eleganticeras elegantulum*/*E. exaratum* and *Harpoceras falciferum* Subzones) and both into two horizons (*E. elegantulum*, *Harpoceras strangewaysi* and *Harpoceras pseudoserpentinum*, *Orthildaites douvillei*/*H. falciferum*, respectively) (Page 2003). However, the ammonite zonation worked out for the Mediterranean region is still being debated due to a lack of definitions of the subzones, and because there is no agreement on the subdivisions into horizons.

In the above-mentioned three sections the presence of the *H. serpentinum* Zone is demonstrated (Géczy and Szente 2006), and work now under way on the finer subdivision will permit following, with minor modifications, the Sub-mediterranean zonation (Page 2003), mainly based on the relative abundances of

Zone		Speciosum (81 cm)		Thouarsense (99 cm)		Gradatus (75 cm)		Bifrons (263 cm)										Serpentinum (180 cm)	
Subzone		Subhorizon		Str.		Alt.		Subbifrons					Bifrons					Falciferum	
horizon		Fall.		Su.		Cl.		Apertum		Bifrons		Bifrons		Sem.		S.			
bed		Str.		Su.		Cl.		Apertum		Bifrons		Bifrons		Sem.		S.			
1		8		14		21		36, 100		102		110		118-19		121			
2		9		15		22		37, 101		103		111		20		122			
3		10		16		23		104		112		113		21		123			
4		11		17		24		105		113		114		22		124-25			
5		12		18		25		106		114		115		23		126			
6		13		19		26		107		115		116		24					
7		14		20		27		108		116		117		25					
8		15		21		28-29		109		117		118		26					
9		16		22		30		110		118		119		27					
10		17		23		31		111		119		120		28					
11		18		24		32		112		120		121		29					
12		19		25		33		113		121		122		30					
13		20		26		34		114		122		123		31					
14		21		27		35		115		123		124		32					
15		22		28		36		116		124		125		33					
16		23		29		37		117		125		126		34					
17		24		30		38		118		126		127		35					
18		25		31		39		119		127		128		36					
19		26		32		40		120		128		129		37					
20		27		33		41		121		129		130		38					
21		28		34		42		122		130		131		39					
22		29		35		43		123		131		132		40					
23		30		36		44		124		132		133		41					
24		31		37		45		125		133		134		42					
25		32		38		46		126		134		135		43					
26		33		39		47		127		135		136		44					
27		34		40		48		128		136		137		45					
28		35		41		49		129		137		138		46					
29		36		42		50		130		138		139		47					
30		37		43		51		131		139		140		48					
31		38		44		52		132		140		141		49					
32		39		45		53		133		141		142		50					
33		40		46		54		134		142		143		51					
34		41		47		55		135		143		144		52					
35		42		48		56		136		144		145		53					
36		43		49		57		137		145		146		54					
37		44		50		58		138		146		147		55					
38		45		51		59		139		147		148		56					
39		46		52		60		140		148		149		57					
40		47		53		61		141		149		150		58					
41		48		54		62		142		150		151		59					
42		49		55		63		143		151		152		60					
43		50		56		64		144		152		153		61					
44		51		57		65		145		153		154		62					
45		52		58		66		146		154		155		63					
46		53		59		67		147		155		156		64					
47		54		60		68		148		156		157		65					
48		55		61		69		149		157		158		66					
49		56		62		70		150		158		159		67					
50		57		63		71		151		159		160		68					
51		58		64		72		152		160		161		69					
52		59		65		73		153		161		162		70					
53		60		66		74		154		162		163		71					
54		61		67		75		155		163		164		72					
55		62		68		76		156		164		165		73					
56		63		69		77		157		165		166		74					
57		64		70		78		158		166		167		75					
58		65		71		79		159		167		168		76					
59		66		72		80		160		168		169		77					
60		67		73		81		161		169		170		78					
61		68		74		82		162		170		171		79					
62		69		75		83		163		171		172		80					
63		70		76		84		164		172		173		81					
64		71		77		85		165		173		174		82					
65		72		78		86		166		174		175		83					
66		73		79		87		167		175		176		84					
67		74		80		88		168		176		177		85					
68		75		81		89		169		177		178		86					
69		76		82		90		170		178		179		87					
70		77		83		91		171		179		180		88					
71		78		84		92		172		180		181		89					
72		79		85		93		173		181		182		90					
73		80		86		94		174		182		183		91					
74		81		87		95		175		183		184		92					
75		82		88		96		176		184		185		93					
76		83		89		97		177		185		186		94					
77		84		90		98		178		186		187		95					
78		85		91		99		179		187		188		96					
79		86		92		100		180		188		189		97					
80		87		93		101		181		189		190		98					
81		88		94		102		182		190		191		99					
82		89		95		103		183		191		192		100					
83		90		96		104		184		192		193		101					
84		91		97		105		185		193		194		102					
85		92		98		106		186		194		195		103					
86		93		99		107		187		195		196		104					
87		94		100		108		188		196		197		105					
88		95		101		109		189		197		198		106					
89		96		102		110		190		198		199		107					
90		97		103		111		191		199		200		108					
91		98		104		112		192		200		201		109					
92		99		105		113		193		201		202		110					
93		100		106		114		194		202		203		111					
94		101		107		115		195		203		204		112					
95		102		108		116		196		204		205		113					
96		103		109		117		197		205		206		114					
97		104		110		118		198		206		207		115					
98		105		111		119		199		207		208		116					
99		106		112		120		200		208		209		117					
100		107		113		121		201		209		210		118					
101		108		114		122		202		210		211		119					
102		109		115		123		203		211		212		120					
103		110		116		124		204		212		213		121					
104		111		117		125		205		213		214		122					
105		112		118		126		206		214		215		123					
106		113		119		127		207		215		216		124					
107		114		120		128		208		216		217		125					
108		115		121		129		209		217		218		126					
109		116		122		130		210		218		219		127					
110		117		123		131		211		219		220		128					
111		118		124		132		212		22									

Harpoceras species. In this paper a subdividing of the *H. serpentinum* Zone into two subzones and three horizons is proposed:

H. serpentinum Subzone (with the *Hildaites striatus* horizon)

H. falciferum Subzone (with the *H. pseudoserpentinum* horizon and the *Orthildaites douvillei* horizon)

In the Crocodile section the base of the *H. serpentinum* Zone is at Bed 126, which yielded *Hildaites subserpentinus* specimens. The other beds belonging to this zone provided ammonites poorer in preservation and which show lower diversity compared to other Gerecse Mts sections. Notable is the almost total absence of *Harpoceras* and the low number of *Hildaites* specimens. Consequently, the subdivision of the zone is somewhat uncertain. In the Mediterranean province *H. striatus* is characteristic for the lower part of the zone (Guex 1973a; Benshili 1989; Bilotta et al. 2010), thus its occurrence in Bed 122 possibly emplaces this and the beds above (121–111, with a single determinable *Harpoceras* cf. *mediterraneum* Ammonitina specimen) into the *H. pseudoserpentinum* horizon of the *H. falciferum* Subzone. The presence of the *O. douvillei* horizon is unquestionably suggested for Bed 110 by *Orthildaites* specimens.

The total thickness of beds belonging to this zone is 180 cm. They yielded the following Ammonitina:

Nodicoeloceras tuberculatum Kottek

Dactylioceras sp. indet.

Harpoceras cf. *mediterraneum* Pinna

Harpoceras subexaratum Bonarelli

Harpoceras sp. indet.

Hildaites striatus Guex (Plate 2, fig. 1)

Hildaites murleyi (Moxon)

Hildaites subserpentinus Buckman (Plate 1, fig. 2)

Hildaites sp. aff. *levisoni* (Simpson)

Orthildaites douvillei (Haug)

Cingolites picens Sassaroli et Venturi (Plate 1, figs 1–2).

Hildoceras bifrons Zone

The subdivision of this zone was based on studies of the Kis-Gerecse, Pisznice and Bány Hill sections (Géczy and Szente 2006), and on the review of the Kis-Teke Hill section (Géczy et al. 2008). The mass occurrence and high diversity of the genus *Hildoceras* permitted identifying the subzones and horizons (*H. sublevisoni* Subzone: *H. sublevisoni*, *H. tethysi* and *H. lusitanicum* horizons; *H. bifrons* Subzone: *H. apertum*, *H. bifrons* and *H. semipolatum* horizons); nevertheless the *H. tethysi* and *H. lusitanicum*, as well as the *H. apertum* and *H. bifrons* horizons, could not be distinguished in all sections, because of the different degrees of condensation. In the Crocodile section the beds belonging to the *H. bifrons* Zone were similarly assigned to the five horizons on the basis of occurrences of index species.

Hildoceras sublevisoni Subzone: *H. sublevisoni*, the first representative of the genus *Hildoceras*, appears in Bed 109; thus the base of the *H. bifrons* Zone is drawn here. Above the *H. sublevisoni* horizon (Beds 109–108), two horizon indices (*H. tethysi* and *H. lusitanicum*) occur together in Bed 107, which makes the unequivocal identification of the *H. tethysi* horizon difficult. The *H. lusitanicum* horizon extends to Beds 107–101/37, up to the first appearance of *H. apertum*

H. bifrons Subzone: Above the *H. apertum* horizon (Beds 100/36–33) the *H. bifrons* horizon is represented in the overlying Beds 32–26. The *H. semipolitum* horizon (beds 25–21) is bracketed between the first *H. semipolitum* and the earliest *Merlaites*.

From an ammonite stratigraphic point of view it is noteworthy that the *H. apertum* horizon could be clearly distinguished from both the *H. lusitanicum* and the *H. bifrons* horizons. These three horizons were identified only in the Kis-Teke Hill section of the above-mentioned, previously studied Gerecse localities (Géczy et al. 2008). The highest specimen number and diversity values are encountered – both for *Hildoceras* and *Mercaticeras* – in the *H. bifrons* Zone of the Crocodile section (i.e. the number of Ammonitina genera is 11 here). However, the fauna shows a decrease in density and diversity upsection from the beds of the *H. semipolitum* horizon.

The total thickness of beds assigned to the *H. bifrons* Zone is 263 cm. These beds yielded the following Ammonitina:

- Nodicoeloceras tuberculatum* Kottek
- Zugodactylites braunianus* (d'Orbigny)
- Peronoceras* sp. aff. *subarmatum* (Young et Bird)
- Transicoeloceras* sp. indet.
- Harpoceras mediterraneum* Pinna (Plate 6, fig. 2)
- Polyplectus pluricostatus* (Haas)
- Hildoceras sublevisoni* Fucini
- Hildoceras tethysi* Géczy
- Hildoceras lusitanicum* Meister
- Hildoceras apertum* Gabilly (Plate 5, figs 1–2)
- Hildoceras crassum* Mitzopoulos
- Hildoceras bifrons* (Bruguiere)
- Hildoceras semipolitum* Buckman
- Mercaticeras umbilicatum* Buckman (Plate 6, figs 1 and 5–6)
- Mercaticeras mercati* (Hauer) (Plate 5, figs 4–5)
- Mercaticeras thyrrenicum* (Fucini)
- Mercaticeras dilatatum* (Meneghini)
- Frechiella kammerkarensis* (Stolley)
- Phymatoceras robustum* Hyatt
- Phymatoceras* sp. aff. *narbonense* Buckman
- Denckmannia* sp. aff. *fabale* (Simpson)

Merlaites gradatus Zone

This is the Mediterranean counterpart of the *Haugia variabilis* Standard Zone. The detailed infrazonal stratigraphy of this latter zone is based on the *Haugia* and *Pseudolioceras* genera so common in the Northwest European region; nevertheless the subdividing of the *M. gradatus* Zone is far from being generally agreed upon. In the revision of the four previously studied sections in the Gerecse Mts three subzones were distinguished within the zone, without details at horizon level (Géczy and Szente 2006). This is also the case for all the other Mediterranean sections. In spite of the low specimen numbers and diversity in the Crocodile section above the *H. bifrons* Zone, these three subzones were all recorded here as well.

The *Merlaites clausus* Subzone is usually indicated by the appearance of the genera *Crassiceras* and *Merlaites* and the disappearance of the genus *Hildoceras*. On the basis of the occurrence of *Merlaites gradatus* and *Collina gemma*, Beds 20–19 could be assigned to this subzone. The *Pseudogrammoceras subregale* Subzone (Beds 18–17) could be identified by the appearance of genera *Pseudogrammoceras* and *Podagrosites*, while the base of the *Merlaites alticarinatus* Subzone (beds 16–14) is indicated by the first occurrence of the subzonal index *M. alticarinatus*.

The total thickness of beds belonging to this zone is 75 cm. The identified Ammonitina species are as follows:

- Collina gemma* Bonarelli (Plate 6, fig. 4)
- Merlaites gradatus* (Merla)
- Merlaites alticarinatus* (Merla)
- Podagrosites* sp. aff. *aratus* (Buckman)
- Denckmannia* sp. aff. *fabale* (Simpson)

Grammoceras thouarsense Zone

The ammonite stratigraphy of the Upper Toarcian is different for the Northwest European and the Mediterranean successions. The Mediterranean counterpart of the *G. thouarsense* Standard Zone is the *Geczyceras bonarellii* Zone. The standard zone is generally subdivided into four subzones and five horizons (for the somewhat differing zonations see Elmi et al. 1997; Bécaud 2006; Fauré 2007; Metodiev 2008) while in the Mediterranean only two subzones (i.e. of *Pseudogrammoceras mediterraneum* and *P. fallaciosum*) are distinguished. While in some studies on Mediterranean successions this twofold subdividing was successfully applied (Elmi et al. 2007; El Hammichi et al. 2009), in other cases even subzones could not be distinguished within the *G. bonarellii* Zone (Pettinelli et al. 1997). A horizon-level subdividing of the Upper Toarcian beds of the Gerecse sections is in progress. The common occurrence of index species of numerous diagnostic genera (e.g. *Pseudogrammoceras*, *Grammoceras*, *Podagrosites*) allowed a finer stratigraphic subdivision than usual in other Mediterranean successions. On the basis of the Kisgercse, Pisznice, Tölgyhát and Bánya Hill faunas, a simple

threefold subdivision of the *G. thouarsense* Zone was documented: with *Pseudogrammoceras bingmanni*, *Grammoceras striatulum* and *Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum* Subzones; however, there is no individual section where all these subzones could be demonstrated together.

In the Crocodile section the *P. bingmanni* Subzone cannot be found. The base of the *G. striatulum* Subzone (Beds 13–11) is indicated by the appearance of the genus *Grammoceras*, while the *P. fallaciosum* Subzone (Beds 10–8) is documented by the index species *P. fallaciosum*.

Bed 13, which yielded the skeletal remains of the crocodile, thus belongs to the *G. striatulum* Subzone of the Upper Toarcian *G. thouarsense* Zone, which corresponds to a numeric age of ca. 180 Ma (Ogg 2004).

The total thickness of beds assigned to the *G. thouarsense* Zone is 99 cm, and yielded the following Ammonitina:

- Furloceras chelussii* (Parisich et Viale)
- Mouterdeiceras dubourgi* Elmi et Rulleau (Plate 3, fig. 3, Plate 4, fig. 1)
- Pseudogrammoceras differens* (Ernst)
- Pseudogrammoceras muelleri* (Denckmann) (Plate 6, fig. 3)
- Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum* (Bayle)
- Grammoceras thouarsense* (d'Orbigny) (Plate 4, fig. 2)
- Grammoceras striatulum* (Sowerby) (Plate 2, figs 4–5)
- Podagrosites quadratus* (Quenstedt) (Plate 2, fig. 1)

Geczyceras speciosum Zone

This Mediterranean zone corresponds to the Northwest European *Hammatoceras insigne* (or *Phlyseogrammoceras dispansum*) Zone. Elmi et al. (1997) and Page (2003) subdivided this zone into two subzones (*Geczyceras speciosum* and *Osperlioceras reynesi* Subzones), but horizon level subdivision, for lack of generally acceptable index species, proved elusive. Even the distinguishing of the two subzones is only weakly supported (e.g. Elmi et al. 2007), and in the Mediterranean successions the zone appears as an undivided stratigraphic unit (Parisi et al. 1998; Caracuel et al. 2006; El Hammichi et al. 2009). Due to the absence of the genus *Gruneria*, the scattered occurrence of the genera *Osperlioceras* and *Phlyseogrammoceras*, as well as the strong condensation, no infrazonal subdividing can be established in the Gerecse sections either. For lack of any other index species, the lower boundary of the *G. speciosum* Zone is identified by the appearance of *Pseudolillia*, a genus common in Mediterranean areas (see Géczy 1984, 1985a; Kovács and Géczy 2008; Kovács 2009). The upper boundary of the zone is indicated by the appearance of the genus *Dumortieria*.

The presence of *Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum*, together with the lack of Erycitinae species, characterizes the lower part of the *G. speciosum* Zone. This is where the uppermost beds (7–1) of the section belong. The diversity of the fauna is low. Especially conspicuous is that the subfamily Hammatoceratinae is

represented by a single specimen only. In the other Gerecse sections this subfamily can be demonstrated from as early as the *Merlaites gradatus* Zone, commonly represented by 4–5 species in the lower beds of the *G. speciosum* Zone (Kovács 2009).

The total thickness of beds assigned to the *Geczyceras speciosum* Zone is 81 cm. These yielded Ammonitina species as follows:

- Pseudolillia emiliana* (Reynes)
- Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum* (Bayle) (Plate 4, fig. 3, Plate 5, fig. 3)
- Polyplectus pluricostatus* (Haas)
- Mouterdeiceras* cf. *masciadrii* (Pelosio)
- Geczyceras* cf. *perplanum* (Prinz)
- Phlyseogrammoceras* sp. indet.

As in all other Gerecse Mts Toarcian sections, phylloceratids and lytoceratids occurred in abundance. The ammonites belonging to these two suborders are paleobiogeographically important but less relevant stratigraphically. The following species were encountered.

Phylloceratina:

- Phylloceras heterophyllum* (Sowerby) (*H. serpentinum* – *G. speciosum* Zone)
- Phylloceras doderleinianum* (Catullo) (Plate 1, fig. 4) (*H. serpentinum* – *G. speciosum* Zone)
- Calliphyloceras spadae* (Meneghini) (*H. serpentinum* Zone)
- Calliphyloceras mediojurassicum* (Prinz) (*H. serpentinum* – *G. thouarsense* Zone)
- Calliphyloceras nilssoni* (Hébert) (*H. serpentinum* – *G. thouarsense* Zone)
- Calliphyloceras capitani* (Catullo) (*H. serpentinum* – *H. bifrons* Zone)
- Calliphyloceras beatricis* (Bonarelli) (*H. bifrons* – *G. speciosum* Zone)

Lytoceratina:

- Lytoceras* sp. aff. *cornucopia* (Young et Bird) (*H. serpentinum* – *G. speciosum* Zone)
- Lytoceras francisci* (Oppel) (*H. bifrons* – *G. thouarsense* Zone)
- Lytoceras sublineatum* (Oppel) (*M. gradatus* – *G. speciosum* Zone)
- Lytoceras* (*Trachylytoceras*) *sepositum* (Meneghini) (Plate 3, fig. 2) (*H. bifrons* Zone).

Systematic paleontology

The following formal descriptions are of species hitherto undocumented from the Gerecse Mts, or important for local stratigraphy or for paleogeography. The illustrated and mentioned specimens are deposited in the collections of the Eötvös Museum of Natural History of Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

Phylloceras (*Phylloceras*) *doderleinianum* (Catullo 1853)
Plate 1, Fig. 4

- 1853 *Ammonites Doderleinianus*, Catullo, p. 19, pl. 1, fig. 3
- 2010 *Phylloceras doderleinianum* (Catullo), Venturi et al., p. 126

Material: 9 specimens in varying states of preservation and 15 fragmentary specimens.

Description: Involute form with wide-oval whorl-section. Narrow umbilicus; convex and smooth flanks; low, broad and rounded venter. Suture-line: short E, relatively wide and asymmetrical L, four auxiliary lobes, diphyllic ES, triphyllic lateral saddles.

Remarks: The revision of the type was carried out by Meneghini (1867–1881); the species differs from *Ph. heterophyllum* by wider whorls (W/H: 59–66%), and by low, rounded venter. As the *Ph. doderleinianum* specimens illustrated in the literature show moderate variability in the width of the whorl-section, similar wide suboval forms with identical stratigraphic range, and suture-lines (marked asymmetrical L lobe), they are considered as synonyms in this paper: *Ph. gajarii* Prinz, *Ph. borni* Prinz, *Ph. böckhi* Prinz, *Ph. loczyi* Prinz, *Ph. mitzopoulosi* Negri. The species is a characteristic Mediterranean phylloceratid of the Toarcian.

Distribution: Toarcian: Italy, Greece, Albania, Hungary.

Lytoceras (Trachylitoceras) sepositum Meneghini 1875
Plate 3, Fig. 2

1875 *Lytoceras sepositum*, Meneghini, p. 107

1867–1881 *Ammonites (Lytoceras) sepositum* n. sp., Meneghini, p. 109, pl. 22, figs 3a–b, 4a–b

2001 *Lytoceras sepositum* Meneghini, Venturi and Ferri, p. 90, fig. h

Material: A single, moderately preserved specimen.

Description: Small, moderately evolute form with subcircular whorl-section. Convex flanks; broad and low venter. Smooth phragmocone with some fine uninterrupted folds on the body chamber. The flared peristome is preceded by a constriction. The suture-line cannot be traced.

Remarks: The species was interpreted as one of the Mediterranean microconch forms of *Lytoceras*, and was placed in the subgenus *Trachylitoceras* Buckman by Rulleau (1998). The species is relatively rare; the specimen figured here is the first record from the Gerecse ammonite fauna. Together with *L. aff. cornucopia* (Young et Bird) it is assigned to the *H. bifrons* Zone of the Crocodile section.

Distribution: *H. serpentinum* – *H. bifrons* Zones: Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Algeria, Hungary, (?) Turkey.

Telodactylites euosmus (Lippi-Boncambi 1947)
Plate 2, Figs 2–3

1947 *Peronoceras euosmus* Merla in schedis, Lippi-Boncambi, p. 145, pl. 2, fig. 21

2010 *Telodactylites euosmus* (Lippi-Boncambi), Venturi et al. p. 262

Material: One well-preserved specimen.

Description: Evolute, depressed form with wide and deep umbilicus. Oblique and slightly convex flanks, edged shoulder; broad and very low venter. Wide subtrapezoidal whorl-section with maximum thickness at the shoulder. Sharp, dense, fibulate and spined ribbing. Three rectiradiate ribs are looped to long ventrolateral spines, similar to *Peronoceras fibulatum* (Sowerby). The spines are separated by single ribs rising from the umbilicus and crossing the venter. Four secondaries issue from each spine, are projected forwards, and cross the venter. The suture-line cannot be traced.

Remarks: According to Pinna and Levi-Setti (1971), *Peronoceras tuberculatum* Pinna 1966 and *P. zeissi* Géczy 1967 are synonyms of *T. eucosmus*. The specimen illustrated by Dezi and Ridolfi (1975, p. 43, fig. 116) as *T. eucosmus* markedly differs from the type by morphology and ornamentation; it probably represents a new species (see Elmi and Benschili 1987, pl. 2, figs 1–2; Bécaud et al. 2005, fig. 3/10–11).

Distribution: *M. gradatus* (*H. variabilis*) Zone: Italy, Hungary, France. The exact position of the specimen figured here is unknown, most probably from Bed 6.

Hildaites striatus Guex 1973

Plate 3, Fig. 1

1973a *Hildaites striatus* sp. n., Guex, p. 504, pl. 2, fig. 5, pl. 3, fig. 10, pl. 4, fig. 1, pl. 7, fig. 3, pl. 9, fig. 2, pl. 10, fig. 2, pl. 14, figs 11, 15, pl. 15, fig. 6
2010 *Hildaites striatus* Guex, Bilotta et al., fig. 17/A, B

Material: A single, fragmentary specimen.

Description: Evolute form with narrow oval whorl-section. Wide and shallow umbilicus, rounded margin; slightly convex flanks. Narrow, low and carinate venter, bisulcate on the inner whorls. Dense, fine and sinuous ribbing. Suture-line with short and narrow E, wide L, small and straight U lobes.

Remarks: The species is considered as the Mediterranean counterpart of *H. wrighti* (Spath), from which it differs by bearing denser and finer ribs. The species is typical of the *H. striatus* horizon (*H. serpentinum* Subzone) of the Gerecse sections.

Distribution: Lower *H. serpentinum* (*H. levisoni*) Zone: Mediterranean Province.

Hildaites subserpentinus Buckman 1921

Plate 1, Fig. 3

1921 *Hildaites subserpentinus*, Buckman, pl. 217
2006 *Hildaites subserpentinus* Buckman, Bécaud, p. 80, pl. 35, fig. 2, pl. 37, fig. 1 (cum syn.)

Material: 1 poorly preserved and 3 fragmentary specimens.

Description: Moderately evolute form with suboval whorl-section. Rounded umbilical wall and margin; slightly convex flanks. Rounded and carinate venter without ventral sulci on the body chamber. Well-developed, somewhat dense, rursiradiate, sinuous ribbing. Suture-line with short E, moderately wide and long L, small U lobes.

Remarks: *H. subserpentinus* is frequent in the Gerecse assemblages. The species differs from *H. striatus* by more projected and less dense ribs, as well as from *H. murleyi* (Moxon) by a suboval section.

Distribution: *H. serpentinum* (*H. levisoni*) Zone: Europe, North Africa.

Cingolites picenus Sassaroli et Venturi 2010
Plate 1, Figs 1–2

2010 *Cingolites picenus* n. sp., Sassaroli and Venturi, p. 106, text-fig. 6/a-f, i-l, n, pl. 1, figs 5–8, pl. 2, figs 1–5, 9

Material: A single, poorly preserved specimen.

Description: Evolute form with subquadrate whorl-section. Vertical umbilical wall, rounded margin, slightly convex flank. Broad, low and tricarinate-bisulcate venter with wide and deep sulci. The preserved body chamber is about half a whorl long. Simple, rounded, clavate, and slightly rursiradiate ribs with wide, concave intercosta. The ribs gently sigmoid on the last whorl. Hildoceratid suture-line with short E, broad L, small, straight U lobes.

Remarks: The genus was recently introduced by Sassaroli and Venturi (2010) with four species: *C. clavatus* n. sp., *C. picenus* n. sp., *C. spiralis* n. sp. and *C. stefaninii* (Merla). All are characterized by robust, evolute coiling with strong and clavate ribs. The first three species are typical of the upper *Falciferum* Subzone in Italian localities, while the last one is known from the *H. bifrons* Zone of Italy, Greece and Hungary. The specimen figured here agrees well with the holotype of *C. picenus* (Sassaroli and Venturi 2010, pl. 1, fig. 7) in morphology. Its occurrence in the Lower Toarcian Gerecse assemblage confirms the close relationship between the Italian and Hungarian Toarcian ammonite faunas.

Distribution: *H. serpentinum* Zone (*H. falciferum* Subzone): Italy.

Hildoceras apertum Gabilly 1976
Plate 5, Figs 1–2

1976a *Hildoceras apertum* nov. sp., Gabilly, p. 153, pl. 26, figs 1–6, 9–11

2006 *Hildoceras apertum* Gabilly, Bécaud, p. 90, pl. 28, fig. 3, pl. 46, figs 1, 3–4 (cum syn.)

Material: One moderately preserved and four fragmentary specimens.

Description: Evolute, compressed form with rounded subrectangular whorl-section. Shallow umbilicus, rounded margin. The dorsolateral part of the flank is concave, shaping a wide and shallow lateral groove. Rounded shoulder; broad, low and tricarinate-bisulcate venter. Sigmoid ribbing, very weakly developed on the dorsolateral part, while slightly projected on the upper half of the flank. Suture-line with short E, wide L lobes, broad and divided ES and LS.

Remarks: The species is the index of the *H. apertum* horizon and represents a phylogenetic connection between two closely allied forms: *H. lusitanicum* Meister and *H. bifrons* (Bruguière). The former is similar in morphology and ornamentation, but differs from *H. apertum* by the absence of a marked, shallow lateral groove, while the latter is characterized by a wider whorl with a well-developed, deeper groove in the middle of the flank.

Distribution: *H. bifrons* Zone (*H. apertum* horizon): Europe, (?) Algeria.

Mouterdeiceras dubourgi Elmi et Rulleau 1995
Plate 3, Fig. 3; Plate 4, Fig. 1

1995 *Mouterdeiceras dubourgi* n. sp., Elmi and Rulleau, p. 89, text-fig. 1/1–3, 13–14, text-fig. 2/1–2, pl. 10, figs 1–8, pl. 11, figs 7–8

2007 *Mouterdeiceras dubourgi* Elmi et Rulleau, Rulleau, p. 78, pl. 33, fig. 1

Material: 3 poorly preserved specimens.

Description: Evolute form with rounded subrectangular whorl-section. Subparallel and slightly convex flanks, rounded shoulder; low and tricarinate-bisulcate venter. Strong and rursiradiate ribs rise from the umbilicus, curve forward and become projected on the ventrolateral part. On the penultimate whorl some ribs bifurcate from the margin without any tubercles. The suture-line cannot be traced in all details.

Remarks: The figured specimen agrees well with the holotype (Elmi and Rulleau 1995, pl. 10, figs 1–2). The species resembles *Mouterdeiceras masciadrii* (Pelosio) in morphology, but differs by bearing rursiradiate ribs. The *Phymatoceras tirolense* (Hauer) in Géczy (1967, p. 141, pl. 8) from the Bakony Mts differs from Hauer's type (1856, pl. 7, figs 1–2) by the absence of well-developed tubercles. The latter specimen was interpreted as a Mediterranean form of *Mouterdeiceras* (*Ph. tirolense* Géczy non Hauer) by Elmi and Rulleau (1995). However, it seems very close to the holotype in all details and is considered as *M. dubourgi* in this paper.

Distribution: *G. thouarsense* Zone: France, Hungary.

Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum (Bayle 1878)

Plate 4, Fig. 3; Plate 5, Fig. 3

1878 *Grammoceras fallaciosum* nov. sp., Bayle, pl. 78, figs 1–2

2008 *Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum* (Bayle), Seyed-Emami et al., p. 250, fig. 5/N1-3

Material: 4 specimens in varying states of preservation and 3 fragments.

Description: Moderately evolute, compressed form with high elliptical whorl-section. Shallow umbilicus, rounded margin; slightly convex flanks. Narrow, high and carinate venter. Fine, slightly prorsiradiate, sigmoid ribbing. Suture-line with short E, longer and wide L lobes; broad, asymmetrical ES and narrower LS.

Remarks: A significant revision of the taxon was carried out by Gabilly (1976b), who emphasized the variability of the species, and regrouped some taxa as morphotypes of *P. fallaciosum*: *P. cotteswoldiae* Buckman, 1889, *P. expeditum* Buckman 1902, *P. subfallaciosum* Buckman 1902, *P. regale* Buckman 1904, and *P. pedicum* Buckman 1904. This taxonomic interpretation met with acceptance in the literature (Metodiev 2002; Rulleau 2007). The group is frequent in the Gerecse Upper Toarcian, as well as in the Crocodile section, ranging from the upper *G. thouarsense* to the lower *G. speciosum* Zones.

Distribution: Upper *G. thouarsense* – lower *Ph. dispansum* (*G. speciosum*) Zones, worldwide.

Pseudogrammoceras muelleri (Denckmann 1887)

Plate 6, Fig. 3

1887 *Ammonites (Harpoceras) Muelleri* nov. sp., Denckmann, p. 70, pl. 3, fig. 3, pl. 4, fig. 2

2008 *Pseudogrammoceras muelleri* (Denckmann), Metodiev, fig. 5/n, o

Material: One moderately preserved specimen.

Description: Moderately involute, compressed form with high elliptical whorl-section. Shallow umbilicus, vertical umbilical wall, angled margin. Slightly convex flanks; narrow, rounded and carinate venter. Single, dense, rectiradiate and flexuous ribs, are weakly developed on the lower part of the whorl. Relatively simple suture-line with short E, long and broad L lobes, undivided saddles.

Remarks: The specimen figured here is close to the lectotype (Denckmann, 1887, pl. 4, fig. 2, assigned and re-illustrated by Gabilly (1976b, pl. 27, figs 5–6), and to the specimens in Metodiev (2002, pl. 3, figs 7–8) and Fauré (2007, fig. 7/4, 8). The species differs from other *Pseudogrammoceras* species by being more involute, and by bearing denser, radial ribs.

Distribution: *H. variabilis* – *G. thouarsense* Zones: Spain. *G. thouarsense* Zone: France, Bulgaria, Morocco, Algeria. *G. thouarsense* – *H. insigne* Zones: Germany. Upper Toarcian: Great Britain, Italy, Portugal, Caucasus.

Grammoceras thouarsense (d'Orbigny 1844)
Plate 4, Fig. 2

1844 *Ammonites thouarsensis*, d'Orbigny, p. 222, pl. 57, figs 1–3
2008 *Grammoceras thouarsense* (d'Orbigny), Metodiev, fig. 5/t

Material: 2 moderately preserved and 2 fragmentary specimens

Description: Evolute, compressed form with suboval whorl-section. Wide and shallow umbilicus; slightly convex flanks; narrow, low, and carinate venter with shallow sulci. Single, rectiradiate, and moderately sinuous ribbing, are less sharp than those of *Podagrosites quadratus* (Quenstedt). The preserved body chamber of the specimen is about a three-quarter whorl in length. Simple grammoceratid suture-line.

Remarks: The genus is frequent in the Gerecse assemblage, so its presence in this characteristic Mediterranean ammonite fauna permits adopting a restricted Northwest European ammonite zonation for the lower Upper Toarcian.

Distribution: *G. thouarsense* Zone: Europe, Caucasus, Pamir Mts, Iran. *Ph. hillebrandti* Zone: North America.

Grammoceras striatulum (Sowerby 1825)
Plate 2, Figs 4–5

1825 *Ammonites striatulus*, Sowerby, p. 23, pl. 421, fig. 1
2007 *Grammoceras striatulum* (Sowerby), Rulleau, p. 84, pl. 42, fig. 2

Material: A single, moderately preserved specimen.

Description: Evolute, compressed form with high elliptical whorl-section. Wide umbilicus, rounded margin; moderately convex flanks. Narrow, rounded and carinate venter. Single, fine, dense and rectiradiate ribs, are more sigmoid than those of *G. thouarsense*.

Remarks: The species is closely allied to *G. penestriatulum* Buckman, but differs by bearing finer and denser ribs. According to Page (2003), use of *G. striatulum* as an index for the second subzone of the *G. thouarsense* Zone has priority over the use of *G. thouarsense*.

Distribution: *G. thouarsense* Zone: Europe, Caucasus.

Podagrosites quadratus (Quenstedt 1846)

Plate 2, Fig. 1

1846 *Ammonites radians quadratus*, Quenstedt, p. 113

2007 *Podagrosites quadratum* (Quenstedt), Rulleau, p. 84, text-fig. 22/5, pl. 40, fig. 5

Material: One poorly preserved specimen.

Description: Evolute, compressed form with subrectangular whorl-section. Wide and shallow umbilicus; slightly convex flanks; tricarinate-bisulcate venter. Single, rectiradiate, and coarse ribs, curved on the phragmocone, but slightly sigmoid on the body chamber. The suture-line cannot be traced in all details.

Remarks: The genus *Podagrosites* was assigned by Guex (1973b), type species *Pseudogrammoceras podagrosium* (Monestier) for Grammoceratinae species, which are characterized by subquadrate whorl-section and broad, carinate and bisulcate venter, including e.g. *P. latescens* (Simpson). *P. quadratus* was interpreted as morphotype of *P. latescens* by Gabilly (1976b), from which it differs by narrower whorls. This arrangement is widely accepted in the literature; consequently the range of *P. quadratus* is presumably very similar to that of *P. latescens*. The specimen shown here is close to that figured by Fauré (2002, pl. 17, figs 16–17).

Distribution: *G. thouarsense* Zone: Europe, Caucasus, Pamir Mts, Iran, North Africa, (?) North America.

Conclusions

The cephalopod material of the so-called Crocodile section was collected in 1997–1999. The collection resulted in an Ammonoidea fauna of 624 specimens, of which 50.3 percent belong to suborder Ammonitina. The detailed collection work allowed recognition of 5 Toarcian zones, four of them subdivided into subzones and two (i.e. the *Harpoceras serpentinum* and the *Hildoceras bifrons* Zone) subdivided into biohorizons. The thickness of the strata representing the ammonite zones, just as the lithological features (i.e. the threefold lithological partition of the Kisgerecse Marl and the appearance of the Tölgyhát Limestone in the *Grammoceras thouarsense* Zone) agree with the published earlier records. It is demonstrated that the ammonite material, while being basically of Mediterranean affinity, is suitable to follow the standard zonal subdivision applied in the Northwest European region. Thus, the stratigraphic position of the *Steneosaurus* skeleton discovered here could be assigned to the *Grammoceras thouarsense* Zone, *G. striatulum* Subzone, i.e. its absolute age is 180 Ma.

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Explanation of Plates

Plate 1

Figs 1–2: *Cingolites picenus* Sassaroli et Venturi. Bed 112. 1: lateral view, 2: ventral view
Fig. 3: *Hildaites subserpentinus* Buckman. Bed 123. lateral view.
Fig. 4: *Phylloceras doderleinianum* (Catullo). Bed 106. lateral view.
All figures natural size. Asterisks indicate end of phragmocone.

Plate 2

Fig. 1: *Podagrosites quadratus* (Quenstedt). Bed 13. lateral view.
Figs 2–3: *Telodactylites eucosmus* (Lippi-Boncambi). Bed ?6. 2: lateral view, 3: ventral view.
Figs 4–5: *Grammoceras striatulum* (Sowerby). Bed 12. 4: lateral view, 5: ventral view.
All figures natural size. Asterisks indicate end of phragmocone.

Plate 3

Fig. 1: *Hildaites striatus* Guex. Bed 122, lateral view.
Fig. 2: *Lytoceras (Trachylitoceras) sepositum* (Meneghini). Bed 31, lateral view.
Fig. 3: *Mouterdeiceras dubourgi* Elmi et Rulleau. Bed 11, lateral view (ventral view on Plate 4, fig. 1).
All figures natural size. Asterisks indicate end of phragmocone.

Plate 4

Fig. 1: *Mouterdeiceras dubourgi* Elmi et Rulleau. Bed 11, ventral view (lateral view on Plate 3, fig. 3).
Fig. 2: *Grammoceras thouarsense* (d'Orbigny). Bed 13, lateral view.
Fig. 3: *Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum* (Bayle). Bed 6, lateral view.
All figures natural size. Asterisks indicate end of phragmocone.

Plate 5

Figs 1–2: *Hildoceras apertum* Gabilly. Bed 34, 1: ventral view, 2: lateral view.
Fig. 3: *Pseudogrammoceras fallaciosum* (Bayle). Bed 7, lateral view.
Figs 4–5: *Mercaticeras mercati* (Hauer). Bed 31. 4: lateral view, 5: ventral view.
All figures natural size. Asterisks indicate end of phragmocone.

Plate 6

Fig. 1: *Mercaticeras umbilicatum* Buckman. Bed 106, lateral view.
Fig. 2: *Harpoceras mediterraneum* Pinna. Bed 100, lateral view.
Fig. 3: *Pseudogrammoceras muelleri* (Denckmann). Bed 13, lateral view.
Fig. 4: *Collina gemma* Bonarelli. Bed 19, lateral view.
Figs 5–6: *Mercaticeras umbilicatum* Buckman. Bed 105, 5: ventral view, 6: lateral view.
All figures natural size. Asterisks indicate end of phragmocone.

Plate 1

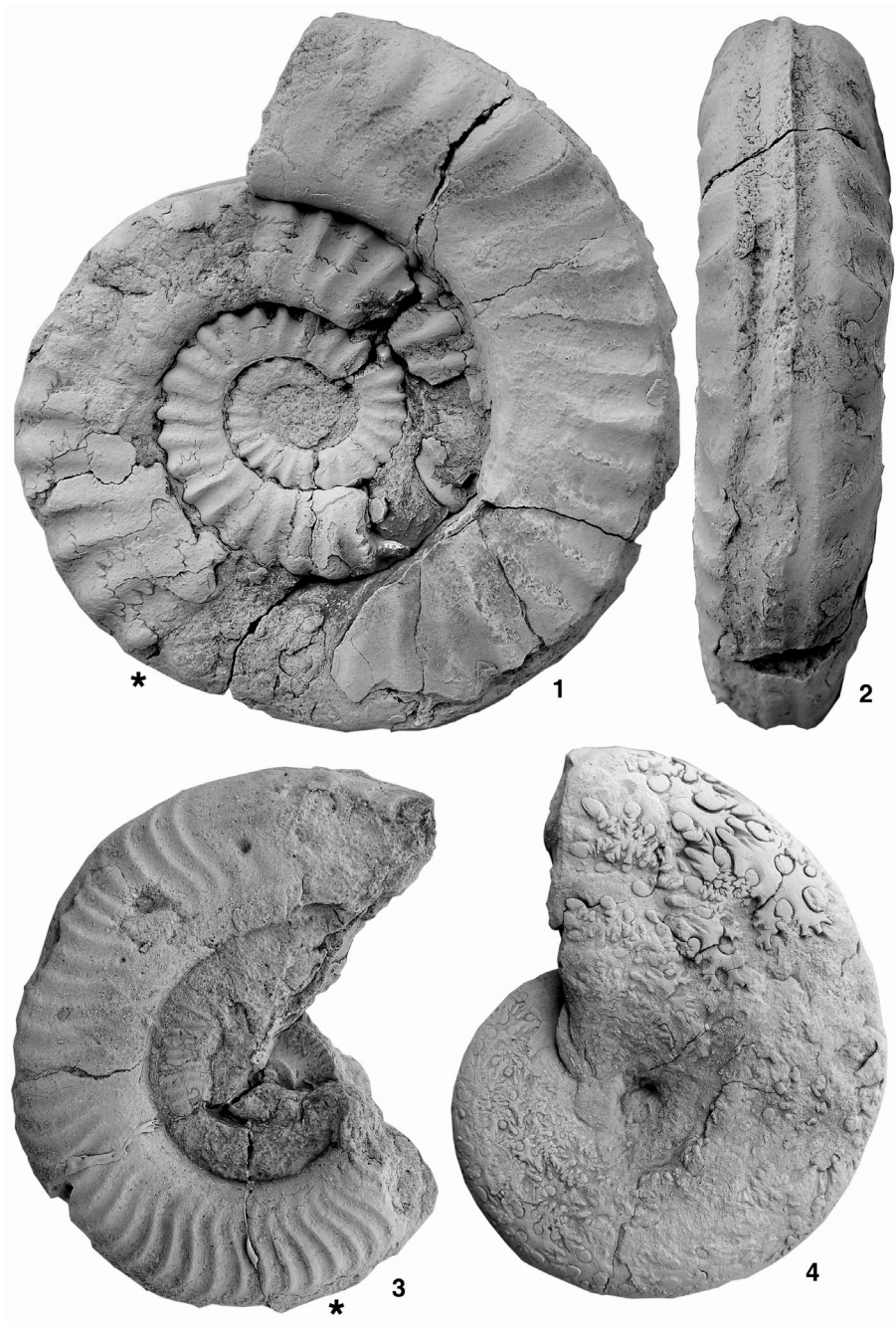


Plate 2

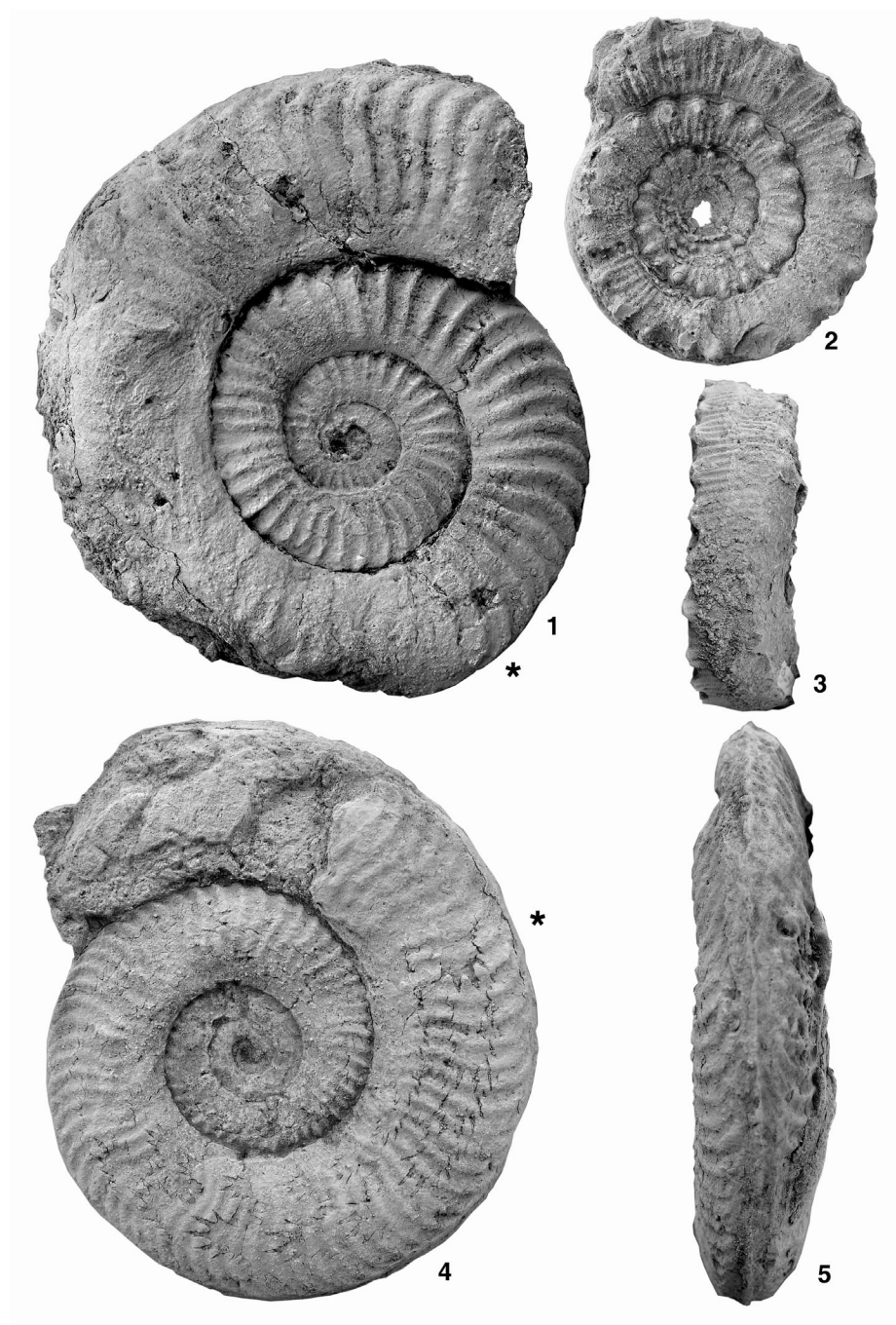


Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5

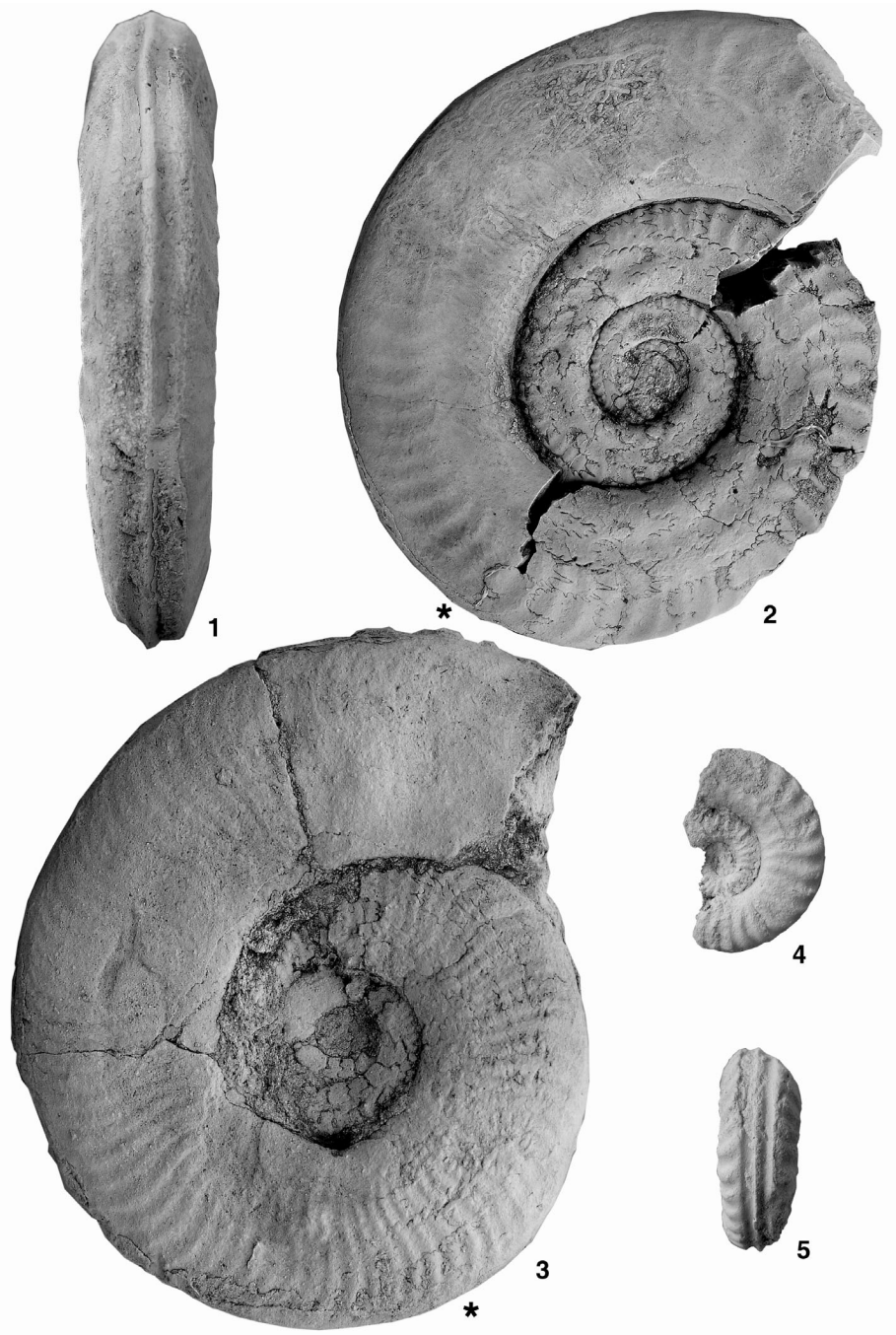
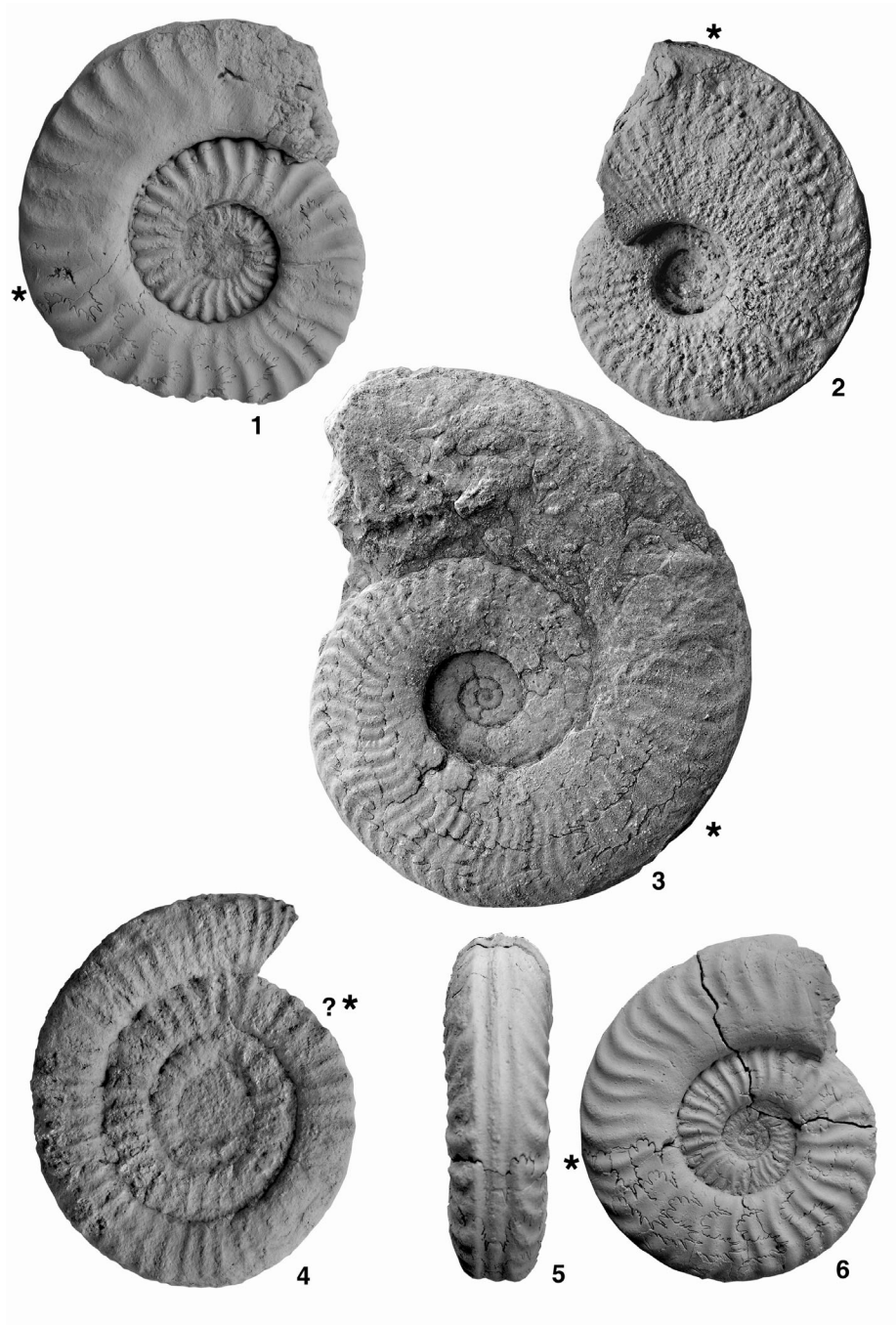


Plate 6



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