

Biostratigraphy of Sinemurian and Pliensbachian sediments of the Caucasus by Ammonites

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Sinemurian and closely related to them Pliensbachian sediments play an important role in the geological structure of the Caucasus. They consist of various facies with all intermediate varieties - from deep-marine to epicontinental and coastal.

Biostratigraphical characteristics of these sediments is based on the archistratigraphic species of Ammonites which are distinguished in the Caucasus by a great variety in their composition.

The oldest Ammonites from Sinemurian sediments are known in the territory south of the Main Caucasian range where their complexes belong to genera *Arietites*, *Coroniceras*, *Epmmonites*, *Vermiceras*, *Metophioceras*, *Arnioceras* and *Microderoceras*. The latter genus is also found in the North Caucasus.

Upper Sinemurian (Lotaringian) sediments are faunistically characterized by rare representatives of *Oxynoticeras*, *Gleviceras* and *Echioceras* in both the North Caucasus and the Transcaucasus, although in Georgia the top of Sinemurian is marked by the greatest flourishing of *Paltechioceras*, *Leptechioceras* and *Epideroceras*.

In Pliensbachian time the renovation of Ammonite fauna takes place. Sediments of the Lower Pliensbachian substage contains species of following genera: *Polymorphites*, *Platypleuroceras*, *Uptonia*, *Acanthopleuroceras*, *Tropidoceras*, *Liparoceras*, *Beaniceras* and *Aegoceras*.

During the second half of Pliensbachian (Domerian) the Caucasus was occupied by Ammonites belonging to genus *Amaltheus* following upward by representatives of *Pleuroceras*.

In the eastern part of North Caucasus, in Daghestan, Upper Pliensbachian is dominated by Ammonites of the Mediterranean area - *Arietice-ras*, *Emaciaticeras*, *Fuciniceras*, *Protogrammoceras* and *Aveyroniceras*.