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Author: Daniel Vachard Karl Krainer Hans Peter Schönlaub



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Lower Serpukhovian (Steshevian) foraminifers and algae from exotic limestone clasts of Nötsch (Eastern Alps, Austria) [☆]

Daniel Vachard ^{a,*}, Karl Krainer ^b, Hans Peter Schönlaub ^c

^a 1 rue des Tilleuls, 59152 Gruson, France

^b Institute of Geology, University of Innsbruck, Innrain 52, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria

^c Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission for Geosciences, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna, Austria

* Corresponding author. E-Mail address: Daniel.Vachard@free.fr, Daniel.Vachard@univ-lille1.fr (D. Vachard).

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Abstract

The >1,000 m-thick Carboniferous sedimentary succession of Nötsch is divided into the Erlachgraben, Badstub, and Nötsch formations with poorly constrained precise ages, but probably constituting a continuous lithostratigraphic Group deposited from the latest Viséan to the early Bashkirian, thus including a complete Serpukhovian succession. We date the early Serpukhovian (Steshevian) in exotic limestone clasts of the Badstub Fm. based on algae and foraminifers. These limestone clasts have been reworked from a carbonate shelf, indicating that they are older than the Badstub Fm. Microfacies and fossil assemblages indicate that a shallow marine carbonate shelf was developed at the northern margin of the deep-sea basin of Nötsch. The assemblages include the red alga *Hortonella*, rare green algae, and incertae sedis algae *Praedonezella*, *Aoujgalia*, and *Frustulata*; howchiniid and lasiodiscid foraminifers; atypical endothyrids, probably belonging to *Semiendothyra* emend.; rare *Janischewskina*; taxonomically disputable eostaffellids (including *Eostaffellina* aff. *paraprotvae*) and pseudoendothyrids; attached forms transitional between pseudolituotubid Fusulinata and calcivertellid Miliolata; and probably the oldest known free Miliolata. Newly described taxa

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