## EARLY OLIGOCENE BRACHIOPODS FROM THE ROCKY-SHORE DEPOSITS AT MAMMENDORF, CENTRAL GERMANY

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Abstract: Thirteen species, belonging to eleven genera, i.e., *Discinisca* Dall, *Novocrania* Lee and Brunton, *Lacazella* Munier-Chalmas, *Pliothyrina* van Roy, *Terebratulina* d'Orbigny, *Megathiris* d'Orbigny, *Argyrotheca* Dall, *Bronnothyris* Popiel-Barczyk and Smirnova, *Joania* Álvarez, Brunton and Long, *Platidia* Costa and *Megerlia* King, have been identified in the lower Oligocene rocky-shore deposits at Mammendorf, central Germany. The occurrence of the species *Discinisca fallens* (Wood), *Argyrotheca bitnerae* Dulai and *Megerlia truncata* (Linnaeus) extends their stratigraphic range back to the early Oligocene. The affinity to the early Oligocene brachiopod fauna of the Mainz Basin is noted.

Key words: Brachiopoda, early Oligocene, Rupelian, predation, North Sea Basin.

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Cenozoic brachiopods, although of low diversity, are commonly found in the fossil benthic communities of Europe and have long been the subject of investigations. Among them, Eocene and Miocene brachiopods are especially well known. In contrast, Oligocene brachiopods were often neglected and only recently have begun to attract the attention of palaeontologists, being described systematically in several papers (e.g., Bitner and Kroh, 2011; Bitner *et al.*, 2013a, 2020; Bitner and Müller, 2015; Dulai and von der Hocht, 2020).

The present paper deals with the material that was first reported by Müller (2011a). The latter author provisionally attributed the early Oligocene brachiopods from the Mammendorf Quarry to eight species: *Discinisca* sp., *Lacazella* aff. *mediterranea* (Risso, 1826), *"Terebratula"* grandis (Blumenbach, 1903), *Terebratulina* sp., *Megathiris* cf. *detruncata* (Gmelin, 1791), *Argyrotheca* cf. *cuneata* (Risso, 1826), *A.* cf. *cordata* (Risso, 1826), and *Megerlia* sp. Here the authors present the revision and redescription of this interesting and rich material.

It is noteworthy that Oligocene brachiopods were described previously from nearby Magdeburg by Schreiber (1871). The latter recognized there three species and described them under the names *Terebratula grandis* (= *Pliothyrina grandis*), *Terebratulina striatula* (= *T. ten-uistriata*) and *Argiope rugosa* (= *Bronnothyris rugosa*). All these species also have been identified in the material from Mammendorf.

### **GEOLOGICAL SETTING**

The lower Oligocene deposits, cropping out in the Mammendorf Quarry lie unconformably on Permian andesite. This is a large quarry (Cronenberger Steinindustrie, Franz Triches GmbH & Co KG), situated about 20 km NW of Magdeburg, central Germany (Fig. 1). Geologically, the quarry is located near the eastern slope of the Flechtingen Ridge. In the Palaeogene, the Flechtingen Ridge, being the northernmost rise of the Hercynian basement, played an important palaeogeographical role, separating the deeper North German Basin from the shallower marine area to the south. Until the Priabonian, the Flechtingen Ridge was an island and then became flooded and constituted a submarine barrier in the lower Oligocene (Müller, 2008, 2011a,b).

Rocky-shore environments with boulder beds developed on the andesite in two Palaeogene transgressive cycles.



**Fig. 1.** Sketch map of Germany, showing the Mammendorf locality, at which the brachiopods were collected.

However, during the first cycle, the Flechtingen Ridge was not flooded completely. Extraordinarily fossil-rich sedimentary infillings were encountered in the block interstices and occasionally also in fissure fillings and larger sedimentary pockets. The lower cycle (horizons M1-M3) consists of boulder beds with glauconitic, green sands in the interstices. It contains a warm-water fauna with numerous corals, bryozoans, brachiopods and about 175 species of molluscs, with a mass occurrence of the oyster Isognomon and very common Spondylus, both characteristic for intertidal or shallow-subtidal, hard substrates (Müller, 2011a,b). This interval can be compared with the warm-water fauna of the Silberberg Formation near Latdorf (calcareous nannoplankton zone NP21). At the top of the deposits of the lower cycle, there is a brown horizon that is interpreted as palaeosoil, indicating emersion. The upper cycle (horizons M4 to M7) is also characterized by boulder beds, but it contains larger sediment pockets as well. Here a transition from glauconitic sand (horizons M4/M6) to the Septaria Clay (horizon M5) and to green, hard clay (horizon M7) was observed. The faunal assemblage is also very rich but displays a structure differing from that of the first cycle. Isognomon and Spondylus are absent, but large Angistoma species and other molluscs are characteristic, which also typify the Magdeburg Greensand in the urban area of Magdeburg. A great number of fish otoliths, with the predominance of Gadidae, show a typical Rupelian spectrum. This stratigraphical level belongs to the nannoplankton zone NP 22 and corresponds

to Rupel 1 *sensu* Spiegler (1965). The Septaria Clay in the M5 horizon represents probably the NP23 zone. The whole upper cycle indicates rapid flooding and submerging of the Flechtingen Ridge and an abrupt transition from rocky-shore environments with boulder beds to a deeply submerged, rocky swell. For details of the geology, stratigraphy, and faunal content, see Müller (2011a).

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The material investigated was collected in the Mammendorf Quarry, central Germany (Fig. 1) during the fieldwork carried out from 2007 to 2010. Brachiopods were obtained from sediment bulk samples (about 800 kg), washed, if necessary, treated with hydrogen peroxide (horizon M7), and wet-sieved at mesh 0.4 mm. For details of the sampling, see Müller (2011a). The total number of specimens examined is 1,373 (see Tab. 1). The material is very variably preserved, from poorly to very well. There are also many fragmented shells, frequently undeterminable.

Specimens selected for scanning electron microscopy were mounted on stubs, coated with platinum and examined using a Philips XL-20 microscope at the Institute of Paleobiology, Warszawa. The collection is stored in the "Geological-Paleontological Collection" (GPSL) of the Institute for Geophysics and Geology of the Leipzig University, special collection Mammendorf (abbreviation MM\_ and collection number).

### SYSTEMATIC PALAEONTOLOGY

Phylum Brachiopoda Duméril, 1805 Subphylum Linguliformea Williams, Carlson, Brunton, Holmer and Popov, 1996 Class Lingulata Gorjansky and Popov, 1985 Order Lingulida Waagen, 1885 Superfamily Discinoidea Gray, 1840 Family Discinidae Gray, 1840 Genus *Discinisca* Dall, 1871

**Type species:** *Orbicula lamellosa* Broderip, 1833, by original designation of Dall (1871).

Discinisca fallens (Wood, 1874) Fig. 2A–I

- 1874 Discina fallens Wood, p. 172, pl. 11, fig. 6.
- 2011a Discinisca sp. Müller, p. 20, pl. 2, fig. 28.
- 2013 Discinisca fallens (Wood) Dulai, pp. 27-28, figs 15-24.
- 2020 Discinisca fallens (Wood) Dulai and von der Hocht, pp. 227–230, pl. 1, figs 1–12.

**Material:** 221 dorsal valves found in horizons M2, M3, M5, M6, M7 (Tab. 1); many specimens are fragmented. **Description:** Dorsal valve thin, dark brown in colour, small (maximum observed length 7.2 mm), very variable in outline from subcircular to ovally elongate, often asymmetrical

Table	1
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Species M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6 M7 Number of individuals 8 9 85 221 Discinisca fallens 6 113 1 1 Novocrania sp. 1 35 1 37 Lacazella mediterranea Pliothyrina grandis 4 20 88 2 2 132 43 291 2 10 43 123 Terebratulina tenuistriata 68 Megathiris detruncata 5 38 14 57 Argyrotheca bitnerae 62 103 3 17 191 6 8 6 14 Argyrotheca lunula Argvrotheca megalocephala 28 196 3 1 14 242 95 2 Joania crenata 20 12 129 Bronnothyris rugosa 12 24 4 6 46 3 2 9 Platidia sp. 4 7 2 12 Megerlia truncata 3 298 4 152 583 312 1373 Number of individuals per horizon 4 20

Brachiopod species recorded from the Mammendorf Quarry with the number of individuals per sampling horizons

(see Fig. 2). Larval shell smooth, reaching about 0.4 mm (Fig. 2C, F). Shell surface smooth, marked by numerous, distinct, lamellose growth lines. Dorsal valve moderate conical in profile with the apex situated subcentrally. Muscle scars are weakly marked, often invisible; anterior adductor scars narrow, elongated, anteriorly curved in a horse-shoe-like shape (Fig. 2G).

**Remarks:** The specimens studied were initially assigned by Müller (2011a) to the genus level only. Dulai and von der Hocht (2020), who summarized existing knowledge about the Palaeogene and Neogene discinids of Europe, found the Mammendorf material consistent with the species *Discinisca fallens*. Originally described from the Pliocene Coralline Crag of Great Britain (Wood, 1874), this species also has been recognized in the upper Oligocene and Miocene deposits of Germany and the Netherlands (Dulai, 2013; Dulai and von der Hocht, 2020).

Externally, the specimens investigated are most similar to another species from the North Sea Basin, the Eocene *Discinisca insularis* Muir-Wood, 1939 from Great Britain. However, the shell of the latter species is larger and massive (Muir-Wood, 1939), differing strongly from the thinshelled *D. fallens. Discinisca fallens* is also distinguished from *D. elslooensis* Radwańska & Radwański, 2003 from the Miocene Elsloo Conglomerate of the Netherlands; in *D. elslooensis* the shell is thick-walled, low conical to nearly flat with the apex situated subposteriorly to posteriorly (Radwańska and Radwański, 2003).

**Occurrence:** *Discinisca fallens* is reported from the Oligocene (Dulai and von der Hocht, 2020; this study), Miocene (Dulai, 2013) and Pliocene (Wood, 1874) of the North Sea Basin.

Subphylum Craniiformea Popov, Bassett, Holmer and Laurie, 1993 Class Craniata Williams, Carlson, Brunton, Holmer and Popov, 1996 Order Craniida Waagen, 1885 Superfamily Cranioidea Menke, 1828 Family Craniidae Menke, 1828 Genus *Novocrania* Lee and Brunton, 2001

**Type species:** *Patella anomala* Müller, 1776, by original designation of Lee and Brunton (1986).

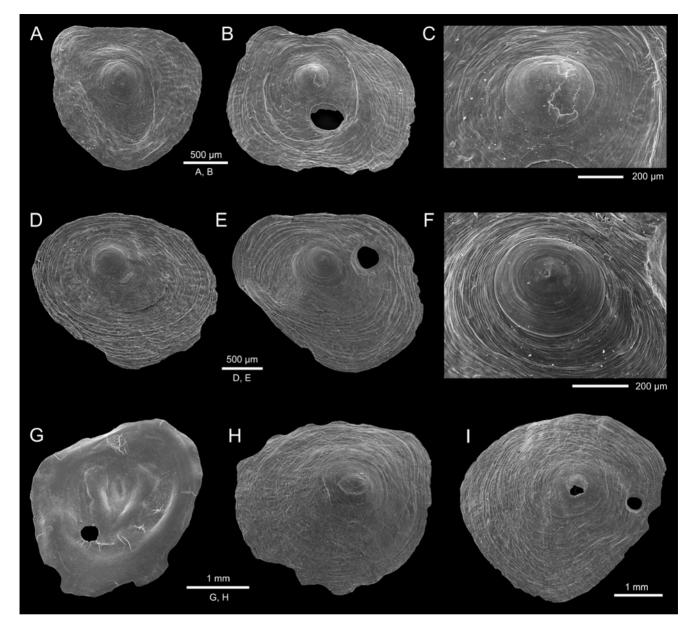
#### Novocrania sp.

Material: One broken dorsal valve, horizon M7.

**Remarks:** The material is very limited and poorly preserved; the posterior part of the valve is broken. All this prevents any detailed taxonomic assessment. The valve is small, 6.3 mm in width, and thick. The anterior adductor muscle scars are ovate. Below the scars shallow, horizontally elongate depressions are visible. The support structure scars are attached to the adductor scars. The marginal rim is wide, with tubercles.

**Occurrence:** Early Oligocene of Mammendorf, central Germany. The genus *Novocrania* is widespread, having a stratigraphic range from Paleocene to Recent (e.g., Bitner *et al.*, 2013a; Bitner and Motchurova-Dekova, 2016; Bitner and Müller, 2017; Robinson, 2017).

Subphylum Rhynchonelliformea Williams, Carlson, Brunton, Holmer and Popov, 1996 Class Rhynchonellata Williams, Carlson, Brunton, Holmer and Popov, 1996



**Fig. 2.** *Discinisca fallens* (Wood, 1874), dorsal valves, Mammendorf, M6. **A.** Outer view of young individual, GPSL MM\_869. **B, C.** Outer view and enlargement (C), showing the protegulum, GPSL MM\_870. **D.** Outer view, MM\_871. **E, F.** Outer view and enlargement (F), showing the apex, visible gastropod drillings, GPSL MM\_872. **G.** Inner view, visible horseshoe-like anterior adductor muscle scars and well-developed limbus, GPSL MM\_873. **H, I.** Outer views of adult specimens, GPSL MM\_874–875. All are SEM images.

Order Thecideidea Elliott, 1958 Superfamily Thecideoidea Gray, 1840 Family Thecideidae Gray, 1840 Subfamily Lacazellinae Backhaus, 1959 Genus *Lacazella* Munier-Chalmas, 1880

**Type species:** *Thecidea mediterranea* Risso, 1826, by original designation of Munier-Chalmas (1880).

#### Lacazella mediterranea (Risso, 1826) Fig. 3A–J

- 1894 Thecidium mediterraneum L. var. Lattorfense Davidson – von Koenen, p. 1364, pl. 97, figs 11–16.
- 1970 *Lacazella mediterranea* (Risso) Pajaud, pp. 128– 138, text-figs 50, 52, pl. 1, fig. 4; pl. 5, fig. 4; pl. 7,

fig. 3; pl. 10, figs 1–6; pl. 11, fig. 3; pl. 12, fig. 2; pl. 16 (*cum syn*.).

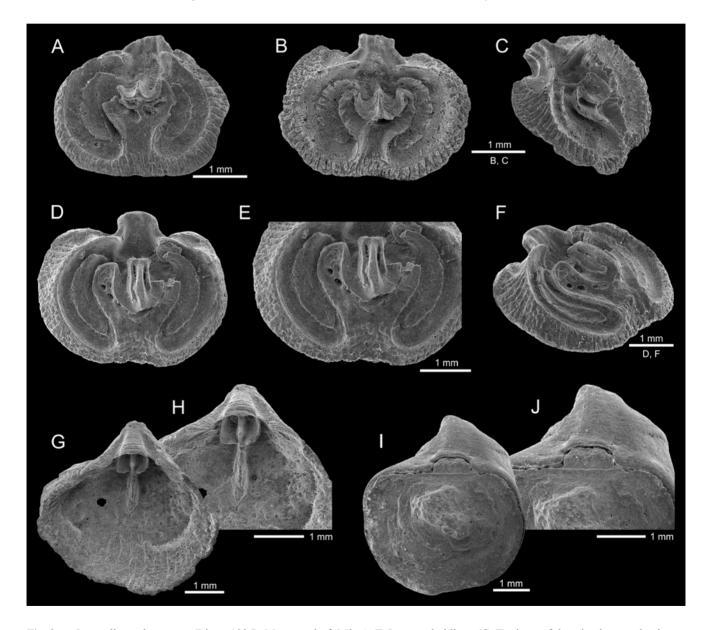
- 1979 Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Logan, pp. 73–76, text-fig. 22, pl. 10, figs 1–8.
- 1987 Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Popiel-Barczyk and Barczyk, p. 101, pl. 3,figs 3–11.
- 2005 Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Bitner and Dieni, pp. 109–110, fig. 4I–K.
- 2008 Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Bitner and Dulai, p. 40, fig. 5.7–8.
- 2011a *Lacazella* aff. *mediterranea* (Risso) Müller, p. 20, pl. 3, fig. 14.
- 2013a Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Bitner et al., p. 595, fig. 9A–L

- 2016 Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Álvarez, pp. 37– 39, pl. 4F–BB, 5A–CC, 6A–DD, 7A–JJ (*cum syn*.).
- 2017 *Lacazella mediterranea* (Risso) Bitner and Müller, pp. 223–224, fig. 10A–M (*cum syn.*).
- 2019 Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Dulai, pp. 139– 140, pl. 3, figs 21–24.
- 2019 *Lacazella mediterranea* (Risso) Pedramara *et al.*, pp. 244–245, fig. 7A–K.
- 2020 Lacazella mediterranea (Risso) Hoffmann et al., p. 14, fig. 10D.

**Material:** One articulated specimen, three ventral and 33 dorsal valves, from the horizons M2, M3, M6 (Tab. 1). **Remarks:** *Lacazella mediterranea* was already recognized in material from Mammendorf (Müller, 2011a). Its shell is small (maximum observed length 5.4 mm), with a smooth,

rough surface, strongly ventribiconvex. The ventral valve has a well-developed inter area with a convex rugideltidium, and internally with hemispondylium in forms of two small plates, supported by a short median septum (Fig. 3G, H). The dorsal valve is nearly circular with a prominent, subrectangular cardinal process and a trifurcating median septum. The inner valve margins are papillose.

**Occurrence:** *Lacazella mediterranea* has a very long, stratigraphic range with its oldest fossil record from the late Paleocene of Spain (Pajaud and Plaziat, 1972). In the Eocene and Oligocene of Europe, this species is widespread from France to Ukraine (von Koenen, 1894; Bitner and Dieni, 2005; Bitner and Dulai, 2008; Nebelsick *et al.*, 2011; Bitner *et al.*, 2013a; Bitner and Müller, 2017), while in the Neogene its occurrence is restricted to the Mediterranean Province (Logan *et al.*, 2004; Dulai, 2010, 2019; Hoffmann *et al.*, 2020). Recently, *L. medirerranea* was identified in



**Fig. 3.** *Lacazella mediterranea* (Risso, 1826), Mammendorf, M3. **A–F.** Inner and oblique (C, F) views of dorsal valves, and enlargement (E), showing details of brachidium, GPSL MM\_877–879. **G**, **H.** Inner view of ventral valve and tilted enlargement (H), showing hemispondylium, GPSL MM\_880. **I**, **J.** Dorsal view of articulated specimen and enlargement (J) of posterior part, GPSL MM\_881. All are SEM images.

the early Miocene of Iran (Pedramara *et al.*, 2019). Today, it lives in the western part of the Mediterranean Sea at depth of 1–110 m (Logan, 1979, 2007; Álvarez, 2016; Emig, 2016), being considered as neoendemic to this region (Logan *et al.*, 2004).

> Order Terebratulida Waagen, 1883 Superfamily Terebratuloidea Gray, 1840 Family Terebratulidae Gray, 1840 Genus *Pliothyrina* van Roy, 1980

**Type species:** *Terebratula sowerbyana* Nyst, 1843, by original designation of van Roy (1980).

#### Pliothyrina grandis (Blumenbach, 1803) Fig. 4A–G

- 1803 Terebratulites grandis Blumenbach, p. 18, pl. 1, fig. 4.
- 1862 Terebratula opercularis Sandberger, pl. 34, fig. 2.
- 1863 *Terebratula opercularis* Sandb. Sandberger, p. 384.
- 1871 *Terebratula grandis* Blumb. Schreiber, pp. 60–61, pl. 3, fig. 1a–c.
- 1874 Terebratula grandis Blumenbach Wood, p. 168, pl. 11, fig. 5a-g
- 1894 Terebratula grandis Blumenbach von Koenen, p. 1339, pl. 96, figs 1–3.
- 1983 Pliothyrina grandis (Blumenbach) Cooper, p. 237, pl. 5, figs 5, 6.
- 2011a "*Terebratula*" grandis (Blumenbach, 1803) Müller, p. 20, pl. 2, figs 29–31, pl. 3, figs 1, 2.
- 2012 *Pliothyrina grandis* (Blumenbach) Diedrich, p. 177, fig. 12.10.
- 2015 *Pliothyrina* sp. cf. *P. grandis* (Blumenbach) Bitner and Müller, pp. 676–677, fig. 3e–h.
- 2020 *Pliothyrina grandis* (Blumenbach) Dulai and von der Hocht, pp. 231–234, pl. 2, figs 2–25 (*cum syn.*).

**Material:** 38 articulated specimens, 100 ventral and 153 dorsal valves found in all horizons; there are also many fragments.

**Remarks:** *Pliothyrina grandis* is the most common species in the material studied, but it is poorly preserved; the majority of specimens are damaged and/or crushed. Müller (2011a) reported this species under the name "*Terebratula*" *grandis*. The smooth, short-looped Palaeogene and Neogene terebratulides, possessing inner hinge plates, are now placed in *Pliothyrina* (see van Roy, 1980; Cooper, 1983). The shell is elongate oval in outline, smooth with numerous fine growth lines. The foramen is large, subcircular, of mesothyrid type. The deltidial plates, disjunct in juvenile specimens, are conjunct in adults, forming a symphytium. The outer hinge plates are concave (Fig. 4G). The inner hinge plates form narrow, horizontal, flat plates. The loop is not preserved.

**Occurrence:** This species is restricted to the Oligocene of North Sea Basin (Sandberger, 1862–1863; von Koenen, 1894; Cooper, 1983; Diedrich, 2012; Bitner and Müller, 2015; Dulai and von der Hocht, 2020; this paper).

Superfamily Cancellothyridoidea Thomson, 1926 Family Cancellothyrididae Thomson, 1926 Subfamily Cancellothyridinae Thomson, 1926 Genus *Terebratulina* d'Orbigny, 1847

**Type species:** *Anomia retusa* Linnaeus, 1758 by subsequent designation of Brunton *et al.* (1967).

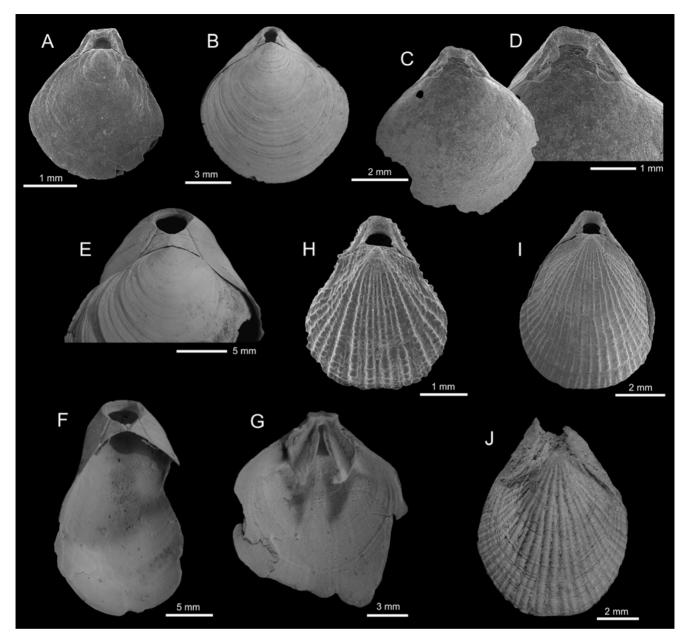
*Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie, 1846) Fig. 4H–I

- 1862 Terebratulina fasciculata Sandberger, pl. 34, fig. 3.
- 1863 Terebratulina fasciculata Sandberger Sandberger, p. 385.
- 1871 *Terebratulina striatula* Sowbery Schreiber, pp. 61–62, pl. 4, fig. 2a–c.
- 2000 Terebratulina tenuistriata (Leymerie) Bitner, pp. 118–120, figs 2, 3, 4A–F, 5A–G (*cum syn*.).
- 2005 *Terebratulina* sp. cf. *T. tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner and Dieni, p. 108, fig. 6A.
- 2008 *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner and Dulai, pp. 33–35, fig. 4.1–8.
- 2009 *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner and Boukhary, pp. 396–397, fig. 3A–F.
- 2010 Terebratulina tenuistriata (Leymerie) Dulai et al.,
   p. 185, pl. 3, figs 1–11.
- 2011 *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner *et al.*, pp. 122–124, fig. 3A–C.
- 2011 Terebratulina tenuistriata (Leymerie) Dulai, pp. 299–300, fig. 4.
- 2011a Terebratulina div. sp. Müller, p. 20.
- 2012 *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner and Boukhary, fig. 2C, D.
- 2015 *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner and Müller, pp. 677–678, fig. 4A–F.
- 2017 *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner and Müller, pp. 214–216, fig. 3A–H (*cum syn*.).
- 2020 *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie) Bitner *et al.*, p. 171, fig. 4B–G.

**Material:** 54 complete specimens, 28 ventral valves, 41 dorsal valves found in the horizons M3, M4, M6, M7 (see Tab. 1).

**Remarks:** The species *Terebratulina tenuistriata* is relatively common in the material studied and is represented mostly by juvenile individuals. All larger specimens are crushed and/or damaged. Müller (2011a) noted the presence of *Terebratulina* at Mammendorf, however, without assignment to any particular species. The specimens investigated are small, with the lengths rarely exceeding 10 mm. Their shell is elongate oval in outline, ornamented by numerous, fine ribs.

**Occurrence:** *Terebratulina tenuistriata* is common and widely distributed in the Eocene of Europe, from Great Britain and Spain to Ukraine (e.g., Bitner, 2000; Bitner and Dulai, 2008; Dulai, 2011; Bitner and Müller, 2017), also reported from the Eocene of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (Bitner and Boukhary, 2009, 2012). Recently, this species was also identified in the lower Oligocene deposits of Germany and Italy (Bitner and Müller, 2015; Bitner *et al.*, 2020).



**Fig. 4.** *Pliothyrina grandis* (Blumenbach, 1803) and *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie, 1846), Mammendorf. **A–G.** *Pliothyrina grandis* (Blumenbach, 1803); A, B – dorsal views of articulated juvenile specimens, A – M3, GPSL MM\_882, B – M2, MM\_883; C, D – interior view of ventral valve of juvenile specimen, and enlargement (D) of the umbonal part, M3, GPSL MM\_884; E – dorsal view of articulated specimen, posterior part, showing details of the beak, M1, GPSL MM\_885; F – interior of ventral valve, M6, GPSL MM\_886; G – interior view of dorsal valve, visible cardinalia with outer and inner hinge plates, M1, GPSL MM\_887. **H–J.** *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie, 1846), dorsal views of articulated specimens, M6, GPSL MM\_890–892. A, D, G–H are SEM images.

Superfamily Megathyridoidea Dall, 1870 Family Megathyrididae Dall, 1870 Genus *Megathiris* d'Orbigny, 1847

**Type species:** *Anomia detruncata* Gmelin, 1791, by subsequent designation of Dall (1920).

Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin, 1791) Fig. 5A–H

- 1864 Argiope multicostata Bosquet, p. 3, figs 1–5.
- 1894 Argiope multicostata Bosquet von Koenen, p. 1357, pl. 98, figs 16, 17.

- 1990 *Megathiris detruncata* (Gmelin) Bitner, pp. 135– 138, text-figs 3, 4; pl. 3, figs 1–8; pl. 6, figs 1–7 (*cum syn*.).
- 2003 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner and Moissette, pp. 473–474, fig. 6G, H.
- 2004 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner and Dulai, pp. 74–75, pl. 3, figs 11–15.
- 2007 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Dulai, pp. 2–3, fig. 2.1, 2.2.
- 2008 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner and Dulai, pp. 35–36, fig. 5.1–5.4.
- 2009 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner and Schneider, p. 127, fig. 6A–C.

- 2010 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Dulai, p. 26, pl. 3, fig. 1a, b.
- 2011 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Dulai, p. 305, fig. 8A, B.
- 2011a Megathiris cf. detruncata (Gmelin) Müller, p. 20, pl. 3, figs 11–13.
- 2012 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Zágoršek et al., p. 27, fig. 6D, E.
- 2013a Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner et al., pp. 586–588, fig. 3A–M
- 2013b Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner et al., pp. 83-84, fig. 3J-L
- 2016 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner and Motchurova-Dekova, pp. 10–12, fig. 3A–L.
- 2017 *Megathiris detruncata* (Gmelin) Bitner and Müller, p. 216, fig. 4A–L.
- 2019 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Pedramara et al., pp. 241–242, fig. 5A
- 2020 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Hoffmann et al., p. 14, fig. 11C–I.
- 2020 Megathiris detruncata (Gmelin) Bitner et al., pp. 172–173, fig. 4A.

**Material:** One articulated specimen, 25 ventral and 31 dorsal valves found in the horizons M3, M6, M7 (Tab. 1).

**Remarks:** Although relatively rare in the assemblage investigated, this species was already noted from Mammendorf (Müller, 2011a). Its shell is small, not exceeding 4 mm in length, transversely elongate with a long, straight hinge margin. The surface is covered with broad, rounded ribs. The presence of three septa on the interior of the dorsal valve makes *Megathiris detruncata* easily distinguishable and unique among megathyridids.

In shell outline and ornamentation of broad, rounded ribs *M. detruncata* resembles *Bronnothyris rugosa* (Schreiber, 1871), however, clearly differing internally. The latter species has one dorsal septum and very wide, fused hinge plates.

**Occurrence:** *Megathiris detruncata* is a long ranging species, known since the Eocene (e.g., Bitner and Dulai, 2008; Dulai *et al.*, 2010; Dulai, 2011; Bitner and Müller, 2017). In the Oligocene being known only from few records (Bosquet, 1864; Bitner *et al.*, 2013a, 2020; this study), this species is very common and widespread in the Neogene of Europe (see Gaetani and Saccà, 1985; Bitner, 1990; Bitner and Dulai, 2004; Dulai, 2007; Bitner and Schneider, 2009;

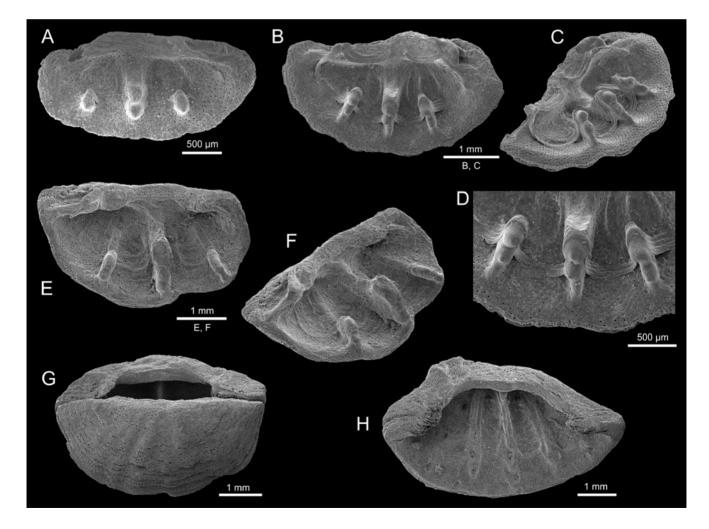


Fig. 5. *Megathiris detruncata* (Gmelin, 1791), Mammendorf; A. Inner view of dorsal valve of young individual, M7, GPSL MM\_894.
B–D. Inner and oblique views of dorsal valve, and enlargement (D) of the anterior part, showing descending lamellae fused to the septa, M6, GPSL MM\_895; E, F. Inner and oblique views of dorsal valve, M6, GPSL MM\_896. G. Dorsal view of articulated specimen, M6, GPSL MM 897. H. Inner view of ventral valve, M6, GPSL MM 898. All are SEM images.

Zágoršek *et al.*, 2012; Bitner *et al.*, 2013b; Bitner and Motchurova-Dekova, 2016; Hoffman *et al.*, 2020). Recently *M. detruncata* was also recognized in the lower Miocene of Iran (Pedramara *et al.*, 2019). Its Recent representatives live in the Mediterranean Sea and the north-eastern Atlantic at depths from 5 to 896 m (Logan, 2007).

Genus Argyrotheca Dall, 1900

**Type species:** *Terebratula cuneata* Risso, 1826, by original designation of Dall (1900).

Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai in Dulai and Stachacz, 2011 Fig. 6A–I

- 2011a Argyrotheca cf. cordata (Risso) Müller, p. 20, pl. 3, figs 3, 4 (non figs 5, 6).
- 2011 Argyrotheca bitnerae n. sp. Dulai in Dulai and Stachacz, pp. 285–289, figs 3: 1–11, 4: 1–6 (cum syn.).
- 2013a Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai Bitner et al., pp. 588– 590, fig. 5A–M, table 5.
- 2014 Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai Hladilová et al., p. 268, fig. 4E–J.
- 2015 Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai Dulai, pp. 196–197, pl. 4, figs 6–9.
- 2018 Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai Kopecká et al., p. 27, fig. 9F–I.
- 2019 Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai Pedramara et al., p. 243, fig. 5B–F.
- 2020 Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai Dulai and von der Hocht, pp. 234–235, pl. 3, figs 1–8.

**Material:** 53 articulated specimens, 78 ventral and 60 dorsal valves, horizons M2, M3, M5, M6, M7 (Tab. 1).

**Remarks:** Argyrotheca bitnerae is one of the commonest species in the material investigated. Some specimens, attributed by Müller (2011a) to Argyrotheca cf. cordata, clearly represent A. bitnerae (see also Dulai and von der Hocht, 2020, p. 235). Its shell is very small (hardly exceeding 2 mm), triangular in ouline, smooth except for concentric growth lines, weakly biconvex. The beak is high, with a large, triangular, hypothyrid foramen, bordered by two narrow, elevated deltidial plates. The dorsal median septum is high, triangular in profile, without serrations. On the elevated part of the septum, there is a small swollen boss (Fig. 6G–I).

Externally, this species is similar to Argyrotheca megalocephala (Sandberger, 1862), differing in the character of the dorsal median septum; in A. megalocephala the septum has numerous serrations. From any smooth Joania species A. bitnerae can be distinguished by lacking marginal tubercles.

**Occurrence:** Originally described from the middle Miocene of the Central Paratethys (Dulai and Stachacz, 2011; Hladilová *et al.*, 2014; Dulai, 2015; Kopecká *et al.*, 2018), this species was also identified in the lower Miocene of Iran (Pedramara *et al.*, 2019) and upper Oligocene of France and Germany (Bitner *et al.*, 2013a; Dulai and von der Hocht, 2020). The present discovery at

Mammendorf in the early Oligocene is its oldest known fossil record.

Argyrotheca lunula (von Koenen, 1894) Fig. 6J–N

- 1894 Argiope lunula von Koenen, p. 1360, pl. 98, figs 6–10.
- 1894 Argiope lunula var. percostata von Koenen, p. 1361, pl. 98, figs 11–13.
- 1975 Megathyris lunula percostata (von Koenen) Zelinskaya, pp. 124–125, pl. 16, figs 6–12.
- 1987 Argyrotheca lunula (Koenen) Popiel-Barczyk and Barczyk, pp. 98–99, text-fig. 5, pl. 2, figs 1–3.
- 2017 Argyrotheca lunula (von Koenen) Bitner and Müller, pp. 216–219, fig. 5A–M.

**Material:** One juvenile articulated specimen, five ventral and eight dorsal valves, horizons M3, M7 (Tab. 1).

**Remarks:** This species, originally described from the late Eocene/early Oligocene of west Germany (von Koenen, 1894), is very rare in the Mammendorf material. It is characterized by ornamentation of broad, rounded ribs, a long, straight hinge margin and a wide interarea, truncated by a large, triangular, hypothyrid foramen. The pedicle collar is well-developed, supported by a septum. In the dorsal valve, the hinge plates are attached to the septum, forming a broad, shallow trough (Fig. 6M). In size, shape, and ornamentation of broad, rounded ribs, Argyrotheca lunula resembles Megathiris detruncata and Bronnothyris rugosa, two other megathyridid species recognized in the material under study. It differs, however, internally from those species; from M. detruncata in having a single dorsal septum, whereas from B. rugosa in having narrow hinge plates and lacking septal flanges, extending from the dorsal septum.

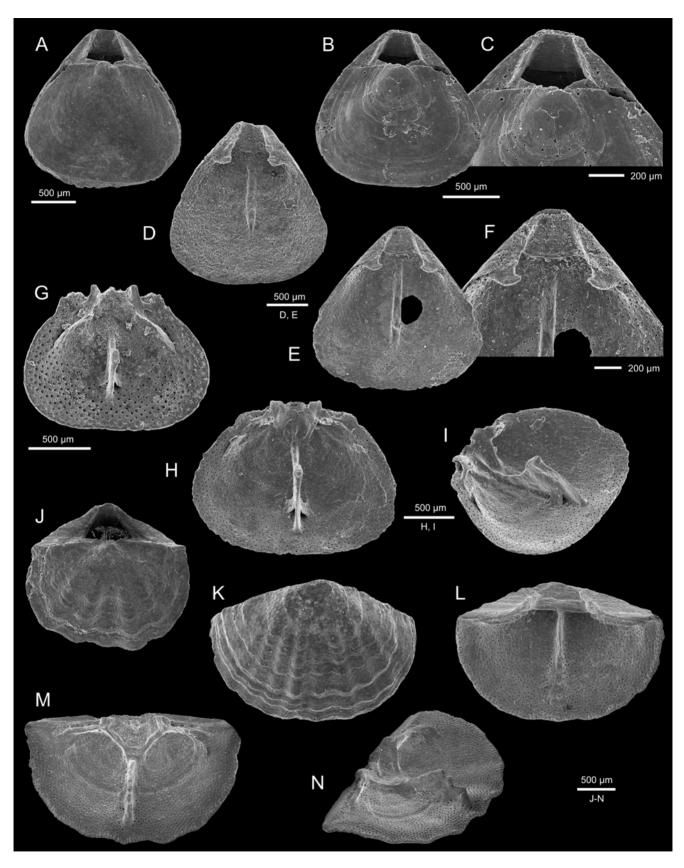
**Occurrence:** Apart from the upper Eocene/lower Oligocene deposits of Germany (von Koenen, 1894; this study), *Argyrotheca lunula* is also recorded from the upper Eocene of southern Poland and eastern Ukraine (Popiel-Barczyk and Barczyk, 1987; Bitner and Müller, 2017).

Argyrotheca megalocephala (Sandberger, 1862) Fig. 7A–L

- 1862 Argiope megalocephala Sandberger, pl. 34, fig. 7.
- 1863 Argiope megalocephala Sandberger Sandberger, pp. 387–388.

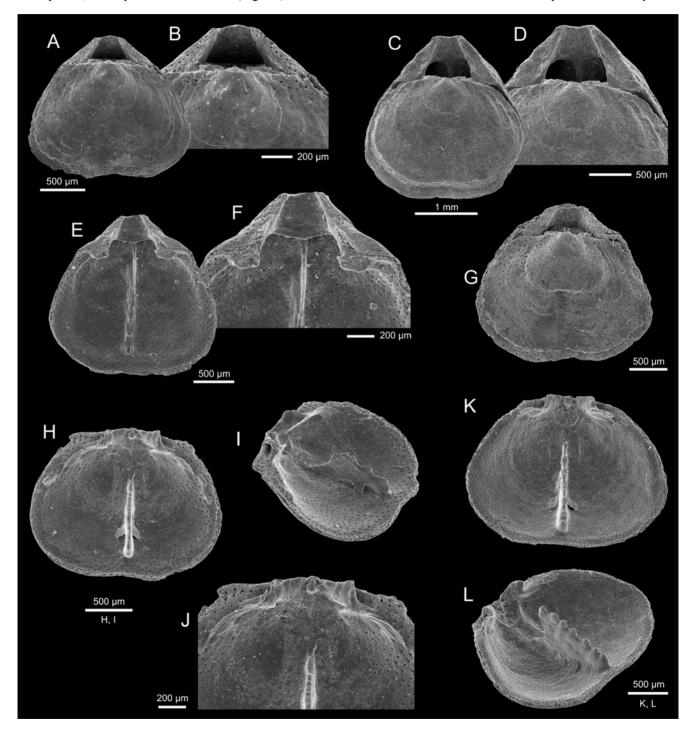
**Material:** 83 articulated specimens, 61 ventral and 98 dorsal valves, found in the horizons M2, M3, M5, M6, M7 (see Tab. 1).

**Description:** Shell small, not exceeding 3 mm in length, subtriangular to subpentagonal in outline, with shallow anterior sulcus. Shell surface smooth, except for growth lines. Beak high with sharp beak ridges. Foramen large, triangular, hypothyrid, bordered by narrow, raised deltidial plates. Shell coarsely punctuate.



**Fig. 6.** Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai in Dulai and Stachacz, 2011, and Argyrotheca lunula (von Koenen, 1894), Mammendorf. **A–I.** Argyrotheca bitnerae Dulai in Dulai and Stachacz, 2011; A–C – dorsal views of articulated specimens and enlargement (C) of the umbonal part, showing details of the beak, M2, GPSL MM\_899, 900; D–F – inner views of ventral valves, and enlargement (F) of posterior part, M2, GPSL MM\_901-902; G – inner view of juvenile dorsal valve, M7, GPSL MM\_903; H, I – inner and oblique views of dorsal valve, M2, GPSL MM\_904. **J–N.** Argyrotheca lunula (von Koenen, 1894), M3; J – dorsal view of articulated juvenile specimen, GPSL MM\_905; K, L – outer and inner views of ventral valve, GPSL MM\_906; M, N – inner and oblique views of dorsal valve, GPSL MM\_907. All are SEM images.

Ventral valve interior with wide pedicle collar, supported by a median septum and hooked teeth. Dorsal valve interior with well-developed inner socket ridges and distinct cardinal process. Crural processes short, directed medially (Fig. 7J). Descending branches of loop extend only shortly, before uniting with valve floor, and emerge anteriorly to join the median septum. Median septum high, thin, triangular in profile, with up to seven serrations (Fig. 7L). **Remarks:** Argyrotheca megalocephala is the second most common species in the material under study. Originally, this species was described from the lower Oligocene of the Mainz Basin by Sandberger (1862–1863). Although Sandberger (1862) did not mention the internal structure, it is the only lower Oligocene species from central Germany with a smooth surface and shallow sulcus, thus the present authors decided to attribute the specimens to his species



**Fig. 7.** Argyrotheca megalocephala (Sandberger, 1862), Mammendorf. **A, B.** Dorsal view of juvenile articulated specimen and enlargement (B) of umbonal part, M3, GPSL MM\_908. **C, D.** Dorsal view of articulated specimen and enlargement (D) of umbonal part, showing details of the beak, M2, GPSL MM\_909. **E, F.** Inner view of ventral valve and enlargement of umbonal part, showing details of pedicle collar and teeth, M3, GPSL MM\_910; **G.** Dorsal view of articulated specimen, M3, GPSL MM\_911. **H–J.** Inner and oblique views of dorsal valve, and enlargement (J) of cardinalia, M3, GPSL MM\_912. **K, L.** Inner and oblique views of dorsal valve, M3, GPSL MM\_913. All are SEM images.

rather than create a new one. The smooth surface is observed as well in *Argyrotheca bitnerae*, but it lacks a sulcus. Those two species are easily distinguishable internally; the median dorsal septum in *A. bitnerae* is without serrations.

Externally, *A. megalocephala* is similar to *Joania cordata* (Risso, 1826), already noted by Sandberger (1863), who indicated the similarity to *Argiope neapolitana*, now *Joania cordata*. However, the absence of marginal tubercles in *A. megalocephala* makes the latter species clearly different internally from *J. cordata* that has distinct tubercles on the inner margins (Álvarez *et al.*, 2008).

**Occurrence:** This species is known so far only from the early Oligocene of the Mainz Basin and Mammendorf (Sandberger, 1862–1863; this study).

Genus Bronnothyris Popiel-Barczyk and Smirnova, 1978

**Type species:** *Terebratula bronnii* Roemer, 1841, by original designation of Popiel-Barczyk and Smirnova (1978).

#### Bronnothyris rugosa (Schreiber, 1871) Fig. 8A–L

- 1871 Argiope rugosa Schreiber, p. 62, pl. 4, fig. 3a–d.
- 2011a Argrytheca cf. cuneata (Risso) Müller, p. 20, pl. 3, figs 7–10.
- 2011a Argyrotheca sp. Müller, p. 20, pl. 3, figs 9, 10.

**Material:** Five articulated specimens, 15 ventral and 26 dorsal valves found in the horizons M2, M3, M6, M7 (Tab. 1). **Description:** Shell small with length not exceeding 4.0 mm, thick, subrectangular in outline, wider than long, ventribiconvex. Shell surface ornamented by up to 10 broad, rounded ribs, forming scalloped anterior and lateral margins; growth lines numerous and distinct. Beak low, suberect with sharp beak ridges. Foramen large, subtriangular, hypothyrid, bordered by narrow deltidial plates. Hinge line long, straight.

Ventral valve interior with short, wide teeth and wide pedicle collar, supported by a median septum; anterior to the septum there are small, shallow depressions to accommodate serrations of dorsal septum. Dorsal valve interior with widely divergent short inner socket ridges. Outer and inner hinge plates broad, fused, forming a single, coherent platform. Dorsal septum high, triangular in profile, with 3 serrations. Short septal flanges extend ventrally from the septum (Fig. 8K, L).

**Remarks:** This species, originally described as *Argiope rugosa* from the Oligocene deposits of the Magdeburg area (Schreiber, 1871), has been transferred here to the genus *Bronnothyris* on the basis of the presence of the septal flanges, which extend ventrally from the dorsal septum, the characteristic feature of this genus (Popiel-Barczyk and Smirnova, 1978). In his preliminary description of the Mammendorf fauna, Müller (2011a) assigned the specimens investigated to *Argyrotheca* cf. *cuneata* (Risso, 1826).

The broad, fused hinge plates in form of a single plate are also observed in two other *Bronnothyris* species, the late Eocene *B. danaparensis* Bitner and Müller, 2017 from Ukraine and the early Oligocene *B. subradiata* (Sandberger, 1862) from the Mainz Basin. However, those species differ strongly from *B. rugosa* externally. In *B. danaparensis* the shell surface is smooth, marked only by distinct growth lines (Bitner and Müller, 2017), while *B. subradiata* has a high beak and is ornamented by weakly defined ribs (Sandberger, 1862–1863; Bitner and Kroh, 2011). In coarsely ribbed ornamentation the specimens investigated are close to *Bronnothyris rugicosta* (Zelinskaya, 1975) from the early Paleocene of Ukraine, however, differing internally in the character of the hinge plates, which are very narrow in the species from Ukraine (Zelinskaya, 1975; Smirnova *et al.*, 1983).

**Occurrence:** Oligocene of the Magdeburg region (Schreiber, 1871; this paper).

Genus Joania Álvarez, Brunton and Long, 2008

**Type species:** *Terebratula cordata* Risso, 1826, by original designation of Álvarez *et al.* (2008).

Joania crenata (Sandberger, 1862) Figs 9A–J, 10A–I

- 1862 Argiope crenata Sandberger, pl. 34, fig. 5.
- 1863 Argiope crenata Sandberger Sandberger, p. 387.
- 2011a Argyrotheca cf. cordata (Risso) Müller, p. 20, pl. 3, figs 5, 6.

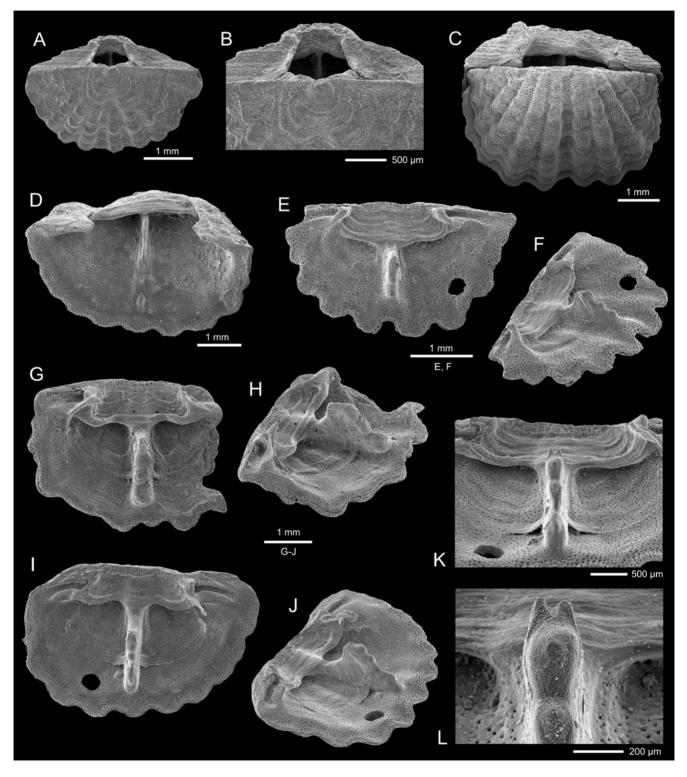
**Material:** 27 articulated specimens, 40 ventral and 62 dorsal valves found in the horizons M2, M3, M6, M7 (Tab. 1). **Description:** Shell small (rarely exceeding 3 mm), coarsely punctate, variable in outline from rounded subrectangular, subpentagonal to elongate oval, biconvex with dorsal valve more convex. Shell surface covered with 10–12 low, broad ribs. Beak high with sharp beak ridges and a large, triangular, hypothyrid foramen bordered by two narrow deltidial plates. Anterior commissure rectimarginate.

Ventral valve interior with hook-like teeth and pedicle collar supported by a low median septum. Dorsal valve interior with well-developed inner socket ridges, extending beyond the margin. Cardinal process distinct, shafted (Fig. 10C, D, I). Crura not developed or extremely short, crural processes medially directed. Descending branches rapidly absorbed into valve floor, emerging to attach to the dorsal septum. Median septum high, triangular in profile, not connected to cardinal process, sloping by 5 to 7 serrations (Fig. 10B, F, H). Tubercles on inner margin of both valves, being more distinct on dorsal valve.

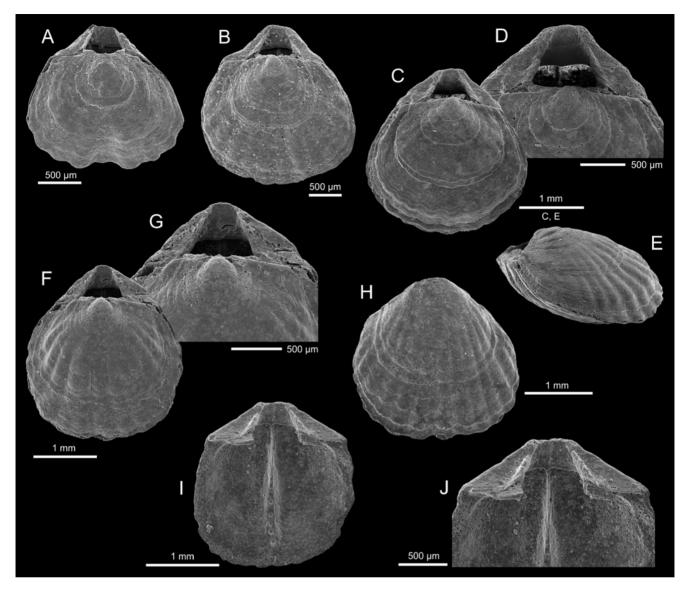
**Remarks:** This species was originally described from the lower Oligocene of the Mainz Basin, Germany under the name *Argiope crenata* by Sandberger (1862–63). The presence of marginal tubercles that are considered as a diagnostic character of the genus *Joania* (see Álvarez *et al.*, 2008) indicates the assignment to this genus.

In the character of the shallow, rounded ribs, the specimens from Mammendorf are similar to the species *Joania ageriana* (Taddei Ruggiero, 1993) from the lower Pleistocene of southern Italy. However, the number of ribs in *J. ageriana* is much higher, up to 18. Additionally, the latter species is larger, reaching 7 mm in length (Taddei Ruggiero, 1993). Another ribbed *Joania* species, *J. ukrainica* Bitner and Müller, 2017 from the late Eocene of Ukraine has more distinct ribs with deeper grooves between them, differing clearly from *J. crenata*. The median dorsal septum in *J. ukrainica* is lower and thicker (Bitner and Müller, 2017). *Joania crenata* is also distinguished from the late Oligocene species from the Aquitaine Basin, SW France, *Joania peyrerensis* Bitner, Lozouet and Cahuzac, 2013. In the latter species, the ribs are fewer and extended with large spaces between them, and its median dorsal septum is lower, with four serrations (Bitner *et al.*, 2013a).

**Occurrence:** This species is known exclusively from the lower Oligocene of Germany (Sandberger, 1862–1863; this study).



**Fig. 8**. *Bronnothyris rugosa* (Schreiber, 1871), Mammendorf, M2. **A–C.** Dorsal views of articulated specimens and enlargement (B) of the umbonal part, GPSL MM\_915, 916. **D.** Inner view of ventral valve, GPSL MM\_917. **E–H.** Inner and oblique views of dorsal valves, GPSL MM\_918, 919. **I–L.** Inner and oblique views of dorsal valve, and enlargement tilted (K, L) of median septum, showing extended septal flanges, GPSL MM\_920. All are SEM images.



**Fig. 9.** Joania crenata (Sandberger, 1862), Mammendorf. **A, B.** Dorsal views of articulated specimens, M2, GPSL MM\_921, 922; C-E. Dorsal view of articulated specimen, and enlargement (D) of umbonal part and oblique view (E), showing ornamentation, M3, GPSL MM\_923. **F, G.** Dorsal view of articulated specimen and enlargement (G) of umbonal part, M2, GPSL MM\_924. **H.** Ventral view of articulated specimen, M3, GPSL MM\_925. **I, J.** Inner view of ventral valve and enlargement (J) of posterior part, showing details of pedicle collar and teeth, M3, GPSL MM\_926. All are SEM images.

Superfamily Platidioidea Thomson, 1927 Family Platidiidae Thomson, 1927 Subfamily Platidiinae Thomson, 1927 Genus *Platidia* Costa, 1852

**Type species:** *Orthis anomioides* Scacchi and Philippi *in* Philippi, 1844, by original designation of Costa (1852).

# *Platidia* sp. Fig. 11A, B

**Material:** Five articulated specimens, 4 ventral valves, horizons M2, M3, M7 (Tab. 1).

**Remarks:** *Platidia* is very rare in the material studied. Its state of preservation precludes any possibility of examining internal structures and assignment to the species level. However, the specimens display typical features of this genus, such as small size, smooth surface and large, rounded, amphithyrid foramen. The hinge line is short and straight.

**Occurrence:** The oldest record of the genus *Platidia* is from the Paleocene of Denmark (Johansen, 1987). Although usually not very common, *Platidia* is known from many localities of Palaeogene and Neogene deposits (e.g., Bitner, 1990; Bitner and Dulai, 2004; Dulai, 2011; Bitner *et al.*, 2013b; Hladilová *et al.*, 2014; Bitner and Motchurova-Dekova, 2016; Bitner and Müller, 2017; Pedramara *et al.*, 2019). Today, this genus, represented by five species, is living in all oceans, having a very wide depth range from 8 to 2,190 m (Logan, 2007).

Superfamily Kraussinoidea Dall, 1870 Family Kraussinidae Dall, 1870 Subfamily Megerliinae Hiller,

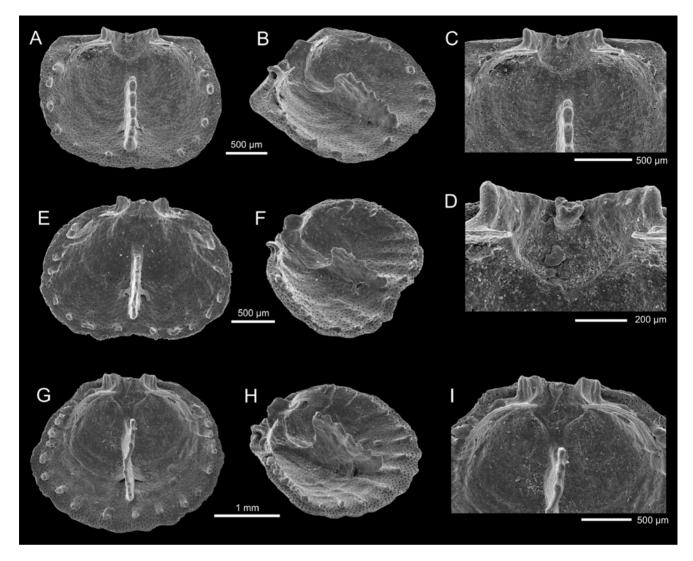


Fig. 10 Joania crenata (Sandberger, 1862), dorsal valves, Mammendorf, M3. A–D. Inner and oblique views, and enlargements (C, D) of posterior part, showing details of cardinalia and shafted cardinal process, GPSL MM\_927. E, F. Inner and oblique views, GPSL MM\_928. G–I. Inner and oblique views, and enlargement (I) of posterior part, GPSL MM\_929. All SEM.

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MacKinnon and Nielsen, 2008
Genus Megerlia King, 1850
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**Type species:** *Anomia truncata* Linnaeus, 1767, by the original designation of King (1850).

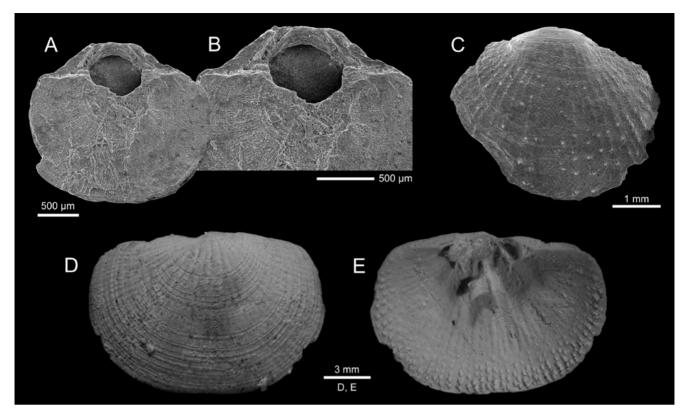
#### Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus, 1767) Fig. 11C–E

- 1990 Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Bitner, pp. 145–147, pl. 2, figs 6–9, pl. 7, figs 3–6, pl. 8, figs 1–7 (cum syn.).
- 2010 Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Dulai, p. 28, pl. 3, figs 4, 5.
- 2011a Megerlia sp. Müller, p. 20.
- 2013a Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Bitner et al., p. 594, fig. 8.
- 2013b Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Bitner et al., p. 86, fig. 4H, I.
- 2016 Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Álvarez, pp. 99–106, pls 59A–Z, 60A–AA, 61A–DD, 62A–AA, 63A– KK, 64A–V, 65A–Q, 66A–EE, 67A–BB, 68A–AA (cum syn.).

- 2016 Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Bitner and Motchurova-Dekova, p. 16, fig. 6F–H.
- 2016 Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Simon et al., pp. 7–8, pls 1–5.
- 2019 Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Dulai, p. 139, pl. 3, figs 13–20.
- 2020 Megerlia truncata (Linnaeus) Hoffmann et al., pp. 15–17, fig. 11J–M.

**Material:** Eleven ventral valves (two fragmented) and one dorsal valve from horizons M3, M6, M7 (Tab. 1).

**Remarks:** This species is very rare in the material studied, represented mostly by juvenile, ventral valves. However, the presence of *Megerlia* was recognized already in the Mammendorf Quarry by Müller (2011a). The shell is transversely oval, wider than long, with dorsal valve reaching 10.8 mm in length and 15.7 mm in width. The shell surface is ornamented by very fine, nodulose ribs. A thin, short median septum beneath the pedicle collar is present in the ventral valve. Interior of both valves is radially tuberculate. **Occurrence:** The oldest occurrence of this species to date was from the late Oligocene of France (Bitner *et al.*,



**Fig. 11.** *Platidia* sp. and *Megerlia truncata* (Linnaeus, 1767), Mammendorf. **A, B.** *Platidia* sp., dorsal view of articulated specimen and enlargement (B) of the umbonal part, M3, GPSL MM\_930. C–E. *Megerlia truncata* (Linnaeus, 1767); C – outer view of ventral valve, M3, GPSL MM 931; D, E – outer and inner views of dorsal valve, Mammendorf, M6, GPSL MM 932. A–C are SEM images.

2013a). The present discovery extends its stratigraphic range. In the Neogene, *M. truncata* is very common and widely distributed, both in the Central Paratethys and the Mediterranean province (e.g., Gaetani and Saccà, 1985; Bitner, 1990; Bitner and Dulai, 2004; Dulai, 2010, 2019; Bitner *et al.*, 2013b; Bitner and Motchurova-Dekova, 2016; Hoffmann *et al.*, 2020). Its Recent representatives live in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern North Atlantic (Logan, 1979, 2007; Álvarez, 2016; Simon *et al.*, 2016; Emig, 2016, 2018) as well as in the western Indian Ocean (Bitner and Logan, 2016), having a very wide depth range from 8 to 1,086 m (Logan, 2007).

#### DISCUSSION

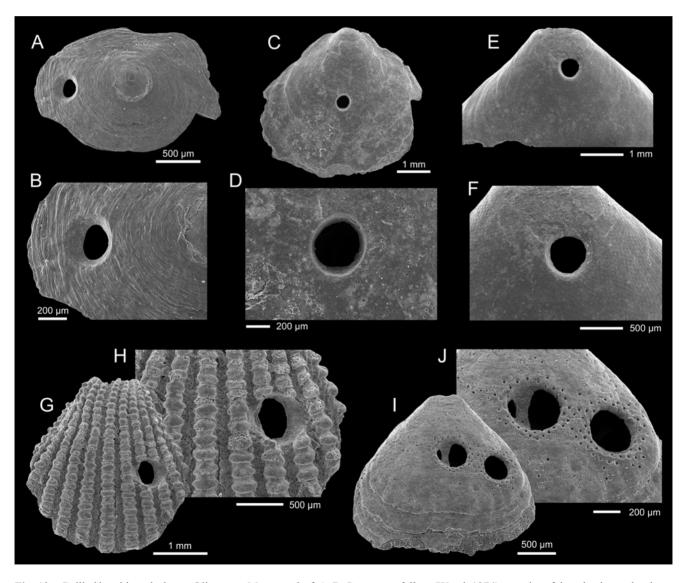
The early Oligocene brachiopod fauna from the rockyshore deposits at Mammendorf, central Germany (Fig. 1), comprises 13 species, belonging to 11 genera. The inarticulate brachiopods are represented by two species, discinid Discinisca fallens and craniid Novocrania sp. The articulate brachiopods are represented by thecideides, with only one representative Lacazella mediterranea, and terebratulides that are a dominant group, including the representatives of five families. The short-looped Pliothyrina grandis is the most common species (21.2% of specimens), whereas the family Megathyrididae is the most diverse and abundant group, constituting nearly 50% of the material. Six megathyridid species have been recognized: Megathiris detruncata, three species of Argyrotheca, A. bitnerae, A. lunula and A. megalocaphala, Bronnothyris rugosa, and Joania crenata. Other terebratulide families each have one representative, *Terebratulina tenuistriata, Platidia* sp. and *Megerlia truncata.* Three species each are represented by more than 200 specimens, while four species are represented by fewer than 20 specimens, and of these one species (*Novocrania* sp.) is only represented by one specimen (Tab. 1). The reported occurrence of the species *Discinisca fallens, Argyrotheca bitnerae* and *Megerlia truncata* extends their stratigraphic range back to the early Oligocene.

Spatial variability in abundance and diversity is observed along the section (Tab. 1). In the horizons M1, M4 and M5, brachiopods are very rare, both in species and specimens. The most individual-rich horizon is M3, with more than 40% of the material studied. The brachiopods are also numerous in horizons M6 and M7, constituting 22.7% and 21.7% of the material, respectively. The brachiopods from those three horizons are also the most diverse, with 10 to 12 species each. The species Lacazella mediterranea and megathyridids, apart from M. detruncata, are predominant elements in horizons M2 and M3, i.e., in the lower cycle with its warm-water fauna. In turn, Discinisca fallens, found in five horizons, is numerous only in the horizons M6 and M7. Similarly, Pliothyrina grandis, being the only species found in all horizons, reaches its maximum in the upper cycle that is interpreted as having cooler conditions. The very low frequency of D. fallens in the lower cycle might be a taphonomic effect and not an original feature. In a high-energy, rocky-shore environment, thin-shelled specimens of D. fallens can be damaged easily and their preservation potential is very low. The upper cycle is interpreted as a deeper and calmer environment, thus more favourable for the preservation of such shells. In contrast, the micromorphic

megathyridids that predominate in the lower-cycle assemblage could have found shelter under and between boulders and thus were less prone to damage.

Gastropod drilling predation is observed on some brachiopods from Mammendorf (Fig. 12). Drill holes were identified on 93 specimens, giving a drilling frequency of 6.8%. Similar low drilling frequency is characteristic for most Recent and fossil Cenozoic brachiopod populations (e.g., Delance and Emig, 2004; Simões *et al.*, 2007; Taddei Ruggiero and Bitner, 2008; Bitner *et al.*, 2013a; Bitner and Müller, 2015; Bitner and Motchurova-Dekova, 2016), although high frequencies were occasionally observed (see Baumiller and Bitner, 2004; Baumiller *et al.*, 2006). Drill holes were found on both valves, but the ventral valve was drilled at higher frequency. There are two morphological types of holes, conical (Figs 2B, E, I, 12A, B) and straight-sided (Fig. 12C–J), corresponding to naticid and murricid attacks, respectively (Hoffman *et al.*, 1974). Both gastropod families have been recognized in the Oligocene deposits of Mammendorf (Müller, 2011a).

With thirteen species, the Mammendorf assemblage is surprisingly rich, when compared to other Oligocene assemblages from Germany (Sandberger, 1862–1863; Schreiber, 1871; von Koenen, 1894; Müller, 1983; Diedrich, 2012; Bitner and Müller, 2015; Dulai and von der Hocht, 2020). All species described here were previously recorded from the Cenozoic deposits and some of them are widely spread throughout the whole of Europe, including also the Latdorf Basin of central and northern Germany (von Koenen, 1894). In species composition, however, the Mammendorf fauna differs significantly from brachiopods from the late Eocene/ early Oligocene Silberberg Formation of Atzendorf (Bitner and Müller, 2015). The main difference is a total absence of megathyridids in the Atzendorf assemblage, dominant



**Fig. 12.** Drilled brachiopods, lower Oligocene, Mammendorf. **A, B.** *Discinisca fallens* (Wood, 1874), exterior of dorsal valve and a closeup image of drill hole, horizon M6, GPSL MM\_876. **C–F.** *Pliothyrina grandis* (Blumenbach, 1803), M6; C, D – exterior of dorsal valve and a close-up image of drill hole, GPSL MM\_888; E, F – exterior of ventral valve and a close-up image of drill hole, GPSL MM\_889. **G, H.** *Terebratulina tenuistriata* (Leymerie, 1846), exterior of dorsal valve and a close-up image of drill hole, M7, GPSL MM\_893. **I, J.** *Argyrotheca megalocephala* (Sandberger, 1862), exterior of ventral valve and a close-up image of two drill holes, M3, GPSL MM\_914. All are SEM images.

brachiopods in Mammendorf, and the presence of two chlidonophorid brachiopods, Rhynchonellopsis nysti (Bosquet, 1862) and Orthothyris pectinoides (von Koenen, 1894), not recognized in the Mammendorf material. The Mammendorf brachiopods display a great affinity to the early Oligocene fauna of the Mainz Basin, sharing five genera and four species (Sandberger, 1862-1863). Two species, Argvrotheca megalocephala and Joania crenata, considered so far as endemic to the Mainz Basin, have been recognized in the material from the Mammendorf Quarry. Also, the Mammendorf molluscan fauna shows similarity to that from the Mainz Basin and numerous molluscan species previously known only from the Mainz Basin were identified in the material from Mammendorf (Müller, 2011a). Thus, it is demonstrated that a connection and exchange of faunas existed between the Mainz Basin and southern North Sea Basin.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The lower Oligocene rocky-shore deposits at Mammendorf, central Germany yielded a surprisingly rich brachiopod fauna, containing 13 species, belonging to 11 genera. The short-looped Pliothyrina grandis, species restricted to the Oligocene of North Sea Basin, is most common but the predominant and most diverse group, constituting nearly 50% of the material, is the family Megathyrididae, represented by six species in the Mammendorf assemblage. The internal structures allowed to resolve the taxonomical position of some poorly known species; the species Argiope megalocephala was assigned to the genus Argyrotheca, Argiope rugosa to Bronnothyris, and Argiope crenata to Joania. The discovery of the species Discinisca fallens, Argyrotheca bitnerae and Megerlia truncata at Mammendorf extends their stratigraphic range back to the early Oligocene. The Mammendorf brachiopod fauna displays a great affinity to the early Oligocene fauna of the Mainz Basin, having five genera and four species in common, among them two, A. megalocephala and J. crenata, previously considered as endemic to the Mainz Basin.

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