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Contents

Preface	9
Kishan Aherwar, Michal Šujan, Katarína Šarinová, Régis Braucher, Arjan de Leeuw, Andrej Chyba, Anton Matoshko, Peter Uhlík, Barbara Rózsová and Aster Team: Understanding the variability of authigenic ¹⁰ Be/ ⁹ Be ratio: An example from deltaic to offshore facies of the Slanicul de Buzau section, Romania.....	13
Richárd Gyula Albrecht: In the search of the Jurassic – Cretaceous boundary in the lime kilns of Zengővárkony, Mecsek Mountains, Hungary	15
Silvia Antolíková and Ján Soták: Nannoplankton biostratigraphy and paleoecology of the Paleocene formations in K/Pg section near Žilina.....	16
Jaroslava Babejová-Kmecová, Edit Király, Katalin Báldi and Natália Hudáčková: Special preparation procedure for miliolids with preservation problem for Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry analyses	18
Marta Bąk and Krzysztof Bąk: Climate change affecting the intraspecific variability of Saturnaliidae, (Radiolaria) in the pre- and post-OAE2 periods	20
Marta Bąk, Krzysztof Bąk and Zbigniew Górny: Carbon-isotope stratigraphy and palaeoceanographic significance of the mid-Cretaceous deep-water sediments from marginal part of the Western Tethys.....	21
Jakub Bazarnik, Piotr Lenik and Magdalena Pańczyk: New U-Pb zircon geochronological data of Neogene andesites (Pieniny Klippen Belt, Poland)	22
Pavel Bella, Pavel Bosák, Helena Hercman, Šimon Kdýr, Petr Mikysek, Petr Pruner, Juraj Littva, Jozef Minár, Michal Gradziński, Wojciech Wróblewski and Marek Velšmid: Morphotectonic evolution of the contact of the Malé Karpaty Mts. and Vienna Basin based on dating of cave levels in the Plavecký hradný vrch Hill.....	24
Vladimír Bezák, Ján Vozár, Jozef Madzin and Lenka Ondrášová: Different structure of the crust in western, central and eastern Slovakia from magnetotelluric results.....	26
Miroslav Bielik, Dominika Godová, Hermann Zeyen and Pavla Hrubcová: Carpathian-Pannonian lithosphere: geophysical study.....	28
Melike Bilgin, Peter Joniak, Serdar Mayda, Pablo Pelaez-Campomanes, Fikret Göktaş and Lars Van Den Hoek Ostende: Updated Early Miocene Biochronology of Anatolia	29
Marija Bošnjak, Koraljka Bakrač, Jasenka Sremac, Sanja Japundžić and Tomislav Malvić: A short note on the Middle Miocene (Badenian) brachiopods from the southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys, Croatia	31
Jana Brčeková, Peter Uhlík, Peter Koděra, Marek Osacký, Jaroslav Lexa and Miroslav Pereszlény: 3D resource modeling of selected mineral deposits in the Neogene Central Slovakia Volcanic Field, Western Carpathians	33
Igor Broska, Michal Kubiš, Martin Ondrejka and Marek Vďačný: Two geochemical types of West-Carpathian Permian felsic magmatism and their geotectonic implications.....	35
Rostislav Brzobohatý, Barbara Zahradníková and Natália Hudáčková: Paleoenvironmental characteristics of the Badenian locality Borský Mikuláš-Vinohrádky (Vienna Basin, Slovakia) based on study of fish otoliths and foraminifera	37
László Bujtor: First fossil representative of Sediment Hosted Vent ecosystems from Zengővárkony (Mecsek Mountains, Tisza Mega-unit, South Hungary, Early Cretaceous)	39
Florentin Cailleux, Lars W. Van Den Hoek Ostende and Peter Joniak: Distributional patterns of the Miocene Talpidae (Eulipotyphla) from the Western Carpathians	41

Kamil Cichostępski and Jerzy Dec: Mélanges of the Pieniny Klippen Belt in the shallow Seismic Refraction Tomography Image.....	43
Vlasta Čosović, Đurđica Pezelj, Igor Pejnović, Marina Čančar, Damir Bucković, Dražen Kurtanjek, Nenad Tomašić, Željko Ištuk, Dunja Aljinović, Ines Galović, Marija Horvat and Stjepan Čorić: The multidisciplinary approach of studying the Middle Eocene warming episodes in Dinaric foreland basin: new data or unfulfilled promises?	45
Zoltán Cseri, Emő Márton, Márton Palotai, Mátyás Hencz, Tamás Biró and Dávid Karátson: Integrating field volcanology, paleomagnetism and structural geology to correlate a poorly preserved Miocene succession in the East Mátra Mts. (Hungary)	47
Tamás Csibri, Ľubomír Sliva, Andrej Ruman, Natália Hlavatá Hudáčková, Michal Jamrich, Katarína Šarinová and Michal Kováč: Deltaic coarse-grained deposits of the northern Vienna Basin: (re)interpretation of older data and cross-border correlation.....	49
Rastislav Demko, Marián Putiš, Lukáš Ackerman, Qiu-Li Li, David Chew and Ondrej Nemeč: Miocene volcanism in the Slovenský Raj Mts.: Magmatic, space and time relationships in the Western Carpathians.....	51
Nela Doláková, David Krejčíř, Torsten Utescher, Marianna Kováčová, Vladimír Gryc and Jakub Sakala: Comparison of pollen spectra and fossilized woods from the Oligocene and Middle Miocene sediments of Central Paratethys area – southern part of the Czech Republic (Moravia) - palaeoecological case studies	53
David Miloš Droppa, Rastislav Vojtko, Jozef Hók, Katarína Kriváňová, Alexander Lačný and Silvia Gerátová: Geological structure and structural evolution of the Tatric Unit in the Devínska Kobyla massif (Malé Karpaty Mts.)	55
László Fodor, Éva Oravecz and Attila Balázs: Scale-dependent definition of syn-rift and post-rift phases during the extension of the Pannonian Basin: inferences from numerical modelling, stratigraphic and tectonic data	57
Dominika Godová, Miroslav Bielik, Ján Vozár, Jaroslava Pánisová, Jana Dérerová and Vladimír Bezák: Preliminary 3D integrated geophysical model of the Tatra Mts and its surroundings	59
Jan Golonka and Anna Waškowska: The paleogeography of the Zlatne Basin (Pieniny Klippen Belt).....	60
Valentina Hajek Tadesse, Lara Wacha, Marija Horvat, Ines Galović, Koraljka Bakrač, Anita Grizelj, Oleg Mandić and Bettina Reichenbacher: Do we have enough evidence to prove the oldest environmental change in the area of the Papuk mountain (North Croatian Basin) in the Early Miocene?	62
Mathias Harzhauser, Matthias Kranner, Oleg Mandic, Stjepan Čorić, Arthur Borzi, Werner E. Piller, Philipp Strauss, Rudolf Dellmour and Wolfgang Siedl: The Pannonian of the Vienna Basin – from Paleo-Danube Delta to post-Pannonian erosion	64
Katarína Holcová, Filip Scheiner, Lukáš Ackerman, Rastislav Milovský, Natália Hudáčková, Mihovil Brlek and Danuta Peryt: Strontium Isotope Stratigraphy in epicontinental basins – possibilities and restrictions – a case study from the Middle Miocene of the Central Paratethys.....	65
Eva Hoppanová, Viera Šimonová, Štefan Ferenc and Richard Kopáček: Brezno-Za dolinou – occurrence of Fe-Cu-Sb-As mineralization and its relationship to the Alpine tectonics.....	67
Marija Horvat, Lara Wacha, Anita Grizelj, Valentina Hajek Tadesse, Ines Galović, Koraljka Bakrač, Oleg Mandić and Bettina Reichenbacher:	

Mineralogical and geochemical proxies of the Lower Miocene sediments of Mtn. Papuk – Poljanska and Mala sections (Northern Croatia)	69
Natália Hudáčková, Katarína Šarinová, Michal Jamrich and Andrej Ruman: Mineral selectiveness in agglutinated foraminifera from the Middle Miocene Hámor site (Novohrad-Nógrád Basin).....	71
Matúš Hyžný, Samuel Rybár, Natália Hudáčková, Andrej Ruman, Michal Jamrich, Katarína Holcová, Eva Halásová and Kamil Zágoršek: New fossil association of the Badenian open coast tidal flats from the Novohrad-Nógrád Basin (Slovakia).....	73
Milan Kohút: Where are the roots of the Western Carpathians? – Provenance and detrital zircon study of the Tatric Unit basement	75
Michal Kováč, Eva Halásová, Jozef Hók, Natália Hudáčková, Matúš Hyžný, Tomáš Klučiar, Michal Jamrich, Peter Joniak, Marianna Kováčová, Silvia Ozdínová, Petronela Nováková, Andrej Ruman, Samuel Rybár, Martin Sabol, Ján Schlögl, Ľubomír Sliva, Ján Soták, Lenka Šamajová, Katarína Šarinová, Michal Šujan, Viktória Šubová, Adam Tomašových, Tomáš Vlček, Rastislav Vojtko and Colleagues from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungaria, Netherlands, Poland and Romania: The Western Carpathians back-axis basins sedimentary record: new geochronological, biostratigraphical and multiproxy data, results of sedimentology, structural geology and geophysics.....	77
Matthias Kranner, Mathias Harzhauser, Oleg Mandić, Werner E. Piller, Philipp Strauss and Wolfgang Siedl: Paleoenvironmental evolution of the Vienna Basin during the Miocene	84
Katarína Kriváňová, Rastislav Vojtko, David Miloš Droppa and Silvia Gerátová: Geological structure of the junction zone between the Tatric and Veporic units in the Nízke Tatry Mts. (Western Carpathians)	85
Tomislav Kurečić and Marijan Kovačić: Modal composition of clastic sediment as an indicator of tectonic and climatic events during the post-rift development of the Pannonian Basin System; the example from the North Croatian Basin, Republic of Croatia.....	87
Juraj Littva, Pavel Bella, Ľudovít Gaál, Laura Dušeková and Pavel Herich: Preliminary results from the geological and geomorphological research of the cave with blue and green speleothems (Low Tatras, Western Carpathians)	89
Jozef Madzin and Dušan Plašienka: Provenance study of the Upper Cretaceous – Paleocene turbiditic deposits of the Pupov Formation (Pieniny Klippen Belt, Terchová-Zázrivá area).....	91
Imre Magyar: Clinoforms as paleogeographic tools: the late Neogene evolution of Lake Pannon	93
Elżbieta Machaniec, Renata Jach, Ewa Malata, Maciej Kania and Mateusz Szczęch: The Eocene – Oligocene boundary along the northern margin of the Tatra Mts in the Central Carpathian Paleogene Basin in Poland - a problem to be solved	95
Elżbieta Machaniec and Alfred Uchman: A new agglutinated benthic foraminifera <i>Remesella varians</i> – <i>Rectoprotomarssonella rugosa</i> Zone for the latest Maastrichtian	97
Oleg Mandic, Karin Sant, Mădălina-Elena Kallanxhi, Stjepan Ćorić, Dörte Theobalt, Patrick Grunert, Arjan De Leeuw and Wout Krijgsman: Integrated bio-magnetostratigraphy of the Badenian reference section Ugljevik - implications for the Paratethys history	100
Emő Márton, Vlada Čosović and Gábor Imre: The mechanism accounting for the geometry of offshore External Dinarides	102
Jozef Michalík, Silviya Petrova and Diana Ölvecká: Calpionellids on the Jurassic / Cretaceous boundary and their lorica ultrastructure	103

Marína Molčan Matejová and Dušan Plašienka: Age of the radiolarian assemblage from the Šariš Unit near Zázrivá (Pieniny Klippen Belt)	104
Franz Neubauer, Xiaoming Liu, Yunpeng Dong, Shuyun Cao and Isabella Merschorf: Opening and closure of the Penninic ocean basin at the Alpine-Carpathian transition: new structural data and U-Pb zircon ages	106
Mariusz Paszkowski, Robert Anczkiewicz, Przemysław Gedl, Artur Kędzior, Stanisław Mazur and Mateusz Mikołajczak: Reinterpretation of the Outer Carpathian paleogeography based on the study of the exotic blocks from the turbidite series ...	108
Ivica Pavičić, Ivan Dragičević, Ida Pavlin, Filip Šegović and Vladislav Brkić: 3D geological model of the bauxite-bearing district Bnižnica (Posušje, BiH): A powerfull tool from 3D visualization of geological structures to geological prospecting	109
Radovan Pipík, Dušan Starek, Rastislav Milovský, Juraj Šurka, Peter Uhlík, Stanislava Milovská, Marina Vidhya, Lucia Žatková, Ramachandran Dhavamani, Roberta Prokešová, Tímea Chamutiová, Ladislav Hamerlík and Peter Bitušik: From valley to valley – heterochronous paleoclimatic and paleoecologic evolution of the Tatra Mts. as inferred from lacustrine deposits	110
Daniel Pivko: Evolution of the Dreveník and the Spiš Castle travertine plateaus in Slovakia (Late Pliocene to Holocene)	112
Dušan Plašienka, Przemysław Gedl, Štefan Józsa, Ján Soták and Marína Molčan Matejová: Structure of the Čergov segment of the Western Carpathian Klippen Belt (north-eastern Slovakia).....	114
Slawomir Porzucek and Monika Loj: Pieniny Klippen Belt in the reference to the gravity image of the Outer and Inner Carpathians.....	116
Tomáš Potočný, Marián Putiš and Jiří Sláma: Metarhyolites of Meliatic Bôrka Nappe: Zircon U-Pb LA-ICP-MS dating of Triassic volcanism, Western Carpathians, Slovakia	118
Weronika Pratkowiecka, Patrycja Wójcik-Tabol, Alfred Uchman and Marta Oszczytko-Clowes: Petrological composition of organic matter in the Oligocene Dynów Marl Member (Menilite Formation, Skole Unit, Polish Outer Carpathians) in Tarnawka and its implication in basin salinity interpretations	120
Luca Reato, Monika Huraiová, Patrik Konečný and Vratislav Hurai: Protolith identification of skarnoid xenoliths from Southern Slovakia: New insights from geochemical and isotopic data	122
Boštjan Rožič, Alfred Uchman, Luka Gale and Timotej Verbovšek: Possible fossil medusae in the Eocene flysch from the Slovenian coast	124
Krisztina Sebe and Michal Šujan: Pleistocene aeolian erosion and wind system in Slovakia	125
Krisztina Sebe, Levente Laisz and Szabolcs Harangi: Miocene andesite volcanism in the Mecsek Mts, SW Hungary	127
Filip Scheiner, Martina Havelcová, Katarína Holcová, Nela Doláková, Slavomír Nehyba, Lukáš Ackerman, Jakub Trubač, Torsten Utescher, Šárka Hladilová and Jan Rejšek: Multiproxy reconstruction of a gradual prodeltaic evolution during the Miocene Climate Optimum	129
Ján Schlögl, Martin Košťák, Dirk Fuchs, Milan Havrila, Tea Kolar-Jurkovšek, Attila Vörös and Juraj Šurka: Rare Middle Triassic coleoids from the Western Carpathians	131
Ján Schlögl, Adam Tomašových, Natália Hudáčková and Stanislava Milovská: Peculiar microstructure of the outer shell wall in the Lower Miocene <i>Aturia</i> from the Central Paratethys (Vienna Basin, Western Carpathians, Slovakia)	132
Vladimír Šimo, Adam Tomašových, Ján Schlögl and Duarte Luís Vítor: Trace fossil association within Sinemurian/early Pliensbachian carbonate	

sequence of the São Pedro de Moel section (Lusitanian Basin, Portugal) in relation to changes in sedimentary environment	134
Lucija Slapnik, Boštjan Rožič, Luka Gale, Petra Žvab Rožič and Anna Waškowska: Red infills of megalodontid bivalves in the Pod peski Valley in Krn mountain range	136
Ján Soták and Marína Molčan Matejová: Backstop thrusting, inverted duplexes and mélange formations in the Peri-Klippen and Central Carpathian units in northern Slovakia.....	137
Ján Soták and František Tet'ák: Tracing of greenhouse-icehouse transition in the Paratethyan basins: a case study from the turbiditic sequences of the Central-Carpathian Paleogene basin.....	139
Ján Soták, Tiiu Elbra, Petr Pruner, Silvia Antolíková, Petr Schnabl and Šimon Kdýr: Cretaceous/Paleogene boundary events in the Western Carpathians: proxy record of biotic crisis, recoveries, environments and sea-level changes	141
Michal Šujan, Ľubomír Sliva, Katarína Šarinová, Régis Braucher, Oleg Mandić, Andrej Chyba, Natália Hudáčková, Michal Jamrich, Marianna Kováčová, Mathias Harzhauser, Nadja Ognjanova-Rumenova, Kishan Aherwar, Aster Team and Michal Kováč: A multiproxy study reveals spatial and temporal changes in paleoenvironments from demise of the Sarmatian Sea to the Lake Pannon flooding, central Vienna Basin, Slovakia	143
Lilian Švábenická, Andrea Svobodová, Daniela Reháková, Miroslav Bubík, Petr Skupien, Lucie Vaňková, Martin Košťák, Tiiu Elbra, Petr Pruner, Jan Geist and Martin Mazuch: Tithonian–Berriasian boundary: biostratigraphy, stable isotopes and paleomagnetism in the Silesian Unit, Western Carpathians	145
Orsolya Sztanó: Milestones in understanding Lake Pannon depositional systems.....	147
Gábor Tari, Gábor Bada, János Csizmeg, Michal Kováč, Dušan Plašienka and Michal Šujan: The connection between the Alps and the Carpathians beneath the Pannonian Basin: a case for negative structural inversion	149
Adam Tomašových, Diego A. García-Ramos, Rafal Nawrot, James H. Nebelsick and Martin Zuschin: Disarticulation rates and time averaging of Holocene bathyal brachiopods in the southern Adriatic Sea.....	151
Csaba Tóth: Deinotheres (Proboscidea, Mammalia) of Slovakia: Biochronological overview	152
Peter Uhlík, Ondrej Pelech, Ena Topalović, Darko Tibljaš and Ľubica Puškelová: Illite crystallinity as indicator of geological processes – three examples.....	154
Marína Vidhya, Radovan Pipík, Dušan Starek and Rastislav Milovský: Two glacial lakes and two different paleoecological paths during the Late Pleistocene and Holocene as reflected by diatoms (Tatra Mts., Slovakia).....	156
Rastislav Vojtko, Alexander Lačný, Tomáš Potočný and Marína Molčan Matejová: Structure and deformation pattern of the Bôrka thrust sheets and Gemic cover sequence in the Slovenské rudohorie Mts.: insights from geometric and kinematic analyses	158
Lucia Žatková, Rastislav Milovský and Radoslav Pipík: Biomarkers in the sediments of Tatra Mts. lakes recorded the changes in the Holocene vegetation cover.....	160
Nadja Zupan Hajna, Pavel Bosák, Petr Pruner, Helena Hercman, Ivan Horáček, Jan Wagner, Stanislav Čermák, Jacek Pawlak, Paula Sierpień, Šimon Kdýr, Lucie Juříčková, Astrid Švara and Andrej Mihevc: Račiška pečina sedimentary sequence: 3.4 Ma long record in cave sediments	162

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A short note on the Middle Miocene (Badenian) brachiopods from the southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys, Croatia

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Fossil brachiopods are recorded in the Middle Miocene (Langhian/Serravalian – Badenian) deposits in Northern Croatia, Medvednica Mt. near Zagreb, which paleogeographically belonged to the southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys (e.g., Rögl 1998; Kováč et al. 2007; Piller et al. 2007; Sremac et al. 2022). The Badenian brachiopods from Northern Croatia are for the first time mentioned in Gorjanović-Kramberger (1908), and described by Kochansky (1944) and Kochansky-Devidé (1957). Since then, there have been no papers on the Badenian brachiopods from Croatia, except one unpublished Master Thesis by K. Bakrač (Sinković 1994). Specimens described in the above-mentioned papers are today housed in the Croatian Natural History Museum and we decided to conduct their revision.

A revision is based on the taxonomical review and biometry of the brachiopod specimens. In this paper we present preliminary results of this ongoing study. Brachiopods are represented by the class Rhynchonellata, with more than 700 specimens from the orders Rhynchonellida and Terebratulida, and the latter one prevails. Brachiopod assemblage from Northern Croatia shows similarity with the Miocene terebratulid record from Slovenia (e.g., Mikuž 2011 and references therein), and also comprises the species *Megerlia truncata* (Linnaeus, 1767), common in the Miocene deposits of the Central Paratethys (e.g., Bitner & Dulai 2004 and references therein). Several other brachiopod species, from the terebratulid family Megathyrididae, common in the Miocene of the Central Paratethys, e.g., *Argyrotheca cuneata* (Risso, 1826), *Megathiris detruncata* (Gmelin, 1790) and *Joania cordata* (Risso, 1826) (after e.g., Bitner & Dulai 2004 and references therein; Bitner et al. 2013 and references therein) are not recorded so far from the Miocene deposits of Northern Croatia. Study of the here presented brachiopod fauna could give further insight into the brachiopod biogeographical provinces and open marine connections in this area of the Central Paratethys during the Badenian Stage.

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