

Foreword

Starting in 2001 with the first issue of the volume "Bivalvia neogenica" authored by O. Schultz the *Catalogus Fossilium Austriae* received not only a new layout but also a distinctly improved quality. This was accomplished by including also taxa reported from outside Austria, providing extensive distributional data for all taxa and adding a complete, high-quality photographic documentation. This way of presentation necessitated the splitting of volume 1 into three issues, published 2001, 2003 and 2005.

The present volume "Echinoidea neogenica" by A. Kroh goes one step further in presenting a full taxonomic/systematic revision of all Austrian Neogene echinoids. This includes extensive synonymy lists, material listing, detailed descriptions, discussions and distributional data. One genus and two species are newly described and a *nomen novum* is established. The text is entirely in English to make the volume easier accessible to an international readership. Besides a complete, high-quality photo documentation of the Austrian material (82 plates) 94

figures provide drawings of specific features and a variety of diagrams with statistical data. Additionally, some of these figures present photographs comparing Austrian material with other fossil and even recent echinoids. All localities cited are documented in maps which are not restricted to Austrian territory but include also locations in Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, and Bulgaria. A comprehensive systematic index of the mentioned taxa concludes the volume. An additional special service to the reader are the identification charts which are offered on the inner sides of the front and back covers for easier use.

For providing this huge amount of information and data and for his constructive cooperation my warmest thanks go to the author of this volume, Dr. Andreas Kroh.

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Werner Piller
Editor