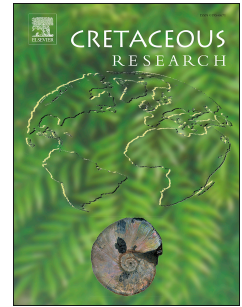


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Bispiraloconulus serbiacus gen. et sp. nov., a giant arborescent benthic foraminifer from the Berriasian of Serbia

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ABSTRACT A new benthic foraminifera is described as *Bispiraloconulus serbiacus* gen. et sp. nov. from Berriasian shallow-water carbonates of the Kurilovo area, eastern Serbia. Above all it is characterized by its centimeter-sized arborescent test. With the exception of its morphology, all other test characteristics are reported from *Spiraloconulus* Allemann & Schroeder (Aalenian-Berriasian) of the family Hauraniidae, subfamily Amijellinae. In the current classifications of the Foraminiferida, test morphology is considered an important criterion at the generic and subgeneric level. The morphology of *Bispiraloconulus* gen. nov. necessitates a suprageneric emendation to include arborescent-shaped foraminifera that display an exoskeleton (subepidermal network). Besides *Spiraloconulus*, *Bispiraloconulus* gen. nov. can be compared with the Cretaceous branching genera *Bireophax* Bolli, *Thomasinella* Schlumberger, and *Torreiroella* Canerot & Brun.

Keywords: Foraminiferida, systematics, exoskeleton, endoskeleton, Early Cretaceous, Carpatho-Balkan

1. Introduction

In benthic foraminifera an arborescent morphology refers to taxa that construct tree-like branching shells (e.g. Hottinger 2006). It is reported from both agglutinating and calcareous taxa (Hottinger et al., 1993; Krautwig et al., 1998). Therefore, arborescent taxa do not belong to a phylogenetically linked cohesive group (Pawlowski et al., 2002). Some are anchored in

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