

PALAEOZOIC CORALS OF THE ALPS: A REVIEW

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Anchizonal to low-grade metamorphosed Palaeozoic successions containing fossils in suitable preservation for reliable taxonomic treatment are restricted to certain tectonic units of the Alpine chain. Lower Silurian to Upper Permian platform sediments with rugose and tabulate corals are developed in the Upper Austroalpine Zone (UAZ) and the Southern Alpine Zone (SAZ). Palaeozoic coral-bearing rocks of the UAZ (Greywacke Zone, Graz Palaeozoic, Murau Nappe System, Carboniferous of Nötsch) occur exclusively within Austria's territory. Devonian to Upper Permian corals of the SAZ (Carnic Alps, Karawanken Mountains) are additionally to Austrian outcrops known from Italian and Slovenian localities. Although Palaeozoic corals have been described from Austria since the 1840's only few taxonomic papers were recorded. The oldest known coral is a single specimen of *Lindstroemia subduplicata* from the Ashgillian of the Greywacke Zone. 93 genera including 228 species of the Rugosa and 23 genera with 78 species of the Tabulata have been described or cited in the literature. 11 heliolitid genera including 20 species may be added. The genera *Torusphyllum*, *Thamnophyllum*, *Zeliaphyllum*, *Amandophyllum*, *Carinthiaphyllum*, *Carniaphyllum*, *Geyerophyllum*, *Lonsdaleoides*, *Actinopora*, *Pachycanalicula* were erected on the basis of alpine specimens. 125 Palaeozoic coral species (88 rugose, 33 tabulate and 11 heliolitid) have their type localities in the UAZ and SAZ.