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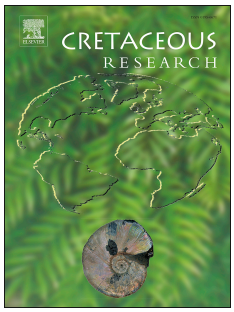


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# Inoceramid bivalves from the Coniacian (Upper Cretaceous) of the Staffhorst shaft (Lower Saxony, Germany) – stratigraphical significance of a unique succession

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A B S T R A C T

The Staffhorst shaft (Lower Saxony, Germany) ranks amongst the critical sections for documentation of the inoceramid record of the Euramerican Coniacian Stage (Upper Cretaceous). In spite of a number of disadvantages (i.e., interval sampling and stratigraphical gaps), this section does provide details of the inoceramid distribution across insufficiently known substage boundary intervals of the Coniacian. The lower–middle Coniacian boundary is marked by the *Inoceramus gibbosus* Zone, at the top of the lower Coniacian, followed by the *Volviceramus koeneni* Zone of the lower middle Coniacian. The zone of *I. gibbosus* Schlüter, 1877 succeeds the *Cremnoceramus*-dominated lower Coniacian and usually is missing in the Euramerican biogeographic region. In addition to the index species, the *V. koeneni* Zone is characterised by *Volviceramus exogyroides* (Meek and Hayden, 1862), a North American taxon that was poorly documented in Europe hitherto. The base of the upper