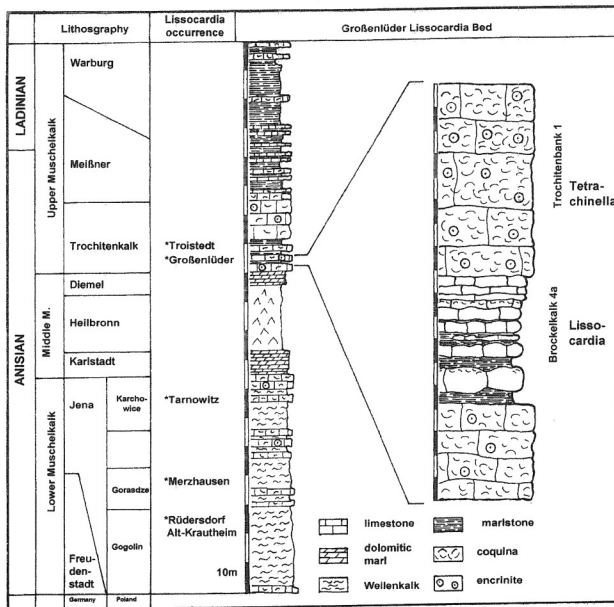


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## A DECAPOD CRUSTACEAN ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE MIDDLE TRIASSIC MUSCHELKALK OF GROSSENLÜDER (HESSEN, GERMANY)

Many exuviae and body fossils of decapod crustaceans have been collected in the Upper Muschelkalk of the Grossenlüder Graben (eastern Hessen, Central Germany). The decapod bed is a single layer in Brockelkalk 4a (Trochitenkalk-Formation, Kraichgau-Sucformation; *atavus* Biozone; Late Illyrian, Anisian) in the vicinity of Grossenlüder. The most common decapod of this fossil lagerstätte is *Lissocardia silesiaca* v. Meyer, 1847, previously known only from the Lower Muschelkalk. In addition, *Aspidogaster*, *Litogaster*, and *Pseudopemphix* occur, although they are much less abundant in the *Lissocardia* Bed. The mass occurrence of decapods in this fossil lagerstätte extending over at least several square km, is interpreted as a result of unusually favorable local environmental condition rather than as a taphonomic process. Burrows or other traces of decapod activity have not yet been observed. The excellent preservation makes possible the first comprehensive morphological description of *Lissocardia* and its definite attribution to the family of Nephropidae Dana, 1852 (order Astacidea Latreille, 1803).

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