Riv. Mus. civ. Sc. Nat. "E. Caffi" BERGAMO, 20 (1999), p. 43 ISSN 0393-8700

Sergio BRAVI* & Giuseppe CASERTANO

THE MOUNT FALLANO JURASSIC PLATTENKALK (S-ITALY): FIRST OBSERVATIONS

In the first months of 1999 it has been individuated a new, Jurassic plattenkalk horizon bearing fossils of Fishes, Arthropods and Molluscs, at the Mount Fallano, in the province of Caserta.

The plattenkalk is constituted by whitish, closely laminated and very fine limestone, quite similar to the Eichstätt plattenkalk laminated facies (Barthel et al., 1990). Thicker, detritic and sometimes oolitic strata are intercalated among the laminites and contain microfaunistic assemblages.

The first observations on thin sections of these last strata have pointed out the presence of algae as *Thaumatoporella parvovesiculifera* (RAINERI) and *Cayeuxia piae* FROLLO and foraminifers among which *Siphovalvulina* sp., *Pfenderella arabica* REDMOND, *Protopeneroplis striata* WEYNSCHENK, *Valvulina lugeoni* SEPTFONTAINE, *Trocholina* sp. On these grounds, the plattenkalk can be assigned to the Dogger and, very probably to the Bathonian (De Castro, 1991; Chiocchini et al., 1994).

The first, occasional and very limited, assayes of excavation have shown the presence of small Leptolepid fishes, but also of large teleosts isolated scales, toghether with small Isopod and Decapod Crustaceans (Reptantia and Natantia) and others few millimetres long indeterminated Arthropods. The Mollusca are present with small gastropods and bivalvs partly belonging to the family Parallelodontidae DALL, 1898.

The importance of this outcrop is due to the rarity of Jurassic fossil-lagerstätten in the Apennine chain. The very fine lithology of the outcrop and the very good preservation conditions of the palaeoenvironment represented here, lead us to hope in the finding of interesting fossils.

REFERENCES

BARTHEL K.W., SWINBURNE N.H.M., CONWAY MORRIS S., 1990 - Solnhofen. A study in Mesozoic palaeontology. - Cambridge University Press. 236 pp. Cambridge.

CHIOCCHINI M., FARINACCI A., MANCINELLI A., MOLINARI V., POTETTI M.,1994 - Biostratigrafia a foraminiferi, dasicladali e calpionelle delle successioni carbonatiche mesozoiche dell'Appennino centrale (Italia). Studi Geologici Camerti, vol. spec., 1994, Biostratigrafia dell'Italia Centrale, pp. 9- 128.

DE CASTRO P., 1991- Mesozoic. In: 5th Int. Symp. on Fossil Algae: Field Trip Guide-Book, Barattolo F., De Castro P., Parente M. (eds.). pp. 21-38. Napoli.

* Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Universita' di Napoli Federico II. Largo San Marcellino, 10. Napoli (Italy).