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Book review

O. Schultz

Bivalvia neogenica (Nuculacea-Unionacea)

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Schultz, O., 2001. Bivalvia neogenica (Nuculacea-Unionacea). *Catalogus Fossilium Austriae* 1(1), xlviii + 379 pp., 1 table, 8 figures, 56 plates. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien (ISBN 3-7001-2982-3), € 149.

This weighty book (*c.* 2 kg !), vol. 23 in the well-known Austrian series *Catalogus Fossilium Austriae* which publishes listings of all fossils on record from that country, presents the outcome of many years of literature studies. So far, volumes in this series had a complicated alphabetical/numerical numbering, originally intended to place them in a systematic order. This is now abandoned, triggered also by the fact that systematics have changed considerably in recent years. That, however, is not the only change. The format now is A4, a good quality of mat printing paper is used, type setting is modernised, and the body text (Helvetica) appears in two columns, with headings and species names in bold. Photo plates are now included as well; no fewer than 56 in the present volume.

For many years now, the author has been a curator at the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, having access to all those important and classic collections of species described from Austria, *e.g.* the Hoernes and Schaffer collns. Included also is material from other, mainly Austrian, institutes; it therefore comes as no surprise that numerous, if not most, of the illustrations in this volume are of types or figured specimens. This alone makes this volume a must for every European Cainozoic molluscan worker. The plan is that all Neogene bivalves from present-day Austria are listed and discussed in three volumes. The present one, volume 1, considers the Nuculacea up to and including the Unionacea. Taxonomy used, down to genus, is based on the *Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology* (1969, 1971). In the References (p. xiv), the 1969 volume is erroneously referred to as *'Treatise on Vertebrate Paleontology'*. Other printing errors are rare, *e.g.* 'Anonalodesmata' (p. 1) and 'terrains teriaires' (p. 95) caught my eye.

Following upon Contents (p. iii), short introductions (pp. iv, v), explanatory notes on synonyms and distribution (p. vi), surprisingly few acknowledgements (p. vi), a stratigraphical table (p. vii) and a list of abbreviations (p. viii), is a very extensive list of references (pp. ix-xlviii), comprising *c.* 1,800 titles, mainly referring to central Paratethys faunas, but also including important papers covering faunas from other basins. The author seems to have missed the recent revised edition of ICZN rulings, since only the 1985 issue is listed.

The most substantial portion (pp. 1-379) is 'Systematik'. Flicking through these pages soon shows that not only Neogene taxa are listed; species of Oligocene age are frequently discussed. For each species, a comprehensive list of references is given, not restricted to papers on Austrian material. For instance, for *Anadara (Anadara) diluvii* (Lamarck, 1805) no fewer than 258 references are given; just six of these, however, are to taxa not referred to as *A. diluvii*, and many of them refer to papers lacking illustrations. This, and the fact that the author has seen the original material of only four of the works referred to (marked with 'v'), illustrates the level of criticism with which these lists have been compiled. In places, following upon synonyms, there are notes on systematics, often inclusive of *locus typicus* and *stratum typicum*. For each (sub)species, stratigraphic and geographic distribution in Austria and abroad, is specified in detail.

For the Ostreacea, a notorious group of which a German fellow curator once said, 'Ich bedaure sehr daß die auch zu den Mollusken gehören', I was really impressed by the number of synonyms listed, *e.g.* under the heading 'Ostreaceae indet.'. No fewer than 489 references appear here (pp. 304-308), including mention of just *'Ostrea sp.'*, or of vernacular names such as 'Auster, Ostreen, Austerbank, kleine Austerscherben', etc., which indicates the great care with which the literature has been screened by the author.

The plates (b/w photographs) are of excellent quality, with specimens mainly illustrated at natural size. No fewer than 29 plates are reserved for pectinids, amongst which there are numerous type and illustrated specimens, also of species described by non-Austrian pectinid specialists such as Roger, and Depéret & Roman. The author has refrained from designating lectotypes in this book, which is a catalogue rather than a critical taxonomic revision. Yet, quite a lot of nomenclatorial decisions had to be made, and these will no doubt influence future literature.

The book is in German, and like in nearly all German work, subdivisions of time-stratigraphic units such as Miocene and Oligocene, are referred to as 'Unter-Miozän' or 'Ober-Oligozän'. Most modern papers in English have done away with 'upper' and 'lower', and subdivisions more appropriately bear the prefixes 'early' and 'late'. It is to be hoped that our German-speaking colleagues will one day realise that the 'Unter-Miozän' makes just as much sense as the 'Unteres Mittelalter', or Lower Middle Ages. The volume is not very solidly bound, lumbacked into 16-page gatherings, with a weak cardboard cover. Yet despite this, its price is considerable.

I like to conclude this review by expressing my admiration to Dr Schultz, for the enormous quantity of dedicated work done by him, and by wishing him courage in finishing the two remaining volumes!