

Fissidentalium badense (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856) from the Badenian deposits of the south and southwestern margin of the Pannonian Basin System (Central Paratethys)

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Abstract

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The Badenian (Middle Miocene) Scaphopoda from the south and southwestern margin of the Pannonian Basin System (Central Paratethys) are poorly documented, and in published papers mostly presented by short lists of identified species. For the present study, 300 scaphopod specimens were examined with the focus on a singular species, *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856). This species is represented by 152 specimens housed in the Natural History Museum Belgrade and the Croatian Natural History Museum in Zagreb. The most numerous and the best preserved specimens of *F. badense* were collected at the Višnjica locality near Belgrade (Serbia), while the others originate from the vicinity of Zagreb (Croatia) and Ugljevik (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

1. INTRODUCTION

The Scaphopoda is a class of Mollusca, also known as the “tusk shells”. Their shell is tubular and generally curved, having openings at both ends. Scaphopods are a cosmopolitan marine infaunal species, and live from the intertidal zones down to depths of more than 6000 m. Scaphopod species mostly burrow in sand or mud, with their head pointed downwards, and the narrow posterior end of the shell protruding above the substratum (KNUDSEN, 1964; LAMPRELL & HEALY, 1998 and references therein; HABDIJA et al., 2011).

Although the scaphopod systematics have been revised over a few decades, the time of their appearance is still a matter of debate, as are their phylogenetics, so they are considered to be a puzzling molluscan class. Two orders of scaphopods are known: Dentaliida and Gadilida, which differ both morphologically, in shell and foot form, and behaviourally, in different burrowing activities (LAMPRELL & HEALY, 1998 and references therein; STEINER & KABAT, 2001, 2004).

This paper focuses on the Badenian dentaliid species *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES), recorded in the Miocene deposits of the Paratethys, and widely distributed in Badenian sediments of the Central Paratethys (e.g. BALDI, 1960; KOJUMDGIEVA & STRACHIMIROV, 1960; BALLUK, 1972; TITA, 2007; HARZHAUSER et al., 2011). Specimens of *F. badense* included here were collected from the Badenian sediments of the south and southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia). The analyzed specimens are housed at the Natural History Museum Belgrade (NHMB) and Croatian Natural History Museum (CNHM). The first finding of *F. badense* from Bosnia and Herzegovina is published here.

2. GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Central Paratethys extended from Bavaria to the Carpathian mountain chain (e.g. RÖGL 1998, 1999). Badenian sediments

from the investigated area belong palaeogeographically to the south and southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys, and geotectonically to the Pannonian Basin System, surrounded by the Alps, Carpathians and Dinarides (Fig. 1) (e.g. RÖGL 1998, 1999; PAVELIĆ, 2001, 2002; PILLER et al., 2007).

The beginning of the Badenian epoch is marked by a marine transgression, which flooded the areas behind the newly uplifted mountain chains (Paratethys) and was also prominent in the Mediterranean (Fig. 1) (RÖGL, 1998, 1999; KOVÁČ et al., 2007). According to numerous papers, the Badenian deposits of the south and southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys lie discordantly on the older Miocene, Mesozoic or even Palaeozoic deposits. The contact with basal rocks is in many places unclear or erosive or tectonic in character (e.g. ŠIKIĆ et al., 1978, 1979; BASCH, 1983a, b; VRABAC & MIHAJLOVIĆ, 1990; ANDELKOVIĆ et al., 1991; PAVELIĆ, 2001, 2002; SAVIĆ et al., 2005; PIKIJA, 2009).

At the southern margin of Central Paratethys, *F. badense* is recorded in the Lower Badenian deposits of Serbia (wider Belgrade region) (PETKOVIĆ et al., 1976), in the assumed Lower to Middle Badenian of western Serbia (ŽUJOVIĆ, 1889; PAVLOVIĆ, 1903; STEVANOVIĆ, 1949; PETROVIĆ, 1967), and in the Lower Badenian (Upper Lagenidae zone) in northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bogutovo Selo) (VRABAC et al., 2013, 2014; PEZELJ et al., 2013) (Fig. 1). In the area of the southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys, this species is present in the Miocene (probably Lower Badenian) marls of the wider Zagreb region (Medvednica Mt., Čučerje area) (KOCHANSKY, 1944, 1957; ČORIĆ et al., 2009), and in the assumed Middle to Upper Badenian deposits of the Samobor area (Vrhovčak locality, previously known as „Zaprešić Breg“ or „Zaprešić brije“) (ŠUKLJE, 1929; PAVLOVSKY, 1957, 1960; BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 1978; VRSALJKO, 2003; BAKRAČ et al., 2010). In the Badenian sediments of the Glinsko Pokuplje area, this species is found at one locality (PLILAR, 1873).

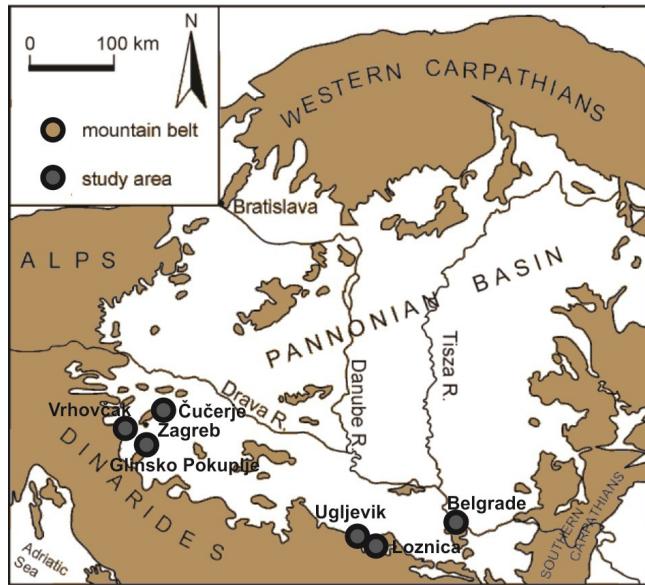


Figure 1. Geographic and paleogeographic setting of the investigated area with marked localities containing recorded dentaliids (after KOVÁČ et al., 2007).

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three hundred scaphopod shells were examined, and 152 of them belong to the species *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES). All the analyzed specimens are damaged, mostly in the apex area, and the majority of specimens are preserved as shell fragments.

NHMB specimens were collected at the Višnjica locality (wider area of Belgrade), and they are a part of the P. Pavlović collection, assembled in 1897 (90 specimens) and the P. Stevanović collection, assembled in 1962 (40 specimens). Other specimens come from the Loznica area in western Serbia (3 specimens), and Bogutovo Selo near Ugljevik, Bosnia and Herzegovina (1 specimen).

CNHM specimens originating from the wider Zagreb region are part of the „Marine Miocene fauna of the southern part of the Medvednica Mt.“ collection (10 specimens) and the „Miocene fauna of Zaprešić Breg near Samobor“ collection (5 specimens). Specimens from the third locality are part of the „Miocene and Pliocene fauna from the Glinsko Pokuplje area and Zrinski-Dvorska valley“ collection (3 specimens).

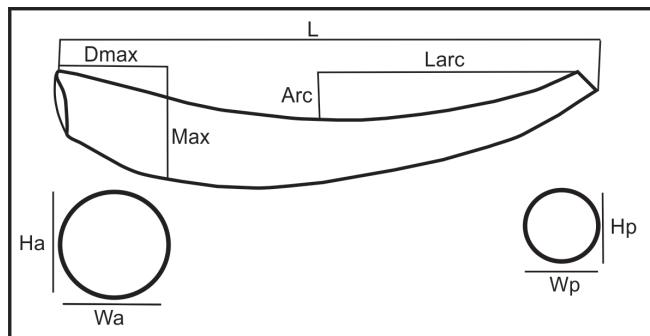


Figure 2. Morphometric measurement parameters: L – length, Max – maximum diameter, Dmax – maximum distance from the anterior opening, Arc – curvature maximum, Larc – maximum length from the apex to the deepest point of the curvature, Ha – height of the ventral opening, Wa – width of the ventral opening, Hp – apical height, Wp – apical width (after STEINER, 1999; SILVA-FILHO et al., 2012).

The site yielding the largest number of scaphopods is Višnjica (Fig. 1), with 280 specimens from clayey sediments, 130 among them belonging to *F. badense* (LUKOVIĆ, 1922; JOVANOVIĆ & JOVANOVIĆ, 1998). This fossil fauna is the best preserved, and therefore chosen to be described here.

Determination of species is based upon several papers (e.g. HÖRNES, 1856; SACCO, 1897; KOJUMDGIEVA & STRACHIMIROV, 1960; PAVIA, 1991; STEINER & KABAT 2001, 2004). Parameters used in the determination are after STEINER (1999) and SILVA-FILHO et al. (2012) (Fig. 2).

4. RESULTS

SYSTEMATIC PART

- Class Scaphopoda Bronn, 1862
Order Dentaliida da Costa, 1776
Family Dentaliidae Children, 1834
Genus *Fissidentalium* Fischer, 1885
Subgenus *Antalis* Adams & Adams, 1854

Fissidentalium badense (Partsch in Hörnes, 1856)

(Pl. 1, Figs. 1-6)

- Type species: *Dentalium ergasticum* FISCHER, 1885, monotype 1856 *Dentalium Badense* – HÖRNES, p. 652, pl. 50, fig. 30
1897 *Entalis badensis* (PARTSCH) et var. – SACCO, p. 107–108, pl. 9, figs. 17–30
1925 *Dentalium (Entalis) badense* PARTSCH var. *borealis* KAUTSKY – KAUTSKY, p. 53–54, pl. 5, fig. 12
1929 *Dentalium badense* (PARTSCH) – ŠUKLJE, p. 52
1947 *Dentalium (Fissidentalium) badense* PARTSCH – TAU-
BER, p. 302, pl. 7, figs. 8–10, pl. 8, fig. 3
1897 *Entalis badensis* – SACCO, p. 107, pl. 9, figs. 17–20
1960 *Dentalium (Entalis) badensis* PARTSCH in HÖRNES –
KOJUMDGIEVA & STRACHIMIROV, p. 225, pl. 52, figs.
19–20
1960 *Dentalium badense* PARTSCH – BALDI, p. 57, pl. 1, fig. 5
1991 *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856) –
PAVIA, p. 146, pl. 5, fig. 4; pl. 6, fig. 6. (*cum syn.*)
1998 *Dentalium badense* PARTSCHI – JOVANOVIĆ &
JOVANOVIĆ, p. 201–202
2011 *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856) –
HARZHAUSER et al., p. 219, pl. 8. figs. 6–7
2013 *Dentalium (Antalis) badense* (PARTSCH, 1856) – ROUT-
NEROVÁ, p. 20, pl. 2, fig. 2

Material: 20 relatively well preserved and 110 damaged specimens from the Višnjica locality, 3 specimens from the Loznica area (Serbia), 10 damaged specimens from the Medvednica Mt. (Cučerje area), 5 specimens from the „Zaprešić Breg“ locality and 3 specimens from the Glinsko Pokuplje area (Croatia), 1 specimen from Bogutovo Selo near Ugljevik (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Dimensions: L = 37.3 mm; Larc = 32.0 mm; Ha = 6.4 mm;
Wa = 6.3 mm; Hp = 2.9 mm; Wp = 2.8 mm.

Description: Shell is medium to large, solid, moderately curved, narrow and elongated, open at both ends. Dorsal side is concave, and the ventral is convex. The apex is damaged in all the collected specimens. The shell narrows and slightly curves to the wider anterior opening. The shell is ornamented with solid radial ribs and growth lines. Sharp and moderately high, 8 to 10 radial ribs are near the apical area. Ribs become lower and almost flat near the wider end of the shell. Secondary ribs are inserted

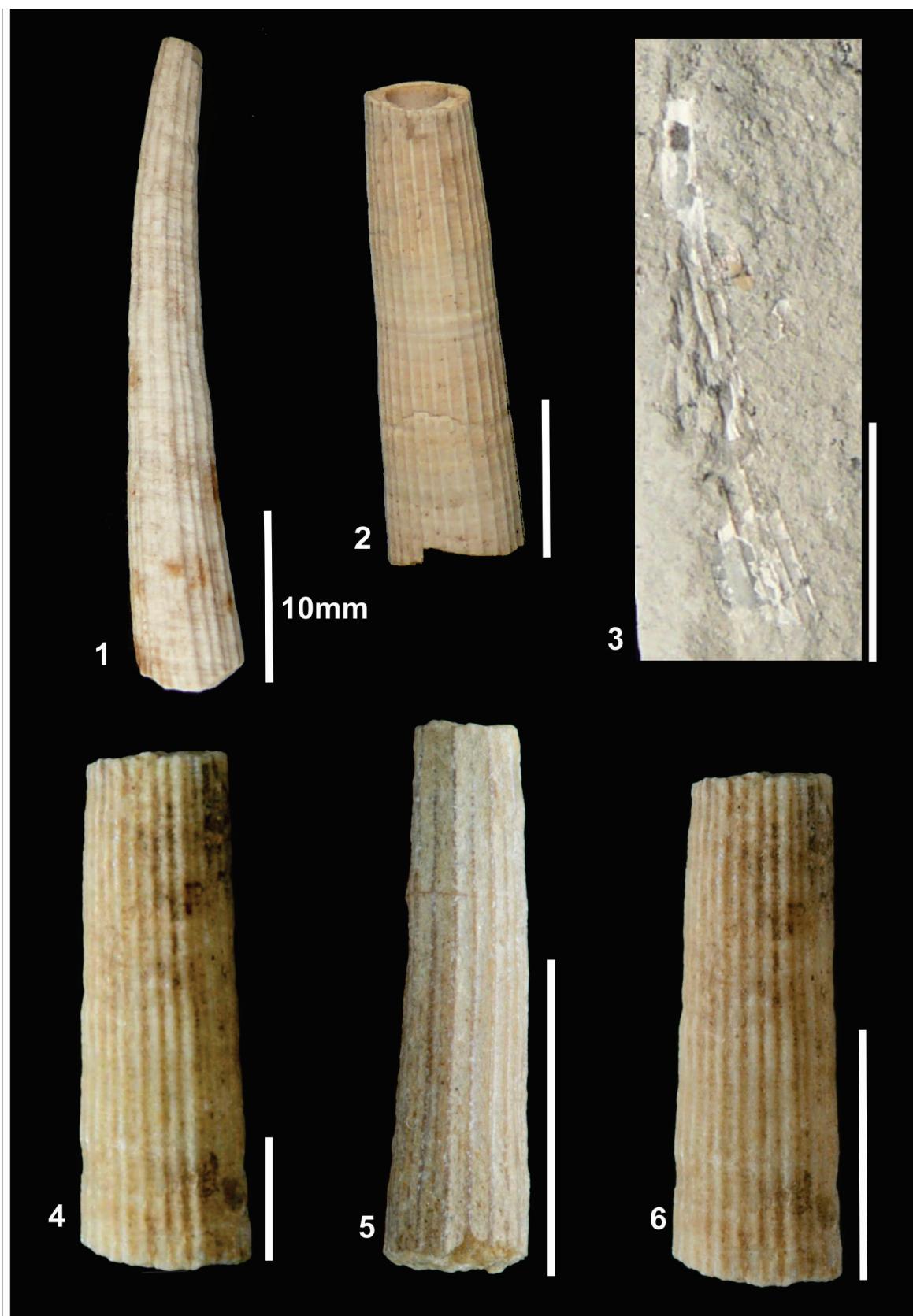


Plate 1. *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856).

- 1 Višnjica locality, Serbia (Inv. No. K-2347/1);
- 2 Loznica, Serbia (Inv. No. K-2689);
- 3 Bogutovo Selo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Inv. No. K-6746);
- 4 Čučerje, Croatia (Inv. No. 573);
- 5 Vrhovčak („Zaprešić Breg“), Croatia (Inv. No. 1.413);
- 6 Glinsko Pokuplje area, Croatia (Inv. No. 1.220).

between the primary ribs at various distances from the apex. The maximum number of inserted ribs near the posterior part of the shell does not exceed 30. The primary and secondary ribs at the posterior side of the shell are almost indistinguishable from each other with only minor differences. The species varies in number and thickness of the secondary ribs. Concave interrib spaces vary in width. Together with the radial ribs, fine and dense irregular growth lines (except in the apical area) characterize the shell surface. The cross-section of both ends is subcircular.

Remarks: Many authors studied the phylogeny and classification of the scaphopods (e.g. REYNOLDS, 1997; REYNOLDS & AKOKO, 1999). *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856) was first recognized as *Dentalium badense* (HÖRNES, 1856), *Entalis* (SACCO, 1897) or *Dentalium (Entalis) badensis* (KOJUMDGIEVA & STRACHIMIROV, 1960). *F. badense* from the Višnjica locality, and presented here, fits the descriptions by PAVIA (1991). The species described in KOJUMDGIEVA & STRACHIMIROV (1960) has more secondary ribs (35), as do several specimens from Koritnica, Poland (BALLUK, 1972). STEINER & KABAT (2004) single out the subgenus *Dentalium* LINNAEUS 1758. In the research of the taxonomy and ecology of the recent genus *Fissidentalium* (FISCHER), LAMPRELL & HEALY (1998) indicate the significance of the aperture, and the number and rib morphology that can contribute to the research of the fossil species.

Geographic and stratigraphic distribution: *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856) appears during the Burdigalian in the Mediterranean at the Torino Hills (SACCO, 1897), and in the Lower Miocene of the Paratethys (HARZHAUSER, 2002; HARZHAUSER et al., 2011). *F. badense* has a wide geographic distribution, and represents a species typical of the Middle Miocene of the Paratethys (e.g. KOJUMDGIEVA & STRACHIMIROV, 1960; PAVIA, 1991; HARZHAUSER et al., 2011).

5. DISCUSSION

In the Badenian sediments of the south and southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys, the majority of scaphopod discoveries belong to the dentaliids. Here, we analyzed and revised *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856) specimens stored at the NHMB and CNHM. Given the number of the recorded dentaliids, Višnjica near Belgrade (Serbia) is the site yielding the largest number of specimens.

At the Višnjica locality, scaphopods were discovered in the clayey sediments, known as the „Višnjica clays“ or the „clays with *Pleurothoma*“. This site was compared to the Badenian stratotype Baden-Sooss in Vienna (PAVLOVIĆ, 1903; LUKOVIĆ, 1922), which contains many specimens of *F. badense*. The stratigraphic position of the „Višnjica clays“ is not precisely determined. Based upon foraminifera, STEVANOVIC (1977) attributes it to the Middle Badenian, and GRUJIĆIĆ (2010) specifies the zone with *Spirorutilus carinatus* (d'ORBIGNY). Sandstones containing rare fine-shelled pectens (*Costelamussium* sp.), *Aequipecten macrotis* (SOWERBY) and *Aequipecten scabrella* (LAMARCK) (LUKOVIĆ, 1922) cover the clay stratum. These pectinid species also occur in the Lower Badenian of Bukovac on the Fruška gora Mt. (JOVANOVIĆ, 2014), in the Grund Gaidorf formation in Austria (MANDIC & HARZHAUSER, 2003; MANDIC, 2004), and in the Lower Badenian (Lagenidae zone) sediments of Szokoly, Hungary (BALDI, 1960). The „Višnjica clays“ contain numerous scaphopod specimens: *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES), *Gadilina jani* HÖRNES, *Dentalium sexangulum* GMELIN, *Dentalium (Antale) novemcostatum* decemcostulata

SACCO, *Dentalium (Dentalium) michelottii* HÖRNES and *Fissidentalium mutable* (DODERLEIN).

In the Lower Badenian argillaceous marls of the wider Belgrade region, deep sea molluscs are very common: *Neopycnodonte cochlear* POLI, *Lentipecten corneus denudatus* (REUSS), *Vaginella austriaca* KITTL and *Aturia aturi* (BASTEROT) (PETKOVIC et al., 1976; JOVANOVIĆ, 2014). These findings, as well as the record of *Parvamussium duodecimlamellatum* (BRONN), indicate a Lower Badenian age (STUDENCKA et al., 1998; SELMECZI et al., 2012; JOVANOVIĆ, 2014). In the Miocene (probably Lower Badenian) marls of the wider Zagreb region („Čučerje“ development on the Medvednica Mt.), the wider Belgrade region and Ugljevik (Bogutovo Selo), together with dentaliids, scaphopods are accompanied by a pelagic fauna of nautilids (*Aturia aturi* (BASTEROT)), pteropods (*Vaginella austriaca* KITTL) and planktonic foraminifers (KOCHANSKY, 1944; STEVANOVIC, 1977, AVANIC et al., 1995; JOVANOVIĆ, 2014). These known data, together with further detailed dentaliid analysis, can contribute to the reconstruction of the first Middle Miocene marine transgression in the south and southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys.

All the published data and records suggest that *F. badense* mostly lived in muddy and muddy-sandy substrate at all the studied localities in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. This species was widespread during the Lower Badenian, with fossil evidence from the clayey sediments of Austria (Baden-Sooss) (RÖGL et al., 2009), Romania (Lăpuș de Sus) (TITA, 2007), Slovakia (BALLUK, 1972; HARZHAUSER et al., 2011), Hungary (BALDI, 1960) and Bulgaria (KOJUMDGIEVA & STRACHIMIROV, 1960). The distribution of *F. badense* indicates the contemporary marine connections and migration routes. Due to the recorded and afore-mentioned findings, possible migration routes of *F. badense* to the area of Paratethys could be the southwestern („Transstethyan corridor“) and the northern marine passages (e.g. RÖGL, 1998; STUDENCKA et al., 1998; KOVÁČ et al., 2007).

6. CONCLUSIONS

This paper presents the scaphopod species *Fissidentalium badense* (PARTSCH in HÖRNES, 1856) housed at the Natural History Museum Belgrade and the Croatian Natural History Museum. Fossil material was collected from the Badenian (Middle Miocene) deposits of the south and southwestern margin of the Central Paratethys.

The age of the analyzed specimens from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina stored at the Natural History Museum Belgrade is the Lower Badenian, while other Middle Miocene findings are questionable in age and require further research.

During the upper part of the Lower Badenian, the species had a wide geographic distribution, which implies an open marine connection of the Central Paratethys with other marine areas.

According to the available fossil record, *Fissidentalium badense* lived on a muddy to muddy-sandy substrate.

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