






# A Middle Miocene endemic freshwater mollusc assemblage from an intramontane Alpine lake (Aßenz Basin, Eastern Alps, Austria)


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**Abstract** The mollusc fauna of the early Middle Miocene roetzi Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., Nematurella (Langhian) intramontane Alpine Lake Groisenbach is zuschini Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. Romania described for the first time. The shells derive from the fastigata Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp., Odontohy-Feistring Formation in the Aßenz Basin in Austria, which drobia groisenbachensis Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp., was covered by Lake Groisenbach. The assemblage Odontohydrobia pompatica Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. moderately diverse with 12 gastropod and 2 bivalve species sp., Odontohydrobia styriaca Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. suggesting shallow lacustrine and fluvial settings. Among sp., Planorbis austroalpinus Harzhauser and Neubauer the gastropods, only Theodoxus crenulatus (Klein, 1853) is nov. sp., Gyraulus sachsenhoferi Harzhauser and Neubauer known from other Miocene localities, whilst all other spe- nov. sp., Bulinus corici Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., cies are documented so far only from Lake Groisenbach. Ferrissia crenellata Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. and None of the Early and Middle Miocene lake systems of the Stagnicola reinholdkunzi Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. Alpine-Carpathian Foredeep and the Balkan Peninsula sp. are introduced as new species.

displays any faunistic resemblance with this new fauna. Even coeval lake faunas from the close-by Graz Basin have no species in common with Lake Groisenbach. This pattern points to a surprising endemism and biogeographic frag-

**Keywords** Gastropoda Miocene Freshwater Biogeography Intramontane lakes  
**Kurzfassung** Erstmals wird die Molluskenfauna des intramontanen alpinen Groisenbach-Sees aus dem frühen Mittel-Miozan (Langhium) beschrieben. Die Schalen stammen aus der Feistring-Formation des Aßenz Beckens, in dem sich im mittleren Miozan der Groisenbach-See entwickelte. Die Vergesellschaftung ist mit 12 Gastropoden und 2 Bivalven Arten moderat divers und deutet auf seicht lakustrine und fluviale Ablagerungsbedingungen. Unter den Gastropoden ist nur Theodoxus crenulatus (Klein, 1853) auch aus anderen miozänen Fundstellen bekannt, während alle anderen Arten bisher nur aus dem Groisenbach-See bekannt sind. Keines der früh- und mittelmiozänen Seensysteme der Alpen-Karpaten-Vortiefe und des Balkans zeigt faunistische Beziehungen zu der neuen Fauna. Selbst die gleichaltrigen Faunen des geographisch nahen Grazer Beckens weisen keine gemeinsamen Arten auf. Diese Muster deuten auf einer überraschend hohen Endemismus sowie auf eine starke biogeographische Fragmentierung der mitteleuropäischen Süßwassersysteme während des frühen

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und mittleren Miozän. Die Einzigartigkeit der Fauna zeigt sich auch in dem erratischen Auftreten der ansonsten afrikanisch-mediterranen Gattungen *Bulinus*, die aus keinem anderen miozänen See Mitteleuropas bekannt ist. *Emmericia roetzeli* Harzhauser und Neubauer nov. sp., *Stenaturella zuschini* Neubauer und Harzhauser nov. sp., *Romania fastigata* Neubauer und Harzhauser nov. sp., *Odontohydrobia groisenbachensis* Neubauer und Harzhauser nov. sp., *Odontohydrobia pompatica* Neubauer und Harzhauser nov. sp., *Odontohydrobia styriaca* Harzhauser und Neubauer nov. sp., *Planorbis austroalpinus* Harzhauser und Neubauer nov. sp., *Gyraulus sachsenhoferi* Harzhauser und Neubauer nov. sp., *Bulinus corici* Harzhauser und Neubauer nov. sp., *Ferrissia crenellata* Harzhauser und Neubauer nov. sp., und *Stagnicola reinholdkuntzi* Harzhauser und Neubauer nov. sp. werden als neue Arten eingeführt.

**Schlüsselwörter** Gastropoda Miozän Süßwasser Biogeographie Intramontane Seen

## Introduction

Modern European freshwater faunas display little biogeographic differentiation (Glöer 2002). This pattern is contrasted by an extremely high endemicity during the Miocene (Harzhauser and Mandić 2008). This endemicity, however, may be overemphasised by the simple fact that the only few stratigraphic coeval lake faunas are well studied. For example, the huge lake systems in the Alpine-Carpathian Foredeep and on the Balkan Peninsula, described by Rzehakia Lake System (RLS) and Dinaride Lake System (DLS) by Harzhauser and Mandić (2008), have little stratigraphic overlap. Other lake systems, such as Lake Steinheim, Lake Skopje and the many small lakes fringing the Paratethys Sea, are also not strictly coeval. Moreover, the data on Miocene freshwater faunas are strongly biased towards long-lived lakes with high subsidence rates, huge piles of sediments and a good fossil record. In contrast, the small and geologically short-lived lakes and their faunas are virtually unknown. This lack of data is especially obvious for the many tectonically induced lakes that formed during the Early and Middle Miocene in the young Eastern Alps. Despite the considerable basin fills of several hundred metres, no mollusc faunas have been described from these lakes so far. Only along the margins of the Eastern Alps do the early Middle Miocene (Langhian) Rein and Graz basins yield comparable faunas (Göbber 1854; Unger 1858).

et al. 2010), which was part of the Dinaride Lake System. This enables the proposed endemicity to be tested at least for these lake faunas.

## Geological setting

Lateral eastward extrusion of crustal blocks along strike slip faults in the Eastern Alps resulted in the formation of several tectonically controlled intramontane basins during the Early and Middle Miocene (Ratschbacher et al. 1991). The most important of these basins are the Lavant, Fohnsdorf, Seckau, Trofaiach, Leoben, Parschlug and Aßenz basins (Fig.). These gave rise to the development of a chain of lakes and deltaic systems which were fringed by swampy wetlands. Some of the lakes, such as Lake Ingering in the Fohnsdorf Basin, were moderately long-lived and existed up to 2 Ma (Sachsenhofer et al. 2003).

The herein studied assemblage derives exclusively from the Aßenz Basin, which was covered by the rather small and short-lived Lake Groisenbach (Sachsenhofer et al. 2003). This basin is a c. 13 km long and c. 2 km wide composite pull-apart basin (Reischenbacher and Sachsenhofer 2002; Sachsenhofer et al. 2003). Its margins are formed by the Upper Austroalpine Greywacke Unit and the Northern Calcareous Alps in the north and by Middle Austroalpine units. The Miocene basin fill consists of the coarse-grained Feistring Formation and the overlying Gorlach Formation. The Feistring Fm. comprises up to 360 m of prograding fluvial deposits, whilst the Gorlach Fm. is composed of up to 200 m of limnic pelites in the base and fluvial deposits in the top (Sachsenhofer et al. 2003). Both formations are separated by several coal seams and diatomites. The latter were used by Hajdich (1972) to date the succession into the early Middle Miocene (Langhian, early Badenian).

All studied samples derive from the Feistring Fm. The samples were collected during geological mapping by the Geological Survey of Austria. Samples 1 and 2 derive from the Jauring section (47°13.05'N, 15°39.01'E) and sample 4 was collected at the Pletschgraben section (47°33'46.22"N, 15°20'05.27"E).

The systematic palaeontology follows largely Bouchet and Rocroi (2005, 2010), whilst Albrecht et al. (2007) and Jarger et al. (2010) are considered for pulmonates and Glöer (2002) for the Emmericiidae. All specimens are stored in the collection of the Geological-Palaeontological Department of the Natural History Museum in Vienna.

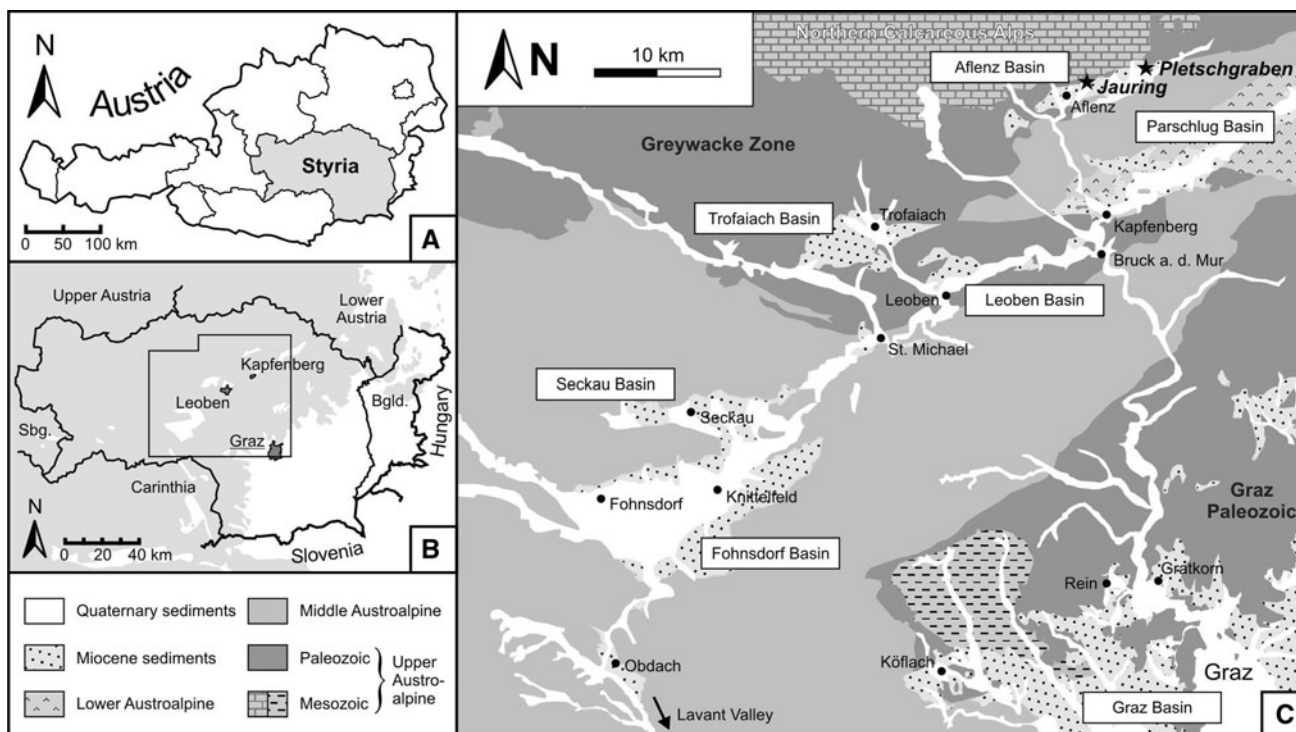


Fig. 1 Geological map of the intramontane Alpine basins and the Styria with position of studied area: Intramontane basins and adjacent Styrian Basin (modified after Goll and Neubauer 1984; Sachsenhofer et al 2003). a Geography of Austria Province of Styria

Class Gastropoda Cuvier, 1797  
 Subclass Orthogastropoda Ponder and Lindberg, 1997  
 Superorder Neritaemorphi Koken, 1896  
 Order Neritopsina Cox and Knight, 1960  
 Superfamily Neritoidea Lamarck, 1809  
 Family Neritidae Lamarck, 1809

Genus *Theodoxus* Montfort, 1810  
 Type species: *Theodoxus lutetianus* Montfort, 1810 (= *Nerita luviatilis* Linnaeus, 1758). Recent, Europe

*Theodoxus crenulatus* (Klein, 1853) (Fig. 2a-d)

\*1853 *Neritina crenulata* Klein: 221, pl. 5, Pg. 18  
 1875 *Neritina crenulata* Klein. Sandberger: 571, pl. 28, Pg. 13

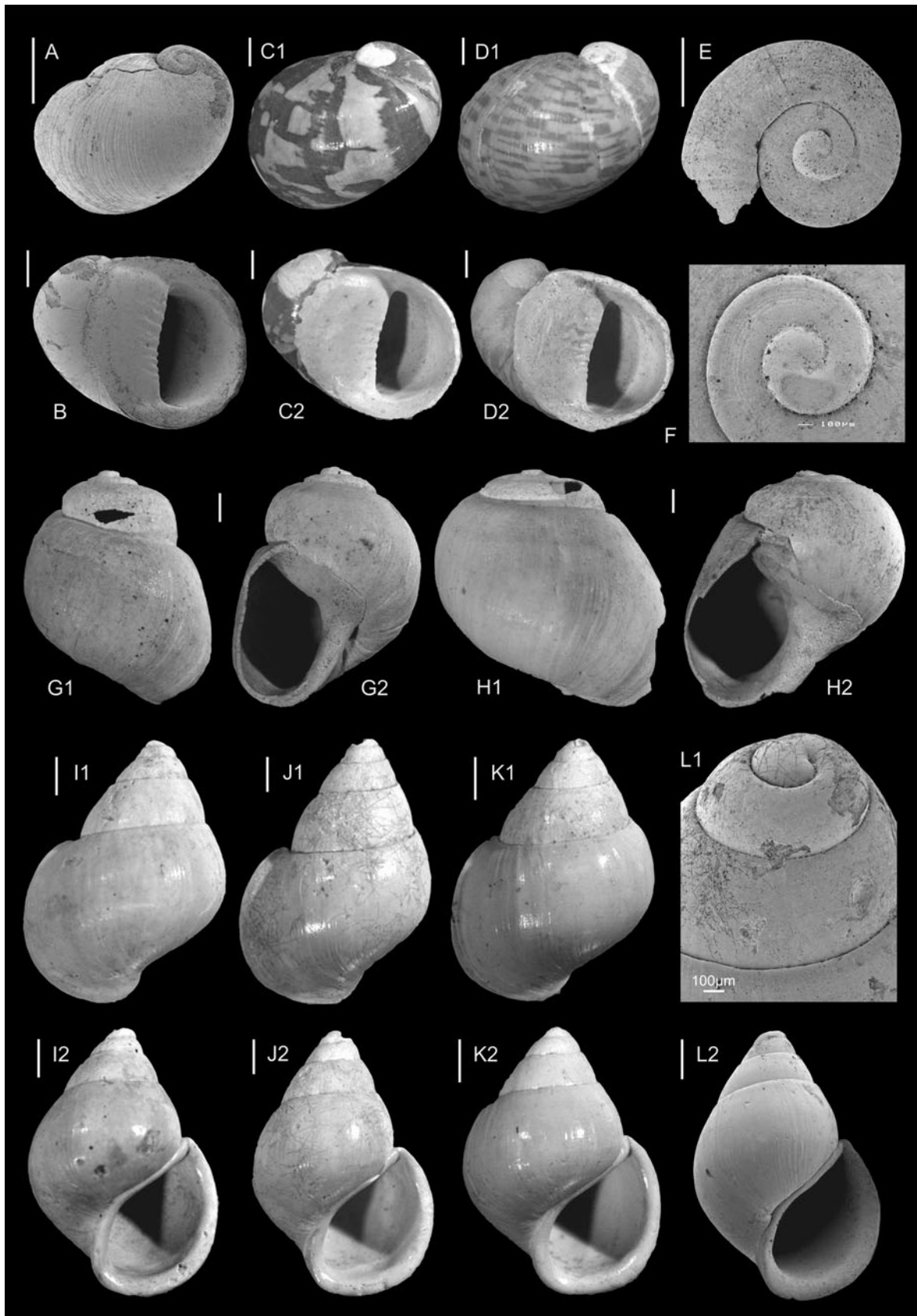
Material: c. 150 specimens, Jauring, Pletschgraben  
 NHMW 2011/0021/0035  
 Measurements: maximum diameter 11 mm

Remarks Here we present the first SEM pictures of this species, showing strong growth lines on the early teleoconch (Fig. 2). This medium-sized species was very common in all samples and displays a wide range of variability concerning colour patterns. Interestingly, this variability decreases distinctly in the strongly fluvial-influenced

samples where only specimens with large triangular speckles occur. The coeval *Theodoxus sinjanus* (Brusina, 1876) differs in its more globular outline and the regularly increasing diameter of the last whorl, whereas the last whorl of *Theodoxus crenulatus* has an allometric growth. *Theodoxus semidentatus* (Sandberger, 1870) has a similar sculpture of the callus pad but is distinctly higher and tends to develop a slight concavity within the adapical third of the whorls.

Distribution *Theodoxus crenulatus* settled most freshwater systems of the intramontane basins of the early Alps during the Middle Miocene and is recorded also from the Fohnsdorf and Lavant basins (Höl and Wagneich 2004; Wank 1991). Originally, it was described from the Middle Miocene of Zwiefaltendorf in southern Germany (Klein 1853). It is widespread in the fluvial deposits fringing the Paratethys Sea throughout the Early and Middle Miocene (Schlickum 1976; Harzhauser 2002; Harzhauser and Mandic 2008). Oligocene occurrences, mentioned by Goll (1973), represent another species based on their more spherical outline and the sharply demarcated callus pad.

Superorder Caenogastropoda Cox and Knight, 1960  
 Order Littorinimorpha Golikov and Starobogatov, 1975  
 Superfamily Rissooidea Gray, 1847  
 Family Emmericiidae Brusina, 1870



◀ Fig. 2 Neritidae, Buliniinae and Emmericiidae from the Jauring section, Aßenz Basin. a) *Theodoxus crenulatus* (Klein, 1853), NHMW 2011/0021/0035. b) *Bulinus corici* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., NHMW 2011/0021/0008. c) *Emmericia roetzelii* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., NHMW 2011/0021/0032. d) *Emmericia roetzelii* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., NHMW 2011/0021/0034. Scale bar = 1 mm

Genus *Emmericia* Brusina, 1870

Type species: *Paludina patula* Brumati, 1838 Recent, Dalmatia

*Emmericia roetzelii* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. (Fig. 2i-d)

Material: >100 specimens

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0031, height: 6.9 mm, diameter: 4.8 mm, Fig 2i

Paratype 1: NHMW 2011/0021/0032, height: 7.3 mm, diameter: 5.2 mm, Fig 2j

Paratype 2: NHMW 2011/0021/0033, height: 6.2 mm, diameter: 4.8 mm, Fig 2k

Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47°13.05'N, 15°39.01'E

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)

Name: in honour of Reinhard Roetzel, geologist at the Geological Survey of Vienna

**Description** Stout glossy shell with short conical spire consisting of three weakly convex, smooth whorls with narrow, thread-like sutures. Protoconch measuring c. 600 µm in diameter, consisting of less than one smooth depressed whorl causing a flattened apex. Its demarcation from the teleoconch is indistinct. The last whorl attains about one-half of the total height, consisting of a weakly convex adapical third and a convex base. The height of the last whorl and its convexity are variable. Growth lines may form a faint axial sculpture which becomes most pronounced on the base. On fully grown specimens these axial threads are crossed by numerous very delicate spiral grooves, which are rarely preserved. Aperture oblique, drop-shaped, terminating in a thickened continuous lip. Columellar lip adherent but distinct; outer lip slightly thickened, expanded in a narrow collar-like structure. A narrow siphonal notch is developed in the angulated adapical part of the aperture. A shallow internal furrow appears close behind the aperture without corresponding swelling on the external shell surface. No umbilicus is developed.

**Remarks** This extant genus has its roots in the Miocene. The oldest records are the species from the Aßenz Basin and the coeval *Emmericia canaliculata* Brusina, 1870 from the early Middle Miocene of the Drava and Sinj basins in

Croatia. The latter is clearly distinguished from the Austrian one by its convex spire whorls. *E. subpatula* Kocay, 1966 from the Badenian of Herend in Hungary, if *Emmericia* at all, is smaller, lacks the broad collar-like aperture and strongly convex whorls with incised sutures. After a major stratigraphic gap, the next two representatives are known from the Late Miocene of Lake Pannon (Harzhauser and Mandic 2008). The more frequent Pannonian species *E. erroneously identified as Emmericia canaliculata* by Harzhauser and Binde 2004 differs in its convex whorls, the higher spire, the thicker lip and the relatively smaller aperture. The second Late Miocene to Pliocene species, *Emmericia schulzeriana* Brusina, 1882, develops a very high spire, an elongate aperture and a very narrow collar. *E. botici* Brusina, 1902, *E. krizanici* Brusina, 1902 and *E. zivkovi* Brusina, 1902 from the Pliocene of Slavonia and Serbia, are all conspicuously more slender and develop smaller last whorls. The sunken protoconch corresponds fully to late Miocene and Pliocene representatives of the genus as described by Harzhauser and Binde 2004 and Esu et al. 2001). A relation with *Staliopsis* Rzehak, 1893 is excluded based on the large and immersed protoconch of the new species, while *Staliopsis* has protoconchs of only 300 µm diameter (Kowalke and Reichenbach 2005).

**Distribution** Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.

Family Hydrobiidae Stimpson, 1865

Subfamily Hydrobiinae Stimpson, 1865

Genus *Nematurella* Sandberger, 1870

Type species: *Nematurella βexilabris* Sandberger, 1870

Middle Miocene, Tramelan, Switzerland

*Nematurella zuschini* Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. (Fig. 3a-d, m)

Material: c. 550 specimens

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0027, height: 3.0 mm, diameter: 1.6 mm, Fig 3b

Paratype 1: NHMW 2011/0021/0028, height: 3.3 mm, diameter: 1.7 mm, Fig 3a

Paratype 2: NHMW 2011/0021/0029, height: 3.2 mm, diameter: 1.6 mm, Fig 3c

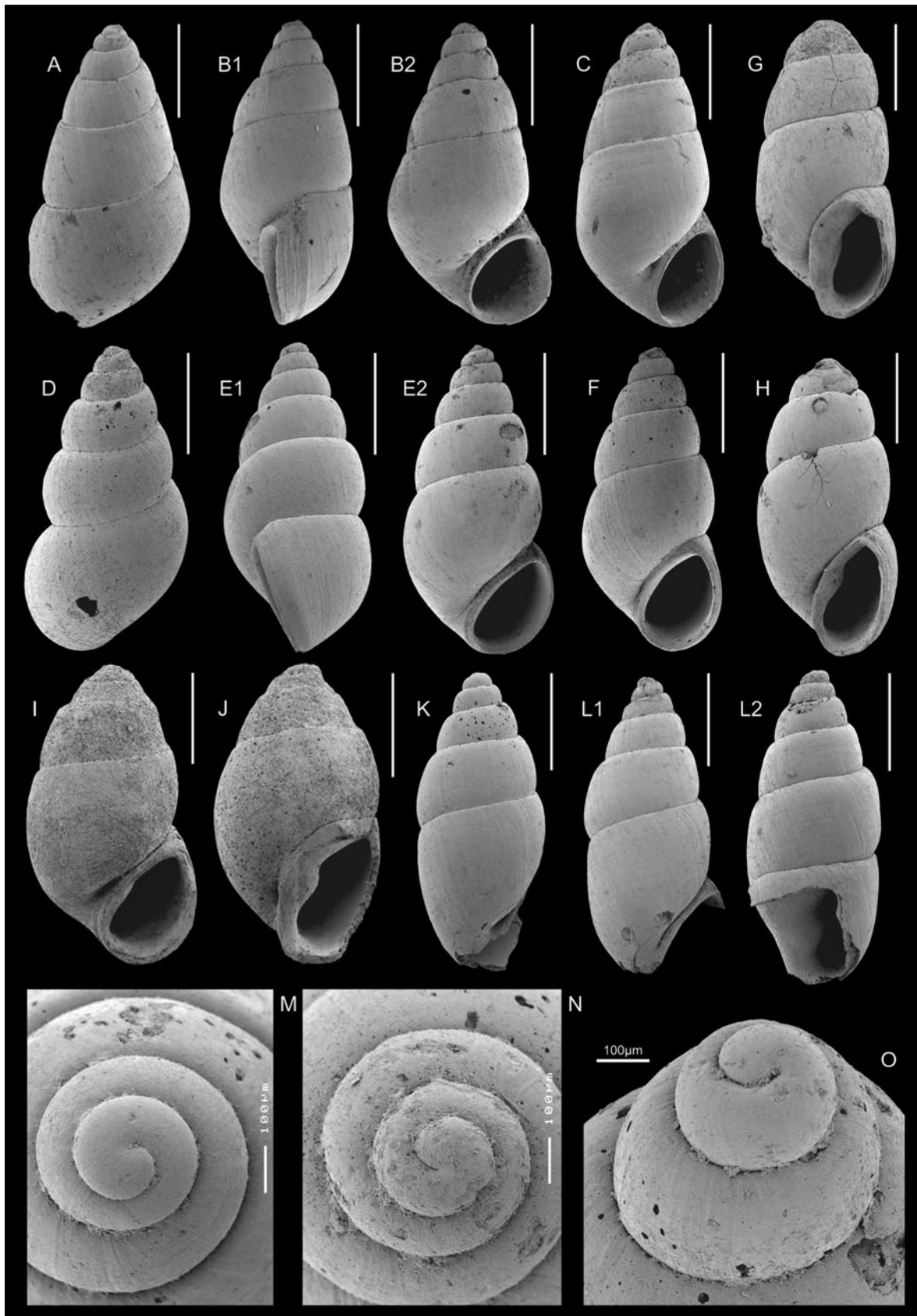
Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47°13.05'N, 15°39.01'E

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)

Name: in honour of Martin Zuschin, palaeontologist at the University of Vienna

**Description** Protoconch smooth, consisting of 1.25 broad and convex whorls; 280 µm in diameter. The transition to the teleoconch is marked by a weak axial thread and



◀ Fig. 3 Hydrobiidae from the Jauring section, Aßenz Basin, m Nematurella zuschirne Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. Paratype 1, NHMW 2011/0021/0028b holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0027, c paratype 2, NHMW 2011/0021/0029m protoconch, NHMW 2011/0021/0030dE, n Romania fastigata Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. Paratype 2, NHMW 2011/0021/0025j holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0023f paratype 1, NHMW 2011/0021/0024i protoconch, NHMW 2011/0021/0026g Odontohydrobia groisenbachensis Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. Paratype, NHMW 2011/0021/0022h holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0021E Odontohydrobia styriaca Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. Holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0017j paratype, NHMW 2011/0021/0018E, o Odontohydrobia pompatica Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. o Holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0019, paratype, NHMW 2011/0021/0020. Scale bar = 1 mm

Paratype 1: NHMW 2011/0021/0024, height: 3.1 mm, diameter: 1.5 mm, Fig 3f  
 Paratype 2: NHMW 2011/0021/0025, height: 3.1 mm, diameter: 1.6 mm, Fig 3d  
 Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation  
 Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47°30' 13.05"N, 15°39.01"E  
 Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)  
 Name: fastigata Latin for oblique and sloped, referring to the posterior termination of the last whorl

by the onset of the early teleoconch sculpture, consisting of straight prosocline growth lines. Teleoconch elongate conical with a spire angle of 40–45° comprising 4–4.5 whorls. The first whorl is low and evenly convex, passing into successively less convex to nearly straight-sided whorls. The last two whorls may even develop a gentle concavity close to the upper suture causing an indistinct subsutural band. The last whorl attains about 60% of the total height and displays a distinct but variable angulation between bank and the slightly convex base. This angulation changes from pronounced in apertural view to less distinct and convex in lateral view. The weak growth lines are crossed by very faint spiral ribs in exceptionally well-preserved specimens. Aperture broad ovoid to slightly elongate ovoid with convex inner lip and well rounded outer lip. In lateral view, the aperture is parallel to the axis with a posterior indentation at the outer lip and a slightly protruding inner lip; columella smooth. The terminal part of the last whorl is detached from the base and grows at an angle of c. 35° relative to the suture. This part of the whorl bears prominent, densely spaced growth ridges. Umbilicus narrow but well visible, grading into the slit-like interspace between base and terminal part of the last whorl.

**Remarks** The species differs from a *Nematurella* species, as revised by Schlickum (1960), in its less convex teleoconch whorls and the basal angulation.

**Distribution** Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.

**Genus** *Romania* Cossmann, 1913

**Type species** *Juliania expansa* Roman, 1910 Oligocene, France.

***Romania fastigata*** Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. (Fig. 3dE, n)

**Material:** c. 25 specimens  
**Holotype:** NHMW 2011/0021/0023, height: 3.1 mm, diameter: 1.5 mm, Fig 3e

**Description** Protoconch ranging around 300 µm in diameter, poorly preserved in all available specimens, smooth and consists of about 1–1.5 strongly convex whorls with incised sutures. Teleoconch consisting of 3–5 strongly convex whorls with the maximum convexity in the middle or slightly below the middle of the whorls; regularly convex whorls with the maximum convexity in the middle or slightly below the middle of the whorls; sutures incised. Apical angle ranging between 40 and 45°. The height of the whorls is regularly increasing; their convexity is only decreasing on the base, causing a slightly elongate last whorl, which attains about 60% of the total height. Surface covered with delicate, straight prosocline growth lines. Well-preserved shells exhibit a very weak spirial sculpture of faint grooves. Aperture thick-shelled, oblique semilunar with slightly concave inner lip, well rounded outer lip and a weak posterior angulation. Inner lip convex with convex inner lip and well rounded outer lip separated from base by a narrow furrow; umbilicus slit-like. In lateral view, the aperture is strongly oblique forming an angle of c. 20° relative to the shell-axis; the aperture margins are straight without notch. A characteristic axial groove occurs close to the aperture inside the shell, being reflected by a slight bulge on the outer shell surface. The position of the groove coincides with a change in growth direction of the upper part of the whorl. This terminal part becomes detached from the base and grows in the anterior direction at an angle of 45° relative to the suture.

**Remarks** The generic affiliation with *Romania* is based on the aperture, the shape of the detached last whorl and the overall outline. The stratigraphic gap between the Oligocene *Romania expansa* (Roman, 1910) and the Middle Miocene species, however, may raise doubts about the generic identification. *Romania fastigata* differs from the type species only in its more convex spire whorls and the less elongate shape. A closely related species, with comparable morphology, is illustrated as *Nematurella* *Nikolajevici* by Brusina (1902) from the Middle Miocene of Zvezdan in Serbia. This DLS species has a rather short last whorl, convex spire whorls, a detached last whorl with straight but oblique margin and identical umbilicus features as *Romania fastigata*. Differences between both species are

the wider aperture and the less steep angle of the sutural sigmoidal-prosocline axial sculpture is crossed on the last margin of the terminal part of the last whorl in Romania (Jekelius, 1944). The general morphology is reminiscent of a *Nematurella* Sandberger 1870. The straight-sided margins of the aperture and its oblique angle relative to the axis, however, contradict a generic affiliation with *Nematurella* which has a sigmoidal outer lip. Moreover, the anterior part of the aperture usually protrudes in lateral view (Schlickum, 1971).

The second genus with comparable aperture is the Pliocene *Tournouerina* Schlickum, 1971. The type species *Tournouerina lugdunensis* (Tournouer, 1879) differs in its higher and broader last whorl and the low convexity of the spire whorls. Similarly, most species of this genus, as described by Schlickum (1978), differ in their broad and high last whorl and the drop-shaped outline from the Miocene species. Only the Plio-Pleistocene *Tournouerina belnensis* (Delafond and Despret, 1893) is reminiscent of the Miocene species in its rather convex spire whorls and a comparatively short last whorl.

**Distribution** Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.

Subfamily Pyrgulinae Brusina, 1881

Genus *Odontohydrobia* Pavlovic, 1928

Type species: *Odontohydrobia ranojevici* Pavlovic, 1928 by subsequent designation (Werner, 1939). Late Miocene, Serbia

*Odontohydrobia groisenbachensis* Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. (Fig. 3g, h)

Material: c. 35 specimens

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0021, height: 3.3 mm, diameter: 1.6 mm, Fig. 3h

Paratype: NHMW 2011/0021/0022, height: 3.5 mm, diameter: 1.7 mm, Fig. 3g

Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47° 13.05'N, 15° 15'39.0"E

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)

Name: referring to Lake Groisenbach

**Description** Protoconch unknown. The teleoconch ranges around 3–4 mm in height and consists of three to four whorls; the first teleoconch whorl is strongly convex and low, resulting in an obtuse apex. Later whorls are moderately high and only weakly convex with the maximum convexity in the lower third of the whorl. The last whorl is high, barrel-shaped, nearly straight sided and attains about two-thirds of the total height. Shell surface covered by delicate and densely spaced growth lines, which are most prominent close to the incised sutures and on the base. The

sigmoidal-prosocline axial sculpture is crossed on the last whorl by very delicate spiral threads, which are difficult to detect even in SEM pictures. The aperture is ovate to semilunar with a slightly convex inner and strongly convex outer lip; both are equally thickened. A weak indentation occurs at the anterior part of the outer lip. Inner lip well demarcated from the base, covering a narrow, slit-like umbilicus. A characteristic columellar fold occurs in the middle of the columella; it is most distinct in the inner part of the shell and fades out towards the aperture.

**Remarks** *Odontohydrobia* is defined mainly based on its conspicuous columellar fold. Up to now, most representatives were described from the Late Miocene of Lake Pannon (Serbia: Pavlovic, 1928; Romania: Jekelius, 1944; Vienna Basin: Papp, 1953). The youngest representatives are from the Pliocene of Romania and Croatia (Jekelius, 1932; Jurjic-Poljak et al., 1997). Thus, *Odontohydrobia groisenbachensis* and its congeners from Lake Groisenbach are the oldest known representatives of the genus. It differs from the slender Lake Pannon species *O. cryptodonta* Jekelius, 1944, *O. clessini* Pavlovic, 1928 and *O. ranojevici* Pavlovic, 1928 in its stout barrel-shaped outline and the lower number of teleoconch whorls. *O. wagneri* Pavlovic, 1928, *O. clessini* Pavlovic, 1928 and *O. leobersdorfensis* Papp, 1953 develop strongly convex whorls. *O. bathyomphaloides* Pavlovic, 1928 is much larger, distinctly conical and has a wider umbilicus. *Odontohydrobia croatica* Jurjic-Poljak, Sokac and Poje, 1997 develops five teleoconch whorls and is slender conical, and *O. dacica* Jekelius, 1932 differs from *O. groisenbachensis* also in its conical shape and convex whorls.

**Distribution** So far only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.

*Odontohydrobia pompatica* Neubauer and Harzhauser nov. sp. (Fig. 3k, l, o)

Material: 12 specimens

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0019, height: 3.1 mm, diameter: 1.5 mm, Fig. 3k, o

Paratype: NHMW 2011/0021/0020, height: 3.2 mm, diameter: 1.4 mm, Fig. 3l

Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47° 13.05'N, 15° 15'39.0"E

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)

Name: *pompatica* Latin for gorgonian

**Description** Protoconch measures c. 250–300 µm and consists of c. one smooth and strongly convex whorl, passing without marked boundary into the teleoconch, which is indicated by the onset of faint axial threads. The



teleoconch consists of five whorls; the first two whorls are strongly convex, whilst later whorls develop nearly straight-sided flanks. The spire angle of the first four teleoconch whorls ranges around 50°. This rather regularly conical spire is contrasted by a high and barrel-shaped last whorl, which attains about one half of the total height. It has a narrower diameter than the penultimate whorl, resulting in a constricted outline. The sutures are moderately incised but accentuated by the convexity of the whorls. Surface covered by delicate but distinct, feebly sigmoidal growth lines, which are crossed by indistinct and shallow spiral furrows. Both sculpture elements cause a weakly cancellated pattern. Aperture slender ovate with thin and slightly convex outer lip and almost straight inner lip, which nearly covers the slit-like umbilicus. The posterior part of the inner lip is slightly protruding in lateral view, whilst the outer lip has a weak indentation. The columella bears a broad but weak fold that becomes more prominent inside the shell.

Remarks This species differs from its syntopic congener *Odontohydrobia groisenbachensis* nov. sp. in its globose outline and the shorter last whorl and wider umbilicus. Its columella is oblique and bears two concavities close to the columellar fold. Moreover, it develops one whorl less at the same size. The stout ovoid shape and the low number of whorls distinguish *O. styriaca* from all Late Miocene to Pliocene *Odontohydrobia* species, as described by Pavlovic (1928), Jekelius (1932, 1944), Papp (1953) and Juráček & Poljak et al. (1997). These species develop at least 4 or more teleoconch whorls.

Remarks The characteristic last whorl and bulge-like penultimate whorl distinguish this species from all other *Odontohydrobia* species. No morphologic overlap with the two other congeneric species from Lake Groisenbach can be stated.

Distribution Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.

*Odontohydrobia styriaca* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. (Fig. 3i, j)

Material: c. 40 specimens

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0017, height: 3.3 mm, diameter: 1.9 mm, Fig3i

Paratype: NHMW 2011/0021/0018, height: 2.9 mm, diameter: 1.7 mm, Fig3j

Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47°13.05'N, 15°39.01'E

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)

Name: Referring to the province of Styria in Austria

Description Stout ovoid shell consisting of three teleoconch whorls. The low protoconch is poorly preserved. The first teleoconch whorl is low and only weakly convex; the second whorl increases in height and is nearly straight-sided aside from the weak convexity at the upper and lower sutures. The morphology of the last whorl is rather variable ranging from globular with strong median convexity to stout with slight convexity. Shell surface covered by a dense pattern of growth lines, which are most prominent at the base. Aperture ovoid with slight posterior angulation and strongly thickened edges. The suture between aperture

Remarks This species differs from its syntopic congener *Odontohydrobia groisenbachensis* nov. sp. in its globose outline and the shorter last whorl and wider umbilicus. Its columella is oblique and bears two concavities close to the columellar fold. Moreover, it develops one whorl less at the same size. The stout ovoid shape and the low number of whorls distinguish *O. styriaca* from all Late Miocene to Pliocene *Odontohydrobia* species, as described by Pavlovic (1928), Jekelius (1932, 1944), Papp (1953) and Juráček & Poljak et al. (1997). These species develop at least 4 or more teleoconch whorls.

Distribution Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.

Clade Panpulmonata Coper et al., 2010

Order Hygrophila Reussac, 1822

Suborder Branchiopulmonata Morton, 1955

Superfamily Planorbioidea Gray, 1840

Family Planorbidae Gray, 1840

Subfamily Planorbinae Rabnesquière, 1815

Genus *Planorbis* Müller, 1773

Type species: *Helix planorbis* Linnaeus, 1758 Recent, Europe

*Planorbis austroalpinus* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. (Fig. 4aDd)

Material: >40 shells

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0013, height: 1.3 mm, diameter: 2.5 mm, Fig4c

Paratype 1: NHMW 2011/0021/0014, height: 1.1 mm, diameter: 2.1 mm, Fig4a

Paratype 2: NHMW 2011/0021/0015, height: 1.0 mm, diameter: 1.4 mm, Fig4b

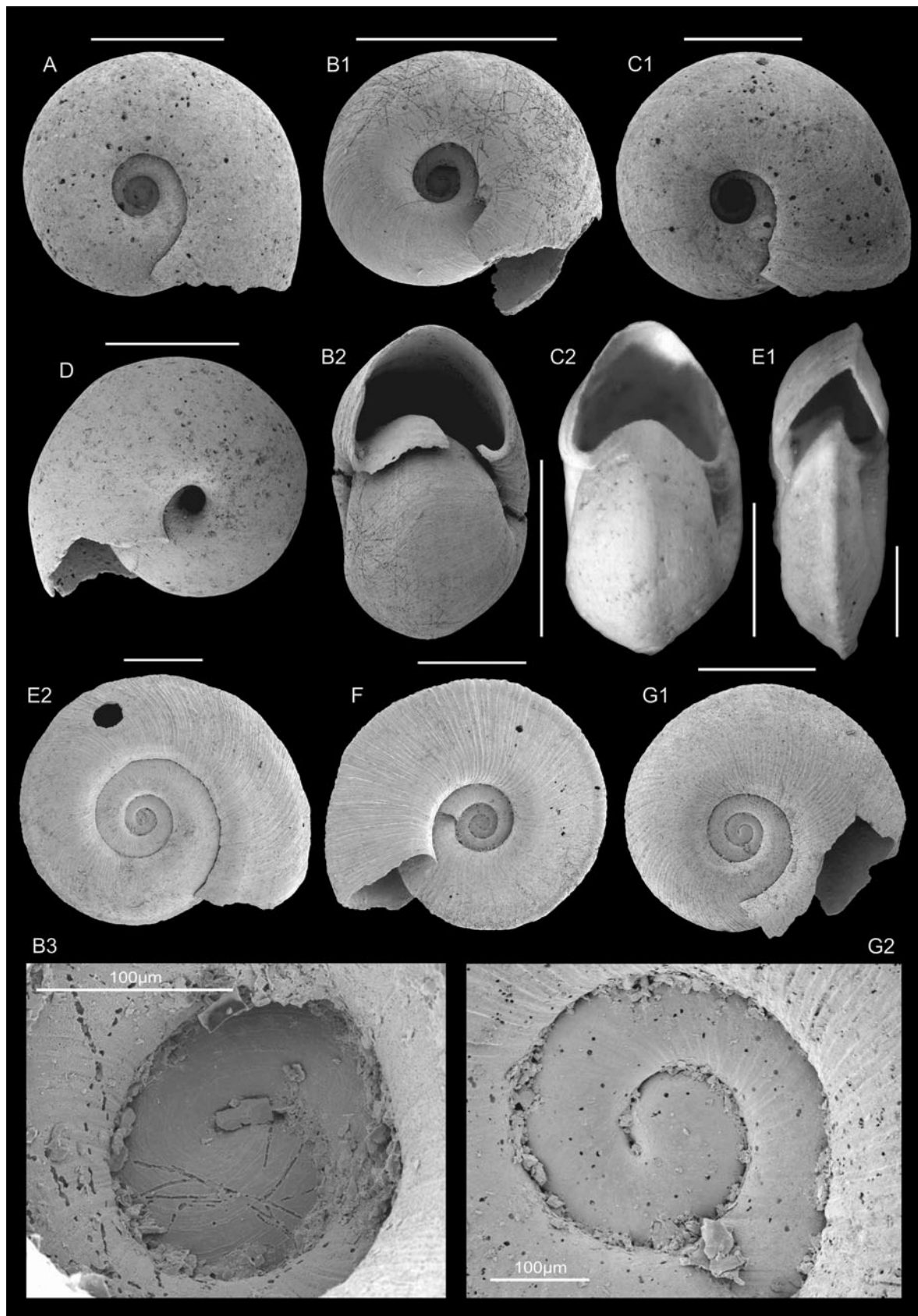
Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47°13.05'N, 15°39.01'E

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)

Name: referring to the setting of the locality in the Austrian Alps

Description Small sized, strongly involute shells of 2.5D3 very high, bulbous and strongly convex whorls. Protoconch deeply sunken in spire consisting of 0.9 moderately convex whorls with characteristic striae. These are



- ◀ Fig. 4 Planorbidae from the Jauring section, Aßenz Basin. **Stratum typicum:** lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation
- Planorbis austroalpinus** Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47° 13.05'N, 15 15'39.01"E
- a Paratype 1, NHMW 2011/0021/0014, paratype 2, NHMW 2011/0021/0015, c holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0013d NHMW 2011/0021/0016. e dg **Gyraulus sachsenhoferi** Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. e Holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0010, paratype 1, NHMW 2011/0021/0011, g paratype 2, NHMW 2011/0021/0012 Scale bar = 1 mm
- Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)  
Name: in honour of Reinhard Sachsenhofer, geologist at the University of Leoben (Austria)
- six to seven widely spaced, slightly wrinkled spiral ribs, which may be dissolved in two or three individual spiral threads. Spire deeply sunken and nearly covered by the last whorl. Umbilicus very deep and narrow. A wide and convex angulation separates the upper and lower half of the shells causing a bulky triangular cross section of the whorls in adult shells. Few specimens display faint spiral threads close to the angulation. This sculpture is missing on all juvenile shells. Additional threads may be formed by the growth lines close to the umbilicus. The growth lines are strongly sigmoidal with prosocyrct orientation on the top and base and opisthocyrct orientation on the flank. Distinct growth lines and even indistinct ribs appear close to the aperture, which is slightly expanding in diameter in fully grown shells.
- Description Planispiral, rather evolute shells of 2.5-3 teleoconch whorls; upper side moderately deepened; lower side with wide and deep umbilicus. Protoconch consisting of 0.75 whorls with smooth surface aside from faint wrinkles close to the initial cap and few spiral striae close to the upper suture. These striae fade out within the first 20% of the protoconch. The onset of the teleoconch is very indistinct and mainly indicated by the appearance of weak growth lines. Cross-section of the teleoconch whorls sub-triangular due to a marked keel that appears between the lower third and the upper two-thirds of the whorl during ontogeny. The keel is demarcated from the upper part of the whorl by a weak concavity but distinctly separated by a pronounced concavity along the lower part. This results in a slightly asymmetric dip of the keel towards the base. Upper part of the whorls moderately convex and nearly flat close to the keel; basal part flat after the concave area close to the keel and weakly convex close to the umbilicus. Entire shell covered by a dense pattern of prominent growth lines, which are prosocline on the upper shell and opisthocyrct on the base.
- Remarks The specimens might be considered as juveniles of a larger species. The densely spaced growth lines close to the aperture as seen in the specimen illustrated in Fig. 4c, however, suggest that the shells represent fully grown specimens. Among the coeval fauna of the Dinarides Lake System, only *Gyraulus oncostomus* Brusina, 1902 is slightly reminiscent of the species from the Aßenz Basin. It develops similar growth lines along the aperture and has high and strongly convex whorls but is distinctly less involute. *Bathyomphalus microstator* Bourguignat, 1880 from the Middle Miocene of Sansan in France is similar in size and also rather involute but differs in its distinctly less globose shell (Fischer 2000).
- Remarks *Gyraulus gossardianus* (Noulet, 1854) from the Middle Miocene of Sansan in France lacks the peripheral concavity of the base and the marked keel; its whorls are convex and less triangular in cross-section (Fischer 2000). *Gyraulus matraensis* Kokay in Gá et al., 1998 from the Middle Miocene of Mátraszék in Hungary develops an even coarser sculpture, lacks the keel and is more involute. Shells from Turnau in the Aßenz Basin, referred to as *Planorbis applanatus* by Stur (1871) may represent this newly described species.
- Distribution Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.
- Distribution Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.
- Genus *Gyraulus* Charpentier, 1837  
Type species: *Planorbis albus* Müller, 1774. Recent, Europe
- Subfamily Bulininae Fischer and Crossin, 1880  
Genus *Bulinus* Müller, 1781  
Type species: *Bulinus senegalensis* Müller, 1781. Recent, Africa
- Gyraulus sachsenhoferi*** Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. (Fig. 4e dg)
- Bulinus corici*** Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. (Fig. 2e dh)
- Material: 14 specimens  
Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0010, height: 1.0 mm, diameter: 3.7 mm, Fig 4e  
Paratype 1: NHMW 2011/0021/0011, height: 0.9 mm, diameter: 2.6 mm, Fig 4f  
Paratype 2: NHMW 2011/0021/0012, height: 1.0 mm, diameter: 2.4 mm, Fig 4g
- 1889 *Lanistes noricus* Tausch: 157 (nomen nudum)  
1889 *Physa norica* Tausch: 158 (nomen nudum)

Material: Five shells and c. 65 spire fragments from the Middle Miocene of Gornjaci and the Fohnsdorf Jauring and Pletschgraben Basin (Hofmann 1893, Holzel and Wagreich 2004). The Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0006, height: 10.0 mm, diameter: 8.0 mm, Fig. 2g. Miocene *Bulinus trojanus* (Neumayr, 1883) from Turkey differs in its broader shell and the strongly angulated shoulder. *Lanistes beseneckeri* Schütt in Schütt and Besenecker, 1973 from the Miocene of Chios, is stout, globular with deeply incised sutures and very wide last whorl.

Paratype: NHMW 2011/0021/0007, height: 10.5 mm, diameter: 9.5 mm, Fig. 2h.

Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation.

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47° 13.05'N, 15° 15'39.0"E.

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian).

Name: in honour of Stjepan Oriš, geologist at the Geological Survey of Vienna.

Distribution: *Bulinus coriciis* known so far only from the early Middle Miocene, when it settled the intramontane lakes Ingering and Groisenbach.

Subfamily: Ancyliinae Rappesquelet, 1915.

Genus: *Ferrissia* Walker, 1903.

Type species: *Ancylus rivularis* Say, 1817. Recent, eastern North America.

Description: Moderately sized ovoid to subspherical sinistral shell consisting of five teleoconch whorls. Bulbous protoconch starting with a downward bent initial cap and 1.25 strongly convex raised whorls. Protoconch surface smooth except for few wrinkled spiral striae along the upper suture. Growth lines, formed by elongate wrinkles, appear close to the termination of the protoconch. These fade out on the first teleoconch whorl and are replaced by distinct spiral threads, which are most prominent in the middle part of the sutural shelf. The spiral sculpture fades out within the second teleoconch whorl, and the following whorls are smooth. Most specimens develop a stepped spire formed by convex early teleoconch whorls with marked shoulder and keel-like angulation. This feature is often covered by the following whorl resulting in a very variable shape of the spire. The angulation is replaced by well-rounded convexity on the last, bulbous whorl. The suture is quickly shifted from the angulation down even below the middle of the whorl causing a rather irregular shape. Within the last half of the last whorl, the point of maximum convexity is moving towards the base, and the whorl develops a flat apical part. Aperture drop shaped with wide and convex basal sinus and angulated apical part. Columella with deep concavity and slightly convex parietal area. Outer lip thin; inner lip forming a thin and expanding sheet covering parts of the base and forming a moderately wide, semicircular umbilicus.

Material: Four specimens.

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0005, height: 3.0 mm, diameter: 1.9 mm, convexity: 1.1 mm, Fig. 5d.

Paratype: NHMW 2011/0021/0036, height: c. 2.5 mm, diameter: c. 1.5 mm, convexity: c. 0.8 mm.

Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation.

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47° 13.05'N, 15° 15'39.0"E.

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian).

Name: referring to the sculpture, which is reminiscent of *Ferrissia crenellata* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. (Fig. 5d).

Description: Cap-like protoconch, measuring about 350 µm, slightly inclined to the left. Its topmost part is smooth with a small pit in its centre, surrounded by numerous thin radial threads. These increase in number by whorl and develop a flat apical part. Aperture drop shaped with wide and convex basal sinus and angulated apical part. Columella with deep concavity and slightly convex parietal area. Outer lip thin; inner lip forming a thin and expanding sheet covering parts of the base and forming a moderately wide, semicircular umbilicus.

Remarks: The conspicuous sinistral coiling and subspherical outline are unique within the European Neogene freshwater gastropods. Therefore, the species was detected in the Aßenz Basin already in the 19th century during geological mapping. It was introduced as nomen nudum by Tausch (1889) as *Lanistes noricus* and *Physa norica*. The distinctly sheet-like inner lip and thickened columella exclude a classification as *Lanistes* Montfort, 1810. Tausch (1889) discussed the similarity with the extant African *Bulinus nyassanus* (Smith, 1877) but did not provide any description or illustration. The species is also mentioned by Ferrissia *wittmanni* (Schlickum, 1964), as described by Kowalke and Reichenbacher (2005) from the North Alpine Foreland Basin, and *Ferrissia* *illyrica* (Neumayr, 1880; Mandić et al. 2011). *F. deperdita* (Desmarest, 1814) from the Middle Miocene

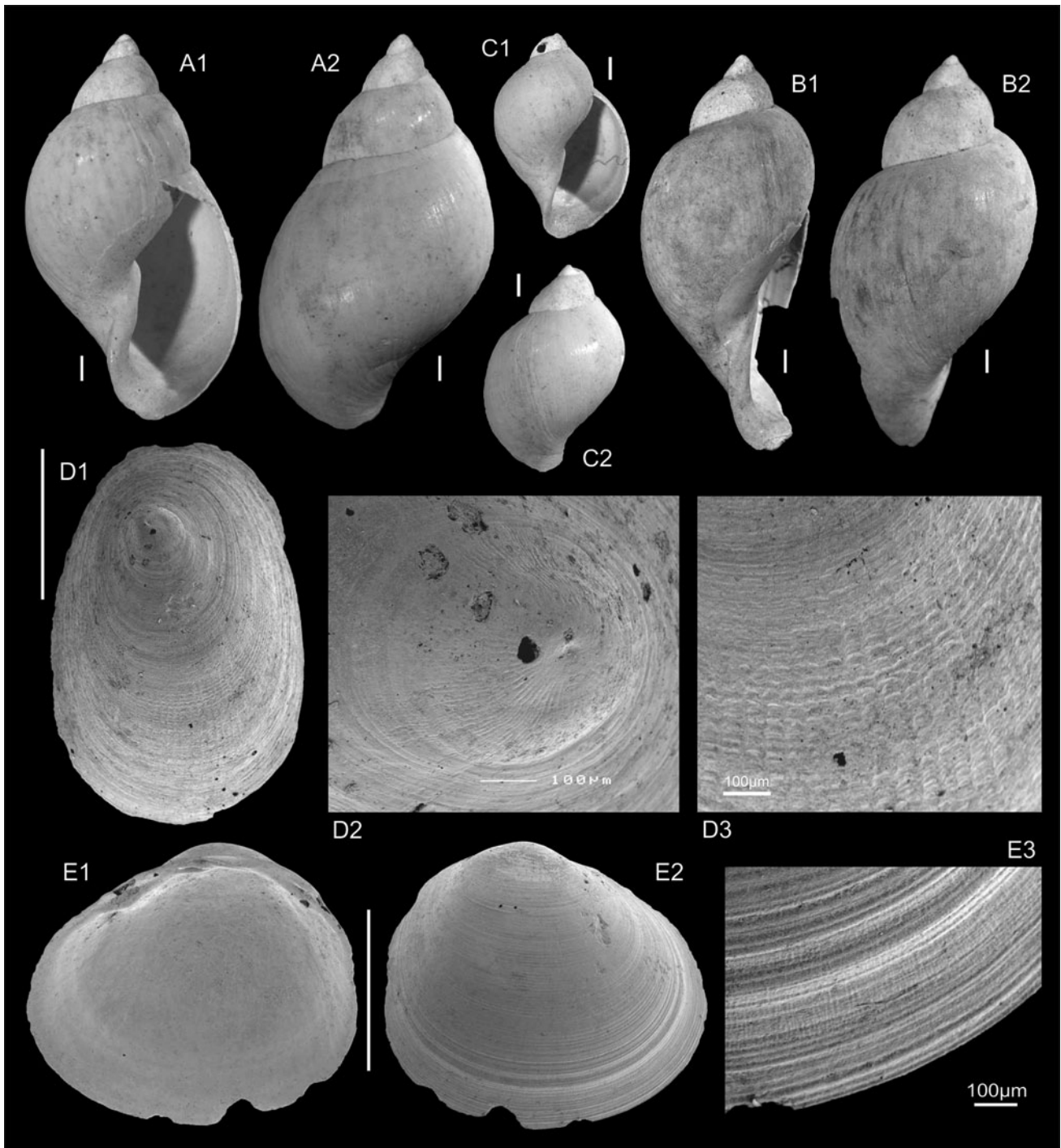


Fig. 5 Lymnaeidae, Ancylinae and Sphaeriidae from the Jauring section, Aßenz Basins. a) *Stagnicola reinholdkunzi* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0005. b) *Pisidium* cf. *casertanum* NHMW 2011/0021/0001. Scale bar= 1 mm. c) *Ferrissia crenellata* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., holotype, NHMW 2011/0021/0003. d) *Ferrissia crenellata* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., paratype, NHMW 2011/0021/0004. e) *Ferrissia crenellata* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp., paratype, NHMW 2011/0021/0002.

of southern Germany and the Eisenstadt-Sopron Basin in elongated apical region and the near-marginal position of Austria (Schlickum 1976 own data) has a smooth teleoconch which lacks the characteristic radial sculpture of *Ferrissia crenellata*. *F. truncata* Wautier, 1975 from the Late Miocene of France, differs in its slender shape, its strongly elongated apex (Wautier 1975). Distribution Only known from the early Middle Miocene of France, differs in its slender shape, its strongly elongated apex (Wautier 1975).

Superfamily Lymnaeoidea Rafinesque, 1815

Family Lymnaeidae Rafinesque, 1815

Genus *Stagnicola* Jeffreys, 1830

Type species: *Limnaeus communis* Jeffreys, 1830 (= *Buccinum palustre* Müller, 1774). Recent, Europe

*Stagnicola reinholdkunzi* Harzhauser and Neubauer nov. sp. (Fig. 5a–d)

1889 *Limnaeus* Hofmann Tausch: 158 (nomen nudum)

Material: Nine shells

Holotype: NHMW 2011/0021/0002, height: 14.7 mm, width: 7.8 mm, Fig. 5a

Paratype: NHMW 2011/0021/0003, height: 17.2 mm, width: 9.2 mm, Fig. 5b

Stratum typicum: lacustrine sand within gravel of the Feistring Formation

Type locality: Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47°30'13.05"N, 15°15'39.01"E

Age: Early Middle Miocene (Langhian; Badenian)

Name: in honour of Reinhold Kunz, an enthusiastic fossil collector in Vienna

**Description** A medium sized, drop-shaped lymnaeid of four to five teleoconch whorls consisting of moderately convex spire whorls, forming a spire angle of c. 60°. The convexity of the spire whorls increases during ontogeny and displays considerable intraspecific variability. The maximum convexity and diameter are usually situated close to the lower suture but may be shifted slightly upwards. Surface covered by narrow growth lines, which are most prominent on the base. Aperture moderately wide with maximum width in the lower third; attaining about three-fifths of the total shell height. Basal lip wide and slightly everted. Inner lip forming a narrow, glossy cover on the base; abapically slightly everted. Columella strongly twisted with fold-like swelling in the middle which grades into the basal lip. A shallow groove appears at the junction between the glossy cover of the base and the onset of the inner lip. A second, much weaker groove appears slightly below that point on the upper part of the inner lip. The columella and basal part of the inner lip form a straight line parallel to the shell's axis.

**Remarks** This species was already mentioned by Tausch (1889) as *Limnaeus Hofmanni* without providing any description or illustration. Two species from the coeval deposits of the DLS are reminiscent of the new species: *Stagnicola hyaloleuca* (Brusina, 1902) from the Middle Miocene of the Gacko Basin in Bosnia differs from *Stagnicola reinholdkunzi* in its strongly convex spire whorls and the much higher last whorl. *Stagnicola korlevici* (Brusina, 1884) from Mioč in Croatia is larger, develops

a narrower, less convex last whorl and has an oblique inner lip and columella whilst this part of the shell is parallel to the axis in *S. reinholdkunzi*.

The late Middle Miocene *Stagnicola armaniacensis* (Noulet, 1857) sensu Schlickum (1976) has a shorter spire and the inner and basal lips are less prominent. Moreover, its aperture is more elongate. All other specimens referred to this species, as illustrated in Sandberger (1870) and Kokay (2006), are considerably more slender and have a higher spire. In the same way, the high spired *Lymnaea turrita* (Klein, 1853) and *Stagnicola praebouilleti* Schlickum, 1970 allow a clear separation from *Stagnicola reinholdkunzi*. *Radix socialis* sensu Sandberger (1870) which is slightly reminiscent concerning its broad outline, lacks the columellar angulation between base and inner lip. The widespread Miocene *Radix dilatata* (Noulet, 1854) sensu Schlickum (1966, 1976) and Fischer (2000) differs clearly in its short but comparably narrow spire and the large ovoid last whorl. The straight basal part of the inner lip and the angulation between base and inner lip distinguish *Stagnicola reinholdkunzi* also from the various lymnaeids described by Klein (1847) from the Middle Miocene of Germany. *Stagnicola media* (Reuss, 1852), from the Early Miocene of Tuchejce in Czech Republic, which is much more slender and attains about double the height [note that *Stagnicola media* is identified as *S. concinnus* Reuss. on the plate but described as *medium* in Reuss (1852)]. There are also several fragments of *Radix* sp. which are not treated herein due to the insufficient material.

**Distribution** Only known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach.

Class Bivalvia Linnaeus, 1758

Superorder Heterodonta Neumayr, 1883

Order Venerida Gray, 1854

Superfamily Sphaerioidea Deshayes, 1855

Family Sphaeriidae Deshayes, 1855

Subfamily Pisidiinae Gray, 1857

Genus *Pisidium* Pfeiffer, 1821

Type species: *Tellina amnica* Müller, 1774. Recent, Northern Hemisphere

*Pisidium* cf. *casertanum* Poli, 1791. (Fig. 5e)

2006 *Pisidium pseudosphaerium* Schlesch, 1947 var. *n. sp.* Kokay: 97, pl. 38, Figs. 6D, 8, pl. 39, Figs. 1D, 6

Material: two specimens from Jauring section, Aßenz Basin; 47°30'13.05"N, 15°15'39.01"E

Measurements specimen 1: length: 2.4 mm, height: 2.0 mm, convexity: c. 0.5 mm, NHMW 2011/0021/0001, Fig. 5e; specimen 2: length: 2.5 mm, height: 2.2 mm, convexity: c. 0.6 mm

**Description** Only two right valves are preserved. The shell is roughly ovate and anteriorly extending. The umbo is broad and well rounded. The hinge plate is delicate and narrow. It bears a prominent but thin cardinal tooth (C3), which is sigmoidal shaped, where its oblique part points to the posterior end of the hinge plate. Furthermore, it is surrounded by two slight cavities (for the cardinal teeth C2 and C4 on the left valve) and produces a weak convexity on the ventral side of the hinge plate. The ligamental pit is long and slender and delimited ventrally by a thin fold, which also demarcates it from the cavity for the C4. The two posterior lateral teeth are slightly weaker than the anterior ones. Beneath the lateral teeth traces of muscle scars appear. The outer surface is covered with growth lines, which are rather thin and equally spaced. In late ontogenetic phases faint and irregular axial threads appear close to the margin within a narrow band of c. 150 µm.

**Remarks** We refrain from describing the specimens as new species due to the low number of available material. *Pisidium casertanum* Poli, 1791 is surprisingly similar in morphology, and we cannot separate the Miocene shells from the extant species based on the material available. This extant species is also described from the Late Miocene/Pliocene of Turkey (Becker-Platen and Kuiper 1979) and the Pliocene of West Germany (Kuiper 1972).

Some specimens from the Sarmatian of Hungary might be conspecific. Kay (2006) treated these as variations of the extant *Pisidium pseudosphaerium* Favre, 1927. Again, this identification is rather doubtful in respect to the huge stratigraphic gap between the Miocene and extant populations. Moreover, the Miocene shells differ from the extant species in their higher umbo and the conspicuously extended anterior part. The species from Jauring differs strongly from the Early/Middle Miocene DLS species *P. bellardii* Brusina, 1884, which is regularly rounded and has an elongated cardinal tooth and a very long and thin ligamental pit. The Late Miocene *P. krambergeri* Brusina, 1884 from the Zagreb area, can be distinguished by its larger size and its less elongate outline. Regarding general shape and dentition a quite similar species is extant *Hydaspicola* Theobald, 1878 from Kashmir region. It corresponds well in shape and proportions of the lateral teeth and the ligamental pit (Prasad 1925). However, the cardinal tooth is not sigmoidal but strongly angled. Also the ventral convexity is missing.

**Distribution** Known from the early Middle Miocene Lake Groisenbach and maybe also from the late Middle Miocene (Sarmatian) freshwater systems of Hungary.

**Discussion and conclusions**  
Twelve gastropod and two bivalve taxa are documented from the lower Middle Miocene Feistritz Formation in the

Alsenz Basin. Of these, 11 gastropod species represent new species, whilst only 1 species has also been recorded from other Miocene sections. Bivalves are recorded only by rare fragments of unidentified unionids and by two shells of *Pisidium* cf. *casertanum* Poli, 1791. The latter might also be present in other Middle Miocene lakes fringing the Paratethys Sea as suggested by specimens from the Sarmatian of Hungary.

**Ecology**  
All taxa are aquatic; terrestrial molluscs are missing in the assemblages. The two samples from the Jauring section are dominated in specimen numbers by hydrobiids. The rissoid genera of Lake Groisenbach are largely extinct except for *Emmericia*, which is bound to springs, lakes, rivers and even caves and subterranean rivulets (Scherer 2000, Gler 2002). All representatives of *Nematurella*, Romania and *Odontohydrobia* are also described so far from freshwater deposits or from strongly freshwater-influenced brackish settings (Jekeli 1944, Schlickum 1971; Kowalke and Reichenbacher 2005, Harzhauser and Mandic 2008). Pulmonates, such as *Stagnicola*, *Gyraulus*, *Planorbis*, *Ferrissia* and *Bulinus* are less frequent. All extant representatives of these genera are freshwater dwellers (Gler 2002). The preference of lymnaeids and *Gyraulus* for lentic waterbodies or only slowly flowing water suggests lacustrine conditions. Hence, lentic nearshore environments were already established in the Alsenz Basin during the formation of the Feistritz Fm., which was considered as mainly fluvial influenced by Sachsenhofer et al. (2003) based on sedimentological features.

In contrast, the sample from Pletschgraben displays few of these elements and comprises mainly *Theodoxus* and *Unio* along with less abundant *Bulinus*. *Theodoxus* known from freshwater or brackish environments and signals increased water energy (Peters 1984, Gler 2002, Plaziat and Younis 2005). This suggests agitated depositional settings of a river or rivulet for the sample from Pletschgraben. All data point to pure freshwater conditions. The influence of the Paratethys Sea, which caused brackish conditions in many intramontane basins from the Lavant Basin to the Fohnsdorf Basin (Sachsenhofer et al. 2003), did not reach Lake Groisenbach at that time.

**Palaeobiogeography**  
Our knowledge on Early and Middle Miocene European freshwater systems and their faunas is largely restricted to long-lived lake systems (Harzhauser and Mandic 2008). The most important and largest systems were the Early Miocene Rzehakia Lake System (RLS) in the Alpine-Carpathian Foredeep, the Early-Middle Miocene Dinaride

Lake System (DLS) in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lake Skopje (LSK) in Macedonia (see Harzhauser and Mandić 2008 for geographic and palaeontological data). In the east, the genus is represented during the Late Miocene by *Bulinus trojanus* (Neumayr, 1883), which is recorded from Behramkale in western Turkey. Today, assemblages, however, is zero. Smaller and short-lived but geographically much closer coeval lakes developed in the Mediterranean islands to Arabia and the Middle East but their aquatic mollusc fauna is has its centre of diversity in Africa, where it appeared at homogenous and dominated by planorbids and lymnaeids east 12 Ma ago (Brown 1994; Morgan et al. 2002; Nal- (Gobanz 1854; Unger 1858). Even these coeval lakes, which were situated only c. 50 km away, have no species in common with Lake Groisenbach.

The poor faunistic relation among all these lakes is also evident at the generic level. In its overall composition, the assemblage of Lake Groisenbach is slightly reminiscent of that of the older RLS, which comprises 39 species. Both are dominated by Rissooidea along with few planorbids and lymnaeids. The RLS Hydrobiidae are represented by *Nematurella* Sandberger, 1870, *Staliopsis* Rzehak, 1893, *Hydrobia* Hartmann, 1821 and *Ctyrobia* Schlickum, 1965. Of these, only *Nematurella* is also present in Lake Groisenbach. Moreover, *Bulinus*, *Odontohydrobia*, *Romania* and *Emmericia* are completely missing in the RLS. The more diverse DLS fauna, with c. 110 species, is strongly dominated by Hydrobiidae and Melanopsidae. Numerous species of *Melanopsis* Ferrussac, 1807, *Prososthenia* Neumayr, 1869 and *Fossarulus* Neumayr, 1869 characterise the assemblages but are completely missing from the intramontane Lake Groisenbach. This low faunistic relation is also surprising with respect to the fact that the DLS and Lake Groisenbach existed at the same time, and exchange, e.g. via birds, would have been easily possible. Similarly, the typical Pyrgulidae and Melanopsidae genera of the LKS are absent in the studied fauna. This pattern points to a high rate of endemism within the various intramontane lakes of the early Alps and to a strong biogeographic fragmentation of European freshwater systems. *Orithodoxus crenulatus* (Klein, 1853), probably a fluvial species, is also recorded from Early and Middle Miocene lakes, rivers and estuaries of Central Europe.

*Odontohydrobia* was suggested so far to have evolved in Lake Pannon during the Late Miocene. It is represented in Lake Groisenbach with at least three species and predates its Late Miocene congeners by c. 5 Ma. The stratigraphic gap is similar to that observed for the planorbids *Orygoceras* Brusina, 1882, which has its first occurrence in the DLS during the Middle Miocene and re-appears 5 Ma later in Lake Pannon (Harzhauser and Mandić 2008). Similarly, *Romania* was known so far only from Oligocene deposits. This lack of records indicates that several taxa persisted throughout the Miocene in still undetected lake systems.

The most outstanding taxon of Lake Groisenbach is *Bulinus*. *Bulinus* was unknown from the Central European

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