

1. TITLE OF CONSTITUENT BODY and NAME OF REPORTER

Subcommission on Cretaceous Stratigraphy (SCS)

Maria Rose Petrizzo, Chair; Michael Wagreich, Vice-chair; Francesca Falzoni, Secretary
20 November 2020

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 subdivisions 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 2020-2024:

Chair: Maria Rose Petrizzo; Vice-Chair: Michael Wagreich; 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, Barremian, Aptian, Coniacian and Campanian. All WG leaders (chairs) and members are treated as Corresponding Members of the SCS.

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

The SCS has strong links with IGCP projects.

IGCP 632 Continental Crises of the Jurassic: Major Extinction Events and Environmental Changes within Lacustrine Ecosystems (leader: J. Sha). Subproject Late Mesozoic lacustrine systems in Tunisia and their global correlation (leader: B. Sames).

IGCP 679-Cretaceous Earth Dynamics and Climate in Asia (new in 2019, Project Leader Prof. Gang Li, China)

5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

• WORKING GROUPS ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE DEFINITION OF THE GSSPs

Chairs and updated memberships of each WG are available at <http://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/working-groups/>
Memberships are updated continuously by inviting active scientists who are willing to collaborate to the WG activities.

Campanian GSSP

The Campanian WG is moving rapidly towards submission of a recommended GSSP. The search for an appropriate GSSP has been greatly helped by publication of two detailed studies on the Bottaccione (Gubbio, Italy) locality, by members of the WG, which provide high-resolution data on which the proposal will be based (Mininati et al. 2020; Maron and Muttoni 2020). These studies demonstrate the close proximity of two proposed markers for the S/C boundary. In addition, restudy of a previously proposed GSSP at Waxahachie in Texas, demonstrates for the first time the presence of a major hiatus in the succession (Gale et al. in press, 2020). This renders the locality inappropriate as a candidate GSSP. The WG has also worked on the provision of auxiliary sections to the GSSP, and can now recommend:

- Seaford Head, Sussex, UK (Thibault et al. 2016); excellent isotope stratigraphy, micro- and macrofossil biostratigraphy, orbital tuning. Classical Boreal Chalk setting.
- Postalm, Austria (Wolfgring et al. 2018); magneto- and biostratigraphy, carbon isotopes. Deep Tethyan pelagic setting. Gale, A.S., Kennedy, W.J., Walaszczyk, I., (2020 in press). Correlation of the late Santonian-early Campanian of Texas with the Anglo-Paris Basin and other regions. *Newsletters on Stratigraphy*.

Maron, M., Muttoni, G. (2020). A detailed record of the C34n/C33r magnetozone boundary for the definition of the base of the Campanian Stage at the Bottaccione section (Gubbio, Italy). *Newsletters on Stratigraphy*. DOI: 10.1127/nos/2020/0607

Mininati, F., Petrizzo, M.R., Falzoni, F., Erba, E. (2020). Calcareous plankton biostratigraphy of the Santonian-Campanian boundary interval in the Bottaccione section (Umbria-Marche Basin, central Italy). *Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia*, 126, 771-789.

Thibault, N., Jarvis, I., Voigt, S., Gale, A.S., Attree, K., Jenkyns, H.C. (2016). Astronomical calibration and global correlation of the Santonian (Cretaceous) based on the marine carbon isotope record. *Paleoceanography*, 31, doi:10.1002/2016PA002941.

Wolfgring, E., Wagreich, M., Dinares-Turell, J., Gier, S., Boehm, K., Sames, B., Spoetl, C., Popp, F. (2018). The Santonian-Campanian boundary and the end of the long Cretaceous normal polarity-chron: isotope and plankton stratigraphy of a pelagic reference section in the NW Tethys (Austria). *Newsletters on Stratigraphy*, DOI: 10.1127/nos/2018/0392

Coniacian GSSP

The WG submitted the GSSP proposal to SCS in September 2020 for discussion. The WG is currently (November 2020) revising the proposal according to the comments and suggestions received by the voting members. The Salzgitter-Salder (Germany) is the proposed candidate stratotype section. Primary criterion is the appearance of the inoceramid *Cremonocerasmus deformis erectus*. Secondary criteria include a negative excursion in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values (Navigation Event),

and bivalve, planktic foraminiferal and peridinioid dinocyst datums. Three auxiliary sections are indicated: Słupia Nadbrzeżna (central Poland); the Střeleč railway cut, adjacent to the Střeleč Quarry (Bohemia, Czech Republic); and El Rosario, Sierra del Carmen National Park (Coahuila, Mexico).

Čech, S., Uličný, D. (2020). The Turonian-Coniacian stage boundary in an expanded siliciclastic succession: Integrated stratigraphy in deltaic through offshore facies, Bohemian Cretaceous Basin. *Cretaceous Research*, 117, 104576.

Voigt, S., Püttmann, T., Mutterlose, J., Bornemann, A., Jarvis, I., Pearce, M., Walaszczyk, I., (2021). Reassessment of the Salzgitter-Salder section as a potential stratotype for the Turonian-Coniacian boundary: stable carbon isotopes and cyclostratigraphy constrained by calcareous nannofossils and palynology: *Newsletters on Stratigraphy*, in press, doi: 961.10.1127/nos/2020/0615.

Albian GSSP

Finalization of the official steps with the local authorities for the protection and easy accessibility of the GSSP site at Col de Pre-Guittard in the Commune of Arnayon (Département of Drôme).

Aptian GSSP

The research activities that were agreed during STRATI 2019 included analyses of stratigraphic sections and evaluation of all available data across the Barremian/Aptian boundary. The year 2020 was marked by significant delay in receiving additional information on magnetostratigraphy from French ammonite-dated sections. C. Frau and colleagues from Poland (J. Grabowski), Czech Republic (A. Svoboda, P. Schnabl) and France (A. Tendil) sampled sections in S. France: Fontblanche (near La Bedoule) and Mont Ventoux (southern margin of Vocontian Basin). The team plans to combine chemostratigraphy with magnetostratigraphy. First results are expected in 2021.

Barremian GSSP

The Río Argos section (Caravaca, Murcia, SE Spain) is the candidate stratotype for the Hauterivian/Barremian boundary. The primary marker discussed and approved by the working group is the first appearance of the ammonite *Taveraidiscus hugii*. During the last years, the WG has carried on studies on the stratigraphic distribution of various fossil groups (ammonites, calcareous nannofossils, planktonic and benthic foraminifera), as well as chemostratigraphic and cyclostratigraphic analyses in the Argos section. Unfortunately, a secondary remagnetization precludes any magnetostratigraphic dating, although indirect correlation using ammonite and isotope stratigraphy is possible with the Gorgo a Cerbara section (central Italy). In 2020, complementary analysis of ammonite and calcareous nannofossils in the candidate section have been performed. In addition, an integrated astrochronologic study of the entire Barremian stage performed on two other sections of the Subbetic Domain has been completed and published.

Martinez, M., Aguado, R., Company, M., Sandoval, J., O'Dogherty, L. 2020. Integrated astrochronology of the Barremian Stage (Early Cretaceous) and its biostratigraphic subdivisions. *Global and Planetary Changes* 195, 103368.

Hauterivian GSSP

The GSSP for the base of the Hauterivian Stage at the FO of the ammonite genus *Acanthodiscus* at La Charche (SE France) was ratified by IUGS in December 2019. The protection of the GSSP section at La Charche is ensured by an Espace Naturel Sensible (ENS). The department and the municipality of La Charche established an exceptional and world-renowned geological interpretation circuit for the public. Relevant data on the GSSP section are published in the paper below:

Mutterlose, J., Rawson, P.F., Reboulet, S., with contributions by Baudin, F., Bulot, L., Emmanuel, L., Gardin, S., Martinez, M., Renard, M. (2020). The Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) for the base of the Hauterivian Stage (Lower Cretaceous), La Charche, southeast France. *Episodes*: in press.

Valanginian GSSP

The WG approved the first appearance of the calpionellid *Calpionellites darderi* as the primary marker for the base of the Valanginian. Two sections are considered as possible candidates for the GSSP: Cañada Luenga (Cehegín, SE Spain) and Vergol (Montbrun-les-Bains, SE France). Integrated analyses of the Cañada Luenga section with biostratigraphic (ammonites, calpionellids and calcareous nannofossils) and magnetostratigraphic data are published. During the last year the WG have expanded the biostratigraphic analyses to the lower part of the section (upper Berriasian).

Preliminary data on the distribution of ammonites and calpionellids were published for the Vergol section. A complete cyclostratigraphic analysis is also available. During the last year, an integrated study of the distribution of ammonites and calcareous nannofossils in this section has been completed and recently submitted for publication. Calpionellids are currently being studied.

Benzaggagh, M., 2020. Discussion on the calpionellid biozones and proposal of a homogeneous calpionellid zonation for the Tethyan Realm. *Cretaceous Research* 114, 104184.

Grischenko, V.A., Manikin, A.G., Savelieva, Y.N., Feodorova, A.A., 2020. Magnetostratigraphy and biostratigraphy of the Valanginian in the Crimean Mountains. *Problems of Geocosmos-2018. Springer Proceedings in Earth and Environmental Sciences*, 53-81.

Salazar, C., Stennesbeck, W., Alvarez, M., 2020. Ammonite biostratigraphy and bioevents in the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary of central Chile. *Cretaceous Research* 107, 104282.

Zakharov, V.A., Rogov, M.A., 2020. High-resolution stratigraphy of buchiid bivalves and ammonites from the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary beds in the Paskenta area (California). *Cretaceous Research* 110, 104422.

Berriasian (J/K boundary) GSSP

The GSSP proposal for the base of the Berriasian Stage in the Tre Maroua section (Vocontian Basin, SE France) at the base of the calpionellid *Calpionella alpina* Subzone was voted in October 2020 by the 81.8% of SCS voting members. The

proposal received the 44.5% of “yes” votes and thus was not approved.

KILIAN Group

The WG was inactive in 2020.

• ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Publication of a Cretaceous Research Virtual Special Issue titled “*Cretaceous integrated stratigraphy, greenhouse climate change and events*” edited by Petrizzo M.R., Wagreich, M., Falzoni F., and Haggart, J. The Special Issue collects papers presented in the Cretaceous Subcommission scientific session held at STRATI 2019 (Milano, Italy, July 2019). The special issue is available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/cretaceous-research/special-issue/10LTDCL3HZ0>, it currently includes 7 published papers. Other 5 papers are expected to be published in the next weeks.

Proceedings of the IGCP 609 project were published in 2020 as Special Publication of the Geological Society of London SP498, edited by Wagreich, M., Hart, M.B., Sames, B., Yilmaz, I.O. The volume content is available at <https://sp.lyellcollection.org/content/498/1>.

Wagreich, M., Hart, M.B., Sames, B. & Yilmaz, I.O. (eds) (2020). *Cretaceous Climate Events and Short-Term Sea-Level Changes*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 498, 266pp. <https://doi.org/10.1144/SP498>

6. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IN 2020:

Contribution towards cost of maintenance of the website	400.00 Euro
Contribution to the stages Working Groups for fieldworks + analysis	2400.00 Euro
Contribution to publication fees of papers related to GSSPs	130.00 Euro
Contribution for secretarial work	400.00 Euro
Bank fees for bank transfer	9.00 Euro
	TOTAL expenditure in 2020 = 3339.00 Euro

Budget surplus to carry forward in 2021 to support the Albian and Hauterivian leaders and members of the WGs to attend the GSSP official golden spike ceremonies in France that are planned for October 2021 = 884.33 Euro

7. SUMMARY OF INCOME IN 2020:

ICS Subvention for 2020	US dollars 4500.00 = 4223.33 Euro
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8. BUDGET REQUESTED FROM ICS IN 2021:

Contribution towards cost of website maintenance and/or publication fees of papers related to GSSPs	400.00 Euro
Contribution to the stages Working Groups for fieldworks, analyses, meetings	2500.00 Euro
Contribution for secretarial work	400.00 Euro
Albian and Hauterivian GSSPs meetings with local authorities, official GSSPs golden spike ceremonies	1200.00 Euro

TOTAL budget request from ICS in 2021= 4500.00 Euro

9. WORK PLAN, CRITICAL MILESTONES, ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ACHIEVED NEXT YEAR (2021):

• STUDIES, FIELD WORK TO FINALIZE THE GSSP PROPOSALS

Campanian GSSP

The WG will write a proposal for the Campanian GSSP, based largely upon new data provided in the 2020 papers (see above). This proposal will consist of 2 parts: a longer document, submitted to the Subcommission, and a shorter publication, summarising the data and rationale, submitted to Cretaceous Research. As the supporting data is now largely published, this task is relatively straightforward. A draft document of the proposal and accompanying article will be sent to all WG members for feedback by spring 2021 and both documents will be submitted to the SCS and Cretaceous Research, respectively, in the summer or early autumn of 2021. Providing the Campanian GSSP is approved and ratified, the WG will produce a short article for Episodes in 2022, detailing the GSSP locality, and including essential data.

Coniacian GSSP

A revised version of the GSSP proposal is planned to be submitted to SCS for voting in December 2020. If approved, it will be submitted to ICS in early 2021.

Aptian GSSP

The WG is waiting for magnetostratigraphy combined with chemostratigraphy from two French locations. As soon as the results are available the discussion on the selection of the marker criterion and on the stratotype section will start. The WG

will also produce a synthesis of available data for complete sections from various localities. Currently there are two favorite options: GSSP defined by (1) biostratigraphy, magnetostratigraphy and chemostratigraphy in a pelagic limestone succession (Gorgo a Cerbara, Italy), or by (2) ammonite stratigraphy and, hopefully, chemo- and magnetostratigraphy (historical stratotype for Bedoulian, Cassis-La Bedoule, and, possibly, a new location in the Vocontian Trough). Problems in defining the Aptian GSSP are related to the proposed base of M0 that has been re-dated with ammonites as Barremian in age in a pelagic succession. If this new age assignment of M0 turns out to be correct, a new biological or physical set of markers needs to be identified for the definition of the GSSP. However, a tentative new GSSP (e.g. negative spike in the Aptian C-isotope record) would fall into the Bedoulian which would then be in conflict with the current definition of the Bedoulian as “lower Aptian”. A synopsis is in progress (by the WG chairs) to be distributed for WG discussion.

Barremian GSSP

The WG is planning to complete the formal proposal of the Argos section as GSSP of the Barremian in the first half of 2021 and send it to the WG members for discussion and voting. If approved, the proposal will be submitted to SCS for the discussion phase by the voting members.

Valanginian GSSP

The WG has still to finalize the study of calpionellids from Cañada Luenga and Vergol sections and complete the analysis of the stable isotope record in the Cañada Luenga on samples already collected. All pending studies in both candidate sections will be likely completed by the end of 2021. Circulation of the proposal among WG members is planned by mid-2022.

Berriasian (J/K boundary) GSSP

Following rejection of the GSSP proposal and according to previous practice in ICS, the Berriasian WG was disbanded in October 2020. The new WG is going to be appointed and will be active by end November 2020. Jacek Grabowski from the Polish Geological Institute-National Research Institute (PGI-NRI) in Warsaw (Poland) has accepted to lead the new Berriasian WG. Jacek Grabowski is a paleomagnetist, very active in research and aware of the science issues around the J/K boundary, and has all the required skills for this position. He was member of the previous Berriasian working group and is currently voting member of the International Subcommission on Jurassic Stratigraphy. The selection of the members of the WG is currently in progress.

Kilian Group

The upper Aptian, lower-middle Albian zonal schemes will be in focus at the forthcoming Kilian meeting. The Kilian meetings are usually held every 3 years (2002; 2005; 2008; 2010; 2013; 2017). The next meeting will be associated with the next Cretaceous Symposium (Poland, 2022). The local organization will be made by Izabela Ploch.

• FUTURE MEETINGS

- 2021 - Meeting of the Aptian WG.
- 2021 - 36th International Geological Congress (Delhi, India, 16-21 August 2021).
- 2022 - 11th International Symposium on the Cretaceous (Poland, 2022). The symposium originally scheduled for 2021 is postponed to 2022 due to covid-19 emergency and to avoid overlapping with other meetings.

Potential funding sources external to IUGS

The SCS does not envisage being able, as an organization, to obtain significant funding from outside IUGS/ICS sources. Some additional financial support beyond what is already committed could perhaps be obtained by individual members from their host institutions and/or their personal research funds.

10. KEY OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2024

December 2020: GSSP proposal for the base of the Coniacian submitted to SCS for voting. Autumn 2021: official ceremonies for the inauguration and placement of the golden spikes of the Albian and Hauterivian GSSPs.

2021: Finalization of the GSSP proposals for the base Barremian and base Campanian and vote within the WG.

2022: Finalization of the GSSP proposals for the base Valanginian and base Aptian and vote within the WG.

2021–2024: Research activities toward the preparation of the GSSP proposal for the base of the Berriasian Stage by the new Berriasian WG.

2021-2022: Continue preparation of proposals for the definition of substages for discussions at the forthcoming meeting: 11th International Symposium on the Cretaceous (Poland, 2022).

2022-2023. Vote by the SCS of the Barremian and Campanian GSSPs.

2023-2024. Finalization of the GSSP proposal for the base Berriasian and vote within the WG.

2023-2024. Vote by the SCS of the Valanginian and Aptian GSSPs.

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

Nominated officers

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Working group leaders and corresponding members

CAMPANIAN WG

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CONIACIAN WG

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