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ICHOLOGY OF EOCENE FLYSCH DEPOSITS IN THE CARNIAN PRE-ALPS
(NORTH-EASTERN ITALY)

*STUDIO ICNOLOGICO DEI DEPOSITI DI FLYSCH DELLE PREALPI CARNICHE
(ITALIA NORD-ORIENTALE)*

Abstract - The Eocene thin- and medium-bedded flysch deposits of the Carnian pre-Alps display abundant and diverse trace fossils, including graphoglyptids and forms produced by echinoids. They represent the *Nereites* ichnofacies. The ichnoassemblage is typical of moderately oligotrophic, well oxygenated environments. This type of flysch environments is common in Late Paleocene-Middle Eocene of the Alpine realm and is related to world-wide oligotrophy at that time.

Key words: Trace fossils, Flysch, Eocene, Carnian pre-Alps, Italy.

Riassunto breve - *I depositi di flysch caratterizzati da strati sottili e medio-sottili delle Prealpi Carniche presentano varie ed abbondanti tracce fossili, inclusi grafoglyptidi ed alcune forme prodotte da echinidi. Essi rappresentano l'ichnofacies a Nereites. L'associazione icnologica è tipica di ambienti ben ossigenati, moderatamente oligotrofici. Questo tipo di ambienti in successioni flyschoidi, di età tardo paleocenica-eocenica media, è tipico del dominio alpino e può essere posto in relazione a fenomeni di oligotrofia a scala globale verificatisi in questo periodo.*

Parole chiave: *Tracce fossili, Flysch, Eocene, Prealpi Carniche, Italia.*

Introduction

The flysch deposits of the North-eastern Italy, Slovenia, and partially of Croatia have been ichnologically investigated during the latest 5 years (TUNIS & UCHMAN, 1992; 1994a; 1994b; 1996a; 1996b; LÖFFLER & GEYER, 1994). Trace fossils were used there for documentation of benthic life and better characteristics and interpretation of palaeo-environment. However, the flysch of the Carnian pre-Alps, which is located in a narrow zone joining the Belluno Flysch, and the Flysch of the Julian pre-Alps, is hitherto not ichnologically investigated.

The object of this paper is to document and interpret trace fossils from the Carnian pre-Alps. Investigations have been made in the Almadis quarry, in the old quarry in Maniago, and along the road in the Valle dell'Acqua, east of Maniago (fig. 1). The illustrated specimens

