

high abundances in the Peniche section. A similar increase in nannofossil absolute abundance across the boundary is also reported for other Tethyan settings (Mattioli et al., 2004).

Small-sized *Lotharingius* like *L. hauffii* and *L. frodoi* display increasing relative abundances in the basal Toarcian. Three and half meters above the boundary, within the Semicelatum ammonite Subzone (Polymorphum Zone), a peak in abundance of over-calcified specimens of *Lotharingius frodoi* is observed (Mailliot, PhD thesis in progress). This peak in the bio-calcification of this nannofossil species is likely linked to palaeoenvironmental conditions.

Compared to the ammonite record, the definition of the Pliensbachian/Toarcian boundary by nannofossils is not marked by a precise and distinct event, but gradual changes and several events occurring across the boundary permit good characterization of this time interval.

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BAJOCIAN WORKING GROUP

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A short meeting of the Working Group is being planned for the Jurassic Congress in Krakow. I would like to

pass on the position of Convenor to someone else – volunteers/suggestions, please.

BATHONIAN WORKING GROUP

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In preparation for discussions during the 7th International Congress on the Jurassic System, planned for 2006 in Krakow (Poland), we would like to use this report to bring everyone else up-to-date about the latest developments, so that the time in Krakow can be used to greater effect.

In order to establish the Bathonian GSSP there are two particularly relevant areas: Digne-Barrême (SE France) and Cabo Mondego (Portugal). New studies and additional collecting of ammonites are in progress.

The leading candidate is in the Ravin du Bés section, Bas Auran, in the Geological Reserve of Haute-Provence (SE France). Ammonoid specimens from 14 stratigraphical levels, through 8 m in thickness, of the Bomfordi and Parvum subzones have been studied on the Bas Auran section. Most of these ammonoids pertain to collections previously studied for bio- and chronostratigraphical purposes by several authors (Sturani, 1967; Pavia, 1984; Torrens, 1987; Innocenti et al., 1988; Olivero et al., 1997). Sedimentological data and sequence-stratigraphy interpretations of this section have been published by Ferry & Mangold (1995). New results of the biochronostratigraphical and taphonomic analysis of ammonoid fossil-assemblages at the Bajocian/Bathonian boundary in the Bas Auran will be presented in Krakow.

Ammonites of the Bajocian/Bathonian boundary are scarce at Cabo Mondego region. However, they are recorded in an expanded stratigraphic section, which can be studied through several kilometres of coastal outcrops. Several papers have described Lower Bathonian ammonites from the classical section of Cabo Mondego, 200 m WNW of the lighthouse (Section-90) (Ruget-Perrot, 1961; Elmi, 1967, 1971; Elmi et al., 1971; Mangold, 1971ab, 1990; Rocha et al., 1981, 1987; Mangold & Rioult, 1997). However, this classical section was modified and access became difficult in 1990 due to the operations of several stone quarries. At the present time, there are two other outcrops allowing detailed study of the Bajocian/ Bathonian boundary of this region. The first is 500 m SW of the lighthouse, the so-called Section-02, on the coastline (Fernández-López & Henriques, 2002). The second, 700 m N of the lighthouse, the so-called Section-04, is located at an active quarry front after 2004. The ammonite succession at the Bajocian/ Bathonian boundary in the Cabo Mondego region, taking into account data achieved in these three observable sections, will also be presented in Krakow. Through up to ten metres thickness of strata, over forty successive assemblages have been recognized in the Parvum Subzone.

The formal proposal for the Bathonian GSSP is expected by the end 2006. We hope it will be possible to arrive at a preferred candidate after the Congress. This decision cannot be made by formal vote during the Congress, because the proper route is a postal or email vote by all members of the Working Group. However, it will surely

be possible to leave Krakow with at least the prospect of an early proposal to ISJS.

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CALLOVIAN WORKING GROUP

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As far as a proposal for a Callovian GSSP is concerned, nothing has substantially changed in the one put forward at the Vancouver Symposium (Callomon & Dietl 1998, published 2000). It remains only to supplement it with some details relating to secondary standards, either bioprovincial when based on ammonites or otherwise when not, and pointers to some reference sections traversing the Bathonian-Callovian boundary that might illustrate some particular bio- or other stratigraphical character better than what is to be seen at the type sections. There have been no comments since Vancouver from any quarter, for or against the proposals put forward there, and I shall therefore take these as the basis for an updated version written with the Voting Members, etc., of ISJS in mind as the primary readers.

Reference:

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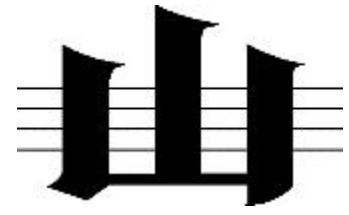
OXFORDIAN WORKING GROUP

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The work of the Oxfordian Working Group has been carried on during recent months in order to finalise presentation of a sound proposal of a GSSP candidate for the Callovian-Oxfordian stage boundary. Until now the two main candidates have been the section at Savournon, near Serres (Provence, SE France) and the section at Redcliff Point, near Weymouth (Dorset, S England, U.K.). These display, to some extent, similar features but also some consistent differences in their fossil content. However, a further proposal from Michail Rogov will be presented to the Jurassic Congress in Krakow.

New Section on the Russian Platform

New information has come from our colleague Mikhail Rogov (Geological Institute; Russian Academy of Sciences, Pyzhevskii Lane 7, Moscow) about a further good candidate section - the Dubki section at Saratov (Russia), some 720 km from Moscow. In fact, this section has been proposed as a reference section for the



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NEW Website for the ISJS meeting 2006 at www2.uj.edu.pl/ING/jurassica

+ ISJS Website at <http://www.es.ucl.ac.uk/people/bown/ISJSwebsite.htm>

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