1. TITLE OF CONSTITUENT BODY and NAME OF REPORTER

Subcommission on Cretaceous Stratigraphy (SCS)

Maria Rose Petrizzo, Chair; Michael Wagreich and James Haggart, Vice-chairs; Francesca Falzoni, Secretary 15 November, 2019

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. Current Officers:

Chair: Maria Rose Petrizzo; Vice-Chairs: Michael Wagreich and James Haggart; Secretary: Francesca Falzoni. Nominated Officers for 2020-2024 period:

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, Hauterivian, 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 609 has ended (OET-On Extended Terms in 2018), proceedings will be published as a Special Publication book in the Geological Society of London series (SP497 Cretaceous Climate Events and Short-Term Sea-Level Changes). 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 2019

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 in the WG activities. Campanian GSSP

The Bottaccione section (Italy) will be proposed as candidate stratotype section. The WG agreed on proposing the base of the magnetochron 33r as primary criterion for the base of the Campanian. Secondary criteria include planktonic foraminifera and calcareous nannofossil events. Carbon isotope excursions will be used to better constrain the S/C boundary and to trace high resolution correlations with boreal sections. Auxiliary sections, possibly containing the macrofossils record, include Seaford Head (UK), Postalm (Austria), Waxahachie Dam Spillway (Texas), and other sections in the Western Interior Basin of North America. The Bottaccione section was sampled for magneto-bio-chemostratigraphy in September 2018, and results are now available for discussion within the WG and integration toward the preparation of the GSSP proposal.

Coniacian GSSP

The Salzgitter-Salder (Germany) will be proposed as candidate stratotype section. The section was re-studied for planktonic and benthic foraminifera and dinoflagellate cysts. Primary criterion is the appearance of the inoceramid *Cremnoceramus deformis erectus*. Secondary criteria include a minimum in the δ^{13} C values (Navigation Event) useful for correlation among sections. Possible auxiliary sections include El Rosario (NE Mexico), Strelec Quarry railroad cut (Bohemia, Czech Republic), Hot Spring (Big Bend National Park, SW Texas), and sections in the Cauvery Basin (SE India). Jarvis and Pearce are studying dinocysts from the Salzgitter-Salder section (preliminary report presented during STRATI 2019); additional samples will be treated and the entire report will be published soon. Cech and Uličný are working on the auxiliary candidate section from Bohemia. The section is an expanded siliciclastic succession that improves the understanding of the boundary (manuscript in prep.). The candidate section was also presented during the SCS meeting at STRATI 2019. Foraminifera and dinocysts are studied from the Opole Cretaceous, southern Poland (1 manuscript submitted and 1 in preparation by Peryt, Dubicka and Walaszczyk that should be submitted to Newsletters on Stratigraphy by early 2020). Further works were continued in the Pueblo section, Colorado, USA (Walaszczyk, Sept. 2019) needed to compile the chemostratigraphy and biostratigraphy for the entire Coniacian of the section (by Walaszczyk, Sageman and Todes).

Čech, S., Uličný, D. (in prep.). The Turonian-Coniacian stage boundary in an expanded siliciclastic succession: integrated stratigraphy in deltaic through offshore facies, Bohemian Cretaceous Basin. – Cretaceous Research.

Strozyk, K. (submitted). Dinoflagellate cysts in the Turonian-Coniacian (Upper Cretaceous) boundary interval of the Opole Trough (SW Poland); biostratigraphic, palaeoenvironmental and biogeographic implications—Acta Geologica Polonica.

Albian GSSP

Officers of the SCS contacted the local authorities of the Commune of Arnayon (Départment of Drôme) on the official steps to follow for the establishment of a geopark for the protection of the site.

Aptian GSSP

The WG met in Milan at STRATI 2019 and discussed the best primary criterion for the definition of the base of the Aptian Stage. Together with the paper on the Gorgo a Cerbara section by Frau et al. (2018), the work by Coccioni (2019, in press) forms a new baseline for discussion on the use of the base of M0 for definition of the base of the Aptian. According to the revisions of the stratigraphy at Gorgo a Cerbara the base of M0r falls into the Barremian. The WG has to consider now other possible markers for defining the base of the Aptian, including the δ^{13} C negative anomaly (segment C3 *sensu* Menegatti et al. 1998) at the onset of Oceanic Anoxic Event (OAE) 1a. Shifting the Barremian/Aptian boundary to the C3 negative spike, would change the age of some ammonite species from Aptian to Barremian. Any change to the previous definition (base of M0) might have a significant impact on the stratigraphy of many known outcrops and subsurface sections, as well as on the definition of the Bedoulian substage.

Coccioni, 2019 (online version). Revised upper Barremian-upper Aptian planktonic foraminiferal biostratigraphy of the Gorgo a Cerbara section (central Italy) - Newsletters on Stratigraphy — Schweizerbart science publishers, DOI: 10.1127/nos/2019/0539

Barremian GSSP

The Rio Argos section (Caravaca, SE Spain) will be proposed as candidate stratotype section for the Barremian Stage. Foraminiferal and calcareous nannofossil, stable-isotope and cyclostratigraphic analyses are concluded. The primary criterion is the lowest occurrence of the ammonite *Taveraidiscus hugii*. Secondary criteria are ammonite, calcareous nannofossil and foraminiferal events. Auxiliary sections are identified in the Subbetic zone, the Arroyo Gilico section near Caravaca and other two sections nearby Rio Argos. Correlation between Rio Argos and the Gorgo a Cerbara and Fiume Bosso sections (central Italy) can be performed by using ammonite and isotope stratigraphy within the upper part of magnetochron M5n.

Premoli Silva, I., Soldan, D.M., Petrizzo, M.R. (2018). Upper Hauterivian-upper Barremian planktonic foraminiferal assemblages from the Arroyo Gilico section (southern Spain). Journal of Foraminiferal Research, 48, 314-355.

Melliti, S., Reboulet, S., Ben Haj Ali, N., Arfaoui, M.S., Zargouni, F., Memmi, L. (2019). Ammonoid and foraminiferal biostratigraphy from uppermost Valanginian to lowermost Barremian of the Jebel Boulahouajeb section (northern Tunisia). Journal of African Earth Sciences, 151, 438-460.

Hauterivian GSSP

The proposal to formalize the base of the Hauterivian Stage at the FO of the ammonite genus *Acanthodiscus* at the La Charce section (SE France) was voted on in August 2019 within the SCS and approved by a majority of 91% of delivered votes. The proposal is currently under voting within ICS.

Valanginian GSSP

Possible GSSP candidates for the base of the Valanginian are the Cañada Luenga section (SE Spain) and the Vergol section (SE France). The proposed primary criterion for the base of the Valanginian is the lowest occurrence of *Calpionellites darderi*, which correlates with the lowermost part of magnetochron M14. Integrated analysis of ammonites, calpionellids and calcareous nannofossils correlated with magnetostratigraphic and chemostratigraphic data are nearly completed for the Cañada Luenga section. Cyclostratigraphy is available for the Vergol section; calpionellid, ammonite and calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphies are in progress; unfortunately, no magnetostratigraphic analysis is possible. The WG has carried out new sampling to prepare thin sections for the calpionellid study.

Aguirre-Urreta, B., Martinez, M., Schmitz, M., Lescano, M., Omarini, J., Tunik, M., Kuhnert, H., Concheyro, A., Rawson, P.F., Ramos, V.A., Reboulet, S., Noclin, N., Frederichs, T., Nickl, A.-L., Pälike, H. (2019). Interhemispheric radio-astrochronological calibration of the time scales from the Andean and the Tethyan areas in the Valanginian—Hauterivian (Early Cretaceous). Gondwana Research, 70, 104-132.

Melliti, S., Reboulet, S., Ben Haj Ali, N., Arfaoui, M.S., Zargouni, F., Memmi, L. (2019). Ammonoid and foraminiferal biostratigraphy from uppermost Valanginian to lowermost Barremian of the Jebel Boulahouajeb section (northern Tunisia). Journal of African Earth Sciences, 151, 438-460.

Berriasian (J/K boundary) GSSP

In Spring 2019, the WG held a consultation and formal vote on selecting a GSSP for the base of the Berriasian Stage. By this vote the group selected the profile of Tre Maroua in the Vocontian Basin (France) with a 73% majority. Moreover, the WG held a conference jointly with the Jurassica Group on 10-14 June 2019 at Comenius University, Bratislava, superbly organised by a team led by Kamil Fekete. The GSSP proposal is currently under discussion within the WG.

Fekete, K., Michalik, J., Rehakova, D. (2019). 14th Jurassica Conference and Workshop of the ICS Berriasian Group. Earth Science Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences.

KILIAN Group

The WG was inactive in 2019.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- STRATI 2019, Milan (Italy): scientific session "ST 3.8 *Cretaceous integrated stratigraphy, greenhouse climate change and events*" chaired by SCS Officers. The session hosted 32 oral presentations and 9 posters.
- 4 July 2019, Milan (Italy): Business Meeting of the Cretaceous Subcommission (STRATI 2019). Members of the Subcommission met to discuss the progresses made toward the definition of the missing GSSP stratotypes. The meeting minutes are available at http://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/archives/.
- JK2018 was held in Geneva (Switzerland, 05-07/12/2018). In numbers: 15 partners, 176 (co-)authors, 74 registrants, 25 countries, 6 keynotes, 33 presentations, 25 posters. Abstract volume at http://paleopolis.rediris.es/cg/CG2019_B01/CG2019_B01.pdf. Reports in *Vol. Jur.* https://voluminajurassica.org/resources/html/article/details?id=188910 and *TMS Newsl.* https://www.tmsoc.org/download/newsletter-99-march-2019/?wpdmdl=8403&refresh=5dc1b16fa9af61572974959 Special Issue of *Cret. Res.* should comprise some 15 papers, including https://authors.elsevier.com/c/1ZzjYiVLD8~8C (free until 17/12/2019).
- October 2019: IX All-Russian Lithological Conference (with international participation) "LITHOLOGY OF SEDIMENTAL COMPLEXES OF EURASIA AND OFFSHORE REGIONS" (Section 6 "Problems of the formation of hydrocarbon deposits" Conveners V.S. Vishnevskaya, L. M. Zhuravleva) Institute of Geology and Oil and Gas Technologies KFU, Kasan, Russia.
- Vishnevskaya V.S. (2019). Revision of the Early Cretaceous radiolarian species *Williriedellum salymicum* Kozlova. Paleontological Journal, *Vol. 53, pp. 334–340*. Since the holotype of this species is within a petrographic thin-section, and thus lacks a complete set of characters, we suggest addressing the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature with a proposal to distinguish the neotype.
- Vishnevskaya V.S., Gatovsky Y.A., Kozlova V.A. (2019). The *Parvicingula khabakovi–Williriedellum salymicum* Radiolarian Biohorizon in the West Siberian Bazhenovo Formation (Berriasian–Valanginian). Paleontological Journal, *Vol. 53*, 42–45. The use of CT and SEM methods in addition to optical microscopy have enabled us to confirm the validity of *Williriedellum salymicum* Kozlova, 1983 and to propose the inclusion of the *Parvicingula khabakovi–Williriedellum salymicum* Biohorizon into the regional stratigraphic scheme of the Lower Cretaceous of Western Siberia.

6. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IN 2019:

Contribution towards cost of maintenance of the website 400 Euro
Contribution to the WG chairs (Hauterivian, Aptian, Coniacian, Campanian) to attend STRATI 2019 2200.00 Euro
Contribution to the WG chairs (Berriasian, Barremian, Valanginian, Campanian) for fieldworks +analysis 1714.20 Euro
Contribution to the SCS officers (Falzoni, Petrizzo) to attend STRATI 2019 (registration) 760.00 Euro
Contribution for secretarial work 400 Euro
Bank fees for bank transfer 9 Euro

TOTAL expenditure in 2019 = 5483.20 Euro

7. SUMMARY OF INCOME IN 2019:

ICS Subvention for 2019 US dollars 4500.00 = 3997.72 Euro Carried forward from 2018 and used for STRATI 2019 1485.48 Euro

8. BUDGET REQUESTED FROM ICS IN 2020

Contribution towards cost of website maintenance 400 Euro
Contribution to fieldworks/Working Group activities (all Stage WGs) 2500 Euro
Contribution for secretarial work 400 Euro
Albian and Hauterivian GSSP meetings with local authorities and official ceremony 1150 Euro

TOTAL budget request from ICS in 2020= 4450 Euro

- 9. WORK PLAN, CRITICAL MILESTONES, ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ACHIEVED NEXT YEAR (2020):
- STUDIES, FIELD WORK TO FINALIZE THE GSSP PROPOSALS Campanian GSSP

The GSSP proposal, including the Bottaccione section and the auxiliary sections, will likely be discussed and voted within the WG in 2020.

Coniacian GSSP

The GSSP proposal, including the auxiliary sections, is in preparation and will be discussed and voted within the WG by the end of 2019.

Albian GSSP

Finalization of the official steps required for the protection and easy accessibility of the GSSP site.

Aptian GSSP

The WG is waiting for magnetostratigraphies from two French locations. As soon as the results are available the discussion on the selection of a physical marker and on the location will be restarted in the WG. The proposal, including the auxiliary sections, is planned to be discussed and voted within the WG by the end of 2020.

Barremian GSSP

The WG is completing the study of the ammonite distribution in the Rio Argo section. The GSSP proposal, including the auxiliary sections, is planned to be discussed and voted within the WG during 2020.

Hauterivian GSSP

A publication of the relevant data regarding La Charce as GSSP section is planned. The protection of the La Charce section is ensured by an Espace Naturel Sensible (ENS), considering the major geological interest of the site. The department and the municipality of La Charce cooperated and established an exceptional and world-renowned geological interpretation circuit for the public. An official ceremony will be held after the ratification of the GSSP by IUGS.

Valanginian GSSP

The WG is now completing the analysis of the ammonite and calcareous nannofossil distribution in both GSSP candidate sections. Therefore, the selection of the candidate stratotype section will be discussed and voted within the WG by 2021.

Berriasian (J/K boundary) GSSP

The proposal document for the selected GSSP will be sent to ISCS in earlier 2020 and, if approved, to ICS for voting. 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, 2021). The local organization will be made by Izabela Ploch.

• ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Publication of a Cretaceous Research Virtual Special Issue titled "Cretaceous integrated stratigraphy, greenhouse climate change and events" edited by SCS Officers in 2020. The Special Issue collects papers presented in the Cretaceous Subcommission scientific session held at STRATI 2019.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- -2020 September, the X All-Russian meeting "The Cretaceous System of Russia and neighbouring countries: problems of stratigraphy and paleogeography" is planned in Magadan City.
- -2020 36th International Geological Congress (Delhi, India, 2-8 March 2020).
- -2021 11th International Symposium on the Cretaceous (Poland, 2021).

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

2020: Submission of the Berriasian GSSP to SCS for vote and if approved to ICS for vote and then to IUGS for ratification.

2020-2021. Inauguration of the Albian GSSP, and of the Hauterivian GSSP if approved by ICS and ratified by IUGS.

2020-2021: Finalization of the proposals by the Working Groups for the base Barremian, base Aptian, base Coniacian, base Campanian. Voting by members of the Working Groups to select a single GSSP candidate section.

2020-2021: Continue preparation of proposals for the definition of substages for discussions at the forthcoming meeting:11th International Symposium on the Cretaceous (Poland, 2021).

2020-2022: Finalization of the proposals by the Working Groups for the base Valanginian.

2020-2024: Submission of the proposals for the GSSP candidate sections approved by the Working Groups to the Cretaceous Subcommission Voting Members.

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

Nominated officers

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Vice-Chair: James Haggart, jhaggart@nrcan.gc.ca - Geological Survey of Canada, 1500-605 Robson Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 5J3, Canada, Phone: 1-604-666-8460

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Working group leaders and corresponding members

CAMPANIAN WG

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CONIACIAN WG

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