Palaeoecology and taphonomy of Fossil-Lagerstaetten in the Lower Meride Limestone (Middle Triassic) at Monte San Giorgio (Canton Ticino, Southern Switzerland)

Summary / Zusammenfassung
The Monte San Giorgio is well known for its reptile and fish fauna from the Middle Triassic black shales of the Besano Formation („Grenzbitumenzone“, Anisian/Ladinian). Several reptile and fish taxa have also been described from four younger fossil vertebrate beds in the Ladinian Meride Formation, but only one has been studied in detail for taphonomy and palaeoecology. Systematic bed by bed excavations from 1995 to 2004 supplied detailed information about the distribution, the frequency and preservation of the fossils together with sedimentary observations. The extraordinary conservation of the low diversity fauna and flora seems to be controlled by stagnant bottom water in a restricted basin, displaying a regular, probably seasonally lamination.

The aim of the project is to reconstruct the palaeoecology, palaeoenvironment and genesis of this type of Fossil-Lagerstaette.

Publications / Publikationen

Keywords / Suchbegriffe
Fossil-Lagerstaette, reptiles, fish, palaeoecology, taphonomy, sedimentology, Meride Formation, Ladinian, Middle Triassic, Monte San Giorgio, Ticino, Southern Alps

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