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Distefanella Parona, 1901 a radiolitid rudist from Late Cretaceous platform margin in central-eastern Mediterranean Tethys

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

- 1 Distefanella Parona, 1901 a radiolitid rudist from Late Cretaceous platform margin
- 2 in central-eastern Mediterranean Tethys

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- 11 ABSTRACT
- Parona (1901) proposed the genus *Distefanella* for some long, slender and thin-shelled radiolitids from San Polo Matese, southern Apennines, Italy, describing three more
- species: D. bassanii, D. quiscardii and D. douvillei, besides the type species erroneously
- attributed to *D. lumbricalis* (d'Orbigny). Parona (1912a) corrected himself proposing *D.*
- salmojraghii, after a detailed description of Biradiolites lombricalis (d'Orbigny) was given
- in Toucas (1909). Nevertheless, the original mistake, together with some
- 18 misinterpretation of the radial bands and inner shell structures, caused considerable
- 19 taxonomic confusion, leading to the misfortune of the genus. The study of Parona's
- 20 types, together with other specimens kept in museums and new material, allowed us to
- 21 recognise, describe, and illustrate the diagnostic characters of the radiolitid genus
- 22 Distefanella. The revision of all the species attributed to the genus lead to recognizing
- 23 numerous junior synonyms of the Turonian-Coniacian *D. salmojraghii* Parona and *D.*
- 24 montagnei Slišković, and also of the Campanian D. radoicicae Pejović, the three species
- 25 accepted herein. The genus is almost exclusively found in shelf margin context with high
- sediment accumulation rate of the central and eastern Mediterranean Tethys.

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