

NEW DATA ABOUT THE AGE AND THE STRATIGRAPHICAL POSITION IN THE CRETACEOUS WILDFLISH OF THE OLISTOLITH FROM PRAȘCA PEAK (RARĂU SYNCLINE, EASTERN CARPATHIANS, ROMANIA)

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REZUMAT: Lucrarea prezintă primele rezultate din cercetarea recentă a olistolitului din dealul Prașca (Sinclinalul Rarău, Carpații Orientali) și este fundamentată pe o faună de amoniți cu valoarea biostratigrafică, unii dintre taxonii figurați fiind semnalati pentru prima dată în acest punct fosilifer: *Paracoriceras lyra*, *Agassiceras scipionianum*, *Euagassiceras sauzeanum* (= *E. resupinatus*), *E. spinaries*, *Arnioceras densicosta*, *Caenisites* cf. *brookii*, *Eparietites denotatus*, *Asteroceras* cf. *suevicum*, *A. cf. involutum*, *Echioceras raricostatoides*, *Leptechioceras meigeni*, *Paltechioceras boehmi*, *Epideroceras lorioli* etc.

O altă noutate este prelevarea unor amoniți *in situ*, spre deosebire de toate faunele semnalate de cercetătorii anteriori. Din interpretarea datelor faunistice rezultă argumentarea unor noi biozone/subbiozone index ale Sinemurianului, poziția răsturnată a olistolitului în cadrul wildflișului cretacic și posibilitatea prezenței Hettangianului, la partea inferioară, respectiv a Pliensbachianului, la partea superioară a stratelor (dedusă din corelarea exemplarelor prelevate *in situ* cu extinderea în relief a olistolitului).

ABSTRACT: Recent results of the researches on the olistolith from Prașca Peak (Rarău Syncline, Eastern Carpathians) are presented. The paper is based on an ammonite fauna with taxon-index species, several of them being mentioned here for the first time: *Paracoriceras lyra*, *Agassiceras scipionianum*, *Euagassiceras sauzeanum* (= *E. resupinatus*), *E. spinaries*, *Arnioceras densicosta*, *Caenisites* cf. *brookii*, *Eparietites denotatus*, *Asteroceras* cf. *suevicum*, *A. cf. involutum*, *Echioceras raricostatoides*, *Leptechioceras meigeni*, *Paltechioceras boehmi*, *Epideroceras lorioli* etc.

Other new data: the first specimens collected *in situ*, the argumentation of new biozones/subbiozones of Sinemurian, the up-side-down position in the Cretaceous wildflish of the olistolith, the suppositions regarding the presence of Hettangian and Pliensbachian (inferred from the correlation of the specimens collected *in situ* with the relief development of the olistolith).

Keywords: Olistolith, Sinemurian, biozones, "ammonitico rosso" facies, stratigraphical position.

HISTORICAL DATA

Uhlig (1900) discovered the Liassic olistolith from Prașca Peak (Rarău Syncline, Eastern Carpathians) quoting a reach fauna of ammonites with several new species: *Phylloceras persanense* HERBICH, 1878; *Phylloceras* sp. indet.; *Phylloceras planispira* REYNÈS, 1868; *Rhacophyllites bucovinicus* UHLIG, 1900; *Rhacophyllites nardii* MENEHINI, 1853; *Lytoceras* aff. *secernendum* DI STEFANI, 1886; *Aegoceras keindli* EMMRICH, 1853; *Aegoceras* n. sp. indet.; *Oxynoticeras guibali* d'ORBIGNY, 1844; *Arietites* cf. *charpentieri* SCHAFFHÄUTL, 1851; *Arietites romanicus* UHLIG, 1900; *Arietites waehneri* UHLIG, 1900; *Arietites herbichi* UHLIG 1900; *Arietites* n. sp. indet.; *Arietites boesei* UHLIG, 1900, *Arietites* cf. *resurgens* DUMORTIER, 1867, „*Arietites*” cf. *pluricosta* MENEHINI, 1853; *Arietites raricostatum* ZIETEN, 1831. Beside the Early Liassic ammonites, *Atractites* sp., *Spiriferina aequilobata* UHLIG 1900, were mentioned. The Uhlig' s fauna was revised by Patruilius & Popa (1981 - unpublished paper), Popa & Patruilius (1996), but future reviews will be necessary: after Uhlig all new species of arietitids were considered as *Paltechioceras* (Patruilius & Popa, 1996; Turculeț & Țibuleac, 2001) being also several confusions between *Arnioceras* and

Paltechioceras; we suppose that *Arietites waehneri* is an *Arnioceras*).

Few years later, Trauth (1906) completed the fauna with other ammonites (also revised by Popa & Patruilius, 1996) and a bivalve taxon: *Phylloceras zetes* d'ORBIGNY, 1850; *P. cylindricum* SOWERBY, 1831; „*Phylloceras*” cf. *lunense* MENEHINI 1867-1889; *Phylloceras* aff. *leptophyllum* HAUER; *Lytoceras* sp.; *Oxynoticeras* cf. *oxynotum* QUENSTEDT, 1843; *Aegoceras* (*Microderoceras*) aff. *nothum* MENEHINI, 1853; *Arietites* n. sp. ind.; *Arietites* sp.; *Arietites semilaevis* HAUER, 1853; *A. falcaries* var. *ceratitoides* QUENSTEDT, 1848; *A. boesei* UHLIG, 1900 and *Lima* (*Plagiostoma*) cf. *acuticosta* var. *raricosta* QUENSTEDT.

Several Romanian researchers mentioned the olistolith in their regional researches between the Jurassic deposits of the Transylvanian Nappe. Krätner (1929) only signaled „a small outcrop in Adnet facies” in the Rarău Syncline. Ilie (1957) situated the olistolith in the Mesteacăn valley and he also considered the Liassic developed at the South of the Pietrele Doamnei („red-brick-coloured marls...red clayesh limestones with greenish spots, traversed by diaclaza ... with *Schlotheimia* sp.”). But these deposits have been positioned at the upper part of the jasper strata (Callovian-Oxfordian), which is a stratigraphical

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incompatibility. Popescu & Patrușiu (1964) were the first Romanian researchers who rediscovered the Uhlig's olistolith and they well depicted the geographic setting.

New fossil taxa were identified by Turculeț (1965): ostracods, foraminifers (*Dentalina* sp., *Nodosaria* sp., *Involutina liassica* (JONES), *Pseudoglandulina* cf. *rotundata* (BORN.), *Fronicularia rombiformis* MAM., *F.* cf. *oolitica* (BORN.), *Parafroncularia* sp., *Articulina* sp., *Cristellaria* sp., *Glomospira* sp., *Oolina* (*Entosolenia*) sp., *Globigerina* sp.), brachiopods (*Koninckina* (*Koninckinodonta*) *pichleri* BITTN., *K.* (*K.*) *hardi* BITTN., *Amphiclinodonta* cf. *liasina* BITTN., *Terebratula* (*Waldheimia*) *heysiana* (DUNK), *T.* cf. *waterhousii* DAV., bivalves (*Pecten* (*Aequipecten*) *priscus* SCHKOTH., *Pecten* sp.), gastropods (*Trochus imbricatus* (QU.)), cephalopods (*Aulacoceras liasicum* GÜMB., *Aulacoceras* sp.), echinoderms (*Pentacrinus* (*extractinus*) *laevisutus* POMPEKJ., *Diademopsis* sp., *Prinocidaris* sp.), fossil fishes (teeth). In the petrographical sections, the author observed the great frequency of the echinoderms (radiola, test fragments, plates). In according with Atanasiu & Răileanu's opinion (1950), Turculeț considered that the olistolith is not a typical Adnet facies, but probably a transition between the Adnet and Hierlatz types.

Turculeț (1968) reported the presence of *Globochaete alpina* LOMB. in the rocks of the olistolith, five new subspecies being described: *Globochaete alpina rumana*, *G. alpina carpathica*, *G. alpina eothrixana*, *G. alpina bucovinica*, *G. alpina tumido-punctata*.

Mutihac (1968) signaled the olistolith (in the

Mestecăniș valley) and he considered that similar blocks appear on the summit between Pojorâta and Seaca valleys, in Seaca valley, in the Pietrele Albe area (on Izvorul Alb) and at the west of Pietrele Doamnei.

Turculeț (1971) – compiled the previous researches about the olistolith giving a general list of the taxa, with few alterations. The same author (Turculeț, 1976) proposed the olistolith to become a paleontological reservation, which would be protected for the scientific researches.

Popa & Patrușiu (1996) in a general review of the Early Jurassic ammonites from the Romanian Carpathians mentioned the entire fauna signaled along the time. The authors also signaled some ammonites collected from the Prașca olistolith and mentioned in an unpublished paper: *Adnethiceras* sp. aff. *A. adnethicus* (HAUER, 1854), *Tragolytoceras* sp., *Echioceras* sp. aff. *E. regulare* (TRUEMAN & WILLIAMS, 1925), *Paltechioceras* sp., *Pseudasteroceras* sp., *Juraphyllites* sp. The biozones-index are *Asteroceras obtusum*, *Oxynoticeras oxynotum*, *Echioceras raricostatum*, possibly the upper part of Early Sinemurian.

Turculeț & Țibuleac (2001) depicted and figured for the first time 34 taxa of ammonites from the olistolith (but some of them would be revised).

All the ammonites mentioned until now (approximately 70 taxa) were collected from the soil which buried the olistolith.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The olistolith appears in the Cretaceous wildfish of the Rarău Syncline, on the eastern slope of the Prașca Peak, near its top (Fig. 1). The

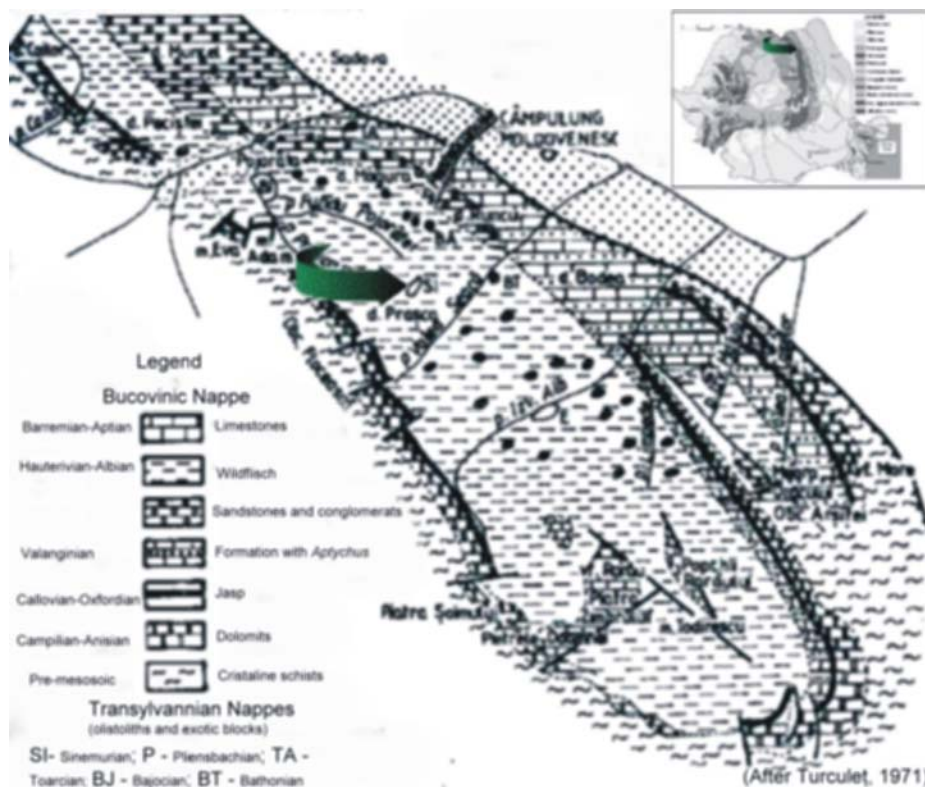


Fig. 1. Location of the Prașca Hill outcrop

sure route to catch it is from Valea Seacă rivulet, following the affluent which comes from the left slope (Turculeţ, 1970), after the valley widens. But other routes are from Câmpulung on the Mesteacăn valley or from Pojorâta village on Fundu Pojorâtei valley, then following the summits of the hills.

STRATIGRAPHICAL POSITION OF THE PRAŞCA OLISTOLITH

Any data about the olistolith position in the Cretaceous wildflysh was not mentioned by previous researchers (all specimens were collected *ex situ*). The diggings from last two summers made with several students (Chirilă Gabriel, Dragoş Nicuşan, Ciprian Ursan, Cristian Bălăţeanu) were the first steps to clarify this problem. We dug along the top of the Praşca Peak in different locations to find under the soil the rocks of the olistolith, then on the slope to proceed specimens *in situ* from those points where we had succeeded the first time. That way, it was possible to collect *in situ* several taxon-range exemplaries: *Euagassiceras sauzeanum* (d'ORBIGNY, 1884) = *E. resupinatus* (SIMPSON, 1843), *E. spinaries* (QUENSTEDT, 1858) from *Arnioceras semicostatum* T.- r. Zone; *Eparietites denotatus* (SIMPSON, 1855) *Eparietites* sp. from *Asteroceras obtusum* T.- r. Zone; *Oxynoticeras oxynotum* (QUENSTEDT, 1843) from *Oxynoticeras oxynotum* T.- r. Zone; *Echioceras raricostatum* (ZIETEN, 1831), *E. raricostatoides* (VADÁSZ, 1908), *Epideroceras lorioli* (HUG, 1899), *Paltechioceras romanicum* (UHLIG, 1900), *Paltechioceras* sp. from *Echioceras raricostatum* T.- r. Zone). *Ex situ* we also found *Paracoronicerases lyra* (HYATT, 1867), *Arnioceras ceratitioides* (QUENSTEDT, 1848), *A. densicosta* (QUENSTEDT, 1884), *Arnioceras* sp.,

Agassiceras scipionianum (d'ORBIGNY, 1884), from *Arnioceras semicostatum* T.- r. Zone; *Asteroceras* cf. *involutum* (GUÉRIN-FRANIATTE, 1966), *A. cf. suevicum* (QUENSTEDT, 1884) from *Asteroceras obtusum* T.- r. Zone; *Caenisites* cf. *brookii* (SOWERBY, 1818 from *Caenisites turneri* T.- r. Zone; *Leptechioceras meigeni* (HUG, 1899), also *Epideroceras lorioli*, *Paltechioceras boehmi* (HUG, 1899), *Paltechioceras* sp. (*Echioceras raricostatum* T.- r. Zone).

The olistolith is built by the red limestones, with thin marls intercalations, which have an obviously almost parallel stratification (248-256°/45-50°). Correlating the samples *in situ* from several points of the olistolith with the stratification we approximate that the olistolith is up-side-down, on the top of the hill being the earliest strata and down the slope the latest.

AGE OF THE OLISTOLITH

Uhlig (1900) and Trauth (1906) signaled the Early Liassic presence (through the ammonites there were argued two taxon-index biozones - *Oxynoticeras oxynotum* and *Echioceras raricostatum*). Popa & Patruşiu (1996) considered also the presence the *Asteroceras obtusum* biozone and possibly the „Lower Sinemurian („*Arnioceras* species reported by previous authors”). Turculeţ & Ţibuleac (2001) admitted even the possibility of the Hettangian presence (an exemplary of *Schistophylloceras*) and the beginning of Pliensbachian.

Our faunal arguments sustain the presence of a very condensed Sinemurian strata between *Arnioceras semicostatum* and *Echioceras raricostatum* T. – r zones (see Tabel I) with taxon-range exemplaries collected *in situ* or *ex situ* (the less argued T.-r. zone of the Sinemurian being the

Pliensbachian (Carixian)		
Late Sinemurian	<i>Echioceras raricostatum</i>	<i>Paltechioceras aplanatum</i>
		<i>Leptechioceras macdonnelli</i>
		<i>Echioceras raricostatum</i> (or <i>E. raricostatoides</i>)
		<i>Crucilobicerases densinodulum</i>
	<i>Oxynoticeras oxynotum</i>	<i>Oxynoticeras oxynotum</i>
		<i>Oxynoticeras simpsoni</i>
	<i>Asteroceras obtusum</i>	<i>Eparietites denotatus</i>
		<i>Asteroceras stellare</i>
		<i>Asteroceras obtusum</i>
Early Sinemurian	<i>Canisites turneri</i>	<i>Microderoceras birchi</i>
		<i>Caenisites brooki</i> (or <i>C. alcinoe</i>)
	<i>Arnioceras semicostatum</i>	<i>Euasteroceras sauzeanum</i>
		<i>Agassiceras scipionianum</i>
		<i>Coroniceras reynesi</i> (or <i>Paracoronicerases lyra</i> or <i>P. charlesi</i> = <i>P. gmuedense</i>)
	<i>Arietites bucklandi</i>	<i>Arietites bucklandi</i>
		<i>Coroniceras rotiforme</i>
		<i>Metophioceras conybeari</i> (+ <i>Vermiceras spiratissimus</i>)
Hettangian		

Tabel I - Taxon-range Biozones and Subbiozones of Sinemurian (after Dean, Donovan & Howarth, 1961; with several completions)

Arietites bucklandi, but supposed present by *Vermiceras spiratissimus* – Turculeț & Țibuleac, 2001). Indeed, seeing the position of the olistolith it is also possible the presence of the Hettangian (on the top of the hill) and the Pliensbachian down the slope. The next diggings could prove or not these assertions.

The olistolith have offered also few bivalves, brachiopods, belemnites, aulacocerids and crinoids.

CORRELATIONS

Uhlig (1900) described the olistolith as developed into so-called Adnet facies, very famous through the quarries with the decorative limestones starting from the time of Roman Empire. After him, all researchers considered its presence if they already observed several differences (Atanasiu et Răileanu (1950); Turculeț, 1965).

The evolution of the Adnet type-region is a particular one, influenced by the Rhaetian Adnet reef which made possible the development of several facies variations: the Schnöll and Adnet Formations – Adnet Group, developed in the area of the reef - interfinger with the Scheibelberg Formation - formed more distally from the same reef (Böhm *et al.*, 1999; Böhm, 2003). Including the olistolith from Prașca Peak in the Adnet facies only on the basis of several lithological similarities (especially with the Schmiedwirt Member) is not well argued. It may be the better option to consider the olistolith from Prașca Peak developed into a "ammonitico rosso" facies with general similarities and special differences with other Liassic regions of the Tethyan realm (Appennines, Alps, Bakony, Pontides etc.).

In the Rarău Syncline, the presence of the Early Sinemurian was also signaled by Turculeț (1976) identifying an exemplar of *Euagassicerias sauzeanum* (d'ORBIGNY, 1884) in an exotic block from Izvorul Malului rivulet (but not in the „ammonitico rosso” facies).

Herbich (1878 – fide Grasu, 1970), Vadász (1908) and Grasu (1970) mentioned also an „Adnet” olistolith at the springs of the Sec rivulet, in the Curmătura saddle (Hăghimaș Mountains, Eastern Carpathians). It covers an interval between Early Hettangian and Late Sinemurian, *Euagassicerias sauzeanum* being identified through other taxa.

In Perșani Mountains, the stratigraphical interval is bigger than in the previous two areas (Middle Hettangian – Early Pliensbachian), but olistoliths which represent the "Adnet facies" are smaller than the one from Prașca Peak. There were signaled (in the connection with our fauna) *Coroniceras* (*Paracoroniceras*) *lyra*, *Arnioceras* sp., *Agassicerias scipionianum*, *Caenisites* sp., *Euagassicerias* sp., *Echioceras raricostatum*, *Epideroceras* sp. aff. *E. lorioli*, *Leptechioceras* sp., *Paltechioceras* sp. aff. *P. aplanatum* (Popa & Patrușiu, 1996).

In Romania, there are other zones with Sinemurian fauna (not in the „Adnet facies”) in Apuseni Mountains, Southern Carpathians, Northern Dobrogea (Tomescu & Bordea, 1974-1975; Popa & Patrușiu, 1996).

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CAPTIONS OF PLATES

PLATE I

- Fig. 1, 2 - *Paracoronicerus lyra* (HYATT, 1867), *ex situ* – (x 0,7)
Fig. 3, 4 - *Euagassicerus spinaries* (QUENSTEDT, 1858), *ex situ* – (x 0,7)
Fig. 5 - *Euagassicerus sauzeanum* (d'ORBIGNY, 1884) = *E. resupinatum* (SIMPSON, 1843), *ex situ* – (x 0,7)
Fig. 6 - *Agassicerus scipionianum* (d'ORBIGNY, 1884), *ex situ* – (x 0,7)
Fig. 7 - *Eparietites denotatus* (SIMPSON, 1855), *in situ* – (x 1)
Fig. 8 - *Eparietites* sp., *in situ* - (x 1)

PLATE II

- Fig. 1, 2 - *Arnioceras ceratitoides* (QUENSTEDT, 1848), *ex situ* – (x 0,7)
Fig. 3 - *Arnioceras densicosta* (QUENSTEDT, 1884), *ex situ* – (x 1)
Fig. 4 - *Asteroceras* cf. *involutum* (GUÉRIN-FRANIATTE, 1966), *ex situ* – (x 0,7)
Fig. 5 - *Asteroceras* cf. *suevicum* (QUENSTEDT, 1884), *ex situ* – (x 0,7)
Fig. 6 - *Caenisites* cf. *brookii* (SOWERBY, 1818), *ex situ* – (x 0,9)
Fig. 7, 8 - *Oxynoticeras oxynotum* (QUENSTEDT, 1843), *in situ* - (x 1)

PLATE III

- Fig. 1 - *Echioceras raricostatum* (ZIETEN, 1831), *in situ*, (x 1)
Fig. 2 - *Echioceras raricostatooides* (VADÁSZ, 1908), *in situ* (x 1)
Fig. 3, 4 - *Epideroceras lorioli* (HUG, 1899) (x 1), *in situ*
Fig. 5 - *Leptechioceras meigeni* (HUG, 1899), *ex situ* (x 0,9)
Fig. 6, 7 - *Paltechioceras romanicum* (UHLIG, 1900), *in situ* (6 x 0,8; 7x 1)
Fig. 8 - *Paltechioceras* aff. *romanicum* (UHLIG, 1900) *in situ*, (x 1)
Fig. 9 - *Paltechioceras boehmi* (HUG, 1899) *ex situ*, (x 1)

PLATE 1

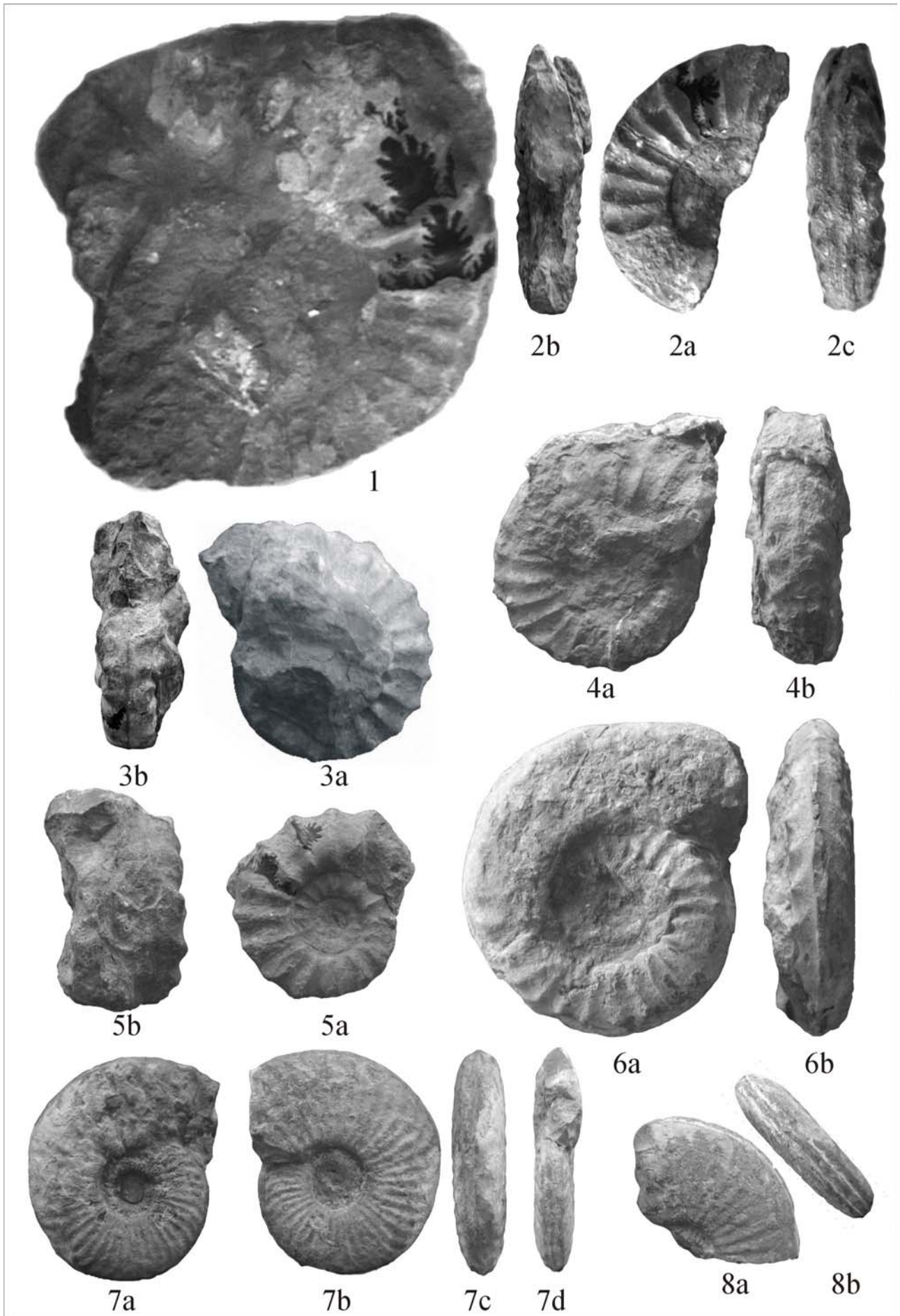


PLATE 2

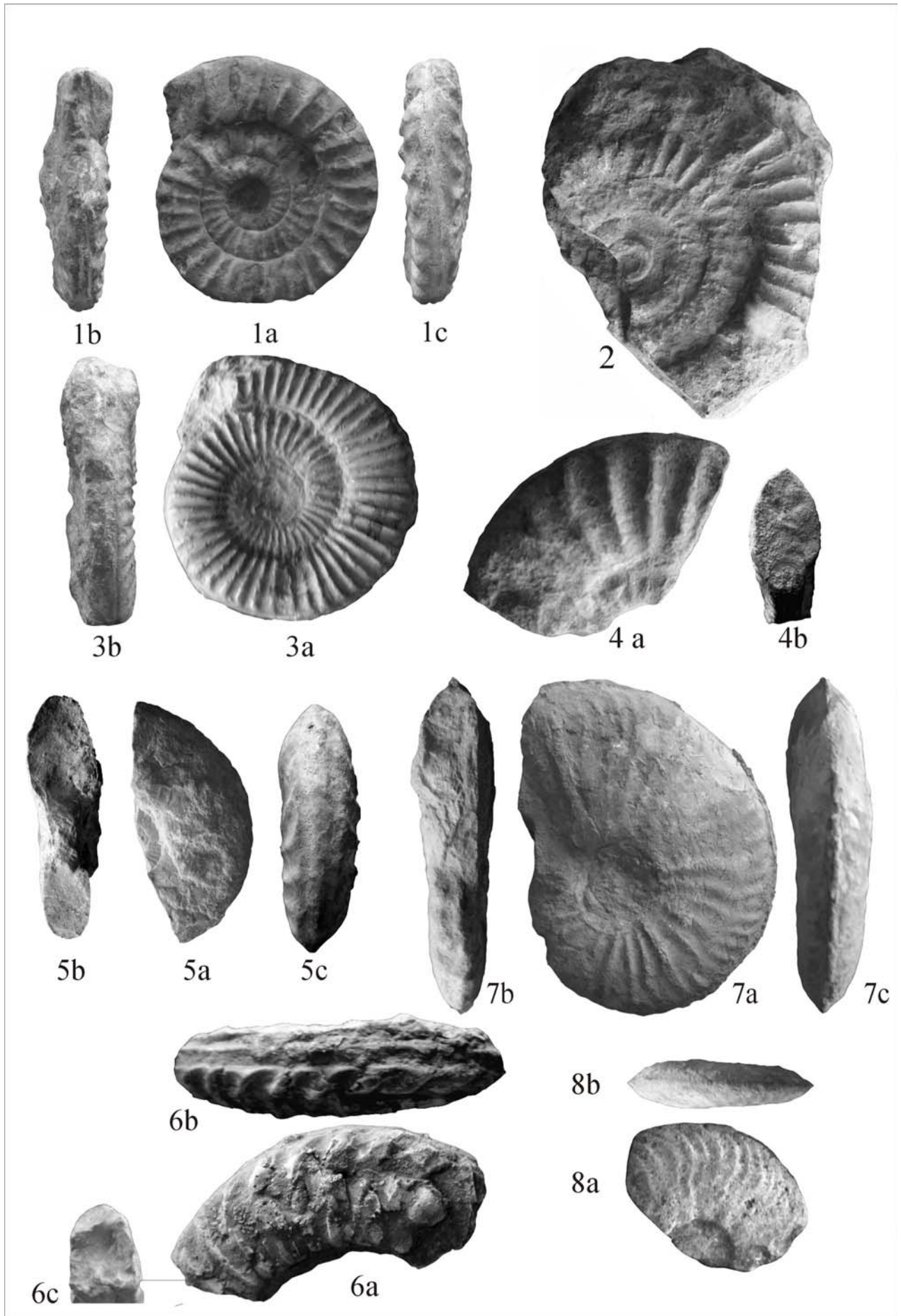


PLATE 3

