

ANALYSE D'OUVRAGE

GROUPE FRANÇAIS D'ÉTUDE DU JURASSIQUE (1997). – **Biostratigraphie du Jurassique ouest-européen et méditerranéen : zonations parallèles et distribution des invertébrés et microfossiles** (E. Cariou et P. Hantzperge, coord.). – Bull. Centre Rech. Elf Explor. Prod., Mém. 178, 440 p., 6 figs, 7 tab., 42 pl. (ISBN 2-901 026-44-3).

The western Tethyan Jurassic has been the subject of intense investigation over the last 25 years. Since its publication in 1971 by the French Group for Jurassic Studies (Mouterdel et al. 1971), the Jurassic Ammonite zonation in France has proved to be an invaluable aid to research in this region of the Tethyan Realm. In the 25 years since the publication of the first synthesis, the quantity and scope of research on ammonites and other taxonomic groups has grown enormously and has given rise to a wide variety of literature. The number of Jurassic biohorizons has risen markedly, and the standard zonation has also changed so that the power of resolution of the Jurassic scale has increased. The new synthesis published in 1997 by the French Group for Jurassic Studies summarizes the important research results and presents them in an organized fashion. This new synthesis makes the report available in book form for the first time. The book provides a biostratigraphical and biochronological synthesis of the Jurassic in the west Tethyan subrealm. There is particular reference to the Northwest European and sub-Mediterranean provinces. Topics include biostratigraphical and biochronological studies involving several Jurassic taxonomic groups.

The layout of the book is simple. It presents a collection of 25 papers written by 35 palaeontologists by the forefront of European Jurassic research. The book begins with a foreword by the coordinators (Cariou and Hantzpergue) setting out the background, methodology and main items of the work. The rest of the book, containing 25 papers, is organized around three major chapters: biozonations, biostratigraphy of other taxonomic groups and biochronological synthesis. It contains 11 papers on Ammonites and stages, five papers on several taxonomic groups giving zonations (Belemnites, Brachiopods, marine Ostracods, Dinoflagellates, Calpionellids), seven papers on other groups (Echinoids, limnic Ostracods, foraminifera, calcareous nanofossils, Sponges and Dasycladaceae) and three papers on biochronological synthesis by subsystem (Lower, Middle and Upper Jurassic). Each chapter is headed by an index. Each paper stands on its own as a review, many giving emphasis to the northwest European fauna. The text is accompanied by tables summarizing the biostratigraphical and biochronological data. Some of the index species, or those which are important markers, are accompanied by illustrations. The last section presents the major conclusions of the book and takes a look into the future. There is an extensive list of cited literature. A list of tables and plates is also included.

The book is well presented, clearly printed and properly edited; it is typical of the quality of the series of Elf EP. Editions. This volume will be of interest to research workers in the fields of palaeontology, sedimentary geology, stratigraphy and all who are concerned with the geological time scale. This new synthesis continues the tradition as a useful source of reference for both academic and industry geologists.

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