

## **The Bajocian GSSP (Cabo Mondego, Portugal): Main Criteria of its Formal Definition**

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The Global Stratotype Section and Point for the Bajocian Stage is the first selected GSSP for the Jurassic Period. It has been formally established in the Cabo Mondego section, located on the Portuguese Atlantic coast, about 200 Km north of Lisbon.

More than 20 years of multidisciplinary research hold by different teams working together in the Bajocian Working Group, lead to the submission of the proposal to the International Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy and to the final ratification by the International Union of Geological Sciences in 1996, after recommendation of the International Commission on Stratigraphy.

The Bajocian GSSP has been defined at bed AB11, based on ammonite biostratigraphy. But besides the ammonite record, other criteria were essential to fulfill ICS requirements, such as:

- the abundance and diversity of well preserved ammonite fossils which show both North European and Mediterranean affinities, a very important remark for correlation purposes;
- the occurrence of other fossil groups, namely the calcareous nannofossils also recorded in the section;
- the amenability to magnetostratigraphy, and the Bajocian lower boundary in the section coincides with an inversion from reversed to normal polarity, which can be correlated with the Jurassic magnetic polarity time scale;
- continuity of sedimentation through the boundary interval;
- completeness of exposure and freedom of structural complication, metamorphism or unconformities;
- accessibility to all researchers and conservation as a protected area.

Other biostratigraphical works are in progress in this reference section, namely the study of forams and brachiopods record, as well as the taxonomy of the ammonite assemblages.