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Remarks on *Triploporella praturlonii* Barattolo 1982 from the Lower Barremian of Vercors (SE France)

Ioan I. Bucur[1], Annie Arnaud-Vanneau[2] & Hubert Arnaud[2]

[1]Babes-Bolyai University, Department of Geology, M. Kogalniceanu str. 1, 400084 Cluj-Napoca, Romania (ibucur@bioge.ubbcluj.ro)
[2]Université Joseph Fourrier, Maison des Géosciences (Bat.RIGM), Laboratoire de Géodynamique des Chaînes Alpines, (UMR 5025), BP 53, 1381, rue de la Piscine, 38041 - Grenoble Cedex, France (aarnaud@ujf-grenpble.fr)

Triploporella praturlonii was described by Barattolo (1982) from carbonate deposits of Barremian age with *Campanellula capuensis* from the Central Apennines. Sotak et al. (1983) have described specimens of *Triploporella* from limestone pebbles in the Upper Cretaceous conglomerates of the Klippen Belt (West Carpathians), that were assigned to *T. praturlonii*. Subsequently (Sotak & Misik, 1993) these specimens were assigned, in open nomenclature to a new species (*Triploporella* n. sp.). Similar specimens have been identified and described from Aptian deposits of the Resita-Moldova Noua zone (Romania) as *Triploporella carpatica* n. sp. (Bucur, 1993). The Carpathian specimens differ from the type *T. praturlonii* due to the lack of calcification of the proximal part of the primary laterals, leading to a much wider axial cavity, as well as to the lack of calcification of the secondary laterals.

Consequently, the currently studied specimens of *Triploporerlla* represent the first confirmed identification of species *Triploporella praturlonii* in an occurrence outside the type locality. The samples were collected in a locality called "Fontaine des prêtres" (southern Vercors) from coarse bioclastic grainstones of the Glandasse Limestone Formation. The grainstones with *Triploporella* belong to the distal part of a sequence delimited by two ammonite-bearing levels (Arnaud, 1981; Arnaud *et al*., 1998):

- the Pas de l'Essure marls - crop out in the basal part, their age, based on the Mazuca zone (Vermeulen, 1995) being lowermost Barremian;
- the lower Fontaine Graillère marls - occur on top and they are assigned, based on either Niklesi or Pulchella zones, to the middle part of the Lower Barremian.

The Lower Barremian age of the bioclastic grainstones with *Triploporella* is also suggested by the foraminifera and calcareous algae assemblage: *Palaeodictyoconus cuvillieri, Urgonina alpillensis, Orbitolinopsis debelmasi, Cribellopsis elongata, Paracoskinolina sunnilandensis, Pfenderina globosa* and, *Salpingoporella genevensis, Similiclypeina paucicalcarea, Falsolikanella danilovae, Angioporella fouryae,* and *Salpingoporella muehlbergii,* respectively

The size parameters of the specimens identified in southern Vercors fit very well those indicated by Barattolo (1982) for the type species (in mm):

	Vercors	Apennines (Barattolo, 1982)
L	21	5.6
D	2.25-4.80	2.73-4.50
d	0.80-1.60	0.62-1.50
l'	1.40-1.80	0.71-1.35
l''	0.20	0.10-0.28
p'	0.35-0.50	0.20-0.41
p''	0.10	0.09-0.15
w	- 46	23-40

h	0.30-0.40	0.20-0.34
a	0.10-0.18	0.10-0.16
ci	0.03-0.05	0.04-0.06

Some additional remarks on the species *Triploporella praturlonii* may be made, especially based on longitudinal sections. In the lower part of the thallus, the laterals are sterile and show more or less cylindrical shapes with a diameter smaller than that of the laterals in the median part of the thallus. In the median part, the fertile laterals show a short cylindrical portion, followed by a relatively suddenly widened portion. Due to the large diameter of the laterals in this segment, they compress each other, and their transversal section reaches a quadrangular outline. In the upper part of the thallus, the laterals become less and less inclined relative to the main axis, in the apex region being vertical (parallel to the axis) and showing a cylindrical, slightly club-like shape due to the gradual widening from the proximal towards the distal part. The secondary laterals are relatively short, and are funnel-shaped clearly widened towards the exterior, where they formed an assimilatory cortex.

Most of the specimens identified at Vercors show slight erosional features on the external parts of their skeleton, thus the secondary laterals are rarely noticeable. These bioclastic limestones with *Triploporella praturlonii* correspond to storm accumulations deposited on the platform slope and made of reworked and worn bioclasts.

This new occurrence of *Triploprella praturlonii* provides some new information on the morphology of the thallus and on the general distribution of this alga in the Tethyan area.

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