

## 1. TITLE OF CONSTITUENT BODY and NAME OF REPORTER

### Subcommission on Cretaceous Stratigraphy (SCS)

Maria Rose Petrizzo, Chair; Michael Wagreich and James Haggart, Vice-chairs; Francesca Falzoni, Secretary  
5 December, 2017

## 2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES AND FIT WITHIN IUGS SCIENCE POLICY

- To establish a standard global stratigraphic subdivision and nomenclature for the Cretaceous, as part of the ICS standard global stratigraphic scale.
- To produce a stratigraphic table displaying agreed subdivision to stage and substage level marking boundaries that are defined by a GSSP.

## 3. ORGANISATION - interface with other international projects / groups

SCS has always been linked to important international Projects such as IODP, IGCP, Mesozoic Planktonic Foraminiferal Working Group, and ICDP (International Continental Scientific Drilling Project).

### 3a. Nominated Officers for 2016-2020:

Chair: Maria Rose Petrizzo; Vice-Chairs: Michael Wagreich and James Haggart; Secretary: Francesca Falzoni. Voting Members are 19, from most continents. Over 150 Cretaceous scientists from all over the world and in many different disciplines belong to one or more of the Stage Working Groups and to the Kilian Group. The Stage Working Groups of the SCS are: Berriasian, Valanginian, Hauterivian, Barremian, Aptian, Coniacian and Campanian. All WG leaders (chairs) and members are treated as Corresponding Members of the Subcommission.

## 4. EXTENT OF NATIONAL/REGIONAL/GLOBAL SUPPORT FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN IUGS

The Subcommission has strong links with IGCP projects. IGCP 609 “Climate-environmental deteriorations during greenhouse phases: Causes and consequences of short-term sea-level change” met at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Cretaceous in Vienna (August 2017).

Funds to the Coniacian WG: Grant from the German Science Foundation to Christina Ifrim, for further works on the El Rosario section, (NE Mexico), a potential candidate for the base of the Coniacian Stage. Internal grant of the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw to Irek Walaszczyk for works in North Dobrogea.

## 5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

A new website of the Cretaceous Subcommission is available online at <http://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org> since May 2017. The platform is user-friendly and can be updated by officers and working group leaders allowing easy communication among members and a prompt update of progresses and news.

The SCS met at the 10th International Symposium on the Cretaceous System on August 23th, 2017. The meeting was attended by about 50 people including officers, voting members and chairs and members of the working groups. The discussion was focused on the necessity to speed the selection of the GSSP to accomplish the task assigned to SCS by ICS and IUGS (see minutes of the meeting at <http://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org>).

### • WORKING GROUPS ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE DEFINITION OF THE GSSPs

Several WGs (Campanian, Aptian, Hauterivian and Valanginian) that had been inactive for a long time were re-formed in spring-summer 2017. The current chairs and the updated membership of each WG are available at <http://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/working-groups/>. Memberships are continuously updated by inviting active scientists that are willing to collaborate to the WG activities.

### Campanian GSSP

The WG was re-formed in summer 2017 and is currently evaluating the possibility to propose the Bottaccione section as a possible candidate GSSP for the base of the Campanian, being available integrated magnetostratigraphic, biostratigraphic (planktonic foraminifera, calcareous nannofossils) and chemostratigraphic data.

## Coniacian GSSP

The WG re-sampled the Salzgitter-Salder section in October 2017 to re-analyse the foraminiferal (by Prof. Danuta Peryt and Dr. Zofia Dubicka) and the dinocyst record. Further activity was performed in North Dobrogea (eastern Romania) in September 2016 and September 2017 by Irek Walaszczyk and his colleagues from the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw, and in the Saratov area (SE European Russia) in October 2017 by Irek Walaszczyk, prof. Evgenij Pervushov and Dr Vladimir Seltzer (both from the State Saratov University, with the aim to check the Turonian-Coniacian boundary successions.

Relevant publications and presentations arising from members of the Coniacian WG in 2017:

- Walaszczyk, I. and Wood, C.J. 2017. Inoceramid bivalves from the Coniacian (Upper Cretaceous) of the Staffhorst shaft (Lower Saxony, Germany) e Stratigraphical significance of a unique succession. *Cretaceous Research* (in press). DOI.org/10.1016/j.cretres.2017.07.001

- Plint, A.G., Hooper, E.A., Grifi, M.D., Walaszczyk, I. Landman, N.H., Gröcke, D.R., Trabucho Alexandre, J.P., and Jarvis, I. 2017. Integrated, High-Resolution Allostratigraphic, Biostratigraphic and Carbon-Isotope Correlation of Coniacian Strata (Upper Cretaceous), Western Alberta and Northern Montana. *Bulletin American Museum of Natural History*, 414, 9-52.

- Walaszczyk, I., Plint, A.G., and Landman, N.H. 2017. Inoceramid Bivalves from the Coniacian and Basal Santonian (Upper Cretaceous) of the Western Canada Foreland Basin. *Bulletin American Museum of Natural History*, 414, 53-103.

- Landman, N.H., Plint, A.G., and Walaszczyk, I. 2017. Scaphitid Ammonites from the Upper Cretaceous (Coniacian-Santonian) Western Canada Foreland Basin. *Bulletin American Museum of Natural History*, 414, 105-172.

The Group presented the State of the Art of the recognition of the Turonian/Coniacian boundary and a number of talks during the Cretaceous Symposium in Vienna:

- Čech, S., and Švábenická, L. 2017. Inoceramids and calcareous nanoplankton at the lower and middle Coniacian substage boundary in the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* (ISSN 107-8880), Band 120, Wien 2017 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous – abstracts, p. 46

- Čech, S., and Uličný, D. 2017. The Turonian-Coniacian stage boundary in the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin (Czech Republic), correlated between nearshore and offshore facies. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* (ISSN 107-8880), Band 120, Wien 2017 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous – abstracts, p. 45.

- Guzhikov, A., Guzhikova, A., Pervushov, E., Ryabov, I., Surinskiy, A., Seltser, V., Beniamovski, V. 2017. The Reverse polarity zone in the Turonian–Coniacian interval of the Lower Volga region. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* (ISSN 107-8880), Band 120, Wien 2017 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous – abstracts, p. 104.

- Voigt, S., Püttmann, T., Mutterlose, J. 2017. Reassessment of Salzgitter-Salder as potential stratotype for the Turonian-Coniacian Boundary. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* (ISSN 107-8880), Band 120, Wien 2017 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous – abstracts, p. 271.

- Walaszczyk, I., Plint, A.G., Landman, N.H. 2017, The Coniacian stratigraphy in the Western Interior of North America: A Canadian perspective. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* (ISSN 107-8880), Band 120, Wien 2017 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous – abstracts, p. 276.

- Walaszczyk, I. 2017. Stratigraphic subdivision of the Coniacian Stage: State of the art. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* (ISSN 107-8880), Band 120, Wien 2017 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous – abstracts, p. 275.

## Albian GSSP

The GSSP for the base of the Albian was ratified by IUGS in April 2016. The article submitted to *Episodes* was published in September 2017. Officers of the SCS contacted the local authorities of the Commune of Arnayon (Département of Drôme), visited the GSSP site and agreed on the official steps to follow for the establishment of a geopark for the protection of the site.

- Kennedy, W.J., A.S. Gale, B.T. Huber, M.R. Petrizzo, P. Bown, H.C. Jenkyns (2017). The Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) for the base of the Albian Stage, of the Cretaceous, the Col de Pré-Guittard section, Arnayon, Drôme, France. *Episodes*: 40, 177-188.

## Aptian GSSP

The WG was re-formed in summer 2017. Several members of the WG met for a first informal discussion during the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Cretaceous System (August 2017). The WG is collecting available literature on a potential Aptian GSSP candidate and a discussion within the working group about the proposed locations will be initiated based on the literature.

## Barremian GSSP

The WG has completed the study of the candidate GSSP section at Rio Argos in Spain. The proposal is being discussed within the WG and the outcome of the discussion and voting will be submitted to the SCS in early 2018. The formal proposal will include data on biostratigraphy (ammonites, calcareous nannofossils, and benthic and planktonic forams), stable isotopes stratigraphy, organic matter and cyclostratigraphy.

Relevant publications arising from members of the Barremian WG in 2017:

- Company, M., Aguado, R., Baudin, F., Boulila, S., Coccioni, R., Deconinck, J.F., Frontalini, F., Giusberti, L., Martinez, M., Moiroud, M., Monna, F., O'Dogherty, L., Pellenard, P., Rawson, P.F., Riquier, L., Romero, G., Sandoval, J., Tavera, J.M., Weissert, H., 2017. The Barremian GSSP—state of the art. 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous Abstracts. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* 120, 54.

- Aguado, R., Company, M., Martinez, M., Martínez-López, J., O'Dogherty, L., Sánchez-Bellón, A., Sandoval, J., 2017. Orbital chronology of the Barremian Stage from the Eastern Subbetic (Spain). 10th Int. Symp. Cretaceous Abstracts. *Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt* 120, 4.

### Hauterivian GSSP

The WG was re-formed in spring 2017 and several members met during the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Cretaceous in Vienna (August 2017). The WG has started to evaluate the data already available for La Charce section (SE France). The proposal is almost ready to be discussed and voted within the WG.

### Valanginian GSSP

The WG was re-formed in summer 2017 and is currently evaluating two possible GSSP candidate sections: Vergol (SE France; Blanc et al., 1994) and Cañada Luenga (SE Spain; Aguado et al., 2000).

Relevant publications arising from members of the Valanginian WG in 2017:

- López-Martínez, R., Barragán, R., Bernal, J.P., Reháková, D., Gómez-Tuena, A., Martini, M., Ortega, C., 2017. Integrated stratigraphy and isotopic ages at the Berriasian-Valanginian boundary at Tlatlaquitepec (Puebla, Mexico). *Journal of South American Earth Sciences* 75, 1-10.

- Omaña, L., González-Arreola, C., Núñez-Useche, F., 2017. The Berriasian-Valanginian boundary interval based on calpionellids from the Teraises Formation, Cuencamé de Ceniceros, Durango, NW Mexico: Biostratigraphic, paleoecologic and paleobiogeographic significance. *Journal of South American Earth Sciences* 80, 589-600.

### Berriasian (J/K boundary) GSSP

Berriasian WG members have continued to document sites globally, and publish the results. Some of this was reported at the Vienna Cretaceous Symposium, with field studies and progress with correlations in N. and S. America, Europe, Africa and Asia recounted. The Berriasian WG held a meeting as part of the Vienna symposium, with presentations and posters on Berriasian topics and the Tithonian/Berriasian boundary. The group made some useful new contacts and received offers of collaboration from colleagues in new regions. The WG Chair presented a paper on behalf of the WG on progress with documenting the J/K boundary level, which included the public announcement of the choice of Alpina Subzone as the primary boundary marker for the stage base, and discussion of secondary markers. During the meeting, the aims of the group were clarified and confirmed, building on our formal decision on a Berriasian primary marker in 2016 at Smolenice.

To summarise, it was agreed that: 1) we would continue with site documentation, and this should still pursue integrated sampling for calpionellids and magnetostratigraphy, nannofossils, and, where possible, ammonites; 2) the choice of a GSSP should preferably be a profile with, as a minimum, an interval between the top of M20n and the base of M17r; 3) colleagues would contribute their up-to-date data on the sites studied (Font de St Bertrand, Tre Maroua, Kurovice, Bosso etc). The WG Chair will then construct a detailed correlation chart by the end of 2017. This chart will be a basis for the next stage of discussion, and consideration of a short list of potential GSSPs.

During the SCS meeting in Vienna, the WG Chair gave a brief report on Berriasian WG activities and progress, and informed, the SCS that the WG should be ready to consider nominating a candidate locality by the end of 2019. The chairman of the WG in September reduced the number of WG members to comply the ICS Statutes.

### KILIAN Group

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IUGS Lower Cretaceous Ammonite Working Group (the Kilian Group) took place on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at the Natural History Museum in Vienna (Austria), before the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Cretaceous. The workshop was attended by 14 members from 12 countries. The Vienna meeting mainly dealt with the West Mediterranean zonation, which has long been taken as the standard zonation; its calibration with different ammonite zonal schemes of the Boreal, Austral and Central Atlantic realms has been also evoked in some cases. For each stage, a state of the art was made on the biostratigraphic results published since the Ankara meeting (Turkey, 2013). After these general presentations, some changes on the standard zonation have been proposed by some members; then it was discussed the possibility of

introducing some of these biostratigraphic units into the standard zonation. Some amendments were introduced in the standard zonation for the upper Berriasian, lower Valanginian and Barremian schemes. The 6<sup>th</sup> Kilian group report will be submitted for publication by end 2017.

- **Field excursion to some key Lower Cretaceous sites in Drôme (SE France)**

SCS officers visited the GSSP site for the base of the Albian Stage (Arnayon, Drôme department, SE France) and the candidate GSSP section for the base of the Hauterivian at La Charce, which is located in the same department, during a field trip led by Bruno Granier (May 17-19, 2017). SCS officers met the authorities of the Drôme department during the field trip to agree on the steps to follow for the establishment of a geopark to protect the Albian GSSP site. Further details and images of the field trip are available at <http://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/field-excursion-key-lower-cretaceous-sites-drome-se-francemay-17-19-2017>. - Granier B. (ed., 2017): Some key Lower Cretaceous sites in Drôme (SE France). Carnets de Géologie, Madrid, ISBN13: 978-2-916733-13-5, Book 2017/01 (CG2017\_B01), 175 p. DOI 10.4267/2042/62543; [http://paleopolis.rediris.es/cg/en-index\\_books.html#CG2017\\_B01](http://paleopolis.rediris.es/cg/en-index_books.html#CG2017_B01)

## 6. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IN 2017:

Contribution towards cost of building the website and its maintenance	800 Euro
Contribution to support laboratory costs for thin-sections (Berriasian WG)	1000 Euro
Contribution to fieldworks/working group activities (all Stage WGs except Berriasian WG)	1800 Euro
Contribution for secretarial work	300 Euro
Contribution to support participation to the Cretaceous Symposium 2017 (Chair and Secretary)	290.32 Euro
Expenses to support SCS Officers (Chair and Secretary) field trip in SE France (May, 2017)	1176.76 Euro

TOTAL expenditure in 2017 = 5367.08 Euro

## 7. SUMMARY OF INCOME IN 2017:

ICS Subvention for 2017	2700 Euro
Carried forward (2016)	£ 2512.37 (= 2667.09 Euro)

TOTAL income in 2017 = 5367.08 Euro

## 8. BUDGET FROM ICS - REQUEST FOR 2018

Contribution towards cost of website maintenance	500 Euro
Contribution to fieldworks/working group activities (all Stage WGs)	9000 Euro
Contribution for secretarial work	500 Euro

TOTAL estimated expenditure in 2018 = 10000.00 Euro

## 9. WORK PLAN, CRITICAL MILESTONES, ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ACHIEVED NEXT YEAR (2018):

- **ADDITIONAL STUDIES, FIELD WORK TO FINALIZE THE GSSP PROPOSALS**

### Campanian GSSP

Restudy of the Bottaccione section, to provide a detailed lithological log and to identify the precise sample positions of published magneto- and biostratigraphical datasets, and take photographs of the boundary succession, in order to write a GSSP proposal. The WG chair and members will visit the Bottaccione section in early 2018.

### Coniacian GSSP

Field work at the El Rosario section (NE Mexico) is planned for February 2018. The discussion and voting within the WG regarding the selection of the candidate GSSP section is planned for 2018.

### Albian GSSP

Finalization of the official steps required for the protection and easy accessibility of the GSSP site.

### Aptian GSSP

The work plan for 2018-2019 includes the organization of a meeting to discuss events and candidate stratotype sections available in the literature. A proposal for a candidate GSSP section will be ready for the STRATI 2019 congress (July 2019).

### Barremian GSSP

The formal proposal of the Barremian GSSP is almost ready to be discussed and voted within the WG in the first months of 2018 and the outcome will be submitted to the SCS.

### Hauterivian GSSP

The proposal for the GSSP candidate La Charce section (SE France) is almost ready to be discussed and voted within the WG. The outcome will be submitted to the SCS in February 2018.

### Valanginian GSSP

Field-work is planned for 2018 in order to resample the two candidate stratotype sections (Vergol, SE France, and Cañada Luenga, SE Spain) for chemostratigraphic analysis and to better constrain some biostratigraphic events. The proposal will be sent to the members of the WG for discussion and voting in 2019. An Upper Valanginian GSSP will be discussed as well.

### Berriasian (J/K boundary) GSSP

A WG meeting is planned for May 2018 in the Czech Republic, to discuss collected and published data from 2017/8. Fieldwork will be concluded (Tre Maroua, Kurovice, Bosso, Brodno etc). By the end of 2018, the WG should have a list of localities to be considered as candidate GSSPs.

### Kilian Group

The 6<sup>th</sup> Kilian group report will be submitted at the end of 2017, and should be published in Cretaceous Research in 2018 as for previous reports (Hoedemaeker et al., 2003; Reboulet et al., 2006; 2009; 2011; 2014).

#### • FUTURE MEETINGS

2018: the 9<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Symposium on Cretaceous will be held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 20 to 24 August. The conference aims at gathering attendants from different countries and field of studies to discuss and share the most recent advances concerning the Cretaceous Period (webpage: <http://www.49cbg.com.br>).

### Potential funding sources external to IUGS

The Subcommittee does not envisage being able, as an organization, to obtain significant funding from outside IUGS/ICS sources. Some financial support could be obtained by individual members from their host institutions and/or their personal research funds. Irek Walaszczyk (Chair of the Coniacian WG) submitted a grant application to the Polish National Grant Commission (NCN) aimed to finalise the Coniacian Stage and Substage boundaries.

## 10. OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2020

- 2018-2019: Inauguration of the Albian GSSP.
- 2018-2019: Finalization of the proposals by the Working Groups for the base of the Berriasian and the J/K boundary, base Valanginian, base Hauterivian, base Barremian, base Aptian, base Coniacian, base Campanian. Voting by members of the Working Groups to select a single GSSP candidate section.
- 2019-2020: Submission of the proposals for the GSSP candidate sections approved by the Working Groups to the Cretaceous Subcommittee Voting Members.
- 2019-2021: Continue to work and preparation of proposals for the definition of substages for discussions at the forthcoming meetings: STRATI 2019- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Stratigraphy (Milan, Italy, July 2019); 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (Delhi, India, 2-8 March 2020); 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Cretaceous will be held in Poland in 2021.

## APPENDIX [Names and Addresses of Current Officers and Voting Members]

### Nominated officers

Chair: Maria Rose Petrizzo, [mrose.petrizzo@unimi.it](mailto:mrose.petrizzo@unimi.it) - Dip. Scienze della Terra “A. Desio”, Università degli Studi di Milano, via Mangiagalli 34, 20133 Milano, Phone: +39-0250315531

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Secretary: Francesca Falzoni, [francesca.falzoni@unimi.it](mailto:francesca.falzoni@unimi.it) - Dip. Scienze della Terra “A. Desio”, Università degli Studi di Milano, via Mangiagalli 34, 20133 Milano, Phone: +39-0250315563.

### List of Voting Members

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### Working group leaders and corresponding members

#### CAMPANIAN WG

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