

**Meeting minutes of the SUBCOMMISSION ON CRETACEOUS STRATIGRAPHY
at the 10th International Symposium on the Cretaceous System
August 23th, 2017 – 18:00 – 19:30 Room HS7**

Attendees

The meeting was attended by about 50 people:

- *Officers*: Petrizzo (Chair), Wagreich (Vice-Chair), Falzoni (Secretary)
- *Voting members*: Baraboshkin, Granier, Hasegawa, Huber, Jagt-Yazykova, Jarvis, Vishnevskaya, Voigt, Walaszczyk, Wilmsen, Wimbledon.
- *WG Chairs*: Company (Valanginian and Barremian WG), Gale (Campanian WG), Mutterlose (Hauterivian WG), Walaszczyk (Coniacian WG), Weissert (Aptian WG), Wimbledon (Berriasian WG).
- Members of the working groups.
- Stratigraphers interested in the Subcommission activities.

Introduction

Maria Rose Petrizzo opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. She remarked the main points raised during her plenary lecture and the need to complete the definition of the 7 remaining Stage boundaries, including the definition of the base of the Cretaceous System. Petrizzo pointed out the important role of the working groups because the entire process relies on their activities, and the necessity to speed the selection of the GSSP to accomplish the task assigned to ICS by ICS and IUGS. She invited the chairs and the members of the GSSP working groups to evaluate the possibility to formally propose auxiliary stratotypes in addition (and subordinate) to the GSSP, following the indication in the guidelines for the establishment of a GSSP (Remane et al., 1996). The formal definition of auxiliary stratotypes in different facies and paleogeographic context could overcome the current difficulties in identifying the perfect GSSP section where all stratigraphic tools can be applied. The invitation was well received by the working groups.

During the discussion, it was once again emphasized that publications on proposed GSSP sections have to be accompanied or followed by a formal proposal that has to be discussed and voted within the WG and, if approved, voted by the voting members of the Subcommission. Then, if approved by the Subcommission, the proposal can be submitted to ICS for subsequent voting by the ICS voting members according to the new ICS Statutes (approved by IUGS in April 2017, <http://www.stratigraphy.org/index.php/ics-statutesofics>).

Report on the field excursion in SE France by B.T. Huber

Brian Huber reported on the field excursion in SE France organized by Bruno Granier in May 2017. Participants visited the candidate GSSP section for the base of the Hauterivian at La Charce (Drôme Department, SE France) and the GSSP section for the base of the Albian at Col de Pré-Guittard (Arnayon, Drôme department, SE France). Further details and images are also available at <http://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/field-excursion-key-lower-cretaceous-sites-drome-se-france-may-17-19-2017/>

The Subcommission officers are working with the local authorities for the establishment of a geopark to protect the GSSP section for the base of the Albian Stage.

Short summary of the Working Group activities

Campanian WG by A. Gale

The WG has been re-formed in summer 2017 and currently includes 16 members.

Future plan includes the visit of the Bottaccione section (Italy) in December 2017 to evaluate the possibility to propose this section as a candidate GSSP for the base of the Campanian.

Coniacian WG by I. Walaszczyk

The WG has almost completed the study on the candidate Salzgitter-Salder section in Germany and on the El Rosario section in Mexico. Members of the WG will publish the recently acquired data in the next few months. These data will be integrated with those already published and included in the proposal. The discussion and voting within the WG is planned at the beginning of 2018.

Aptian WG by H. Weissert

The WG has been re-formed in summer 2017 and currently includes 16 members.

The WG is evaluating the Cismon and Angles sections as GSSP candidates for the base of the Aptian Stage. The WG will likely propose the not selected GSSP as auxiliary section. A proposal is expected in two years probably by the STRATI 2019 congress in Milan.

Barremian WG by M. Company

The WG has completed the study of the candidate GSSP section at Rio Argos in Spain. The proposal is being discussed within the WG. The outcome of the discussion and voting will be submitted to the Subcommission in January-February 2018.

Hauterivian WG by J. Mutterlose

The WG was re-formed in spring 2017 and has started to evaluate the data already available for La Charce section in southeast France. The proposal is almost ready to be discussed and voted by the WG. The outcome will be submitted to the Subcommission in February 2018.

Valanginian by M. Company

The WG was re-formed in summer 2017 and is currently working on two candidate sections, the Vergol section in southeast France and the Canada Luenga section in southeast Spain. Proposals are expected to be discussed within the WG in 2019.

Berriasian WG by W. Wimbledon

The WG approved in 2016 the primary criterion (lowest occurrence of *Calpionella alpina*) for the definition of the GSSP and is currently working to select the candidate stratotype sections in southern France, Czech Republic, Russia and southern England. The proposals are expected to be discussed by the WG in 2018 and the outcome will be submitted to the Subcommission in 2019.

Division of the Cretaceous System by M. Wapreisch

Wapreisch highlighted the informal use of the term “mid” or “middle” Cretaceous and proposed a possible division as follows: Lower Cretaceous= Berriasian-Barremian, Middle Cretaceous= Aptian-Cenomanian (from OAE 1a to OAE2), Upper Cretaceous= Turonian-Maastrichtian.

The topic was shortly discussed and, despite the general consensus, it was emphasized that any proposal on the formalization of the middle Cretaceous will not be accepted by ICS without the definition of the relative stage boundaries.

Conclusion

The chairs of the WGs were reminded to send their annual report to Petrizzo by end October 2017. The meeting was closed at 19.30.