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SYNTHESE DES DONNEES ACTUELLES SUR LES VERTEBRES DE LA TRANSITION PALEOCENE-EOCENE DE DORMAAL (BELGIQUE).

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RESUME. La présente note fournit un historique des découvertes et travaux concernant les vertébrés fossiles de Dormaal (Brabant, Belgique). Une coupe de la dernière fouille entreprise à Dormaal en 1990 est présentée, ainsi qu'un aperçu stratigraphique du gisement tenant compte du nouveau classement lithostratigraphique du Paléogène en Belgique. La liste faunique des vertébrés est réactualisée et des perspectives paléocologiques et biostratigraphiques sont offertes par les nouvelles collections.

MOTS-CLES: Vertébrés, Transition Paléocène-Eocène, Belgique, Dormaal, Biostratigraphie.

ABSTRACT. The present paper summarises the history of fossil vertebrate discoveries and papers concerning the site of Dormaal (Brabant, Belgium). A section of the last excavation realised at Dormaal in 1990 is presented, as well as a stratigraphic evaluation of the site based on the latest lithostratigraphical classification of the Belgian Paleogene. The faunal list of the vertebrates is updated and the new collections open paleoecological and biostratigraphical views.

KEY-WORDS: Vertebrates, Paleocene-Eocene transition, Belgium, Dormaal, Biostratigraphy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Bien que les découvertes de vertébrés fossiles se soient succédées à Dormaal depuis la fin du siècle passé, il reste difficile d'avoir une vue d'ensemble de la faune de ce gisement. Cela est dû à l'éparpillement des collections et publications récentes. Pour cette raison, une synthèse des travaux antérieurs nous paraît indispensable, d'autant plus que des fouilles importantes ont été menées par l'un de nous (R.S.) en décembre 1989 et novembre 1990. L'étude du matériel provenant de ces fouilles est toujours en cours et les nouvelles données s'ajoutent progressivement à celles fournies par les collections existantes de l'Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique.

2. HISTORIQUE DES DECOUVERTES ET TRAVAUX

1883 : Le 7 juin, Rutot découvre le gravier et les premiers fossiles du gisement appelé à connaître une grande notoriété. Les fossiles découverts à Dormaal (Orsmael dans l'ancienne littérature) sont alors confiés à Dollo, du Musée royal d'Histoire naturelle de Bruxelles qui se rend à Reims, chez Lemoine. Considérant les fossiles belges et ceux des environs de Reims comme étant du même âge, ils les comparent et communiquent leurs résultats à Rutot.

1884 : Rutot et Van Den Broeck publient la coupe du gisement (Fig. 2) et la première «liste de vertébrés fossiles recueillis dans le gravier de l'assise supérieure de l'étage Landénien au Sud-Est d'Orsmael» :

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Mammifères : *Plesiadapis*, *Protoadapis*, *Decticadapis*, *Hyracotheryus*, *Pachynolophus Maldani*, *Protoproviverra* ?, petit mammifère inédit.

Reptiles : Crocodyliens, Varan, Chélonien (*Platemys*), Ophidien ?

Poissons : *Lamna elegans*, *Lamna cuspidata*, *Otodus rutoti*, *Otodus striatus*, *Lepidosteus*.

1902 : Leriche, dans son étude sur les poissons paléocènes de la Belgique, conclut que la faune ichthyologique du Landénien supérieur est essentiellement d'eau douce et que ses éléments peu nombreux sont déjà connus dans le Sparnacien du Bassin de Paris. Il s'agit de *Amia barroisi* LERICHE, 1902 et de *Lepisosteus suessionensis* GERVAIS, 1852.

1905 : Thevenin, du Muséum de Paris, entreprend une révision de la faune de Dormaal. Par la présence d'une dent de *Phenacodus* il conclut à l'existence de la faune de Puerco du Nouveau Mexique (USA), en Belgique (Teilhard de Chardin, 1921, 1927).

1921 : Teilhard de Chardin et Fraipont signalent à nouveau qu'une dent de *Phenacodus* est connue de Dormaal. C'est l'importance de la découverte de cette dent et les sollicitations de ses collègues étrangers qui poussent Dollo à entreprendre de nouvelles fouilles, en 1923 et 1924.

1923 : Dollo publie une brève description d'un varanidé nouveau: *Saniwa orsmaelensis*. Il souligne également les affinités des formes de Dormaal avec les formes américaines.

1924 : Dollo et Teilhard de Chardin annoncent la Monographie sur les mammifères paléocènes de la Belgique et donnent une liste faunique. Le Musée de Bruxelles possède plus de mille dents de mammifères de Dormaal.

1925 : Teilhard de Chardin présente une liste plus précise des espèces de mammifères nouvellement reconnues à Dormaal. Sa conclusion est que ses observations nouvelles accentuent encore le caractère sparnacien de la faune de Dormaal. Dans le matériel récolté, continuent à manquer des types vraiment archaïques du Thanétien et des types nettement évolués du Cuisien. Enfin les ressemblances avec la faune du Wasatch (Sparnacien) américain vont en se confirmant.

1926 : Teilhard de Chardin annonce que Dollo et Van Straelen lui ont confié un certain nombre de fossiles nouveaux du Tertiaire de Belgique. Parmi les fossiles de Dormaal, il reconnaît : *Adapisoriculus minimus*, *Adapisorex*, *Omomys* ?, une forme proche d'*Heterohyus*, *Plesiadapis* ? et une forme naine d'hyracoïde pour laquelle il faut créer un genre nouveau.

1927 : Teilhard de Chardin publie son mémoire sur les mammifères de l'Eocène inférieur de Belgique dans lequel il reconnaît au moins quatorze genres provenant de Dormaal.

1927-1928 : Les fouilles du Musée de Bruxelles reprennent.

1928 : Teilhard de Chardin figure quelques pièces nouvelles. Parmi elles, une molaire supérieure rapportée à *Adapisoriculus minimus*, une incisive rapportée à *Plesiadapis* sp. ainsi qu'une molaire inférieure de *Dissacus* sp.

1929 : Simpson publie un résumé d'une première révision des faunes du Paléocène et de l'Eocène inférieur d'Europe afin de les comparer à celles des États-Unis. Il reprend, pour Dormaal, la liste faunique de Teilhard de Chardin et propose le remplacement de *Phenacodus europaeus* TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927, non *P. europaeus* RUTIMEYER, 1888, par *Phenacodus teilhardi*.

1949-1956 : Une nouvelle campagne de fouilles est organisée par l'Institut royal des Sciences naturelles. Elle est dirigée par Casier et Misonne.

1962 : Hecht et Hoffstetter publient une note préliminaire sur les Amphibiens et les Squamates. Ils soulignent la présence des genres nord-américains *Tinosaurus* et *Saniwa* et s'étonnent de l'absence de *Placosaurus* (? = *Glyptosaurus*). La faune de Dormaal contient un genre particulier proche de *Melanosaurus*, déjà signalé par Hoffstetter (1962). Elle ne contient pas d'anguidés apodes ni de geckonidés. Les plus anciens représentants européens des amphibéniens et des anilidés ainsi que le premier scolécophidien antémiocène sont également présents à Dormaal.

1964-1965 : De nouvelles fouilles sont entreprises à Dormaal. C'est à ces fouilles que Wouters participe activement.

1964 : Quinet revoit plusieurs taxons de mammifères et avance dix-huit espèces nouvelles, en plus de quelques genres nouveaux; mais pour la plupart il s'agit de *nomina nuda*. Sept figures illustrent la publication de cette nouvelle faune.

1966 : Quinet commente la position systématique de *Teilhardina belgica*. La même année, il donne la formule dentaire de deux taxons qu'il considère comme des Primates: *Dormaalius vandebroeki* et *Teilhardina belgica* (QUINET, 1966b). Dans son mémoire sur les Carnivores de Dormaal, Quinet (1966c) décrit: *Landenodon woutersi*, *L. luciani*, *Chriacus europaeus* (?), *Arctocyoniidae incertae sedis*, *Oxyaena* (?) *casieri*, *Proviverrinae incertae sedis* Cat. I-V, *Miacis latouri*, *Miacinae incertae sedis*.

1967 : Casier publie la faune ichthyologique de Dormaal; il reconnaît trente-huit espèces de poissons. de Heinzelin y présente également l'étude stratigraphique et la coupe du gisement (Fig. 3).

1969 : Quinet publie un second mémoire sur les mammifères de Dormaal et donne une liste systématique de trente taxons comprenant trois nouveaux genres et vingt-deux nouvelles espèces, parmi lesquelles huit espèces de *Paramys*.

1971 : Van Valen (p. 524) attribue au genre *Diacodexis* la dent figurée par Teilhard de Chardin (1927) sous le nom de ? *Protodichobune*.

1978 : Van Valen inclut *Landenodon* (QUINET, 1966) dans le genre *Prothryptacodon* (SIMPSON, 1935). Ainsi, il considère *Landenodon woutersi*, *L. luciani* et *Chriacus europaeus* (?) comme synonymes de *Prothryptacodon europaeus* (QUINET, 1966).

M. Godinot *et al.* publient une liste réactualisée de la faune de Dormaal. Les nouvelles collections provenant de fouilles privées de Wouters, Gigase et Crochard-Girardot-Herman, qui s'ajoutent au matériel récolté par l'Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, permettent de réviser et de compléter les travaux antérieurs. En ce qui concerne les mammifères, les trente taxa de QUINET (1969) sont ramenés à vingt-cinq.

1979 : Russell *et al.* décrivent *Apatemys teilhardi* n. sp. à côté de *Eochiromys landenensis* et d'un *Apatemys* sp.

Crochet introduit la nouvelle espèce *Amphiperatherium brabantense*. Il considère *Peratherium dormaalense* QUINET, 1964 comme *nomen nudum* au titre de l'article 18a du Code International de Nomenclature Zoologique.

1980 : Crochet décrit et figure plusieurs spécimens de *Amphiperatherium brabantense*. Plusieurs positions de dents supérieures et inférieures de *Peratherium constans* TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927 sont figurées et décrites en détails.

1980 : Godinot retient le genre *Landenodon* comme un genre valable et démontre qu'il n'y a qu'une seule espèce présente à Dormaal: *L. woutersi* QUINET, 1966. Cette espèce présente une forte variabilité morphologique dentaire. *Arctocyoniidae incertae sedis* est reconnu comme DP/4 de *Landenodon woutersi*; et *Oxyaenoidea* (?) *incertae sedis* comme P4/.

1981 : Denys et Russell, dans leur étude sur la variabilité dentaire de *Paschatherium*, indique qu'il n'y a, à Dormaal, qu'une seule espèce de ce genre: *P. dolloi* (TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927).

1982 : Lange-Badré et Godinot décrivent une nouvelle espèce de Créodonte présente à Dormaal: *Arfia woutersi*.

1983 : Sudre *et al.* figurent et commentent un *Diacodexis* sp. de Dormaal.

1985 : Buffetaut décrit les Crocodyliens suivants de Dormaal: *Allognathosuchus woutersi* n. sp., *Diplocynodon* sp., *Asiatosuchus* sp., crocodylien ziphodonté indéterminé.

1987 : Lors du «Symposium International sur la Biostratigraphie des Mammifères et la Paléocologie du Paléogène Européen», à Mainz (SCHMIDT-KITTLER, 1987), Dormaal est désigné comme localité de référence européenne pour le niveau-repère MP7 (MP=Mammal Paleogene), situé à la base de l'Eocène inférieur.

Lange-Badré décrit un nouveau Créodonte de la faune de Dormaal: *Dormalodon woutersi*. D'après elle, *Palaeonictis gigantea* est présent à Dormaal sous le nom de *Oxyaena* (?) *casieri* QUINET, 1966.

1989 : Gingerich, décrit une nouvelle faune du Wasatchien inférieur et y présente une nouvelle espèce de Créodonte: *Arfia junnei*. Dans la discussion de cette espèce, il relève que les spécimens figurés par Lange-Badré et Godinot (1982) représentent probablement trois taxons différents: *Arfia woutersi*, *A. junnei* et peut-être un troisième taxon. *Miacis latouri* QUINET, 1966 est comparé à *M. tenuis* (ZHEN *et al.*, 1975) et à *M. winkleri* GINGERICH, 1983.

1989-1990 : R. Smith entreprend de nouvelles fouilles à Dormaal (coupe Fig. 4).

1990 : Augé décrit et figure des Reptiles de Dormaal dont les Lacertilia et Amphisbènes suivants: *Saniwa orsmaelensis* DOLLO, 1923, *Necrosaurus* sp., *Geiselaliellus* sp., *Plesiolacerta* sp., cordylidé ind., Melanosaurini ind., glyptosauriné ind., anguiné ind.

1991 : Hooker revoit la succession mammalienne des bassins de Londres et de Belgique à travers les dépôts stratotypes du Thanétien et de l'Yprésien précoce et leurs équivalents avoisinants. Il conclue que la limite Paléocène-Eocène pourrait se situer entre les niveaux-repères MP7 de Dormaal et MP8-9 d'Avenay ou dans le niveau MP8-9 précoce.

1992 : Augé décrit *Campinosaurus woutersi*, un nouvel Anguimorphe (Lacertilia) de Dormaal.

1994 : Hooker décrit une nouvelle espèce de Plesiadapidae: *Platychoerops georgei*. Une dent de Dormaal fait partie des spécimens référés à cette espèce. Dans un autre ouvrage, consacré à la radiation des équoides primitifs, Hooker (1994b) décrit la nouvelle espèce *Hallensia louisii*, également présente à Dormaal.

1995 : T. Smith et R. Smith démontrent la synonymie entre le genre *Dormaalius* et le genre *Macrocranion*. Augé décrit un lacertilien helodermatidé de Dormaal.

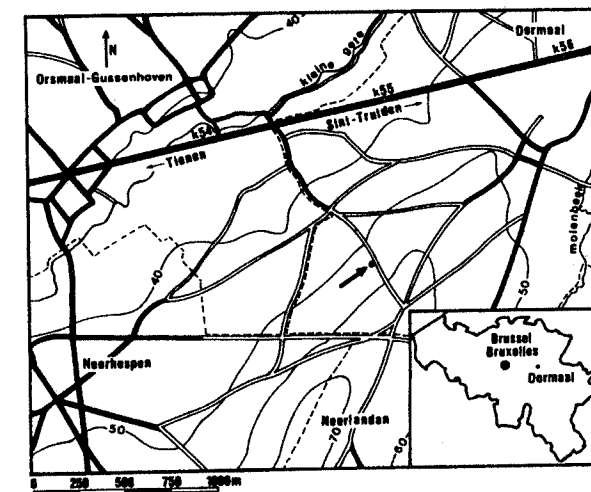
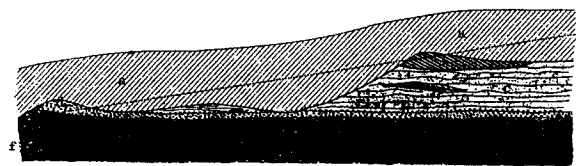


Figure 1. Localisation géographique du gisement de Dormaal.

3. SITUATION GEOGRAPHIQUE DU GISEMENT

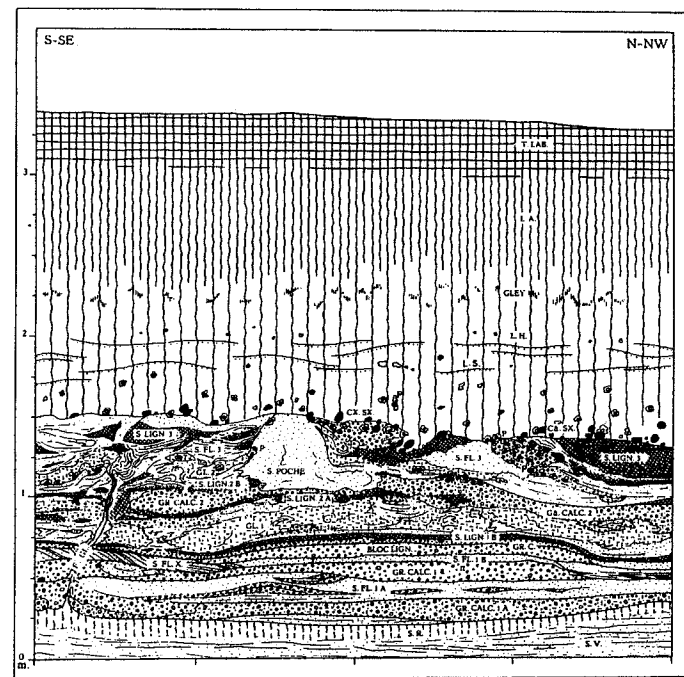
Dormaal est situé au nord de Landen en Hesbaye (Brabant flamand), sur la route (N3) de Tienen (Tirlemont) à Sint-Truiden (Saint-Trond). Bien que le gisement se trouve sur le territoire de la commune de Dormaal, il est relativement proche d'Orsmael, d'où la confusion des anciens auteurs quant à la localisation précise du site. Celui-ci se trouve le long d'un chemin, à environ 900 m au sud de la borne kilométrique 55 (k55). Il est représenté par une flèche sur la Figure 1 et correspond à l'altitude de 53 m. Les coordonnées Lambert sont: x= 200.100, y= 165.425 sur la carte topographique 33/5-6 à 1:25 000 (Landen - Sint-Truiden).

Coupe du chemin creux au Sud-Est d'Orsmael.



- a. Limon hesbayen. 3 à 6m,00
- b. Lentille de marne blanche 0 à 1m,10
- c. Sables stratifiés plus ou moins gros, pointillés, plus ou moins argileux et ligniteux 0 à 4m,00
- d. Gravier fossilifère 0m,60
- e. Sable fin, glauconifère 1m,20
- f. Psammite gris-vertâtre, glauconifère, tendre, percé sur. 0m,30

Figure 2. Coupe du gisement lors de la première fouille effectuée par A. Rutot en 1883.



4. STRATIGRAPHIE

4.1. LA COUPE

Directement sous le limon pléistocène (environ 2.5 m), apparaît la couche fossilifère du Membre de Dormaal sur une épaisseur variant de quelques cm à 1 m. Cette couche est constituée d'un complexe de gravier calcaire, de sable moyen à grossier mal calibré et de lentilles marmeuses. Sous-jacent à cette couche, se trouve un sable vert glauconifère caractéristique du Landénien marin (Membre de Grandglise). Une première coupe (Figure 2) a été établie par Rutot (dans Rutot & Van Den Broeck, 1884). Une seconde coupe plus détaillée (Figure 3) de de Heinzelin est figurée par Casier (1967).

La nouvelle coupe (Planche 1) montre une zone qui met particulièrement bien en évidence l'alternance des dépôts. Cette zone est représentée schématiquement à la Figure 4. Les échantillons de sédiments fossilifères (vingt-quatre tonnes) ont été prélevés suivant quatre niveaux appelés: DI, DIIA, DIIC et DIII. Des concrétions gréseuses ont été trouvées dans les niveaux DI et DIIC et du bois silicifié dans le niveau DIII. Les sables noirâtres doivent leur couleur aux oxydes de fer qu'ils contiennent.

4.2. SEDIMENTOLOGIE

En ce qui concerne les conditions de dépôt, selon de Heinzelin (dans Casier, 1967) il s'agit de cycles mineurs de sédimentation en régime fluvial. Les couches de gravier à la base proviendraient d'un

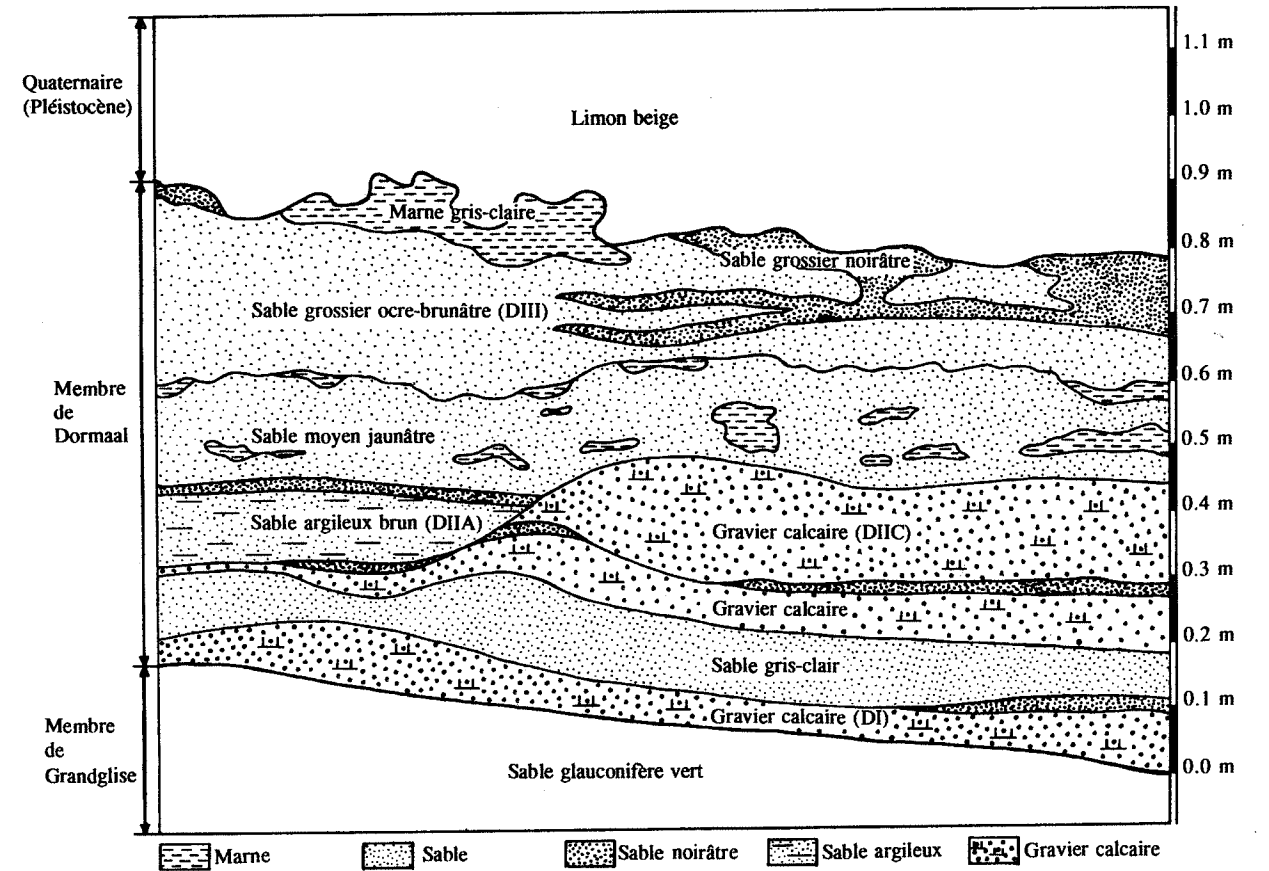


Figure 4. Représentation schématique de la coupe (partie encadrée de la Planche 1) montrant la succession des dépôts alternants.

courant très rapide, exerçant une traction sur le fond et des érosions locales. Le sable fluvial caractériserait un courant rapide dans un fleuve sableux. Les bancs de marne correspondraient à un régime plus tranquille. Aucun témoignage de l'influence des marées n'est retrouvé, il semble donc que la côte était assez éloignée vers le Nord ou le Nord-Ouest. Il s'agit de dépôts «d'atterrissements» d'un grand fleuve car les dépôts de courant lent et rapide alternent: méandres et chenaux recoupés. Aucun hiatus important n'est visible dans le paquet de sédiments landéniens lui-même. Géologiquement parlant, tout le dépôt du Membre de Dormaal a pu se faire assez rapidement.

4.3. CONSIDERATIONS LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIQUES ET CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHIQUES

Le terme Landénien a été introduit par Dumont (1839) pour définir des dépôts continentaux de sables et lignites de Landen. Plus tard, le Landénien (s.l.) fut subdivisé en Yprésien, Landénien (s.s.) et Heersien (Dumont, 1849, 1851). Sur l'ancienne carte géologique de la Belgique (1:40 000) on cartographiait les unités lithologiques (sables, argiles, marnes,...) mais on utilisait des termes chronostratigraphiques (Landénien-L1c). La nouvelle carte géologique ne

comporte actuellement plus qu'une terminologie purement lithostratigraphique.

Dans la récente révision de la géologie de la Campine (Wouters & Vandenberghe, 1994), Dormaal est présenté comme un des quatre membres de la Formation de Tirlemont. Les autres membres étant ceux d'Erquelines, de Loksbergen et de Knokke. La Formation de Tirlemont correspond au Landénien supérieur (continental) et est symbolisée par L2 sur la nouvelle carte géologique. Une autre formation, celle de Hannut, groupe les Membres de Lincent, de Chercq, de Waterschei, de Halen et de Grandglise. Cette seconde formation, qui correspond au Landénien inférieur (marin), est symbolisée par L1 sur la carte géologique. Ces deux formations sont rassemblées en une unité lithostratigraphique: le Groupe de Landen.

Traditionnellement, le Landénien continental est placé dans le Thanétien supérieur (Paléocène terminal). Selon la théorie classique on considère que le dépôt s'est fait pendant la régression marine, dernière phase du cycle landénien (Leriche, 1929, Casier, 1967, Quinet, 1969). Le premier à proposer une origine transgressive des dépôts du Landénien continental est Kaasschieter (1961).

La théorie moderne, basée sur la stratigraphie séquentielle (c'est-à-dire l'analyse stratigraphique d'en-

sembles sédimentaires limités par des discordances), indique que la base érosive omniprésente de la partie continentale du Groupe de Landen s'est formée pendant une période caractérisée par un niveau marin bas et probablement en conjonction avec un soulèvement tectonique local du Massif du Brabant. En raison de cette régression rapide, le plateau continental fut émergé et des chenaux furent creusés dans les dépôts marins du Groupe de Landen. Au cours de la transgression qui suivit, ces chenaux furent remplis par des dépôts fluviaux ou, plus près de la mer, par des dépôts lagunaires (Wouters & Vandenberghe, 1994, Vandenberghe *et al.*, sous presse).

Un programme de recherche international sur la révision de la limite Paléocène-Eocène est terminé (IGCP n° 308), cependant la limite doit encore être définie.

TAXONS

CHONDRICHTHYES

Carcharhiniformes

Carcharhinidae

- Abdounia minutissima* (WINKLER, 1873)
Palaeogaleus vincenti (DAIMERIES, 1888)
Physogaleus secundus (WINKLER, 1874)

Scyliorhinidae

- Scyliorhinus gilberti* CASIER, 1946

Triakidae

- Pachygaleus lefevrei* (DAIMERIES, 1891)

Chimaeriformes

Rhinochimaeridae

- Elasmodus hunteri* EGERTON, 1843
 Chimeridé ind.

Galeomorphii incertae ordinis

Palaeospinacidae

- Paraorthacodus eocaenus* (LERICHE, 1902)

Heterodontiformes

Heterodontidae

- Heterodontus lerichei* CASIER, 1943

Hexanchiformes

Hexanchidae

- Notidanodon loozi* (VINCENT, 1876)

Lamniformes

Alopiidae

- Alopias* sp.
Anomotodon novus (WINKLER, 1874)

Odontaspidae

- Carcharias hopei* (AGASSIZ, 1843)
Odontaspis winkleri LERICHE, 1905
Palaeohypotodus rutoti (WINKLER, 1874)
Striatolamia striata (WINKLER, 1874)

Otodontidae

- Otodus obliquus* AGASSIZ, 1843

Myliobatiformes

Dasyatidae

- Hypolophodon sylvestris* (WHITE, 1931)

L'échelle stratigraphique du Paléogène en Belgique est basée sur la succession des couches marines et donc l'insertion de couches continentales (comme celle de Dormaal) dans cette échelle reste encore à préciser.

5. LA FAUNE

La composition de la faune des vertébrés présentée ici est réactualisée sur base de la dernière révision concernant les amphibiens, reptiles et mammifères de Dormaal (Godinot *et al.*, 1978) ainsi que la faune ichthyologique (Casier, 1967) complétées par tous les travaux plus récents décrivant de nouveaux taxons ou établissant des synonymies.

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 Hovestadt *et al.* (1983)
 Casier (1967)
 Nolf (1988)
 Ward (1988)
 Nolf (1988)
 Nolf (1988)
 Nolf (1988)
 Nolf (1988)
 Nolf (1988)
 Nolf (1988)

Myliobatidae

- Myliobatis dixonii* AGASSIZ, 1843

Nolf (1988)

Rajiformes

Rhinobatidae

- Rhinobatos bruxelliensis* (JAEKEL, 1894)

Nolf (1988)

Squaliformes

Squalidae

- Squalus minor* (DAIMERIES, 1888)
Megasqualus orpiensis (WINKLER, 1874)

Nolf (1988)

Nolf (1988)

Squatiformes

Squatinae

- Squatina prima* (WINKLER, 1874)

Nolf (1988)

OSTEICHTHYES

Amiiformes

Amiidae

- Amia barroisi* LERICHE, 1902

Gaudant (1981)

Elopiformes

Albulidae

- Albula oweni* (OWEN, 1845)

Cappetta (1975)

Phyllodontidae

- Egertonia* sp.
Phyllodus centralis CASIER, 1967
Phyllodus sp.

Casier (1967)

Casier (1967)

Casier (1967)

Lepisosteiformes

Lepisosteidae

- Lepisosteus fimbriatus* WOOD, 1846

Wiley (1976)

Perciformes

Palaeolabridae

- Palaeolabrus dormaalensis* (CASIER, 1967)

Tracey (1986)

Percichthyidae?

- Prolates? dormaalensis* CASIER, 1967

Gaudant (1981)

Sciaenidae

- Diaphyodus* sp.

Casier (1967)

Scombridae

- Scombridé ind.

Casier (1967)

Trichiuridae

- Eutrichiurus orpiensis* (LERICHE, 1906)
Trichiurus gulincki CASIER, 1967

Gamble (1985)

Casier (1967)

AMPHIBIA

Anura

Discoglossidae

- Discoglossidé ind.

Russell, Bonde *et al.* (1982)

Palaeobatrachidae

- Palaeobatrachidé ind.

Russell, Bonde *et al.* (1982)

Caudata

Salamandridae

- Koaliella* sp.
 cf. *Salamandra*
 cf. *Triturus*

Russell, Bonde *et al.* (1982)

Russell, Bonde *et al.* (1982)

Russell, Bonde *et al.* (1982)

REPTILIA

Chelonia

Pelomedusidae

- Neochelys* sp.

Russell, Bonde *et al.* (1982)

Emydidae		
<i>Palaeochelys</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Pleurosternidae?		
<i>Compsemys</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Trionychidae		
<i>Trionyx</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Crocodylia		
Alligatoridae		
<i>Allognathosuchus woutersi</i> BUFFETAUT, 1985		
<i>Diplocynodon</i> sp.		Buffetaut (1985)
Crocodylidae		
<i>Asiatosuchus</i> sp.		Buffetaut (1985)
Crocodylien ziphodonte ind.		Buffetaut (1985)
Squamata		
Agamidae		
<i>Tinosaurus</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Amphisbaenidae		
Amphisbaenidé ind.		Augé (1990)
Anguillidae		
Anguiné ind.		Augé (1990)
Glyptosauriné ind.		Augé (1990)
Melanosaurini ind.		Augé (1990)
Boidae		
<i>Calamagras gallicus</i> RAGE, 1977		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
<i>Dunnophis</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
cf. <i>Paleryx</i>		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Boiné ind.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Cordylidae		
Cordylidé ind.		Augé (1990)
? Dorsetisauridae		
<i>Campinosaurus woutersi</i> AUGE, 1992		Augé (1992)
Helodermatidae		
Helodermatidé ind.		Augé (1995)
Iguanidae		
<i>Geiseltaliellus</i> sp.		Augé (1990)
Lacertidae		
<i>Plesiolacerta</i> sp.		Augé (1990)
Necrosauridae		
<i>Necrosaurus</i> sp.		Augé (1990)
Palaeopheididae		
<i>Palaeophis</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Russellopheididae		
<i>Russellophis</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Varanidae		
<i>Saniwa orsmaelensis</i> DOLLO, 1923		Augé (1990)
MAMMALIA		
Apatotheria		
Apatemyidae		
<i>Eochiromys landenensis</i> TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927		Russell <i>et al.</i> (1979)
<i>Apatemys teilhardi</i> RUSSELL <i>et al.</i> , 1979		
<i>Apatemys</i> sp.		Godinot <i>et al.</i> (1978)
Arctocyonia		
Arctocyonidae		
<i>Landenodon woutersi</i> QUINET, 1966		Godinot (1980)
Artiodactyla		
Dichobunidae		
<i>Diacodexis</i> sp.		Sudre <i>et al.</i> (1983)

Carnivora

Miacidae		
<i>Miacis latouri</i> QUINET, 1966		Gingerich (1989)
Miacidé ind.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Condylarthra		
Phenacodontidae		
<i>Phenacodus teilhardi</i> (TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927)		Simpson (1929)
Hyopsodontidae		
<i>Paschatherium dolloi</i> (TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927)		Denys & Russell (1981)
<i>Microhyus musculus</i> TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927		
Creodonta		
Hyaenodontidae		
<i>Arfia junnei</i> GINGERICH, 1989		
« <i>Arfia</i> » <i>woutersi</i> LANGE-BADRE & GODINOT 1982		Gingerich (1989)
<i>Prolimnocyon</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
cf. <i>Prototomus</i> ou <i>Proviverra</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Oxyaenidae		
<i>Dormaalodon woutersi</i> LANGE-BADRE, 1987		
<i>Palaeonictis gigantea</i> DE BLAINVILLE, 1842		Lange-Badré (1987)
<i>Palaeonictis</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Lipotyphla		
Amphilemuridae		
<i>Macrocranium vandebroeki</i> (QUINET, 1964)		Smith & Smith (1995)
Nyctitheriidae?		
« <i>Gypsonictops</i> » <i>dormaalensis</i> QUINET, 1969		Godinot <i>et al.</i> (1978)
<i>Nycticonodon casieri</i> QUINET, 1964		
<i>Nycticonodon caparti</i> QUINET, 1964		
Marsupialia		
Didelphidae		
<i>Peratherium constans</i> TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927		Crochet (1980)
<i>Amphiperatherium brabantense</i> CROCHET, 1979		
Perissodactyla		
<i>Hallensia lœnisi</i> HOOKER, 1994		
«Paraprimates» (ordre incertain)		
Plesiadapidae		
<i>Platychoerops georgei</i> HOOKER, 1994		
Primates		
Omomyidae		
<i>Teilhardina belgica</i> (TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927)		Quinet (1966b)
Proteutheria		
Pantolestidae		
<i>Palaeosinopa</i> sp.		Russell, Bonde <i>et al.</i> (1982)
Rodentia		
Ischyromyidae		
<i>Microparamys nanus</i> (TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, 1927)		Michaux (1968)
<i>Paramys</i> cf. <i>woodi</i>		Godinot <i>et al.</i> (1978)
<i>Paramys</i> cf. <i>pourcyensis</i>		Godinot <i>et al.</i> (1978)
<i>Pseudoparamys teilhardi</i> MICHAUX, 1964		

6. PERSPECTIVES OFFERTES PAR LES NOUVELLES COLLECTIONS

La liste des vertébrés de Dormaal s'est considérablement étoffée depuis sa dernière révision (Godinot *et al.*, 1978), mais elle reste fort incomplète en ce qui concerne les mammifères. L'inventaire de cette faune apporte déjà quelques informations paléocécologiques et une contribution modeste et préliminaire quant aux corrélations biostratigraphiques.

Il semble que dans les dépôts du Membre de Dormaal se retrouvent au moins trois faunes d'origines différentes :

1. une faune marine remaniée du Landénien marin (poissons marins)
2. une faune dulçaquicole autochtone (poissons d'eau douce, amphibiens, reptiles aquatiques)
3. une faune terrestre probablement allochtone (reptiles terrestres et mammifères)

Si la première faune est décrite comme appartenant au Paléocène terminal (Casier, 1967), la deuxième est corrélée avec les faunes de l'Eocène inférieur d'Amérique du Nord (Buffetaut, 1985) et de France (Russell, Bonde *et al.*, 1982). Quant à la troisième, celle des squamates et mammifères, elle semble plutôt éocène (Godinot *et al.*, 1978, Sudre *et al.*, 1983, Lange-Badré, 1987, Augé, 1990). Cependant, certains taxons appartiennent à des genres persistants du Paléocène et le Membre de Dormaal est actuellement situé au sommet du Thanétien supérieur. Lors de la transition Paléocène-Eocène, plusieurs groupes nouveaux de mammifères sont apparus, d'autres ont effectué des migrations et la plupart ont subi une évolution rapide. Celle-ci a d'importantes répercussions biostratigraphiques. C'est pourquoi la comparaison de la faune belge avec les nouvelles faunes de l'Eocène inférieur précoce d'Amérique du Nord (Wasatch 0) et celles des gisements français (Fordonnes) et Portugais (Silveirhina) est très prometteuse. Un nombre élevé de taxons présents dans ces faunes ne se retrouvent pas à Dormaal. Or, l'hypothèse d'un triage granulométrique favorisant la sédimentation des petits spécimens ne paraît pas suffisante pour justifier cette absence. L'apport du nouveau matériel (collection R.S.), récolté par des techniques plus fines (tamisage jusqu'à des mailles de 0.8 mm, dissolution des sédiments à l'acide et dispersion au pétrole, séparation par gradient de densité au bromoforme...) semble indiquer une plus grande diversité des très petites espèces. Le matériel total est considérablement augmenté, surtout en ce qui concerne les petites dents, mais vu l'ampleur des prélèvements, il fournit également des données complémentaires concernant les grandes espèces, nettement plus rares à Dormaal.

Une étude des mammifères de Dormaal est en cours. Celle-ci porte sur les collections de l'Institut royal des

Sciences naturelles de Belgique et la collection privée R. Smith et a déjà permis de dégager les points qui suivent. Elle a débuté par la révision des insectivores, dans laquelle *Dormaalius* a été mis en synonymie avec *Macrocranion*. *Nycticonodon* paraît composé de deux genres distincts. Le matériel attribué à tort à *Gypsonyctops* semble bien s'intégrer dans un des genres du dit *Nycticonodon*. D'autres insectivores nouveaux seront décrits. Une nouvelle espèce sera définie pour l'artiodactyle *Diacodexis* (à paraître). *Eochiromys*, présent uniquement à Dormaal, est peut-être synonyme d'*Apatemys*. Les carnivores, créodontes et rongeurs seront également revus. Le nombre de taxons composant ces groupes sera probablement augmenté du fait de leur apparente diversification à Dormaal.

Une étude micropaléontologique et isotopique des échantillons de sédiments prélevés lors des nouvelles fouilles est en cours et les niveaux DI, DIIA, DIIC et DIII distingués apporteront probablement des renseignements sur la stratigraphie fine du gisement (Fig. 4). L'analyse des fréquences spécifiques selon ces quatre niveaux dont la granularité va du sable argileux jusqu'au gravier rendra compte de l'importance à attribuer au triage granulométrique.

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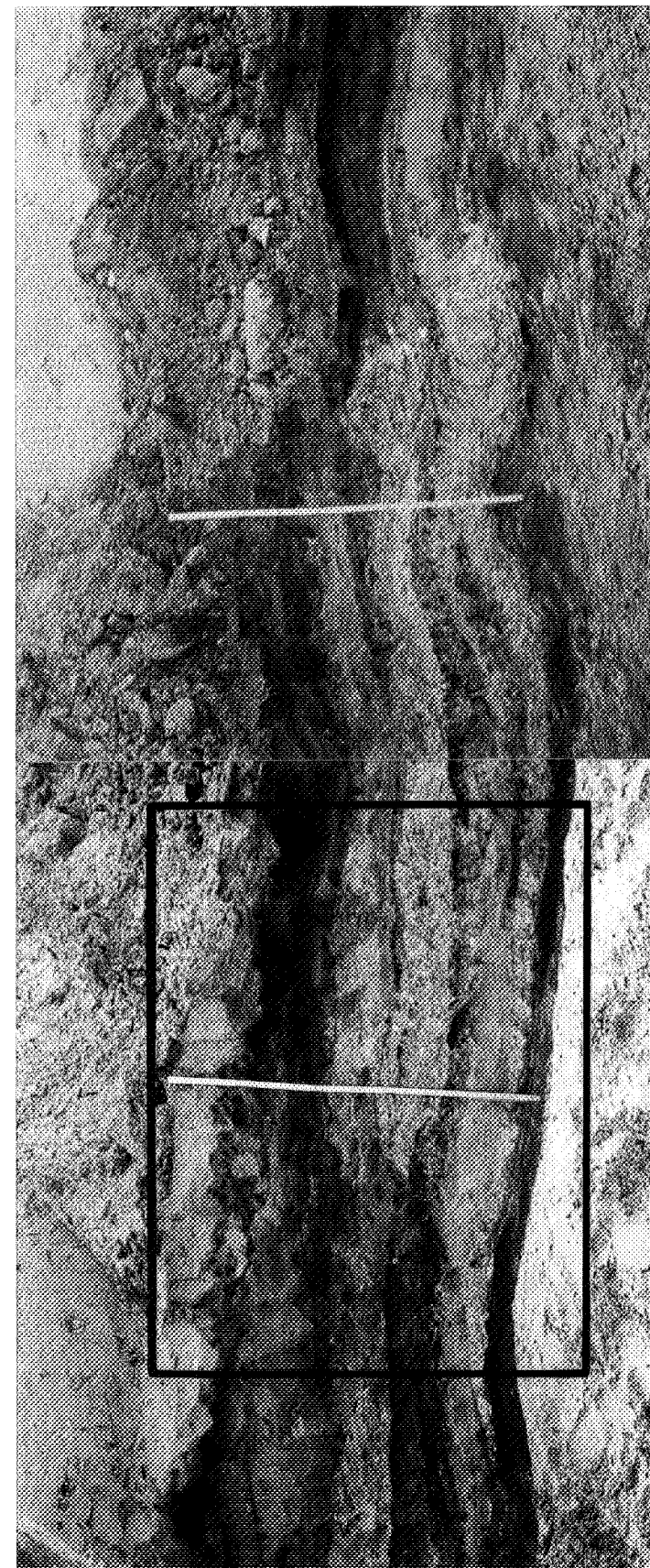


PLANCHE I.

Photographie de la coupe effectuée lors des fouilles en 1990.

LITHOSTRATIGRAPHY OF THE VLIERZELE FORMATION (YPRESIAN, NW BELGIUM).

Bart FOBE¹

SUMMARY. A complete section of the redefined Vlierzele Formation in northern Belgium consists of 5 units : the Hijfte Member (coarse sand), the Lochristi Member (clayey sand), the Oosterzele Member (sand), the Beernem Member (sandy clay, sand with clay layers, sandstone beds, shellbeds) and on top the Drongengoed Member (sand). The Formation is only complete in boreholes in the north of the country. The Drongengoed Member is missing in the outcrop area.

The original type section of the «Vlierzele sands» (Kaasschieter, 1961) and many other sandpits (including the Aalterbrugge lignitic Bed) in the outcrop area southeast of Gent only expose the Oosterzele Member. The underlying Lochristi Member corresponds to the clayey sediments under the extracted sands and often described as the transition zone between the Vlierzele sand Member and the Pittem sandy clay Member.

The limit between the «Vlierzele sands» and the Pittem clay is not a gradual transition but a sharp contact at the base of the Hijfte Member.

The Beernem member of the Knesselare Formation (*sensu* Jacobs & Geets, 1977) is actually part of the Vlierzele Formation. In complete sections in northern Belgium, it occurs in the middle of the formation. In or close to the outcrop area near Brugge and southeast of Gent, where the Drongengoed member is missing, it is encountered as the youngest part of the Vlierzele Formation.

KEYWORDS: Ypresian, Vlierzele Formation, lithostratigraphy, correlations.

SAMENVATTING. De volledige sequentie van de Formatie van Vlierzele in het noorden van België bestaat uit 5 leden : het Lid van Hijfte (grof zand), het Lid van Lochristi (kleiig zand), het Lid van Oosterzele (zand), het Lid van Beernem (zandige klei, zand met kleilagen, zandsteenbanken, schelplagen) en bovenaan het Lid van Drongengoed (zand). De complete sequentie van de Formatie is enkel aangetroffen in boringen in het noorden van het land. Het Lid van Drongengoed ontbreekt in het ontsluitingsgebied.

De oorspronkelijke typesectie van de «zanden van Vlierzele» (Kaasschieter, 1961) en de ontsloten sectie in vele andere zandgroeven in het ontsluitingsgebied ten zuidoosten van Gent tonen enkel het Lid van Oosterzele. Het onderliggende Lid van Lochristi vormt een laag kleiig zand onder de ontgonnen zone en stemt overeen met wat gewoonlijk beschreven wordt als de graduele overgang tussen het «zand van Vlierzele» en de «zandige klei van Pittem». Tussen het Lid van Lochristi en het Lid van Pittem bevindt zich echter nog een laag middelmatig fijn zand met een grove basis, het Lid van Hijfte, dat onderaan scherp begrensd wordt.

Het Lid van Beernem van de Formatie van Knesselare (Jacobs & Geets, 1977) maakt in feite deel uit van de Formatie van Vlierzele. In complete secties in noord België, wordt het midden in de Formatie van Vlierzele aangetroffen, onder het Lid van Drongengoed. Het plaatselijk lignietrijke Lid van Oosterzele (het zgn Aalterbrugge facies) werd er ten onrechte als het einde van de Ieperiaanse cyclus beschouwd. Het Lid van Beernem wordt ook aangetroffen in het ontsluitingsgebied ten zuidoosten van Gent.

SLEUTELWOORDEN: Ieperiaan, Formatie van Vlierzele, lithostratigrafie, correlaties.

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RESUME. La séquence complète de la Formation de Vlierzele dans le Nord de la Belgique se divise en 5 unités : le Membre de Hijfte (sable grossier), le Membre de Lochristi (sable argileux), le Membre d'Oosterzele (sable, parfois à lignite), le Membre de Beernem (argile sableuse, alternances de sable et d'argile, bancs de grès, bancs coquillers) et au sommet le Membre de Drongengoed (sable).

Une telle séquence complète de la Formation de Vlierzele ne se rencontre que dans le nord du pays. Le Membre de Drongengoed fait défaut dans la zone étudiée. La section type originale des «Sables de Vlierzele» (Kaasschieter, 1961), exposée dans de nombreuses sablières dans l'aire d'affleurement au sud-est de Gent, ne montre que le Membre d'Oosterzele. Le Membre de Lochristi sous-jacent est un niveau de sable argileux, décrit traditionnellement comme le «passage graduel entre le Sable de Vlierzele et l'Argile de Pittem». En effet, entre les Membres de Lochristi et de Pittem se rencontre le Membre de Hijfte, composé de sable devenant grossier vers le bas et limité par une base nette.

Le Membre de Beernem de la Formation de Knesselare (Jacobs & Geets, 1977) est inclus dans la Formation de Vlierzele. Dans des sections complètes du Nord du pays, le Membre de Beernem se rencontre dans la partie médiane de la Formation de Vlierzele. Le faciès localement ligniteux du Membre d'Oosterzele (le faciès dit d'Aalterbrugge) a été considéré à tort comme indiquant la fin du cycle sédimentaire yprésien. Le Membre de Beernem se rencontre aussi dans l'aire d'affleurement au sud de Gent.

MOTS-CLÉS: Yprésien, Formation de Vlierzele, lithostratigraphie, corrélations.

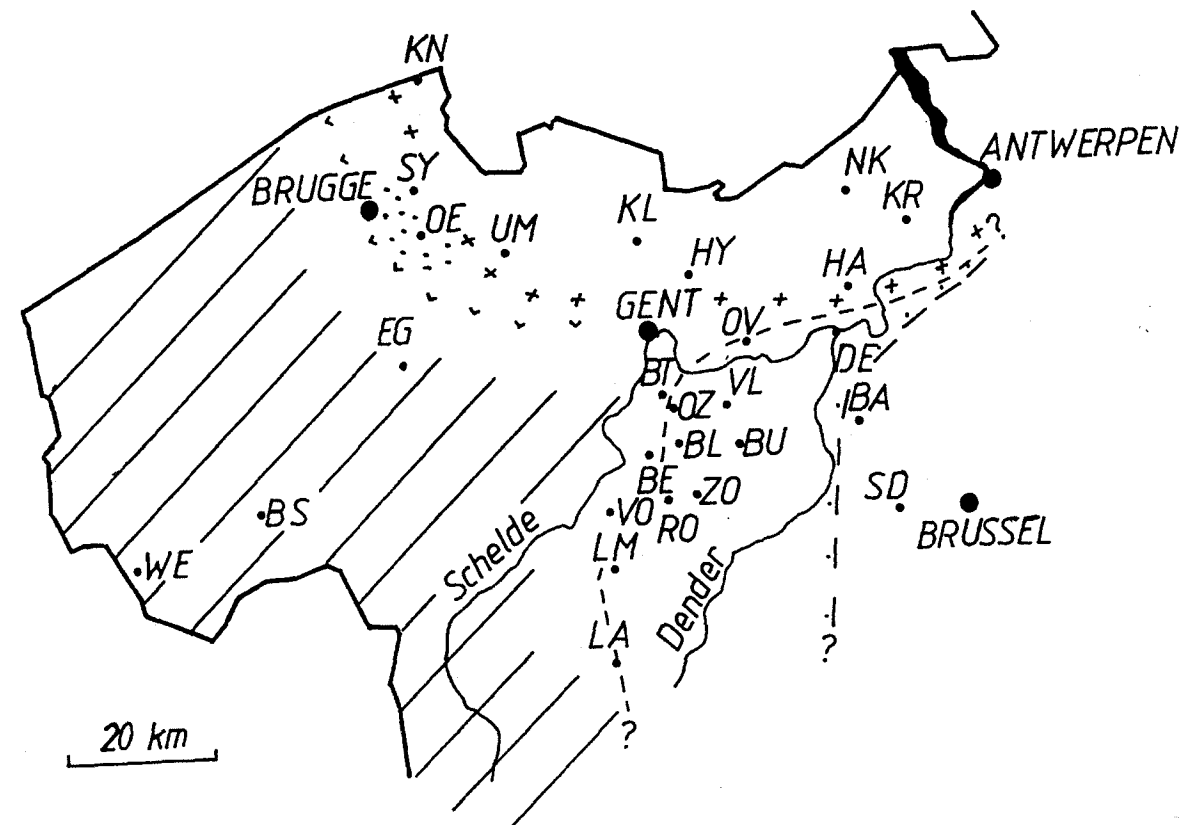
1. INTRODUCTION

The concepts of the lithostratigraphy in the Belgian Cenozoic were founded by Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) and Kaasschieter (1961). In the deposits formerly known as Lower Paniselian (then Upper Ypresian), Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) distinguished, in upward direction, the P1m clay, the P1c sandy clay and the P1d sand. Kaasschieter (1961) introduced the name Mont Panisel Formation, including the Roncq clay (P1m), the Anderlecht sandy clay (P1c) and the Vlierzele sand (P1d). According to Gulinck &

Hacquaert (1954) and Kaasschieter (1961), the Vlierzele sand grades downward into the Anderlecht clay, without a sharp limit (Gulinck & Hacquaert, 1954, p. 474 : «Les sables P1d» passent graduellement vers le bas à des sables argileux et des argiles sableuses... (P1c de la carte). «Kaasschieter, 1961, p. 24 : «.. the Upper part of the Anderlecht Member becomes more sandy, and there is a gradual transition into the Vlierzele sands. The limit between these two becomes artificial.» The lithostratigraphic context of the Vlierzele sands is shown in Table 1.

GULINCK & HACQUAERT (1954) Kaasschieter (1961)	Staubaut & Nolf (1986) (southern facies)	(northern facies)	GEOLOGICAL MAP (Jacobs <i>al.</i> , 1993b)	THIS STUDY
MONT PANISEL FORMATION	(missing)	VLIERZELE FORMATION	GENT FORMATION	VLIERZELE FORMATION
Vlierzele Member (P1d)		(unnamed sand)	Vlierzele Member	Drongengoed Member Beernem Member Oosterzele Member Lochristi Member Hijfte Member
Anderlecht Member (P1c)		Pittem Member	Pittem Member	GENT FORMATION Pittem Member
Roncq Member (P1m)	IEPER FORMATION (Merelbeke Mbr. missing)	IEPER FORMATION Merelbeke Member	Merelbeke Member	Merelbeke Member
Mons-en-Pévèle Member (Yd) Flanders Member (Yc)	Mont Panisel Mbr (ex-P1c) Aalbeke Member (ex-P1m) Mons-en-Pévèle Mbr (ex Yd) Orchies Mbr (ex-Yc)	Egem Member (ex-Yd) Kortemark Member (ex Yc p.p.) Unnamed and undifferentiated clay (ex Yc p.p.)	TIELT FORMATION Egem Member Kortemark Member Aalbeke Member Moen Member St. Maur Member Mt Héribu Member	IEPER FORMATION Egem/Mont Panisel Mbrs Kortemark Member Aalbeke Member Mons-en-Pévèle Mbr Orchies Member Mt. Héribu Mbr.

Table 1. Historic overview of the lithostratigraphic context of the Vlierzele Formation.



BA	Baardegem	KL	Kluizen	RO	Roborst
BA	Balegem	KN	Knokke	SD	Schepdaal
BE	Beerlegem	KR	Kruibeke	SY	Sijsele
BS	Beselare	LA	Lahamaide	UM	Ursel-Maldegem
BT	Betsberg	LM	Louise-Marie	VL	Vlierzele
BU	Burst	NK	Nieuwkerke-Waas	VO	Volkegem
DE	Dendermonde	OE	Oedelem	WE	Westouter
EG	Egem	OV	Overmere	ZO	Zottegem
HA	Hamme	OZ	Oosterzele		
HI	Hijfte				

LEGEND

Southern limit of the Drongengoed Member	+++
Southern limit of the Beernem Member (by post-Eocene erosion)	vvv
Eastern limit of the Beernem Member (thinning out under the Lede Formation)	---
Eastern limit of the Vlierzele Formation (thinning out under the Lede Formation)	-.-
Area where the Vlierzele Formation is only preserved in small outcrops	///
Type area of the Beernem Member	•••••

Figure 1. Location of the studied outcrops and boreholes. Limits of the Vlierzele Formation and the Beernem and Drongengoed Members.

In the most recent legend of the geological map (Maréchal & Laga, 1988, Jacobs *et al.*, 1993a and 1993b, Maréchal, 1993), the principles of the lithostratigraphic subdivision introduced by Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) and Kaasschieter (1961) are still followed, although some names have changed. The Mont Panisel Formation is now named Gent Formation and includes the Merelbeke Member (former P1m), the Pittem Member (former P1c) and the Vlierzele Member (former P1d). The concept of a gradual transition between the Pittem and Vlierzele Members is also maintained. In the legend, the Vlierzele and Pittem Members are described as a complex of about 20 m thick, grading into each other without a distinct boundary. The thickness of each of them varies between 5 and 15 m, usually at the expense of the thickness of the other one. Between Gent and Brugge, the top of the Vlierzele Member is often rich in wood fragments. The occurrence of lignite in the Vlierzele sands was discovered by Hacquaert (1939) during the construction of a new canal between Brugge and Gent. This so-called Aalterbrugge Bed is explained as a result of an increasing continental influence at the end of the Ypresian cycle.

An alternative interpretation of the Ypresian lithostratigraphy in Belgium was published by Steurbaut & Nolf (1986), who defined the following formations :

- Ieper Formation (Orchies Clay Member, Mons-en-Pévèle Sand and Roubaix Clay Members, Aalbeke Clay Member, Kortemark Sand Member, Egem Sand Member and Merelbeke Clay Member). In southern direction, the Kortemark and Egem Members pass laterally into the Mont Panisel Sand Member.
- Vlierzele Formation (including the Vlierzele sand s.s., the former P1d, and the Pittem Clay Member as a basal sandy clay deposit).

The Vlierzele Formation as defined by Steurbaut & Nolf (1986), corresponds to the Pittem and Vlierzele

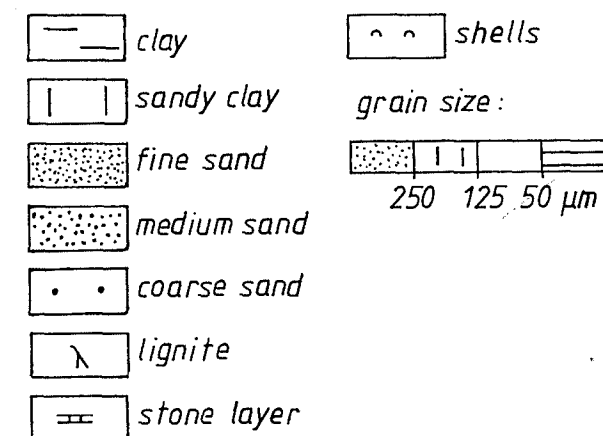


Figure 2. Lithology and grain size distribution legend of the Figures 3-10.

Members of the Gent Formation. The limit between the underlying Ieper Formation and the Vlierzele Formation was described as a major hiatus, encountered as a sharp limit at the base of the Pittem Member. This was shown by Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) in the Egem sandpit, where the Pittem Member directly covers the Egem Member by a sharp boundary, overlain by a basal shell bed (Steurbaud, 1993, has revised the importance of the boundary layer in the Egem sandpit).

Steurbaud & Nolf (1986) further emphasized that the sandy clays named Anderlecht clay (P1c) in their type locality, actually correspond to a lateral facies of the Egem Member of the Ieper Formation and not to the Pittem Member. Also the former Roncq Member in the south (now Aalbeke Member) and the Merelbeke Member in the north, which have been correlated, appear to be two different levels with similar lithology. The Mons-en-Pévèle Member, formerly thought to be the lateral facies of the Egem Member, was found to be a sandy intercalation appearing in the Flanders Member in the southern part of the basin (Figure 3 and Table 1).

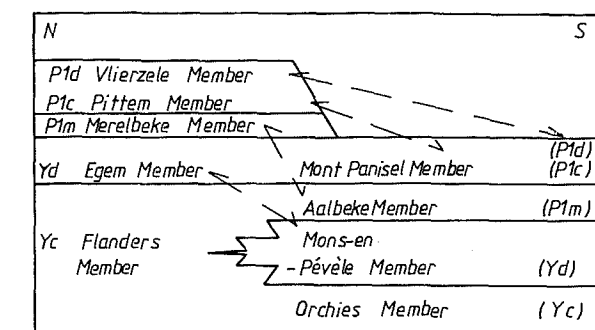


Figure 3. former correlations in the Belgian Ypresian (modified after Steurbaut & Nolf 1986). Arrows and quotes between brackets (right hand side) indicate former correlations.

Steurbaud & Nolf (1986) defined the Vlierzele Formation in the boreholes of Ursel-Maldegem in Northern Belgium. A remarkable feature in this borehole was the thickness of the Vlierzele sands : 24 m, compared to the average of 7 m in the outcrop area (De Breuck *et al.*, 1989).

The correlation between the sequences of the Vlierzele sands in subcrops and deeper borehole sections in northern Belgium and in the area between Gent and the North sea coast, and those in the outcropping (and type) area southeast of Gent has been a matter of discussion. Attempts were made to apply the stratigraphy from the outcrop area on borehole sections (e.g. De Breuck *et al.*, 1989), but sometimes it was concluded that the borehole profiles were more complicated than those in the outcrops (Vandenberghe

et al., 1990). As it was mentioned already, excessive thickness values (> 20 m) of the Vlierzele sands were reported (Mostaert, 1985, De Breuck *et al.*, 1989). After the discovery of deeply incised gullies, probably at the base of the Vlierzele sands, some 20 km off the Belgian coast by De Batist *et al.* (1989), some investigations were directed towards the recognition of similar onland features (Fobe, 1989 ; Houthuys, 1990). Houthuys (1990) mentioned that the Vlierzele sands in its type area seem to be enclosed by 2 clayey sand deposits, put forward the hypothesis that the Vlierzele sands in the outcrop area southeast of Gent, which contain wood fragments in the cross-sets, could be derived from erosion of the lignitic Aalterbrugge bed, occurring between Gent and Brugge. In this hypothesis, the Aalterbrugge facies belonged to the infilling of the gully system, while the Vlierzele sands s.s. were reworked from these gully infillings, while the gullies themselves were probably filled up with the Beernem Member.

Additional observations from new boreholes in northern Belgium (Fobe, 1993) indicated that the subcropping Vlierzele sands, are between 25 and 35 m thick

and consist of 3 main units : sand (with basal coarse sand) below, sandy clay in the middle and sand on top. Each of these units, which are further named Lower Sand Unit, Middle Sandy Clay Unit and Upper Sand Unit is about 10-12 m thick.

The base of the Vlierzele sands appears in the borehole sections as a sharp, coarse grained boundary, overlying the Pittem Member. The underlying Pittem Member in Northern Belgium is characterised by a lignitic top layer, marked by its brown or brown-gray colour. The borehole descriptions were correlated with the cored Ursel-Maldegem boreholes, from which detailed information on lithology, grain size and geophysical logs have been published (De Breuck *et al.*, 1989).

The present study attempts to detail the lithostratigraphy of the Vlierzele sands in Northern Belgium and to establish a correlation with the outcrop area. The sections in Northern Belgium are reviewed and compared to the outcrop areas near Brugge, southeast of Gent and east of the river Dender (see Figure 1 for location of the studied sites).

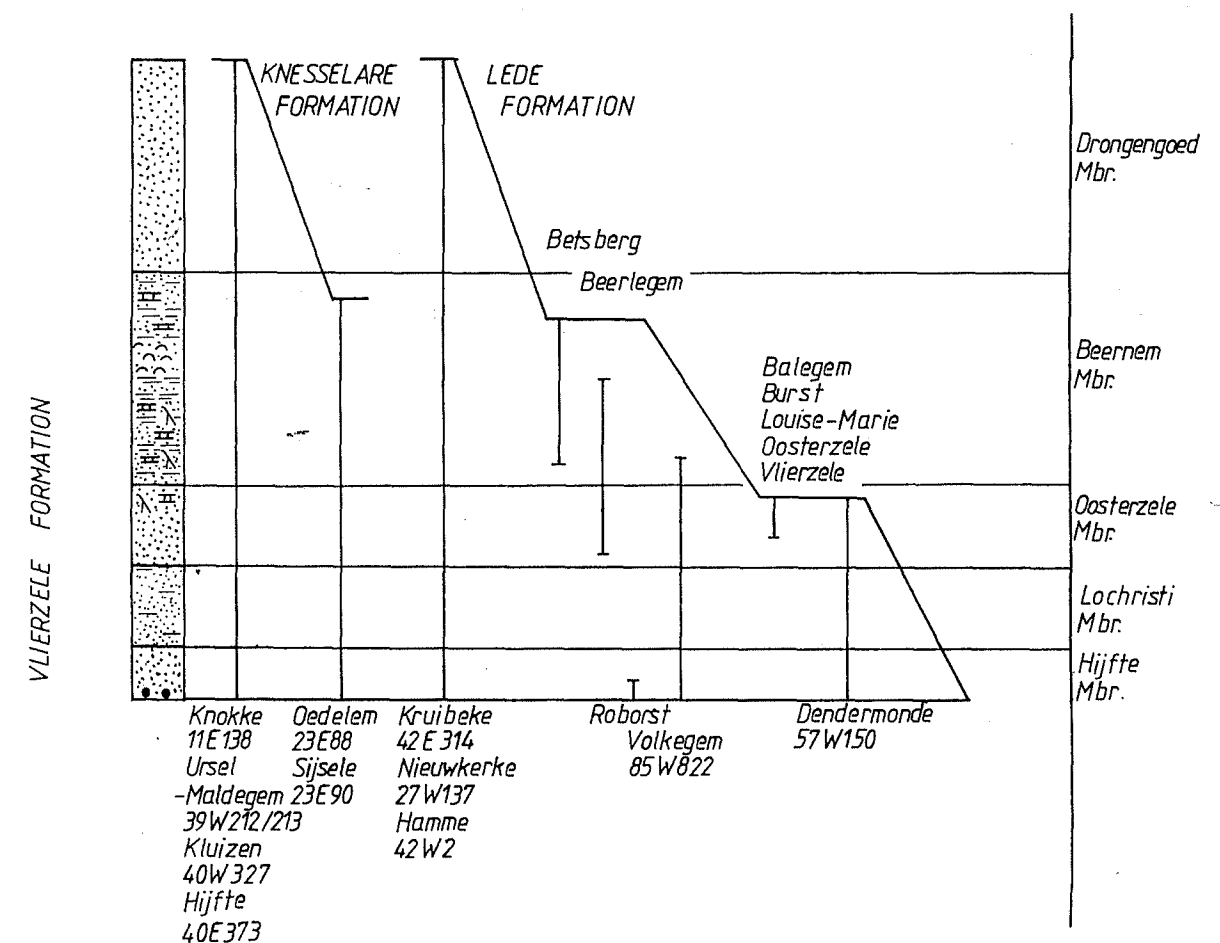


Figure 4. Stratigraphic position of the studied outcrop and borehole sections, correlated with a reference section (Ursel-Maldegem boreholes).

Annex 1 lists the studied outcrops and boreholes. A correlation table of the different observation points with the standard section of the Vlierzele Formation is shown in Figure 4.

2. STRATIGRAPHY OF THE VLIERZELE FORMATION IN DIFFERENT AREAS

2.1. THE VLIERZELE FORMATION IN NORTHERN BELGIUM

Review of the data published by De Breuck *et al.* (1989) showed that the tripartite composition of the Vlierzele sands, encountered in the Kluizen, Kruike and Nieuwerkerke-Waas boreholes was clearly discernable in geophysical logs and in grain size distribution profiles of the Ursel-Maldegem boreholes : Lower Sand Unit (58 - 69.3 m), Middle Sandy Clay Unit (52 - 58 m) and Upper Sand Unit (43.7 - 52 m).

Within the Lower Sand Unit, a finer grained intercalation is encountered (63 - 66 m). A similar fine grained level was also observed in the Lower Sand Unit in the Knokke, Kluizen and Kruike boreholes (Figure 5). It was well developed in the Hijfte borehole (Figure 6), where it consists of sandy clay with thin clay seams.

Further apparent in the sections of the Vlierzele sands in northern Belgium are : the occurrence of several sandstone beds in the Middle Sandy Clay Unit (Knokke, Kluizen and Nieuwerkerke-Waas boreholes), the occurrence of abundant shells in the same unit (Kluizen and Nieuwerkerke-Waas boreholes) and the occurrence of lignite in the lower sand and the middle sandy clay (Ursel-Maldegem, Knokke, Kluizen).

It may be concluded that the Vlierzele Formation in northern Belgium contains five lithological units : sand with basal gravel, sandy clay, cross-stratified medium sand (all correlated with the Lower Sand Unit), sandy clay or clayey sand with sandstone beds (Middle Sandy Clay Unit), and on top again medium sand (Upper Sand Unit).

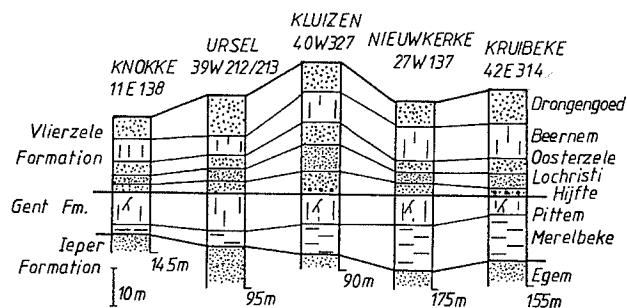


Figure 5. Lithostratigraphic correlation between boreholes in northern Belgium.

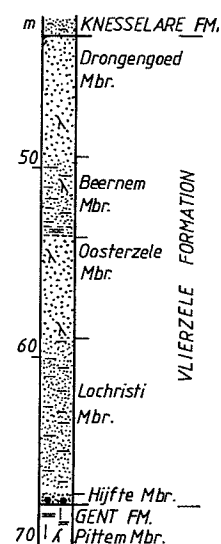


Figure 6. Section of the Hijfte 40E 373 borehole.

2.2. THE REGION SOUTH OF BRUGGE

In the neighbourhood of Brugge, the Vlierzele sands are encountered in outcrops and shallow boreholes. They are overlain by the Beernem Member, the oldest Member of the Kneselare Formation (Jacobs & Geets, 1977), consisting of sandy clay, often rich in sandstone beds. According to Jacobs & Geets (1977) and to Jacobs *al.*, (1993b), the Beernem Member is only found in the area south and southeast of Brugge (Figure 1, Table 2). The Beernem Member is ranked into the «Lutetian» Kneselare Formation, mainly because the underlying («Ypresian») Vlierzele sands are characterised by their lignitic Aalterbrugge facies, (interpreted as the result of an increased continental influence at the end of the Ypresian cycle). Compared to the nearby Ursel-Maldegem sections, the thickness of the Vlierzele sands is reduced from 27 to some 10-12 m where the Beernem Member is encountered (Fobe, 1989, Jacobs *al.*, 1993a).

During the present study, the Beernem Member facies was encountered in the Oedelem and Sijsele boreholes (Figure 10). The underlying, 10 m thick Vlierzele sands consist of a basal sand bed with gravel, a middle fine grained sand bed and an upper sand bed, often rich in lignite. The characteristics of the Vlierzele sands under the Beernem Member are comparable to the composition of the Lower Sand Unit from the Ursel-Maldegem section : (coarse) sand, clayey sand and sand with lignite). The lithology of the Beernem Member resembles the Middle Sandy Clay Unit of the Vlierzele Formation. The Upper Sand Unit is missing in this area. Thus the Beernem Member belongs to the Vlierzele Formation. The Upper Sand Unit is missing in this area. Thus the Beernem Member belongs to the Vlierzele Formation.

PROVENANCE AREA OF THE BEERNEM MEMBER	OUTSIDE PROVENANCE AREA OF BEERNEM MBR.	THIS STUDY (BOTH AREAS)	THIS STUDY AREA SE OF GENT	
KNESSELARE FORMATION Oedelem Member	KNESSELARE FORMATION Oedelem Member	KNESSELARE FORMATION Oedelem Member	LEDE FORMATION	LEDE FORMATION
Beernem Member	GENT FORMATION : Vlierzele Member	VLIERZELE FORMATION: Drongengoed Member	GENT FORMATION	VLIERZELE FM. (Drongengoed Member missing) WEST EAST
GENT FORMATION : Vlierzele Member (Aalterbrugge sands)	(undifferentiated)	Beernem Member	Vlierzele Member	Beernem Mbr.
Pittem Member Merelbeke Member	Pittem Member Merelbeke Member	Oosterzele Member		Oosterzele Mbr
		Lochristi Member		Volkegem Mbr
		Hijfte Member		Roborst Mbr
		GENT FORMATION : Pittem Member Merelbeke Member	Pittem Member Merelbeke Mbr.	Pittem Member Merelbeke Mbr

Table 2. Overview of the lithostratigraphic position of the Beernem Member.

Nieuwerkerke-Waas and Kruike boreholes), it corresponds to the Middle Sandy Clay Unit and is overlain by the Upper Sand Unit which separates it from the Oedelem Member of the Kneselare Formation.

2.3. THE OUTCROP AREA SOUTHEAST OF GENT

The classic outcrops of the Vlierzele sands, where Kaasschieter (1961) defined the Vlierzele Member, are located in the area southeast of Gent, where they have been exposed in many sandpits and temporary outcrops. The exposed sands are mostly cross-stratified with thin clay laminae or show parallel laminations. Lignite lenses are often encountered in cross-sets.

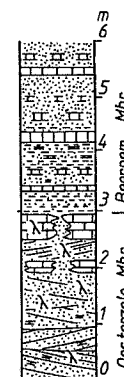


Figure 7. Section of the Beerlegem sandpit, showing the Oosterzele Member overlain by the Beernem Member.

Some outcrops in the area show a different looking facies, consisting of an alternation of sand (10 -20 cm thick) and clay beds (1-5 cm), often with sandstone beds in the sand layers. This facies may also be rich in lignite (Betsberg borehole). In the Beerlegem sandpit (Figure 7), this facies was found covering the cross-stratified facies. Both the cross-stratified (Balegem, Burst, Oosterzele, Vlierzele) and the horizontally structured facies (Betsberg) were overlain in their respective outcrops by the Lede Formation.

The base of the sandpit sections often corresponds to an increase in clay, the transition towards the Pittem Member according to the legend of the geological map. However, in the Roborst pit (Figure 8), the base of the Vlierzele sands consists of sand with a coarse grained base and with a sharp lower limit.

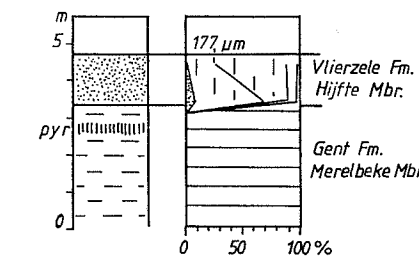


Figure 8. Section of the Roborst claypit with grain size distribution.

The Volkegem borehole (Figure 9) was drilled close to a sandpit exposing the cross-stratified facies. In the borehole, this facies was underlain by finer grained and more clayey sand. The lowermost meter of the sands consists again of coarser grained sand, covering the Mont Panisel Member of the Ieper Formation.

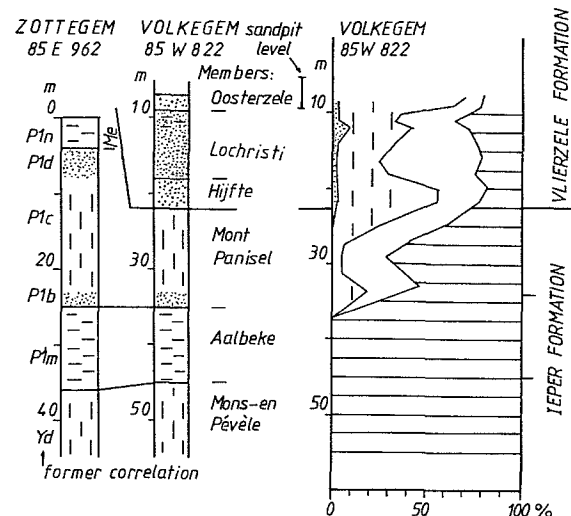


Figure 9. Compared stratigraphy of the Zottegem and Volkegem boreholes with grain size distribution of the latter.

The sequence of the Vlierzele Formation in the outcrop area consists in upward direction of: a basal sand (1-2 m), clayey sand, cross-stratified glauconitic sand (the facies exposed in many sandpits, e.g. Balegem, Vlierzele, Burst, Oosterzele, Volkegem) and the sand-sandstone-clay facies. The following correlation with the Ursel-Maldegem and Hijfte sections is proposed (Figure 11):

- the sequence between the lower limit of the formation and the top of the cross-stratified sand corresponds to the Lower Sand Unit. The fine grained intercalation in the middle of this level correlates with the clayey sand below the cross-stratified facies.

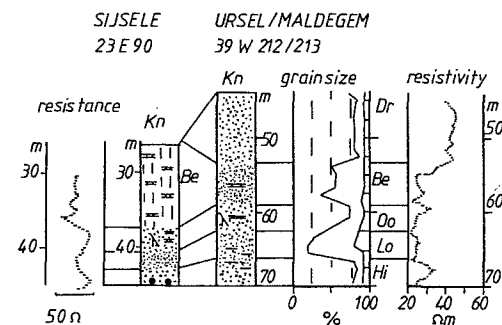


Figure 10. Correlation of the Ursel-Maldegem boreholes (complete sections of the Vlierzele Formation) with the Sijsele borehole in the area SW of Brugge (Drongengoed Member missing). The stratigraphic interpretation is supported by geophysical logs and grain size distribution.

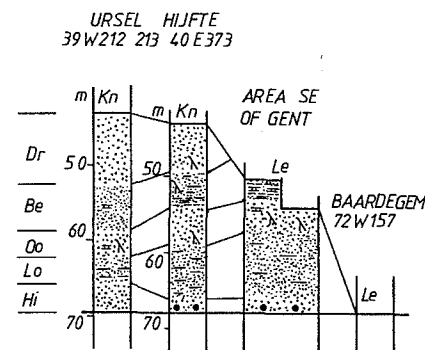


Figure 11. Characteristics of the Vlierzele Formation in the Ursel-Maldegem type section, as revealed by lithology, grain size distribution and resistivity logs (De Breuck *et al.*, 1989) correlated with the Hijfte borehole and with the outcropping area SE of Gent and with the area east of the Dender (Baardegem borehole), indicating a gradual thinning out under the Lede Formation.

- the sand-sandstone-clay facies locally covering the cross-stratified facies is correlated with the Middle Sandy Clay Unit in the Vlierzele Formation in northern Belgium and thus with the Beernem Member.
- the Upper Sand Unit from the borehole sections in Northern Belgium appears to be absent in the outcrop area.

Consequently, the «Vlierzele sands s.s.» from their classical type area only represent a part (the third lithological unit of five) of the complete Vlierzele Formation in boreholes in northern Belgium.

In the Zottegem borehole (Figure 9), a succession of the Mons-en-Pèvele Member (ex-Yd), Aalbeke Member (ex-P1m), sandy base of the Mont Panisel Member (P1b), Mont Panisel Member (ex-P1c, now Yd), sandy top of the Mont Panisel Member (considered as P1d?) and Merelbeke Member (ex-P1n, now P1m) is encountered. Indeed, as the Merelbeke Member occurs in the southern facies belt (sensu Steurbaut & Nolf 1986) (as is shown by the borehole of Zottegem and the outcrop of Roborst) where the Roubaix Member is present and where the notation P1m had been erroneously given to the Aalbeke Member, it is likely that the P1n clay defined by Rutot (1890) clay corresponds to the Merelbeke clay.

The sandy top of the Mont Panisel Member is about 4 m thick and covers some 15 m of sandy clay. Apparently, this sequence was formerly correlated with the P1c-P1d sequence. It should be noticed that the «P1c» sandy clay is much thicker (15 m) than the overlying «P1d» sand (4 m). In the northern Belgium sections, the Vlierzele sands (20 m) are thicker than the Pittem Member (7-10 m). The traditional description of the Vlierzele/Pittem boundary and the thickness variations attributed to both members may thus have been derived from erroneous correlations.

Apparently, also the joint occurrence of the Aalbeke and Merelbeke clays, together with the lithology of the Mont Panisel Member, contributed largely to the correlation problems in the former Ypresian s.s. and Lower Paniselian. The «P1n-clay», described as the «local top clay» of the Vlierzele sands (Gulinck & Hacquaert 1954) in fact corresponds to the Merelbeke Member, covering sands on top of the Mont Panisel Member sensu Steurbaut & Nolf (1986).

2.4. OUTCROP AREA EAST OF THE RIVER DENDER

The Vlierzele sands thin out in eastern direction. Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) and Houthuys (1990) already mentioned the absence of the Vlierzele Formation in the area west of Brussel. East of the river Dender, they seem to have disappeared (in the Baardegem and Schepdaal boreholes), as the Lede Formation immediately covers older Formations (Figure 11). Former observations of the P1d sands in this area were probably confused with the upper sandy part of the Mont Panisel Member (sensu Steurbaut & Nolf 1986), which was erroneously correlated with the P1c clay.

Between the Dender and Brussels, a clay bed indicated as the «P1n clay» was described as overlaying the P1d sand (Rutot, 1890). However, the Vlierzele sand appears to be missing in that area. As it was concluded above, the P1n clay corresponds with the Merelbeke Member.

3. LITHOSTRATIGRAPHY

The name «Vlierzele sands» has been applied to 3 distinct sand levels, belonging to a complex of sand, separated by sandy clay layers. This complex was found to be laterally continuous and, in contrast to the existing opinion, enclosed by sharp boundaries. It is therefore proposed to define this complex as a separate formation, the Vlierzele Formation, to be subdivided into 5 Members, from the base to the top: the Hijfte Member, the Lochristi Member, the Oosterzele Member, the Beernem Member and the Drongengoed Member. The name Vlierzele Formation was introduced by Steurbaut & Nolf (1986).

In the lithostratigraphic legend of the geological map (Maréchal & Laga 1988; Jacobs *al.*, 1993a and 1993b; Maréchal, 1993), the Vlierzele sands are grouped into the Gent Formation, together with the Merelbeke and Pittem Members. Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) included the Pittem Member into the Vlierzele Formation and the Merelbeke Member into the Ieper Formation. It is proposed to group the Merelbeke and

Pittem Members into a new formation, (Gent Formation). Like this, the dominantly clayey Merelbeke and Pittem Members are gathered in a separate formation, different from the underlying (Egem sands) and overlying (Vlierzele Formation) sandy deposits. This solution provides an easier tool for lithostratigraphic mapping and also for hydrogeological schematisation, and matches better the philosophy of the lithostratigraphic geological map (aiming to group sets of similar lithology, rather than of similar age) (Jacobs, 1993a) than does the original composition of the Gent Formation.

3.1. GENT FORMATION

The name Gent Formation was introduced as a new name for the Mont Panisel Formation (Kaasschieter, 1961) and includes the Merelbeke, Pittem and Vlierzele Members. According to the new definition, it is restricted to the Merelbeke and Pittem Members.

Lectostratotype: Ursel, borehole BGS 39 W 212 (x=87.910, y=204.260, h=+29 m): 69.3-83.7 m.

Parastratotype: Knokke, borehole BGS 11 E 138 (x=78.776, y=226.370, h=+5 m): 124-135 m.

3.2. VLIERZELE FORMATION

The Vlierzele Formation corresponds to the Vlierzele Member of the Gent Formation (in northern Belgium) and includes the Beernem Member, formerly ranked into the Knesselare Formation and to the Vlierzele Formation without the Pittem Member (Steurbaud & Nolf, 1986). The Vlierzele Member of the Gent Formation as it is exposed in the type area SE of Gent only corresponds to a part of the Vlierzele Formation. The Vlierzele Formation is subdivided into 5 Members: the Hijfte Member at the base, the Lochristi Member, the Oosterzele Member, the Beernem Member and the Drongengoed Member on top.

The Vlierzele Formation is encountered in the area of western Belgium, west of a line formed more or less by the line Antwerpen-Dendermonde and further southward following more or less the river Dender. Today's southernmost observation points are found in isolated outcrops in Lahamaide, Beselare and Westouter. The original southern limit is unknown. The extension of the Vlierzele Formation and its members is given on Figure 1.

Stratotype of the Vlierzele Formation

Holostratotype: Ursel, borehole BGS 39 W 212 (x=87.910, y=204.260, h=+29 m): 43.7-69.3 m.

Parastratotype: Hijfte borehole, BGS 40 E 373 (x=111.130, y=200.390, h=+8m); 43 - 67.8 m.

3.2.1. The Hijfte Member

Name: the hamlet of Hijfte (municipality of Lochristi).

Rank: new member

Holostratotype: Hijfte borehole, BGS 40 E 373 (x=111.130, y=200.390, h=+8m); 67.5 - 67.8 m.

Parastratotype: Ursel, borehole BGS 39 W 212 (x=87.910, y=204.260, h=+29 m): 66-69.3 m.

Lithology: The Hijfte Member consists of medium or coarse glauconitic sand, with coarse sand or fine gravel at the base. In the Hijfte borehole, a real basal gravel (clay fragments, 1-2 cm across) was encountered.

Underlying unit: The Merelbeke or Pittem Members of the Gent Formation. Where the Vlierzele Formation is ravinating, the Mont Panisel Member (sensu Steurbaut & Nolf 1986) of the Ieper Formation. Sharp lower limit.

Overlying unit: the Lochristi Member of the Vlierzele Formation.

Thickness: between 2 and 5 m.

Former correlations: part of the Vlierzele Formation sensu Steurbaut & Nolf (1986). Included into the P1d sand sensu Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) and the Vlierzele Member sensu Kaasschieter (1961), Maréchal & Laga (1988) and Jacobs *et al.*, (1993a and 1993b), but also into the P1c sandy clay sensu Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) or the Pittem Member sensu Jacobs *et al.*, (1993a and 1993b), together with the overlying Lochristi Member (e.g. the Hijfte borehole). Lower part of the Lower Sand Unit of the Vlierzele Formation (Fobe, 1993).

Distribution: the same as the Vlierzele Formation

3.2.2. The Lochristi Member

Name: the municipality of Lochristi.

Rank: new member.

Holostratotype: Hijfte borehole, BGS 40 E 373 (x=111.130, y=200.390, h=+8m); 59.0-67.5 m.

Parastratotype: Ursel, borehole BGS 39 W 212 (x=87.910, y=204.260, h=+29 m): 63-66 m.

Lithology: The Lochristi Member consists of very fine clayey sand with thin (several mm) clay layers, disturbed by bioturbation.

Underlying unit: Hijfte Member of the Vlierzele Formation.

Overlying unit: the Oosterzele Member of the Vlierzele Formation.

Thickness: between 3 and 10 m.

Former correlations: part of the Vlierzele Formation sensu Steurbaut & Nolf (1986). Often included in the P1d sand sensu Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) and the Vlierzele Member sensu Kaasschieter (1961), Maréchal & Laga (1988) and Jacobs *et al.* (1993a and

1993b) but also in the P1c sandy clay sensu Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) or into the Pittem Member sensu Jacobs *et al.* (1993a and 1993b) (e.g. the Hijfte borehole). Its existence was ignored, probably because the Lochristi Member is rarely exposed and the underlying Hijfte Member is rather thin. Middle part of the Lower Sand Unit of the Vlierzele Formation (Fobe, 1993).

Distribution: the same as the Vlierzele Formation.

3.2.3. The Oosterzele Member

Name: the municipality of Oosterzele, where the unit has been exposed in many sandpits and road cuts.

Rank: new member

Holostratotype: Balegem sandpit (x = 110.8, y = 179.1; z = +66 m).

Parastratotype 1: Hijfte borehole, BGS 40 E 373 (x=111.130, y=200.390, h=+8m); 53.4-59.0 m.

Parastratotype 2: Ursel, borehole BGS 39 W 212 (x=87.910, y=204.260, h=+29 m): 58-63 m.

Lithology: The Lochristi Member consists of fine to medium glauconitic sand, cross-stratified or laminated. Lignite, locally abundant, and small stone concretions are encountered.

Underlying unit: Lochristi Member of the Vlierzele Formation.

Overlying unit: the Beernem Member of the Vlierzele Formation in a complete sequence of the latter. Overlain by the Lede Formation in the type area and east of it.

Thickness: about 7 m.

Former correlations: the Oosterzele Member corresponds to the Vlierzele sands s.s.. The Oosterzele Member is exposed in a number of sandpits in the outcrop area southeast of Gent. The Vlierzele Member was defined in such a section by Kaasschieter (1961). Elsewhere, the Oosterzele Member is part of the Vlierzele Formation sensu Steurbaut & Nolf (1986). Implicit part of the P1d sand sensu Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) and to the Vlierzele Member sensu Kaasschieter (1961), Maréchal & Laga (1988) and Jacobs *et al.* (1993a and 1993b). It was named Aalterbrugge facies when considerable amounts of lignite were present. Upper part of the Lower Sand Unit of the Vlierzele Formation (Fobe, 1993).

Distribution: the same as the Vlierzele Formation.

3.2.4. The Beernem Member

Name: the municipality of Beernem.

Rank: existing Member, defined by Jacobs & Geets (1977), who ranked as the lower part of the Knesselare Formation.

Lectostratotype: sandpit at Beerlegem (x=104.5, y = 178.05, alt; = +56 m).

Parastratotype 1: Hijfte borehole, BGS 40 E 373 (x=111.130, y=200.390, h=+8m); 49.8-53.4 m.

Parastratotype 2: Ursel, borehole BGS 39 W 212 (x=87.910, y=204.260, h=+29 m): 52-58 m.

Lithology: glauconitic sandy clay or clayey sand or an alternation of fine sand and clay layers. The Beernem Member contains sandstone layers (often abundant) and is locally very rich in mollusc shells. Lignite may occur.

Underlying unit: Oosterzele Member of the Vlierzele Formation.

Overlying unit: the Drongengoed Member of the Vlierzele Formation in a complete sequence of the latter. Overlain by the Lede or Knesselare Formations in the outcrop area.

Thickness: about 7 m.

Former correlations: part of the Vlierzele Formation sensu Steurbaut & Nolf (1986). Ranked in the Vlierzele Member sensu Kaasschieter (1961), Maréchal & Laga (1988) and Jacobs *et al.*, (1993a and 1993b) in the outcrop area. Corresponds to the Beernem Member of the Knesselare Formation in the region south of Brugge (Jacobs & Geets, 1977; Jacobs *et al.*, 1993b). However, the lateral distribution of this member is more widespread than originally assessed, and in a complete section of the Vlierzele Member, it is separated from the base of the Knesselare Formation by the Drongengoed Member of the Vlierzele Formation. Middle Sandy Clay Unit of the Vlierzele Formation (Fobe, 1993).

Distribution: northern Belgium, the region between Brugge and Gent and the western part of the outcrop area southeast of Gent.

3.2.5. The Drongengoed Member.

Name: the Drongengoed forest and estate (near the village of Ursel, municipality of Knesselare).

Rank: new member.

Holostratotype: Ursel, borehole BGS 39 W 212 (x=87.910, y=204.260, h=+29 m); 43.7-52 m.

Parastratotype 1: Knokke, borehole BGS 11 E 138 (x=78.776, y=226.370, h=+5 m): 104-110 m.

Parastratotype 2: Hijfte, borehole BGS 40 E 373 (x=111.130, y=200.390, h=+8m): 43 - 49.8 m.

Lithology: glauconitic medium to fine sand, locally with some sandstone beds.

Underlying unit: Beernem Member of the Vlierzele Formation.

Overlying unit: the Knesselare, Lede or Maldegem Formations.

Thickness: about 7 m.

Former correlations: part of the Vlierzele Formation sensu Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) and implicit part of the P1d sand sensu Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) and the Vlierzele Member sensu Kaasschieter (1961), Maréchal & Laga (1988) and Jacobs *et al.*, (1993a and 1993b) in borehole descriptions in Northern Belgium. Upper Sand Unit of the Vlierzele Formation (Fobe, 1993).

Distribution: northern Belgium, its southern limit passing approximately north of Dendermonde, Gent and Brugge. Unknown in the outcrop area with exception of the Westouter area.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The redefined Vlierzele Formation consists of 5 units: the Hijfte Member (coarse sand), the Lochristi Member (clayey sand), the Oosterzele Member (sand), the Beernem Member (sandy clay, sand with clay layers, sandstone beds, shells) and on top the Drongengoed Member (sand).

The Vlierzele Formation is only complete in boreholes in northern Belgium. The Drongengoed Member is missing in the outcrop area except for the hills near Westouter (Figure 10).

Therefore, a type section in Northern Belgium is preferred over a section in the outcrop area. The cored Ursel-Maldegem wells are proposed as type section (Figures 3, 8 and 9).

The original type section of the «Vlierzele sands» (Kaasschieter, 1961) and many other sandpits in the outcrop area southeast of Gent only expose the Oosterzele Member.

The limit between the «Vlierzele sands» and the Pittem clay is not a gradual transition but a sharp contact at the base of the Hijfte Member. The Lochristi Member corresponds to the clayey sediments underlying the sands of the Oosterzele Member which are exposed in many sandpits, and is often confused with the Pittem Member. The concept of a gradual passage originated from a correlation error with the transition of the sandy clay of the Mont Panisel Member (formerly correlated with the Pittem Member) into glauconitic sands on top of this member. Similar correlation errors gave way to the concept of the Pittem and Vlierzele Members forming one complex with internal thickness variations.

The Beernem member of the Knesselare Formation (sensu Jacobs & Geets, 1977) is actually part of the Vlierzele Formation. In or close to the outcrop area near Brugge, where the Drongengoed member is missing, the lignitic Aalterbrugge Bed (the Oosterzele Member, locally rich in wood fragments) was given the status of terminal deposit of the Ypresian. The Beernem Member is also encountered around Brugge, where it was described by Jacobs & Geets (1977) and in borehole sections in northern Belgium. Formerly unit was an (unidentified) part of the (undifferentiated) «Vlierzele Member» in these boreholes.

The Aalterbrugge Bed does not exist as a separate facies. Lignite is encountered in various amounts throughout the Vlierzele Formation, mainly in the Oosterzele, Beernem and Drongengoed Members. The name «Aalterbrugge Bed» or «Aalterbrugge Complex» was applied when one of these members locally contains higher amounts of lignite.

Together with a definition of the Vlierzele Formation, a new definition of the Gent Formation is proposed. The Gent Formation only consists of the Merelbeke and Pittem Members.

The traditional assumption, founded by Gulinck & Hacquaert (1954) and Kaasschieter (1961), that there

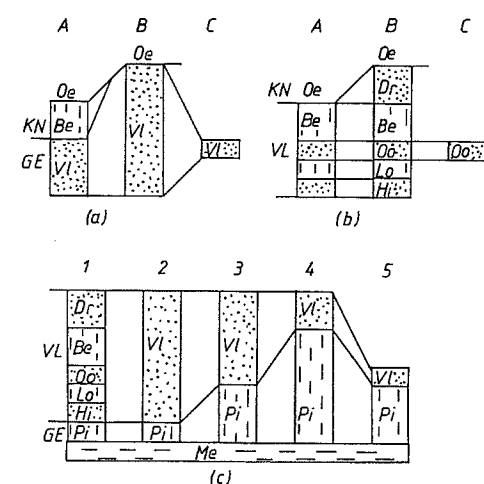


Figure 12. (a) former correlations of the undifferentiated Vlierzele Member (VI) and the Beernem Member in the area of Brugge (A), in boreholes in northern Belgium (B) and in sandpits southeast of Gent (C). The Beernem Member was ranked into the Knesselare Formation (KN), together with the Oedelem Member (Oe). These correlations yielded considerable thickness variations of the Vlierzele Member.

(b) correlation in this study: the Beernem Member (Be) in type section A and the sands (Oosterzele Member, Oo) exposed in type section C are correlated with subdivisions identified in the Vlierzele Formation (VL) in northern Belgium (section B).

(c) other correlations, entailing possible thickness variations of the Vlierzele (VI) and Pittem (Pi) Members, using the Merelbeke Member (Me) as reference horizon.

1: type section of the Vlierzele (VL) and Gent (GE) Formations as described in this study.

2: former interpretation of boreholes in Northern Belgium (e.g. Ursel-Maldegem) reaching at least the Merelbeke Member. The latter is overlain by the Pittem (Pi) and (VI) Vlierzele Members.

3: in some boreholes (e.g. Hijfte), the limit between the Vlierzele and Pittem Members was defined at the limit between the Oosterzele (Oo) and Lochristi (Lo) Members of section 1.

4: another possible limit between the Vlierzele and Pittem was between the Drongengoed (Dr) and Beernem (Be) Members of section 1.

5: outcrop sections southeast of Gent, where the upper members of the Vlierzele Formation are missing.

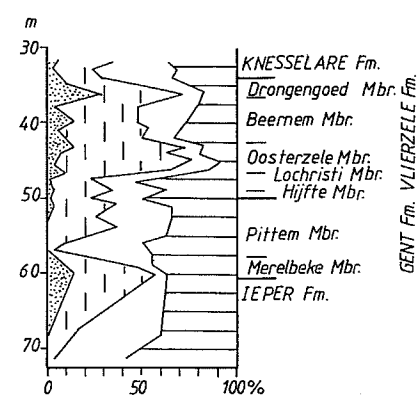


Figure 13. Grain size distribution and lithostratigraphy of the Westouter 95W 150 borehole.

is just one P1d or Vlierzele sand, overlying only one P1c or Pittem clay, leads to incorrect interpretations of borehole sections and to erroneous correlations and thickness estimations of the Pittem clay and the Vlierzele sands between boreholes and outcrops (Figure 12).

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ANNEX I. LIST OF OUTCROPS AND BORE-HOLES

2.1. *Baardegem*: borehole BGS 72 W 157 (x=134.200, y=182.820, h=+45 m) : Zelzate Formation 0-9 m ; Maldegem Formation : 9-16 m ; Lede Formation 16-23 m ; Ieper Formation : 23-49 m (glauconitic clayey sand 23-28 m, grey heavy clay 28-34 m, silty clay with glauconite 34-38 m, grey heavy clay 38-41 m (Aalbeke Member) and glauconitic very fine sand and sandy clay with stone layers 41-49 m). The Vlierzele Formation was missing in the sequence of this borehole (Figure 11).

2.2. *Balegem*: Sandpit (x = 110.8, y = 179.1; z = +66 m), exposing the top of the Vlierzele Formation (2 m), overlain by the Lede Formation (5.5 m) and the base of the Maldegem Formation (3 m). The Vlierzele Formation consists of cross-stratified sands. The cross sets often contain wood fragments.
Stratigraphy : Oosterzele Member.

2.3. *Beerlegem*: In the sandpit of Beerlegem (x=104.5, y = 178.05, alt; = +56 m) two facies were exposed (Figure 7). The lower 6 m consists of about 6 m of cross-stratified glauconitic sand with very thin clay beds. In the upper 3 m of this unit, sandstone was encountered. The lower levels were very brittle, not arranged as beds and laying parallel with the cross-beds. They contain small wood fragments. In the uppermost metre, two levels of more consistent sandstone blocks (40 cm thick), with many (often silicified) wood fragments, were exposed.

The upper unit was about 3 m thick. It showed a sub-horizontal alternation of clay and sand layers. Often, sand and clay layers were only 5 cm thick. In thicker sand intercalations (at least 10 cm), very hard and compact sandstone beds (up to 20 cm thick) often occurred. A number of 11 sandstone beds was counted, with a cumulative thickness of about 1.2 m. Sand intercalations often show subhorizontal laminations.
Stratigraphy : Oosterzele member (cross-stratified unit) overlain by the Beernem Member.

2.4. *Beselare, Nonnebossen*: (x=51.925, y=171.775, h=+60 m): temporary outcrop near the A19 motorway (september 1989). Under a cover of Pleistocene coarse sand and gravel (2-3 m), glauconitic medium sand (1 m), the Vlierzele Formation, was exposed. Probably the Oosterzele Member.

2.5. *Brugge*: In a temporary outcrop (early 1986) for the construction of a sewage collector along the Kerkebeek, south of the town of Brugge (x = 68.20, y = 207.55, h = +5 m). At the base of the excavation, 10 cm of grey glauconitic sand was encountered, overlain by 50 cm of grey clay with wood fragments. Above the clay, about 2 m of glauconitic sands with

lignite were exposed, containing small sandstone concretions. The facies resembled the Aalterbrugge sands. According to the geological map sheet Brugge (Jacobs *et al.*, 1993), this outcrop is located close to the Vlierzele-Beernem limit.

Stratigraphy : Lochristi Member (clay) overlain by the Oosterzele Member.

2.6. *Burst*: Sandpit (x = 117.55; y = 178.45; z = +61 m), exposing cross-stratified glauconitic sands (Vlierzele Formation), overlain by the Lede Formation.

Stratigraphy : Oosterzele Member

2.7. *Dendermonde*: borehole (BGS 57 W 150); x=130.860, y= 190.400, h= +5 m). This borehole started in Pleistocene sands (0-13 m), overlying the Lede Formation (13-16 m). The Vlierzele Formation occurs between 16 and 27.5 m. Sandy clay (Pittem Member) and clay (Merelbeke Member) were found between 27.5 and 33 m and very fine glauconitic sand between 33 and 47 m (Egem Member).

Stratigraphy : Oosterzele, Volkegem and Hijfte Members.

2.8. *Egem*: sand- and claypit Ampe (x=70.275, y=189.575, h=+46 m). In this outcrop, the Egem Member (20 m of sand with thin clay layers) is overlain by the Pittem Member (5 m, sandy clay with sandstone beds). The base of the latter consists of a 60-cm thick sandstone, coarse grained at its base and containing reworked macrofossils from the Egem Member (e.g. *Nummulites planulatus*).

2.9. *Hamme*: borehole (BGS 42 W 2); x= 133.250, y=198.880, h= +5 m). The borehole was drilled early this century (Halet, 1907). The base of the Lede Formation occurs at 54 m. Between 54 and 75 m, a sequence of sand (54-56 m), sandy clay with shells (56-66 m) and sand (66-75 m) was correlated with the P1d (Vlierzele sands), but the possible presence of the Knesselare Formation (the fossil containing section between 54 and 66m) was not excluded. A sandy clay (75-78 m) and a clay deposit (78-85 m) were respectively correlated with the P1c (Pittem Member) and P1m (Merelbeke Member). They covered very fine sands with nummulites (Yd), between 85 and 102 m (Egem Member).

Stratigraphy : Roborst, Volkegem and Oosterzele Members (66-75 m), Beernem Member (56-66m) and Drongengoed Member (54-56 m).

2.10. *Hijfte (municipality of Lochristi)*: cored borehole, BGS 40 E 373 (x=111.130, y=200.390, h=+8m) (Figures 7 and 11).

In the original description, the files of the BGS, the upper limit of the Pittem Member was set at 60 m. The upper portion (60-67.5 m) however, is clearly differ-

ent in colour (greenish grey) and lithology (very fine clayey sand, with thin clay laminae) than the brownish grey lower part (67.8-74 m), consisting of slightly lignitic sandy clay with stone layers and which strongly resembles the Pittem clay facies from the cored boreholes in Oedelem, Ursel-Maldegem and Knokke. Both are separated by a sandy intercalation with a marked basal gravel, 10-15 cm thick, of clay chips (67.7-67.8 m).

The Vlierzele Formation (Figure 6) further consists of two distinct levels of cross-stratified sand (43.0-49.8 m and 53.7-57.0 m). They are separated by clayey sand (49.8-53.7 m), at its base (53-53.7 m) changing into an alternation of subhorizontal medium sand (locally with sandstone) with clay layers. A similar sequence (cross-stratified sand overlain by subhorizontal sand-clay alternations with stone beds in the sandy sets) was encountered in the Beerlegem sandpit (Figure 7). Lignite is encountered from 47 to 53.7 m.

Vlierzele Formation: 43.0-67.8 m

Drongengoed Member: 43.0-49.8 m

Beernem Member: 49.8-53.4 m

Oosterzele Member: 53.7-59.0 m

Lochristi Member: 59.0-67.5 m

Hijfte Member: 67.5-67.8 m

Gent Formation:

Pittem Member: 67.8-74 m.

2.11. *Kluizen*: borehole, BGS 40 W 327 (x=103.550, y=204.300, h=+5m). The Ypresian was overlain by the Maldegem Formation at a depth of 35 m ; 35-43 m: medium sand with sandstone (Drongengoed Member), 43-51 m: fine sand and clayey sand with sandstone, rich in shells (Beernem Member), 51-56 m: coarse sand (Oosterzele Member), 56-64 m: medium sand and 64-67 m: fine sand (Lochristi Member), 67-70 m: coarse sand (Hijfte Member) (Vlierzele Formation) ; 70-78 m silty clay, greenish grey, at the top brown (Pittem Member), 78-86 m: clay (Merelbeke Member), 86-90 m: very fine clayey sand (Egem Member) (Ieper Formation) (Figure 5).

2.12. *Knokke*: borehole 11 E 138 (x= 78.776, y=226.370, h=+5 m). The Ypresian consists of sand 104.6-110 m, clayey sand with sandstone 110-116 m, coarse sand 116-124 m (Vlierzele Formation) ; sandy clay with lignite 124-133 m (Pittem Member), heavy clay 133-135 m (Merelbeke Member) and very fine sand 135-144 m (Egem Member). The limit between the Ieper and Mont Panisel Formations was fixed on top of the Egem Member by Vandenberghe *et al.* (1990), who named the unit 110-124 m an unnamed mixed sand-clay facies because of the lack of resemblance with the outcrop area of the Vlierzele sands. Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) put the limit of the Ieper Formation and Vlierzele Formations at the top of the Merelbeke Member (Figure 5).

Stratigraphy : Hijfte Member (122-124 m), Lochristi Member (119-122 m), Oosterzele Member (116-119 m), Beernem Member (110-116 m) and Drongengoed Member (104-110 m).

2.13. *Kruibeke*: borehole BGS 42 E 314 (x=142.350, y=205.850, h=+11 m). The base of the Lede Formation was encountered at 103 m. Ypresian consists of : 103-112 m: medium sand with sandstone (Drongengoed Member), 112-122 m: sandy clay (Beernem Member), 122-125 m: medium glauconitic sand (Oosterzele Member) 125-129 m: medium glauconitic sand with thin clay layers (Lochristi Member), 130-131 m: coarse sand (Hijfte Member) (Vlierzele Formation); 131-135 m: brown sandy clay (Pittem Member), 135-148 m: heavy clay (Merelbeke Member), 148-156 m: very fine sand (Egem Member) (Ieper Formation) (Figure 5).

2.14. *Lahamaide*: abandoned sandpit (x=110.025, y=154.350, h=+110 m). About 2 m of sand containing clay layers (up to 4 cm thick) and sandstone plates are exposed. At the moment, this locality is the southernmost accessible exposure of the Vlierzele Formation.
Stratigraphy : Beernem Member

2.15. *Louise-Marie*: Sandpit (x = 99.478, y = 162.388; z = +110 m), exposing cross-stratified glauconitic sands (Vlierzele Formation), overlain by the Lede Formation.

Stratigraphy : Oosterzele Member

2.16. *Nieuwerkerke-Waas*: borehole BGS 27 W 137 (x=136.650, y=210.780, h=+8 m). The Ypresian is covered by the Lede Formation and consists of : 121-127 m: medium sand with sandstone (Drongengoed Member), 127-136 m: sandy clay with sandstone, fossil-rich sandy clay and sandy clay (Beernem Member), 136-139 m: medium sand (Oosterzele Member), 139-142 m: fine sand with clay (Lochristi Member) and 142-145 m: medium to coarse sand (Hijfte Member) (Vlierzele Formation) ; 145-153 m: sandy clay, usually green, but brown in the uppermost 2 m (Pittem Member) 153-170 m: clay (Merelbeke Member), 170-184 m: very fine sand with *Nummulites-planulatus* (Egem Member) (Ieper Formation) (Figure 5).

2.17. *Oedelem*: Borehole 23 E 88 x = 77.185, y = 208.902, z = +10 m.

As yet, no results have been published of this cored boring. According to the geological map sheet 13 (Brugge) (Jacobs *et al.*, 1993a), the borehole is located in the provenance area of the Beernem Member (*sensu* Jacobs & Geets, 1977). According to the map, the Vlierzele Member of the Gent Formation is only about 10-12 m thick in the area. The Vlierzele section (33-46 m) can be subdivided into 3 smaller units :

sand (33-40 m), sandy clay (40-43 m) and sand with basal gravel (43-46 m). The section of the Oedelem borehole thus strongly resembled the nearby Sijsele well.

Proposed stratigraphy of the Vlierzele Formation :

Vlierzele Formation: 23-46 m :

Beernem Member: 23-33 m

Oosterzele Member: 33-40 m

Lochristi Member: 40-43 m

Hijfte Member: 43-46 m

2.18. *Oosterzele-Betsberg*: Borehole on the Betsberg hill ($x = 109.9$; $y = 183.25$; $z = +53$ m): Quaternary (0 - 1.7 m) ; Maldegem Formation (1.7-1.9 m) ; Lede Formation (1.9-8.9 m) ; Vlierzele Formation (8.9-19 m). The Vlierzele Formation consists of an alternation of sand and clay. The sand layers contain compact sandstones. Some sand and clay levels are dark brown and rich in lignite.

Stratigraphy : Beernem Member

2.19. *Oosterzele*: Temporary outcrop for road construction ($x = 111.25$, $y = 181.60$; $z = +55$ m), exposing cross-stratified glauconitic sands (Vlierzele Formation), overlain by the Lede Formation. The same sequence was also encountered in a nearby sandpit ($x = 111.80$, $y = 181.60$; $z = +53$ m).

Stratigraphy : Oosterzele Member.

2.20. *Overmere*: borehole (BGS 56 W 149) ; $x = 120.100$, $y = 193.350$, $h = + 5$ m). Under Pleistocene sands (0-16 m), the Vlierzele Formation (16-25 m ; Oosterzele Member) was encountered, overlying the Gent Formation : sandy clay (Pittem Member) and clay (Merelbeke Member) (25-35 m) and the Ieper Formation: very fine glauconitic sands (35-43 m ; Egem Member).

Stratigraphy of the Vlierzele Formation (after geophysical logs : Hijfte Member (23-25 m), Lochristi Member (20-23 m) and Oosterzele Member (16-20 m).

2.21. *Roborst*: claypit ($x = 105.800$, $y = 172.225$, $h = +69$ m) on a smooth hill. The following profile was excavated: 3 m of heavy grey clay with 30 cm of dark, pyritic sediment 30 cm below the top (Merelbeke Member), overlain by 1.5 m of medium sand (Vlierzele Formation) and 0.6 m of loam with basal gravel (Pleistocene). The Vlierzele sand is fining upward.

Stratigraphy : Hijfte Member (Figure 8).

2.22. *Schepdaal*: boreholes BGS 87 E 2 ($x = 139.025$, $y = 169.550$, $h = +80$ m.) and 87 E 5 ($x = 139.100$, $y = 169.500$, $h = +75$ m). After Steurbaut & Nolf (1986), the Ieper Formation (Mont Panisel Member) is overlain by the Wommel Member and the Vlierzele Formation is missing. The upper part of the Mont Panisel Member contains lignite.

2.23. *Sijsele*: Borehole BGS 23 E 90 ($x = 76.800$, $y = 210.100$, $h = +5$ m). The borehole was described by Fobe (1989), and identified the Oedelem (9-26m), Beernem (26-37 m) and Vlierzele (37-45 m) Members (Figure 10).

The Vlierzele sand section (37-45 m) was very rich in lignite and contained a few stone concretions in its upper part and coarse sand at the base. Stone layers (6 beds) were also encountered in the Beernem Member (26-37 m). The Vlierzele section (37-45 m) can be subdivided into 3 smaller units as is revealed by logs : sand (37-40 m), sandy clay (40-43 m) and sand with the basal gravel (43-45 m).

Revised stratigraphy :

Quaternary: 0-9 m

Knesselare Formation

Oedelem Member: 9-26 m

Vlierzele Formation

Beernem Member: 26-37 m

Oosterzele Member: 37-40 m

Lochristi Member: 40-43 m

Hijfte Member: 43-45 m

Gent Formation

Pittem Member: 45-53 m

Merelbeke Member: 53-57 m

Ieper Formation

Egem Member: 57-60 m (end of borehole)

2.24. *Ursel-Maldegem*: two boreholes, BGS 39 W 212 ($x = 87.910$, $y = 204.260$, $h = +29$ m) and BGS 39 W 213 ($x = 86.860$, $y = 205.900$, $h = +21$ m). Interpretation according to De Breuck *et al.* (1989): Vlierzele Member (43.7 - 69.3 m), Pittem Member (69.3-79.3 m) and Merelbeke Member (79.3-83.7 m) (Mont Panisel Formation) and Egem Member (83.7-102 m). Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) defined the Vlierzele Formation - including the Pittem Member - in this borehole (43.7-79.3 m). Present interpretation : medium sand 43.7-52 m (Drongengoed Member), clayey sand 52-58 m (Beernem Member), sand 58-63 m (Oosterzele Member), very fine sand 63-66 m (Lochristi Member) and sand 66-69.3 m (Hijfte Member) (Vlierzele Formation) ; sandy clay with lignite streaks, 69.3-79.3 m (Pittem Member), heavy clay 79.3-83.7 m (Merelbeke Member) (Gent Formation) and very fine sand 83.7-102 m (Egem Member) (Ieper Formation) (Figures 4, 5, 10 and 11).

2.25. *Vlierzele*: Sandpit ($x = 116.80$; $y = 181.50$; $z = +44$ m), described by Houthuys & Gullentops (1988). The Vlierzele Formation is some 12 m thick, overlain by the Lede Formation and covering the Merelbeke Member of the Gent Formation. The exposed part of the Vlierzele Formation shows cross-stratified and homogenous sand, deposited as a tidal ridge. The sand contains wood fragments.

Stratigraphy : Oosterzele Member.

2.26. *Volkegem*: borehole BGS 85 W 822 ($x = 98.750$, $y = 169.0$, $h = +90$ m), drilled in July 1992 : brown loam (0-7 m ; Quaternary), brown grey and green grey fine sand and very fine clayey sand (7-22 m ; Vlierzele Formation), green glauconitic sandy clay with stone layers (22-33 m) and green glauconitic very fine sand (33-35 m) (Ieper Formation, Mont Panisel Member), heavy grey clay (35-45 m ; Ieper Formation, Aalbeke Member) and brown grey silty clay with some fossils (45-58 m ; Ieper Formation; Roubaix Member).

Stratigraphy of the Vlierzele Formation : Oosterzele Member (fine sand; 7-9 m), Lochristi Member (very fine sand ; 9-18 m) and Hijfte Member (coarser sand ; 18-22 m) (Figure 9).

2.27. *Westouter*: borehole BGS 95 W 150 ($x = 36.325$, $y = 165.000$, $h = + 143$ m), described in detail by Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) : 0-10.4 m : clayey sand (Quaternary, 10.4-16 m: sand with ironstone (Diest Formation), 16-22 m : sand (Lede Formation), 22-46 m : fossiliferous clayey sand (Knesselare Formation), 46-57 m : clayey sand and 57-59.2 m: clay with shells and sandstone and 59.2-60.7 m: glauconitic sand (Vlierzele Formation), 60.7-84.5 m: clayey sand, rusty brown at the top and 84.5-90.8 m: 90.8 m: sandy clay (Mont Panisel Member), 90.8-92.5 m: clay

(Aalbeke Member). Steurbaut & Nolf (1986) interpreted the brown layer on top of the Mont Panisel Member as a possible remain of a paleosol. The interpretation of these authors differs from the original description in the files of the Belgian Geological Survey (Gulinck, 1968, unpubl.): Vlierzele sand (P1d): 34-43 m, Pittem clay (P1c) : 43-54.8 m, Merelbeke clay (P1m): 54.8-59 m, Egem sand (Yd): 59-80.2 m. Examination and grain size distribution of samples of the section between 30 and 80 m leads to the following interpretation (Figure 13):

Vlierzele Formation

Drongengoed Member: 34-37 m

Beernem Member: 37-43 m

Oosterzele Member: 43-46 m

Lochristi Member: 46-59 m

Hijfte Member: 59-61 m

2.28. *Zottegem*: borehole BGS 85 E 962 ($x = 111.90$; $y = 173.12$; $h = + 73$ m). Olive green heavy clay (0-4 m: Merelbeke Member); olive green glauconitic clayey sand (4-8 m), green sandy clay with stone layers and scarce bivalve shells (8-23 m) and very fine glauconitic sand (23-25 m) : Mont Panisel Member ; grey heavy clay (25-36 m : Aalbeke Member); sandy clay with some fossils (36-46 m : Roubaix Member) (Figure 9).

INDICATEURS BIOSTRATIGRAPHIQUES DU PHYTOPLANCTON A PAROI ORGANIQUE DES SABLES MARINS DU TERTIAIRE A ORET (ENTRE-SAMBRE-ET-MEUSE, BELGIQUE)

Jan DE CONINCK¹

RESUME. Les espèces de phytoplancton à paroi organique, significatives du point de vue biostratigraphique, qu'on retrouve dans les sables marins tertiaires à Oret (Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse), indiquent que l'âge de ces sables correspond probablement à celui d'une partie des Sables de Bassevelde dans le sondage de Kallo, datée Eocène supérieur.

MOTS-CLES: Belgique, Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse, biostratigraphie, dinokystes, sables marins, Eocène supérieur

ABSTRACT. The biostratigraphically significant species of organic-walled phytoplankton, which are recorded in marine Tertiary sands at Oret (Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse, southern Belgium) indicate that the age of these sands probably corresponds with part of the Late Eocene Bassevelde Sand Member in the Kallo borehole.

KEYWORDS: Belgium, Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse, biostratigraphy, dinocysts, marine sands, Late Eocene

1. INTRODUCTION

Dans le cadre de ses recherches sur les dépôts tertiaires de l'Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse (thèse de doctorat, 1972), Soyer avait demandé un examen palynologique des dépôts exploités dans quelques carrières de la commune d'Oret (Figure 1). Schuler et Sittler en avaient étudié les pollens et les spores et De Coninck les microfossiles du phytoplancton à paroi organique. Soyer (1979) a publié les conclusions de ces analyses micropaléontologiques : l'examen palynologique suggérait un âge oligocène inférieur à moyen pour la partie basale de ces dépôts qui recouvrent le calcaire du Carbonifère inférieur. Plus récemment, Russo Ermolli (1991) publiait les résultats de ses recherches sur les pollens et spores des dépôts tertiaires de l'Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse, dont ceux d'Oret. Ses conclusions biostratigraphiques confirment l'interprétation proposée antérieurement. Depuis lors, nous avons eu l'occasion d'étudier plus systématiquement le phytoplancton à paroi organique dans les dépôts de transition Eocène-Oligocène, notamment dans les sondages de Woensdrecht (De Coninck, 1986) et de Kallo (De Coninck, 1995 ; De Coninck, en préparation). L'analyse détaillée des assemblages de ces micro-

fossiles à Kallo a révélé une coupure biostratigraphique au niveau du passage du Wintham Silt aux Sables de Ruisbroek. Nous avons aussi découvert que dans la région type du Rupélien une lacune se situe au même passage (De Coninck, en préparation). Dans ce contexte, nous pouvons maintenant préciser la position biostratigraphique des sables marins tertiaires d'Oret par rapport aux dépôts de passage Eocène-Oligocène dans le sondage de Kallo.

2. PROVENANCE DU MATERIEL

Dans la carrière Caroret (coord. Lambert : x = 167.075 ; y = 108.800 ; altitude ° 250 m) située à environ 1100 m au S-SW de l'église d'Oret (Figure 1), deux sondages (SI et SIV) ont atteint l'argile ligniteuse recouvrant le calcaire du Carbonifère inférieur (Figure 2). Sur ces dépôts ligniteux reposent des sables argileux gris dont la couleur devient brunâtre à jaunâtre à une trentaine de centimètres plus haut. La partie inférieure de ces sables a livré des pollens, des spores et du phytoplancton à paroi organique (principalement des kystes de dinoflagellés, quelques prasinophycées et de rares acritarches). Ce phytoplancton

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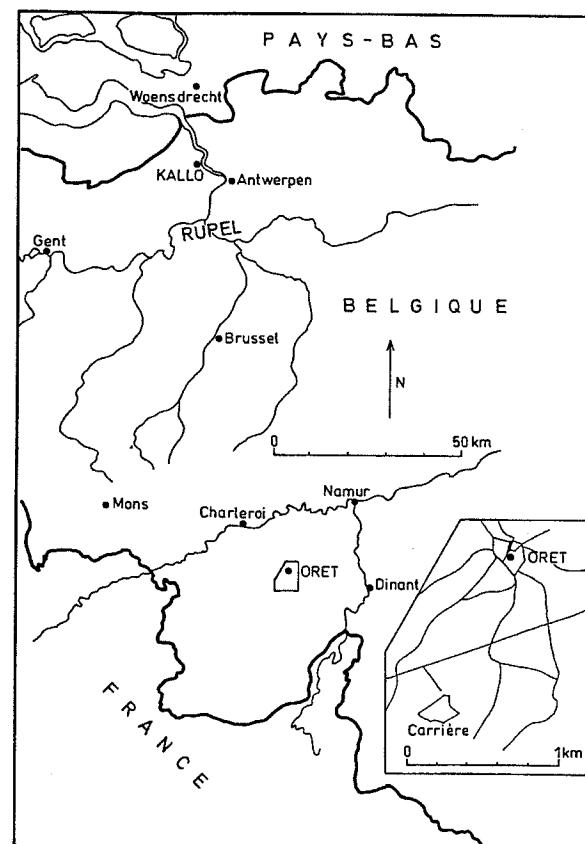


Figure 1. Carte de localisation de la carrière Caroret à Oret (Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse)

diversifié témoigne d'un milieu marin de sédimentation. Dans le sondage SI, nous avons examiné l'échantillon S53 et dans le sondage SIV, les échantillons S74 et S71.

3. LES ASSEMBLAGES DU PHYTOPLANCTON A PAROI ORGANIQUE

Le tableau 1 reprend la liste des espèces recensées dans les trois échantillons. Parmi les espèces très fréquentes, signalons spécialement *Glaphyrocysta* (aff.) *inculta*, *G. ? undulata*, *Homotryblium floripes* et les *Homotryblium* spp. Selon Brinkhuis (1994), le genre *Glaphyrocysta* serait particulièrement fréquent dans des dépôts marins marginaux. L'abondance d'espèces du genre *Homotryblium* suggère de possibles communications avec des lagunes de salinité supérieure à la normale.

4. CONCLUSIONS BIOSTRATIGRAPHIQUES

Pour chaque échantillon, les espèces qui permettent une corrélation avec les couches de passage Eocène-

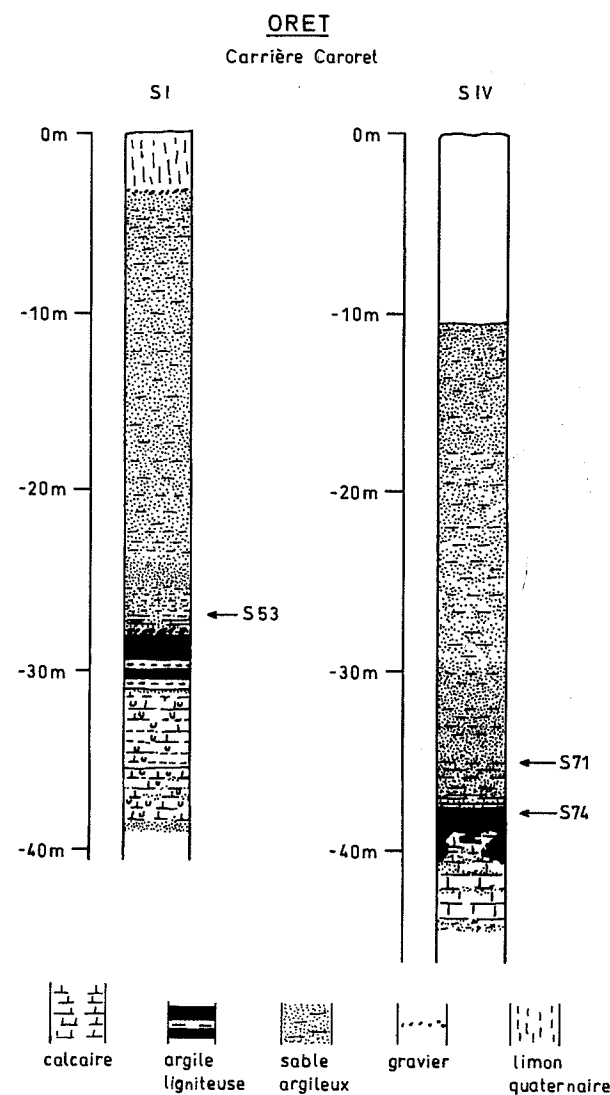


Figure 2. Coupes stratigraphiques des sondages SI et SIV dans la carrière Caroret

Oligocène dans le sondage de Kallo sont reprises dans les tableaux 2 à 4 avec indication de leur répartition et de leur fréquence relative dans le sondage.

L'examen de la répartition dans le sondage de Kallo des indicateurs biostratigraphiques des trois échantillons ne révèle pas de différences significatives. Leur assemblage correspond grosso-modo avec celui que l'on rencontre à Kallo entre -124 m et -109.5 m (partie supérieure des Sables de Bassevelde + Argile de Watervliet + Silt de Wintham). Une corrélation plus précise avec une partie des Sables de Bassevelde à Kallo entre -124 et -115 m peut être proposée. Deux espèces retrouvées à Oret S71 et S74, *Rhombodinium longimanum* et *Stephodinium ? parvum*, se rencontrent à Kallo -124 m mais ont disparu des assemblages de Kallo -115 m et plus haut. A Kallo -115 m on rencontre les derniers spécimens de *Glaphyrocysta* ?

DINOPHYCEAE		ORET S 53	S 74	S 71
<i>Achomosphaera alaicornu</i> (EISENACK 1954)				
<i>Achomosphaera</i> spp. indet.		:	!	!!
<i>Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum</i> WILLIAMS & DOWNIE 1966			!	
<i>Araneosphaera araneosa</i> EATON 1976				
<i>Areosphaeridium diktyoplokus</i> (KLUMPP 1953)		!!	!	!
<i>A. pectiniforme</i> (GERLACH 1961)		:	.	!
<i>Cerebrocysta bartonensis</i> BUJAK 1980				
<i>Charlesdownia clathrata</i> (EISENACK 1938)		!!	!!	!!
<i>Cordosphaeridium cantharellum</i> (BROSIUS 1963)				
<i>C. gracile</i> (EISENACK 1954)				
<i>C. minimum</i> (MORGENROTH 1966) sensu BUJAK 1980				!
<i>C. multispinosum</i> DAVEY & WILLIAMS 1966				:
<i>Corrudinium incompositum</i> (DRUGG 1970)				
<i>Cribroperidinium giuseppelli</i> (MORGENROTH 1966)				
<i>Cyclopsiella vieta</i> DRUGG & LOEBLICH 1967				:
<i>Dapsilidinium</i> (aff.) <i>pseudocolligerum</i> (STOVER 1977)				:
<i>Deflandrea heterophlycta</i> DEFLANDRE & COOKSON 1955				
<i>D. phosphoritica</i> EISENACK 1938		!	.	!
<i>D. sp. aff. D. heterophlycta - D. phosphoritica</i>				.
<i>Dinopterygium fehmannense</i> (LENTIN & WILLIAMS 1973)		!!	!	!
<i>Diphyes colligerum</i> (DEFLANDRE & COOKSON 1955)		:	.	
<i>Distatodinium craterum</i> EATON 1976				
<i>D. ellipticum</i> (COOKSON 1965)		:		
<i>D. paradoxum</i> (BROSIUS 1963)				.
<i>Eocladopyxis severinii</i> (COOKSON & CRANWELL 1967)				.
<i>E. tessellata</i> LIENGJARERN, COSTA & DOWNIE 1980		?		!
<i>Fibrocysta vectensis</i> (EATON 1976)				.
<i>Glaphyrocysta</i> (aff.) <i>inculta</i> (MORGENROTH 1966)		!!	.	!!
<i>G. microfenestrata</i> (BUJAK 1976)		!	.	.
<i>G. semitecta</i> (BUJAK 1980)		:	.	.
<i>G. ? undulata</i> (EATON 1976)		X	!!	!
<i>Heteraulacacysta porosa</i> BUJAK 1980			.	:
<i>Homotryblium floripes</i> (DEFLANDRE & COOKSON 1955)		X	XX	X
<i>Homotryblium</i> spp. indet.		!!	X	X
<i>Hystriochokolpoma cinctum</i> KLUMPP 1953			.	!
<i>H. rigaudae</i> DEFLANDRE & COOKSON 1955		:	:	
<i>H. aff. rigaudae</i> in DE CONINCK in prep.			.	.
<i>H. salacium</i> EATON 1976				.
<i>Hystriochosphaeridium tubiferum</i> (EHRENBERG 1838)		:	.	:
<i>Hystriochostrogylon coninckii</i> HEILMANN-CLAUSEN 1985			.	.
<i>Impagidinium</i> sp. cf. <i>I. multiplexum</i> (WALL & DALE 1968)			.	.
<i>Impletosphaeridium</i> sp. A in DE CONINCK 1986			.	.
<i>Lentinia serrata</i> BUJAK 1980			.	.
<i>Lingulodinium machaerophorum</i> (DEFLANDRE & COOKSON 1955)		:	.	!
<i>L. ? pycnospinosum</i> (BENEDEK 1972)			.	.
<i>Melitasphaeridium pseudorecurvatum</i> (MORGENROTH 1966)				.
<i>Membranophoridium aspinatum</i> GERLACH 1961 forma B in DE CONINCK in prep		!!	!	!!

Tableau 1. Liste des espèces présentes dans les échantillons S53 (sondage SI), S74 et S71 (sondage SIV). Leur fréquence est indiquée par quelques symboles : . sporadique (<0.2 %); : rare (>0.2 % à 0.7 %); ! peu fréquente (>0.7 % à 3 %); !! fréquente (>3 % à 10 %); X très fréquente (>10 % à 25 %); XX abondante (>25 %).

undulata et de *Heteraulacacysta porosa*, ainsi que les premiers spécimens de *Glaphyrocysta* aff. *inculta*, *Homotryblium floripes*, *Membranophoridium aspinatum* forma B, *Rhombodinium perforatum* et *Thalassiphora fenestrata*. *Glaphyrocysta semitecta* y fait sa réapparition. La présence à Oret S53 et S71 de cf. *Reticulatosphaera*? sp. A, qu'on n'observe à Kallo qu'entre -110 et -108.2 m, ne met pas cette interprétation en défaut.

L'absence de formes remaniées du Mésozoïque ou du Paléocène et Eocène inférieur dans les niveaux étudiés à Oret soutient notre corrélation avec les Sables de Bassevelde puisque des remaniements prononcés ne s'observent à Kallo qu'à partir de -111 m jusqu'à -109.5 m, c'est-à-dire dans des dépôts attribués à l'Argile de Watervliet et au Silt de Wintham (voir Steurbaut, 1992).

De toute façon, les sédiments marins examinés à Oret correspondent à une partie de ces dépôts sous-jacents aux Sables de Ruisbroek. Cet ensemble précède le changement prononcé des assemblages de dinoflagellés, observé à Kallo entre -109.5 m et -108.2 m et qui, dans la région-type du Rupélien (sondages de Niel et de Hingene-Wintham), coïncide avec une brusque

coupure dans la succession des assemblages. Cette coupure traduit probablement une lacune entre le Silt de Wintham et les Sables de Ruisbroek (De Coninck, en préparation) et qui correspond à Kallo à l'intervalle -108.2 et -106 m, au moins. C'est sans doute le reflet d'un abaissement du niveau marin dont les premiers signes se manifestent déjà dans l'Argile de Watervliet et dans le Silt de Wintham, avec d'une part, l'apparition de tissus de plantes parmi les restes organiques, témoignant d'un rapprochement de la côte, et d'autre part une augmentation considérable de dinokystes remaniés jurassiques à lutétiens. La phase maximale de la régression, coïncidant avec la lacune, a été accompagnée de l'arrivée d'eaux plus froides dans la région de Kallo (De Coninck, en préparation). Dans son analyse palynologique Russo Ermolli (1991) révèle que la sédimentation des sables d'Oret a au contraire eu lieu durant une phase de climat relativement chaud. A ce climat chaud correspondait probablement un haut niveau de la mer donc une transgression maximale précédant la phase régressive dont le début remonte à la sédimentation de l'Argile de Watervliet.

O R E T S 53 S 74 S 71

<i>Operculodinium centrocarpum</i> (DEFLANDRE & COOKSON 1955)	!!	!!	!
<i>O. divergens</i> (EISENACK 1954)	.	.	.
<i>O. uncinispinosum</i> (DE CONINCK 1969)	:	!!	!!
<i>Palaeocystodinium golzowense</i> ALBERTI 1961	.	.	.
<i>Pentadinium laticinctum</i> GERLACH 1961	.	.	.
<i>P. lophophorum</i> (BENEDEK 1972)	.	.	.
<i>Phthanoperidinium comatum</i> (MORGENROTH 1966)	!!	!	!!
<i>P. levimurum</i> BUJAK 1980	.	?	.
<i>Polysphaeridium zoharyi</i> (ROSSIGNOL 1962)	.	.	.
<i>Reticulatosphaera actinocoronata</i> (BENEDEK 1972)	.	.	.
cf. <i>Reticulatosphaera</i> sp. A in DE CONINCK 1994	.	.	.
<i>Rhombodinium longimanum</i> VOZZHENNIKOVA 1967	.	.	.
<i>R. perforatum</i> (JAN DU CHENE & CHATEAUNEUF 1975)	:	.	:
<i>Rhombodinium</i> sp. indet.	.	.	.
<i>Samlandia chlamydotheca</i> EISENACK 1954	.	.	:
<i>Spiniferites pseudofurcatus</i> (KLUMPP 1953)	:	.	.
<i>Spiniferites</i> sp. A in POWELL 1986	.	.	.
<i>Spiniferites</i> spp. indet.	!!	!	!!
<i>Stephodinium</i> ? parvum DE CONINCK 1986	.	.	.
<i>Systematophora placacantha</i> (DEFLANDRE & COOKSON 1955)	.	.	.
<i>Tectatodinium pellitum</i> WALL 1967	.	.	.
<i>Thalassiphora fenestrata</i> LIENGJÄRERN, COSTA & DOWNIE 1980	.	.	!
T.? cf. <i>pansa</i> STOVER 1977	.	.	.
<i>T. patula</i> (WILLIAMS & DOWNIE 1966)	!!	.	.
<i>T. pelagica</i> (EISENACK 1954)	:	.	!!
T.? <i>spinifera</i> (COOKSON & EISENACK 1965)	.	.	.

CHLOROPHYCEAE

Pediastrum _____ :

Sondage de Kallo

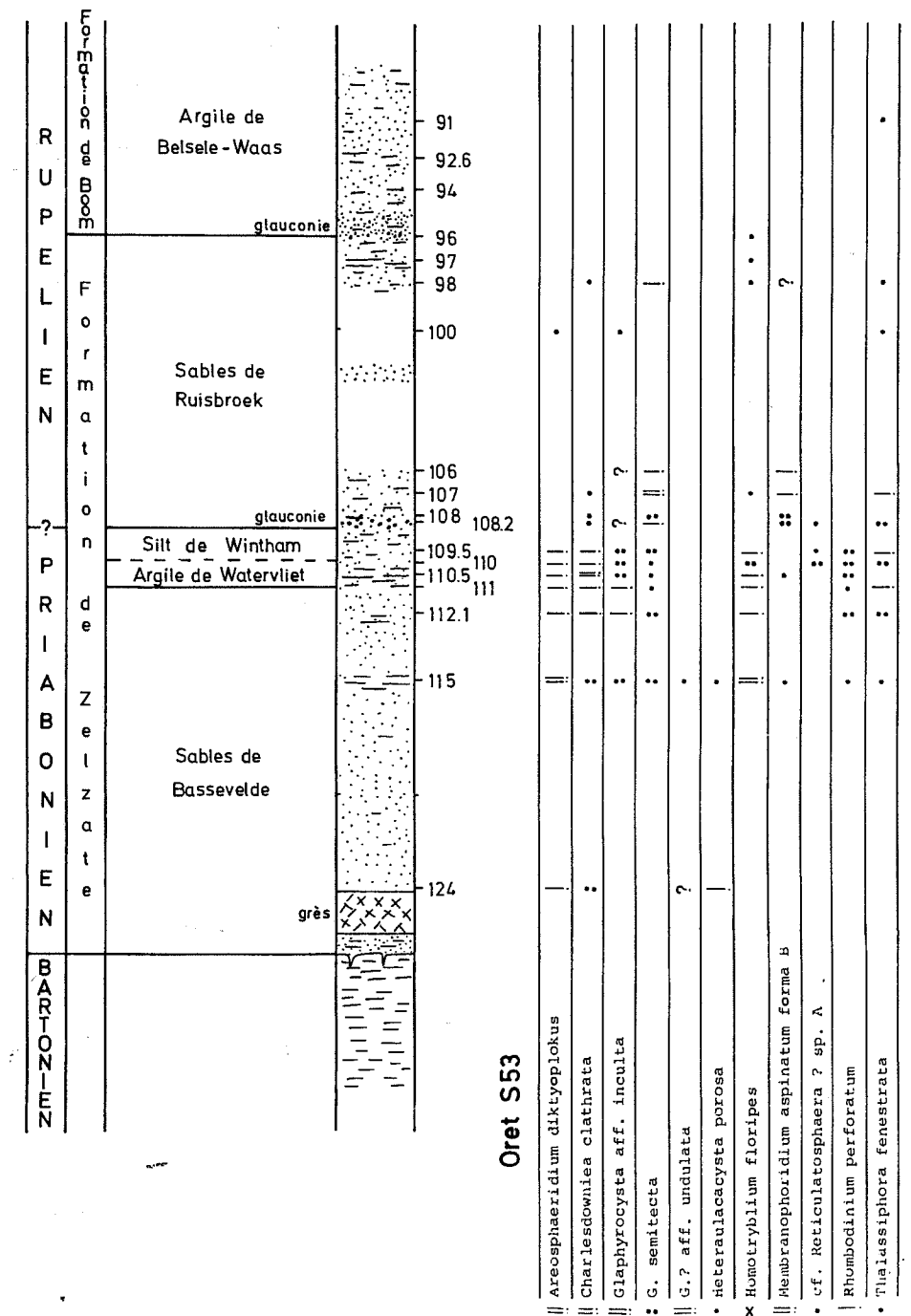


Tableau 2. Corrélation biostratigraphique de l'échantillon S53 avec le sondage de Kallo

Les sables marins d'Oret correspondent donc sans doute à une partie des Sables de Bassevelde dans le sondage de Kallo, et furent déposés lors d'un haut niveau de la mer pendant lequel la transgression a pu atteindre la région de l'Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse.

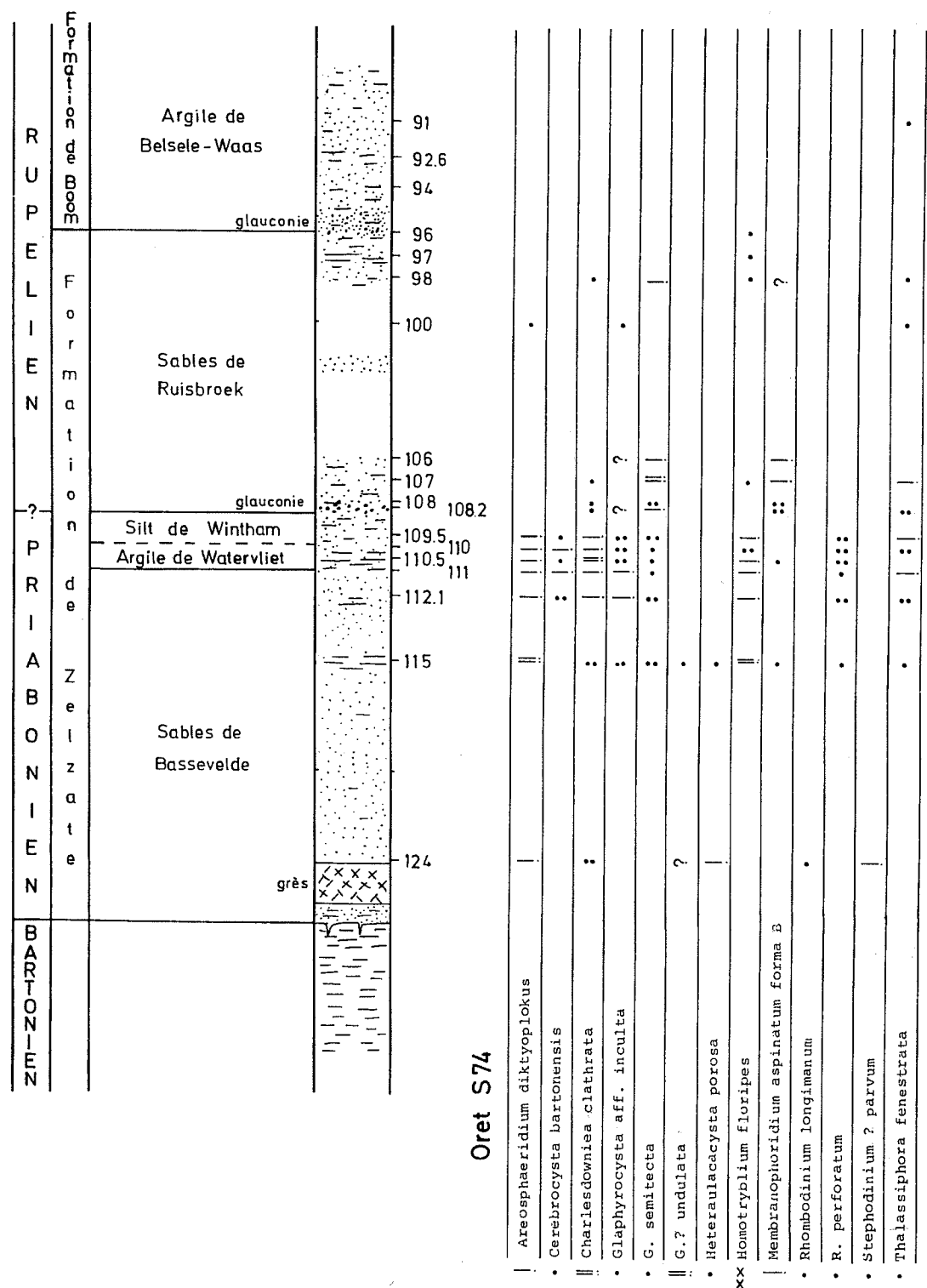
Oligocene dinoflagellate cysts from the Priabonian type-area (Northeast Italy): biostratigraphy and paleoenvironmental interpretation. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, **107**: 121-163.

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Sondage de Kallo



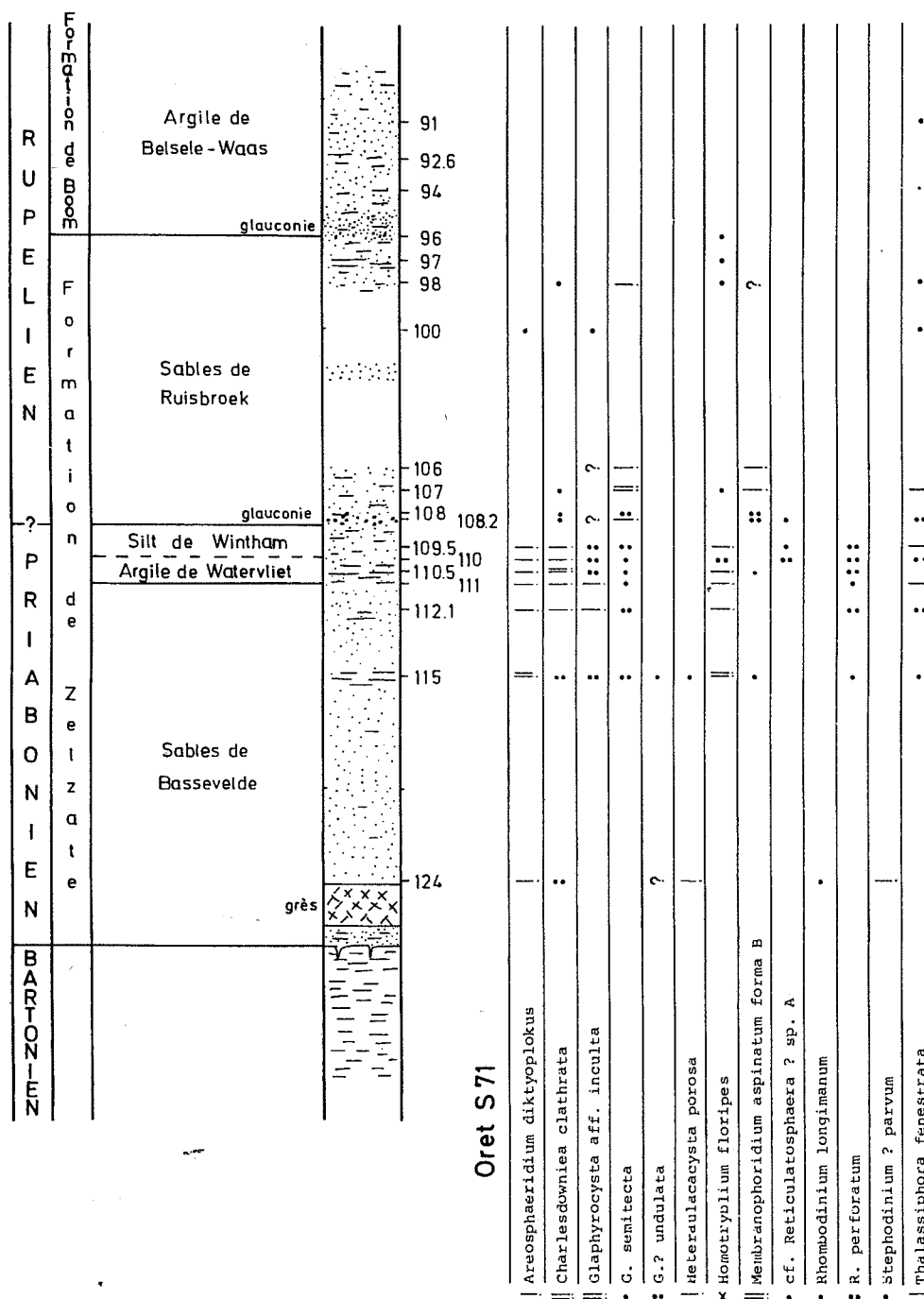
Oret S74

Tableau 3. Corrélation biostratigraphique de l'échantillon S74 avec le sondage de Kallo

DE CONINCK, J., 1995 - Microfossiles à paroi organique du Bartonien, Priabonien et Rupélien inférieur dans le sondage de Kallo; espèces significatives dans les sondages de Woensdrecht, Kallo et Mol. *Meded. Rijks. Geol. Dienst*, 53: 65-105.

DE CONINCK, J., 1996 - Organic walled phytoplankton biostratigraphy of the Eocene-Oligocene transition in the Kallo borehole 27E-148, the Niel borehole 43W-270, the Hingene-Wintham borehole 42E-212 and the Terhagen borehole 58W-213 (en préparation).

Sondage de Kallo



Oret S71

Tableau 4. Corrélation biostratigraphique de l'échantillon S71 avec le sondage de Kallo

RUSO ERMOLLI, E., 1991 - Datation palynologique de gisements tertiaires de l'Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse. Essai de reconstitution des paléoenvironnements et des paléoclimats. *Serv. géol. Belg. Professional Paper*, 1991/1 - N°245: 1-40.
 SOYER, J., 1972 - Sédimentologie des sables tertiaires de l'Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse condrusien. Thèse Univ. Catholique de Louvain (non publiée): 248 p.
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Sambre-et-Meuse condrusien. *Ann. Soc. Géol. Belg.*, 101: 93-100.
 STEURBAUT, E., 1992 - Integrated stratigraphic analysis of Lower Rupelian deposits (Oligocene) in the Belgian Basin. *Ann. Soc. Géol. Belg.*, 115: 287-306.

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PLANCHE 1

Grossissement : x 500.

1. *Areosphaeridium diktyoplokus* (KLUMPP, 1953)
Oret S74 ; lame n° 2.

2. *Areosphaeridium diktyoplokus* (KLUMPP, 1953)
Oret S71; lame n° 1.

3. *Cerebrocysta bartonensis* BUJAK, 1980
Oret S74; lame n° 2.

4. *Cerebrocysta bartonensis* BUJAK, 1980
Oret S74; lame n° 2.

5. *Charlesdowniea clathrata* (EISENACK, 1938)
Oret S74; lame n° 2.

6, 8. *Glaphyrocysta* aff. *inculta* (MORGENROTH, 1966)
Oret S74; lame n° 3.

7, 9. *Glaphyrocysta* aff. *inculta* (MORGENROTH, 1966)
Oret S71; lame n° 1.

10. *Glaphyrocysta semitecta* (BUJAK, 1980)
Oret S53; lame n° 2.

11, 12. *Glaphyrocysta* ? *undulata* (EATON, 1976)
Oret S53; lame n° 1.

13. *Glaphyrocysta semitecta* (BUJAK, 1980)
Oret S53; lame n° 1.

14, 15. *Glaphyrocysta* ? *undulata* (EATON, 1976)
Oret S53; lame n° 1.

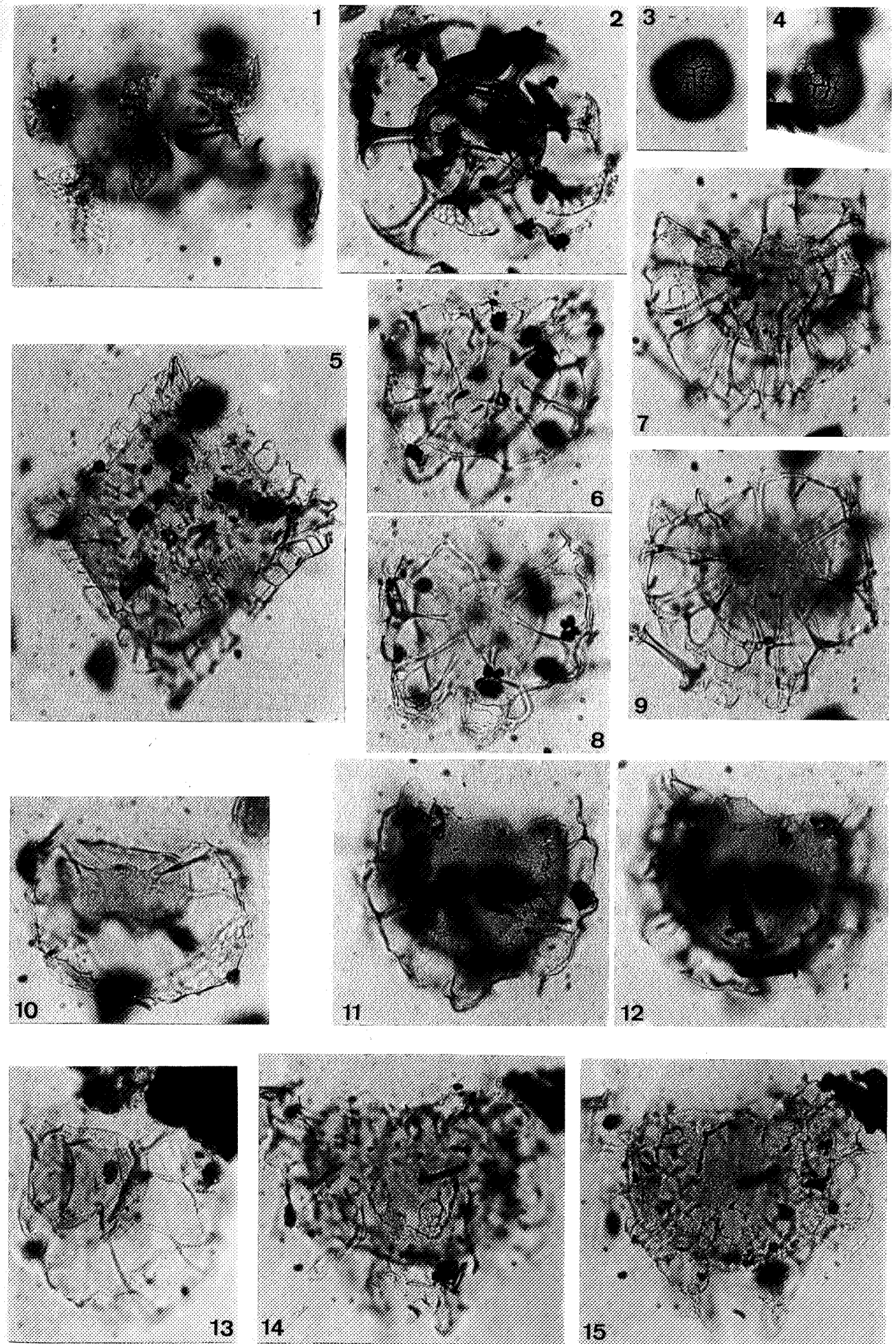
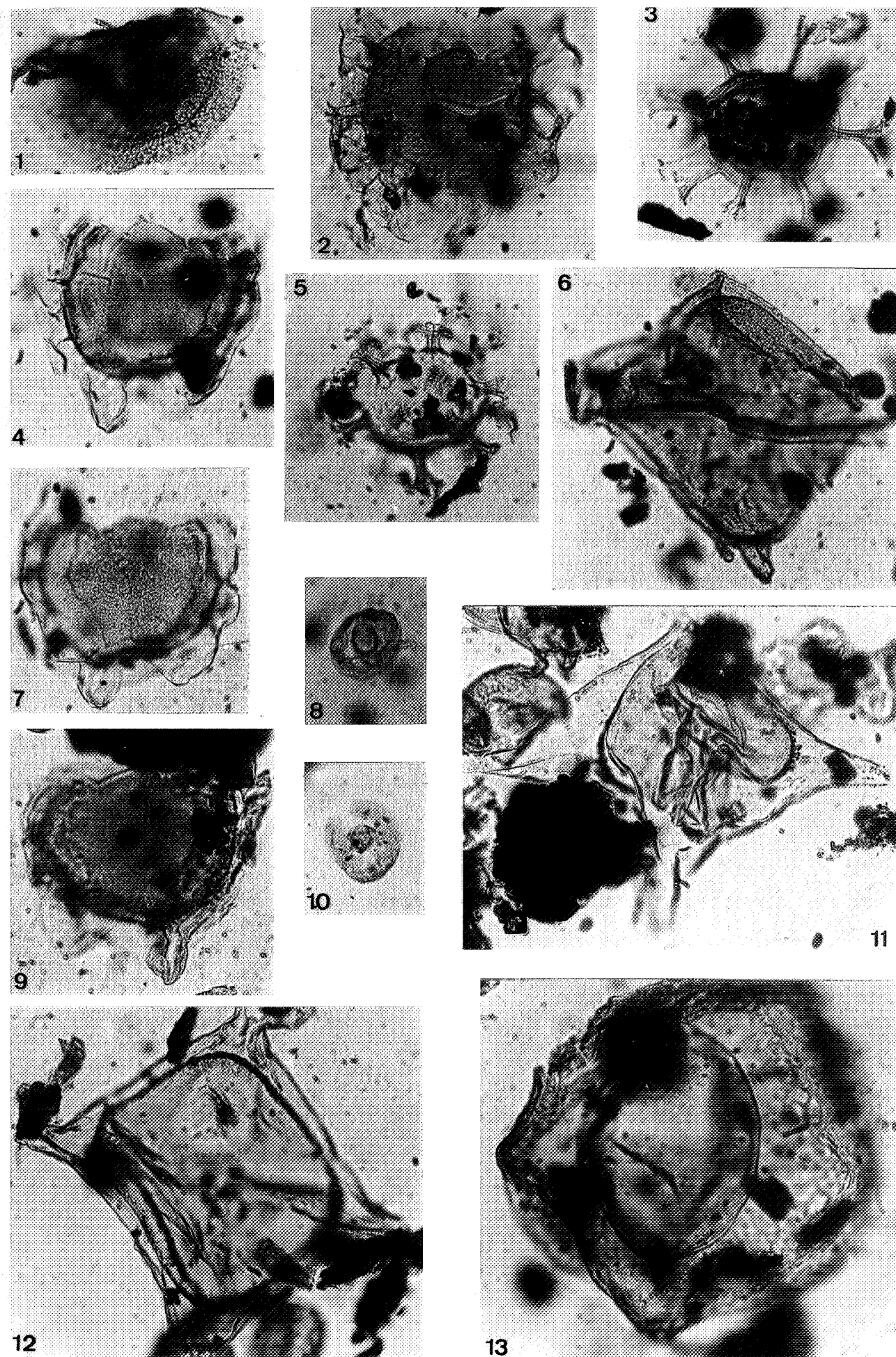


PLANCHE 2

Grossissement : x 500.

1. *Heteraulacacysta porosa* BUJAK, 1980
Oret S74; lame n° 1.
2. *Glaphyrocysta ? undulata* (EATON, 1976)
Oret S53; lame n° 1.
3. *Homotryblium floripes* (DEFLANDRE & COOKSON, 1955)
Oret S71; lame n° 1.
4. *Membranophoridium aspinatum* GERLACH, 1961
forma B in DE CONINCK, en préparation.
Oret S71; lame n° 1
5. *Homotryblium floripes* (DEFLANDRE & COOKSON, 1955)
Oret S74; lame n° 1.
6. *Rhombodinium perforatum* (JAN DU CHENE & CHATEAUNEUF, 1975)
Oret S74; lame n° 1.
7. *Membranophoridium aspinatum* GERLACH, 1961
forma B in DE CONINCK, en préparation.
Oret S74; lame n° 1.
8. *Stephodinium ? parvum* DE CONINCK, 1986
Oret S74; lame n° 1.
9. *Membranophoridium aspinatum* GERLACH, 1961
forma B in DE CONINCK, en préparation.
Oret S53; lame n° 1.
10. *Stephodinium ? parvum* DE CONINCK, 1986
Oret S71; lame n° 3.
11. *Rhombodinium longimanum* VOZZHENNIKOVA, 1967
Oret S71; lame n° 2.
12. *Rhombodinium longimanum* VOZZHENNIKOVA, 1967
Oret S71; lame n° 1.
13. *Thalassiphora fenestrata* LIENGJARERN, COSTA et DOWNIE, 1980
Oret S53; lame n° 1.



INTERPRETATION OF A DOUBLE PUMPING TEST AT ASSENEDE (N.W. BELGIUM) BY MEANS OF AN INVERSE NUMERICAL MODEL AND THE COMPARISON OF ORDINARY AND BIWEIGHTED LEAST SQUARE SOLUTIONS

L. LEBBE¹ and M. BOUGHRIBA²

ABSTRACT. By the execution of a double pumping test the hydraulic parameters of the layered groundwater reservoir under the «Rode Polder» in Assenede (N.W. Belgium) were determined. The accurate knowledge of these hydraulic parameters is very important for the simulation of the evolution of the fresh-salt water distribution under the studied polder area. All drawdowns of both pumping tests are simultaneously interpreted by means of the inverse numerical model. The lithostratigraphical information gathered during the drilling activities is represented accurately in the numerical model which allows the consideration of a large amount of layers. As a result of the inverse model a unique solution is derived where for each hydraulic parameter which can be derived from the observed drawdowns, one value and one marginal standard deviation is obtained. By the application of the biweighted least square method the effect of the outliers on the results is deduced.

KEY WORDS: Pumping test analysis, layered groundwater reservoir, inverse numerical model.

SAMENVATTING. Door de uitvoering van de dubbele pompproef worden de hydraulische parameters afgeleid van het grondwater reservoir onder de Rode Polder te Assenede (N.W. België). De nauwkeurige kennis van deze hydraulische parameter is zeer belangrijk voor de simulatie van de evolutie van de zoet en zout water verdeling onder het bestudeerde poldergebied. Alle verlagingen van beide pompproeven worden gelijktijdig geïnterpreteerd door middel van het inverteerend numeriek model. De lithostratigrafische gegevens verzameld tijdens het boren van de pomp- en de waarnemingsputten worden nauwkeurig opgenomen in het numeriek model dat toelaat een groot aantal lagen te meten die afgeleid kan worden uit de waargenomen verlagingen één waarde bekomen wordt en één marginale standaard afwijking. Door de toepassing van de methode van de bigewicht kleinste kwadraat afwijking wordt het effect afgeleid van de uitschieters op de resultaten.

SLEUTELWOORDEN: Pompproefanalyse, gelaagd grondwaterreservoir, inverteerend numeriek model.

1. INTRODUCTION

For understanding and/or solving most hydrogeological problems it is important to obtain the accurate knowledge of the horizontal hydraulic conductivities of the pervious layers, the vertical hydraulic conductivities of the semi-pervious layers and in unsteady

state cases the specific elastic storage and/or the storage coefficient near the watertable. This knowledge cannot be obtained by the execution of a simple pumping test and the interpretation of the observed drawdowns by the classical interpretation methods based upon analytical models of oversimplified groundwater reservoirs.

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In this paper it is demonstrated how these above mentioned hydraulic parameters can be deduced by the execution of a double pumping test in the polder area of Assenede (East-Flanders). The pumping test was executed in the framework of a fresh-salt groundwater flow study. In those studies of flow with different densities where the vertical components are very important, the accurate knowledge of the vertical hydraulic conductivities of the semi-pervious layers is of prior concern. During the interpretation of the double pumping test all observed drawdowns are simultaneously introduced in the inverse numerical model. This exceeds largely the possibilities of the classical interpretation methods where the observations are fragmented per observation well and into drawdowns and residual drawdowns. The numerical model, which is an axi-symmetric hybrid finite-difference finite-element model (Lebbe, 1988), allows the accurate representation of the lithostratigraphical information collected during the drilling activities of the pumping and observation, wells. The double pumping test is executed in the layered groundwater reservoir formed by tertiary and quaternary deposits situated under the «Zwarte Sluis Polder» near the Dutch-Belgian border. The inverse model is started with the ordinary least square method (OLS- method) and was continued by the biweighted least square method (BWLS-method) to reduce the effect of the outliers. The accuracies are deduced from the variance-covariance matrix of the hydraulic parameters. The inverse model can be considered as a generalized interpretation method of pumping tests.

2. INVERSE MODEL

The inverse model is obtained by a combination of a numerical model with a sensitivity analysis and a non-linear regression analysis. The applied numerical model is two-dimensional axi-symmetric. In the numerical model the groundwater reservoir is subdivided in a number of homogeneous layers which are numbered from bottom to top. Each layer is subdivided in a number of concentric rings. The lowest layer, layer 1, is bounded below by an impervious boundary and the uppermost layer is bounded above by the water table. The horizontal flow and change in storage of each layer are characterized respectively by one value for the horizontal hydraulic conductivity and by one value of the specific elastic storage. The vertical flow between two layers is governed by one value of the hydraulic resistance between the layers. The hydraulic resistance is the thickness of a layer divided by its vertical conductivity. The amount of water delivered by a unit decline of the water table is given by one value of the storage coefficient near the watertable. The drawdowns in the different rings of

the different layers at the different time steps are calculated with a hybrid finite-difference finite-element method. During the calculated intervals a linear change is assumed between the drawdown and the logarithm of the time since the start of the pump. A detailed description of the numerical model is given in Lebbe (1988). Also the validation of the numerical model was demonstrated by the simulation of the models of Theis (1935), Jacob (1946), Hantush & Jacob (1955), Hantush (1960,1966) and the model of Boulton (1955,1963) as it was explained by Cooley (1971, 1972) and Cooley & Case (1973).

After the schematization of the groundwater reservoir one has to estimate the initial values of the hydraulic parameters. With these values the model calculates the drawdowns at the same places and times where the observations took place. The differences between the logarithms of the observed and the calculated drawdowns for a certain parameter set are defined as residuals :

$$\text{or } \mathbf{r} = \log_{10} s^* - \log_{10} \delta \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{r} are the residuals,
 s^* the measured drawdowns,
and δ the calculated drawdowns.

To adjust the values of the parameters so that the sum of the squares of the residuals becomes smaller one has to calculate the sensitivities of the drawdowns to the hydraulic parameters or groups of parameters. The ij -th component of the sensitivity matrix or Jacobian matrix is defined as :

$$J_{ij} = (\log_{10} \delta_i(P_j, sf) - \log_{10} \delta_i) / \log_{10}(sf) \quad (2)$$

where sf is the sensitivity factor,
 δ_i is the calculated drawdown at the place and time of the i -th observation with the estimated values of the parameters for the first iteration or calculated values of the foregoing iteration,
and $\delta_i(P_j, sf)$ is the calculated drawdown at the place and time of the i -th observation with the estimated values of the parameters with the exception of the value(s) of the j -th parameter or group of parameters whose estimated value(s) are multiplied with the sensitivity factor.

With the help of the residuals and the sensitivities the adjustment factors are calculated by means of the linearization method (Draper & Smith, 1966).

$$\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{w} \mathbf{J})^{-1} \mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{w} \mathbf{r} \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{A} is the vector of the logarithms of the adjustment factors of the different parameters.

\mathbf{w} is an identity matrix with the same dimension as there are observations if the OLS method is used and a diagonal matrix with the weights of the observations on its diagonal elements if a WLS method is used (for more explanation see below),

The newly estimated values of the parameters are obtained by multiplying the old ones with their corresponding adjustment factors or:

$$P_j^{n+1} = P_j^n \cdot 10^{A_j^n} \quad (4)$$

where P_j^n is the value of the j -th parameter during the n -th iteration of the inverse process,

A_j^n is the logarithm in base 10 of the adjustment factor of the j -th parameter deduced after the n -th iteration.

The algorithm is repeated until the adjustment factors become very small and the sum of the squares of the residuals reach a minimum value. In this paper the biweighted least square (BWLS) method as described by Wannacott & Wannacott (1985) is applied. In this method a kind of standardized residual \mathbf{u} is calculated:

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{r} / 3 \cdot \text{IQR} \quad (5)$$

where IQR is the interquartile range.

The weight is now given in a diagonal matrix \mathbf{w} where the weight of the i -th observation is given in the diagonal element w_{ii} :

$$w_{ii} = (1 - u_i^2)^2 \text{ if } |u_i| \leq 1 \text{ and } w_{ii} = 0 \text{ if } |u_i| > 1 \quad (6)$$

When it is assumed that the residuals with their different weights approximate a normal distribution with the mean equal to zero and that the drawdowns can be approximated as a linear function within the considered region then the joint probability distribution can be described by the mean and the variance-covariance matrix of the parameters cov_p :

$$\text{cov}_p = \sigma_s^2 (\mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{w} \mathbf{J})^{-1} \quad (7)$$

where σ_s^2 can be estimated as $(\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ii} r_i^2) / (\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ii} - p)$ when n is the number of observations and p the number of parameters.

The marginal standard deviation sm_j of the j -th parameter can now be approximated as the square root of the j -th diagonal term of the variance-covariance matrix. This standard deviation represents the variability when nothing is known about the other parameters.

With the aid of the marginal standard deviation sm_j the $N\%$ marginal confidence interval can be approximated. The lower and the upper limits of this confidence interval are obtained by respectively dividing and multiplying the optimal values of the hydraulic parameters with their marginal confidence factors, $CfNm_j$. This marginal confidence factor can be approximated with the following equation:

$$CfNm_j = 10^{(sm_j \sqrt{p} F(p, n-p, 1-\alpha))} \quad (8)$$

where $F(p, n-p, 1-\alpha)$ is the F-distribution with p and $n-p$ degrees of freedom and a significance level α ($=N/100$).

When the estimates are correlated this interval may however be a poor measure of the uncertainty (Carrera & Neuman, 1986).

3. DOUBLE PUMPING TEST

The pumping test side is located in the «Rode polders». This is a part of the «Zwarte Sluis Polder» which is situated just south of the Dutch-Belgian border. The lithostratigraphical cross-section (Fig.1) is based on the description of samples collected during drilling activities and on the results of geophysical borehole loggings (caliper, spontaneous potential, point resistance, natural gamma and resistivity measurements with the long-normal and the short-normal device). In our practical case the natural gamma logging characterizes quite well the layering of the groundwater reservoir (Fig.1).

The base of the considered groundwater reservoir is formed by the heavy clay of the Onderdijke-Adegem Member (a3) with a thickness of about eleven meters. The lowest pervious layer of the groundwater reservoir are the silty fine sands of the Bassevelde Member (s3) with a thickness of 17.5 m. In the middle of the groundwater reservoir a semi-pervious layer occurs which is formed by the sandy clay of the Watervliet Member (zK). The upper part of the considered groundwater reservoir is formed by quaternary sediments. The sediments are separated in three different layers, a medium sand (KZ1), a sandy silt (KL) and a medium to fine sand gradually changing towards the surface to clay. The last mentioned sediments are of Holocene age. Because the watertable is situated near the base of the uppermost pervious layers the saturated part of this layer is rather thin.

The location of the pumping and observation wells and their screen intervals is shown in Figure 1. Two different pumping wells are installed, one in the pervious layer formed in the Bassevelde Member s3 and

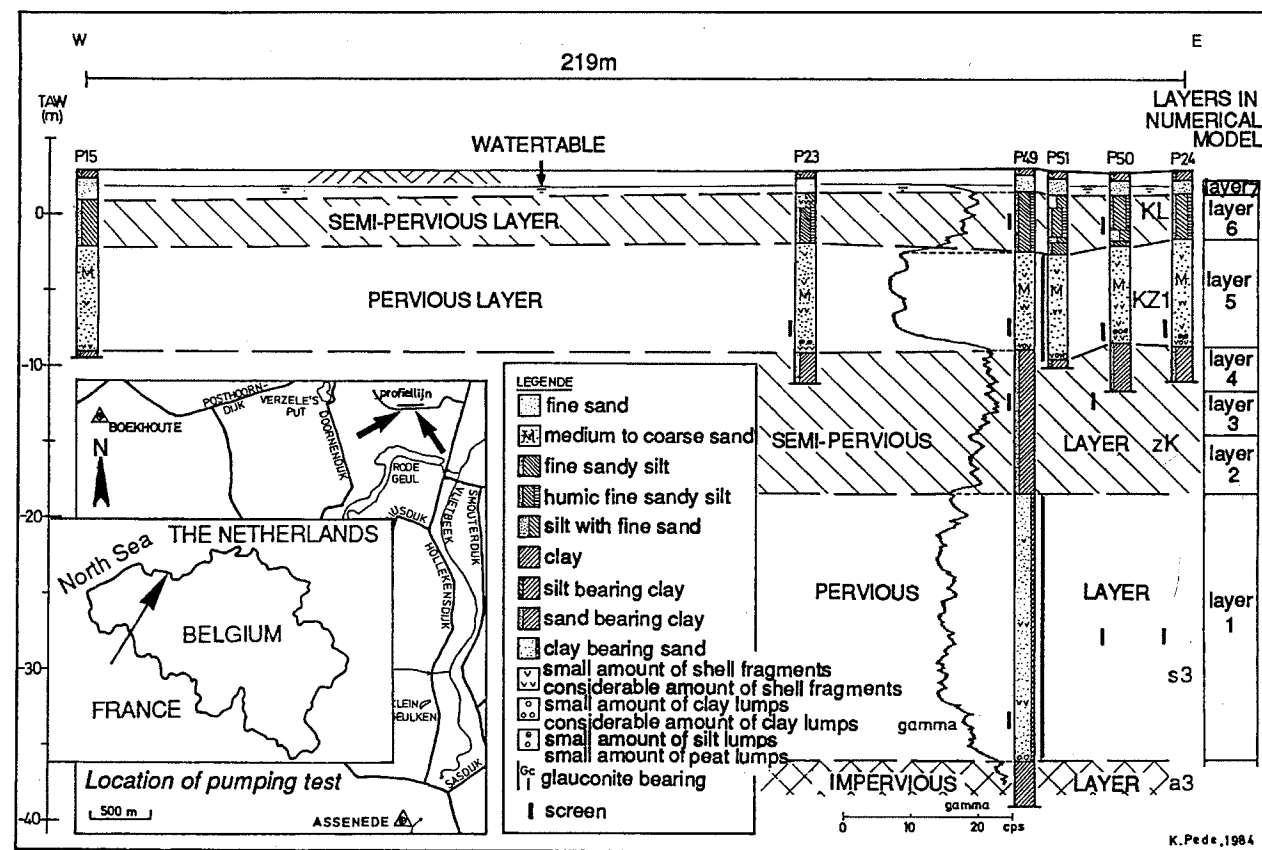


Figure 1. Lithostratigraphical cross-section through the pumping site, location of pumping and observation wells and schematization of the groundwater reservoir in the numerical model.

a second in the pervious layer formed by the lower part of the Pleistocene deposits, KZ1. The observation wells are situated in four different layers: three observation wells are located in the Bassevelde Member s3, two in the Watervliet Member zK, three in the lower part of the Pleistocene KZ1 and finally one in the upper sandy silt of the Pleistocene KL.

During the first pumping test water was extracted from the pumped well which is situated in the lower part of the Pleistocene deposits KZ1. The duration of the test was only one day. One week after the stop of the first pumping test the second pumping test started. During these second pumping test water was extracted from the pumping well in the Bassevelde Member s3. During the two pumping tests water was extracted by means of a submersible pump with the same discharge rate, namely 288 m³/d.

Schematization of groundwater reservoir in numerical model

In the numerical model the groundwater reservoir is schematized in seven layers. Layer 1 corresponds with the fine sands of the Bassevelde Member s3. The

sandy clay of the Watervliet Member zK is subdivided in three layers in the numerical model. This subdivision in the numerical model was necessary to simulate accurately the drawdown in the middle of the sandy clay during the two pumping test. Layer 5 of the numerical model corresponds with the medium fine sands KZ1. Layer 6 of the numerical model is the sandy silt KL. The uppermost layer of the numerical model, layer 7, is the very thin sandy layer just underneath the watertable.

Hydraulic parameters derived from the observed drawdowns

Studying the sensitivities and the variance-covariance matrices generated with the initial estimates of the parameter values the following hydraulic parameters can be deduced by means of the inverse model from the observed and residual drawdowns of the two pumping tests. The horizontal hydraulic conductivities of the pumped pervious layers 1 and 5, $k^h(1)$ and $k^h(5)$, can be deduced separately. The horizontal hydraulic conductivities of the other layers 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are unidentifiable. So introducing rough estimates of their values was sufficient. These values do

not have a significant influence on the values deduced for the other parameters. Because layers 2, 3 and 4 of the numerical model represents the same lithostratigraphical layer a same value of 0.2 m/d was attributed to the horizontal conductivity of these layers. The horizontal hydraulic conductivity of layer 6, representing the silty deposits KL, is estimated at 0.02 m/d. The horizontal hydraulic conductivities of the uppermost layer of the inverse model is set equal to 2.5 m/d.

The hydraulic resistances between the different layers are grouped in for different groups of identifiable parameters. The hydraulic resistances between layers 1 and 2, $c(1)$, and between layers 2 and 3, $c(2)$ are identifiable as a group. Their sum is equal to the hydraulic resistance between the top of layer s3 and the screen of the observation wells situated in the sandy clay zK. The hydraulic resistances $c(3)$ and $c(4)$ are considered together. The sum of their values is equal to the hydraulic resistance of the upper part of the sandy clay zK. The hydraulic resistances $c(5)$ and $c(6)$ are considered to be separately identifiable. They correspond with the hydraulic resistance between the base of the screen of the observation well in the sandy silt KL and with the hydraulic resistance between the top of the screen of the last mentioned observation well and the watertable.

The specific elastic storages of the lowermost pumped layer 1, $S_s(1)$, is separately identifiable. The specific elastic storages $S_s(2)$, $S_s(3)$, $S_s(4)$ are included in one group and it is assumed that they have the same value. The last group of parameters which are identifiable are the specific elastic storages $S_s(5)$, $S_s(6)$, $S_s(7)$. The storage coefficient near the watertable S_0 was not identifiable and was set equal to the estimated value 0.125.

Interpretation of the results

The results of the OLS-method are represented in Table 1.

In this table the optimal values of the hydraulic parameters are given together with their marginal standard deviations, sm_j , and the marginal confidence factor, $Cf98m_j$. From these last two statistical parameters one can deduce the accuracy with which the values can be deduced from the observations. So it is clear that the obtained value for the hydraulic resistance $c(6)$ can not be considered as been deduced. His marginal standard deviation is too large. This is because of the small sensitivities of the calculated drawdowns for this hydraulic parameter corresponding with the time and the place of the observations and also because of the large residuals of observations which are the most sensitive to these hydraulic parameters.

The horizontal conductivities of the pumped layer $k^h(1)$ and $k^h(5)$, the specific elastic storage of the layer $S_s(1)$ and the hydraulic resistance of the lower part of the sandy clay zK are rather well determined while the accuracies of the other parameters are rather weak.

The large marginal standard deviations of the different hydraulic parameters are caused by the rather high sum of the squares of the residuals which are still there after the optimization. In Fig. 2 the calculated and measured drawdowns of the double pumping test are represented for the different layers. From this figure one can see that the largest residuals corresponds with the observation in the non-pumped pervious layers during the double pumping test.

By the application of the biweighted least square method (BWLS method) the influence of the largest

Parameter	Unit	Value	sm_j	$Cf98m_j$
$k^h(1)$	m/d	1.37	0.0221	1.221
$k^h(5)$	m/d	17.2	0.0243	1.246
$c(1,2)$	d	3990	0.0312	1.326
$c(3,4)$	d	58.5	0.0574	1.681
$c(5)$	d	76.0	0.0892	2.242
$c(6)$	d	4438	0.4029	38.34
$S^s(1)$	m ⁻¹	$4.9 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.0284	1.293
$S^s(2-4)$	m ⁻¹	$4.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.0806	2.074
$S^s(5-7)$	m ⁻¹	$4.9 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.0635	1.777

Table 1. Optimal parameter values obtained by the ordinary least square (OLS-) method.

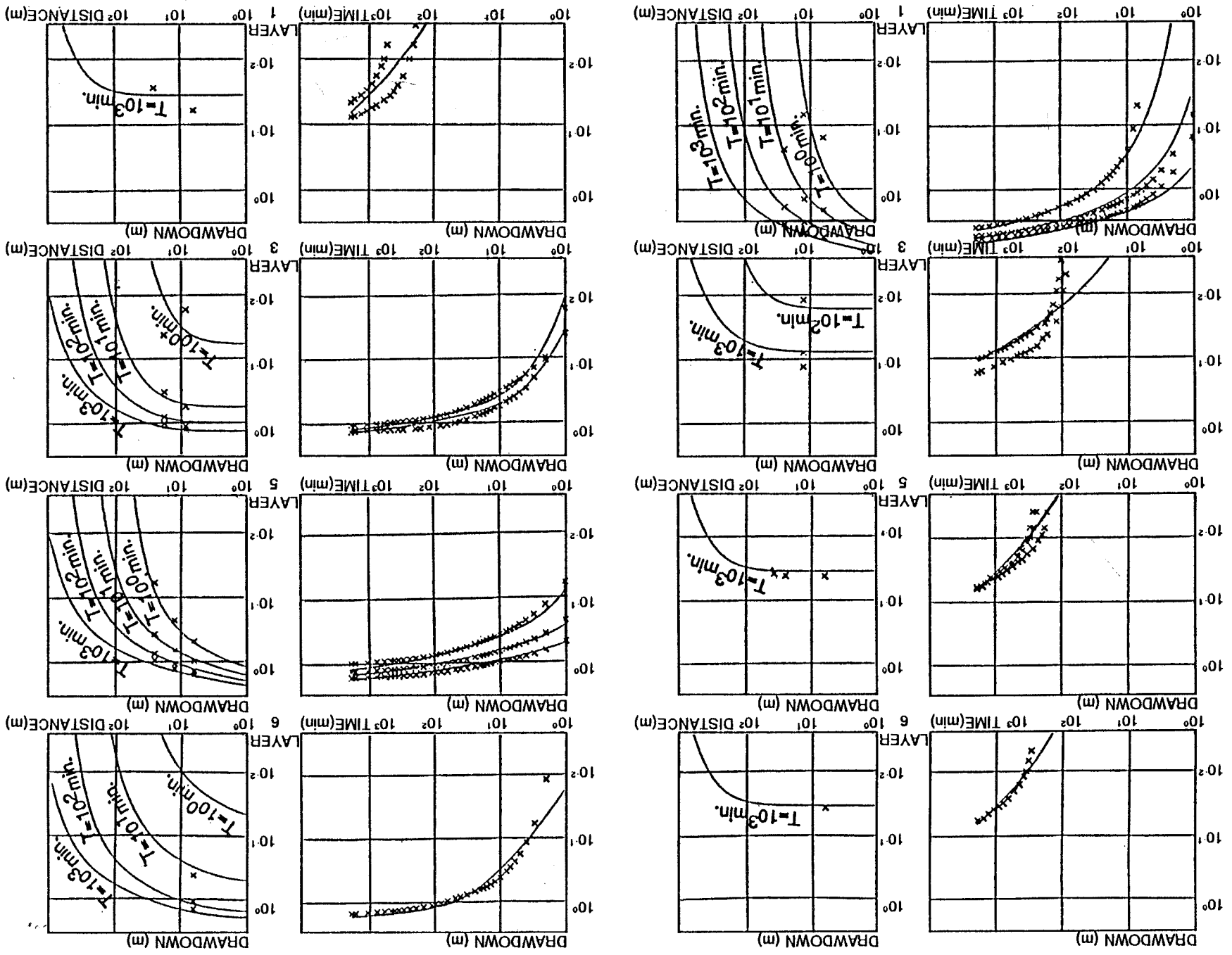


Figure 2. Measured (x-signs) and calculated (solid curves) draw-downs in time- and distance-drawdown graphs for the two pumping tests (left two columns for pumping test in layer s3 and right two columns for the pumping test in layer KZ1, discharge rate in both pumping test is equal to 288 m³/d). Calculated drawdown with the optimal values of the OLS solution.

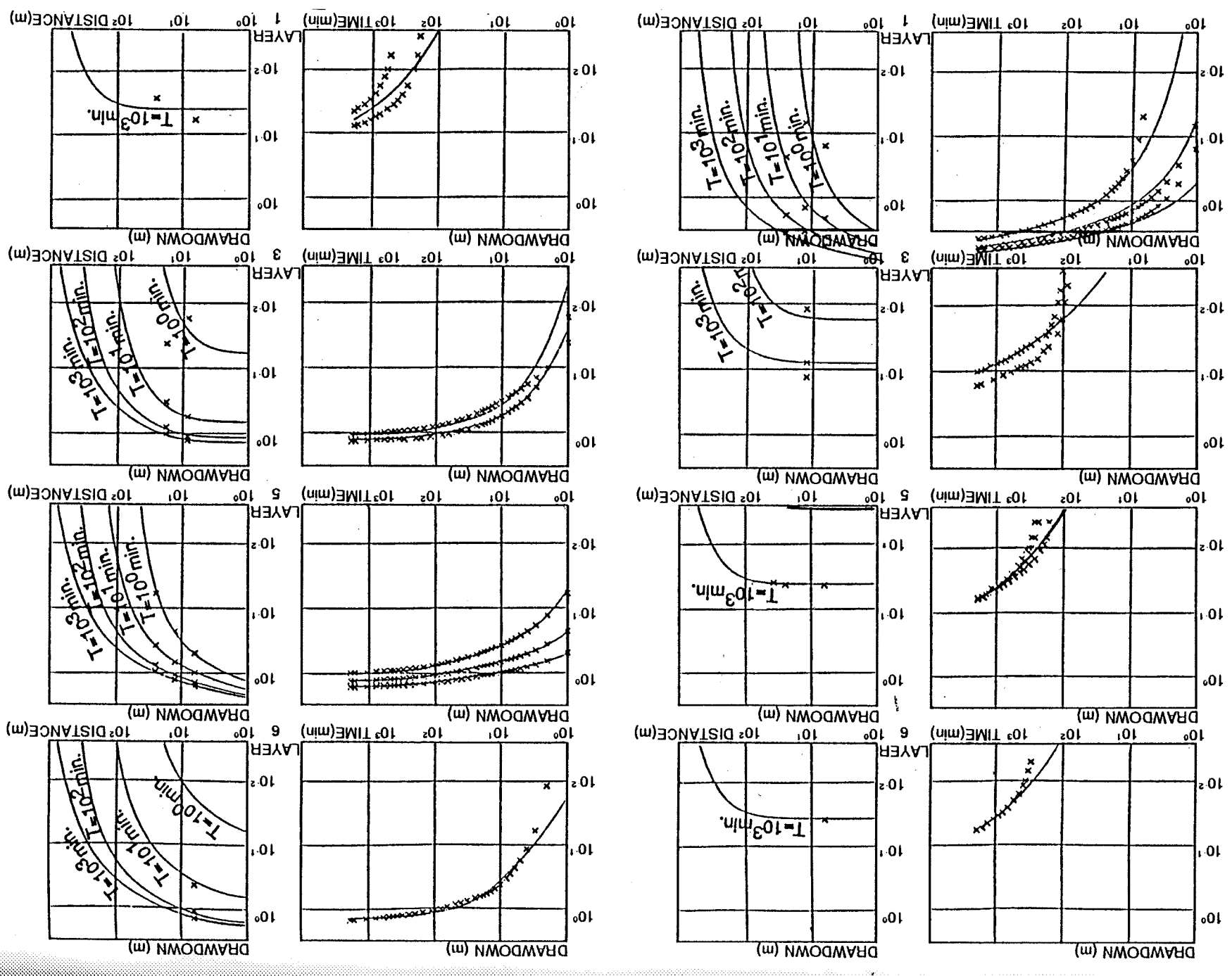


Figure 3. Measured (x-signs) and calculated (solid curves) draw-downs in time- and distance-drawdown graphs for the two pumping tests (left two columns for pumping test in layer s3 and right two columns for the pumping test in layer KZ1, discharge rate in both pumping test is equal to 288 m³/d). Calculated drawdown with the optimal values of the BWLS solution.

residuals or the outliers on the results are deduced. In Table 2 the evolution of the values of the hydraulic parameters after each iteration of the inverse model is given. After each iteration the weights attributed to each observation change and so their sum. The evolution of the total weight is also represented in Table 2.

In Fig. 3 the calculated and the measured drawdowns of the double pumping test are represented corresponding with the parameter values obtained with the BWLS method. Although the change in the calculated drawdown is rather small the values of some hydraulic parameters change considerably. This is in particular the case with the values of the hydraulic parameters which has the three largest values for their marginal standard deviations in the OLS solution (Table 1). The hydraulic resistance $c(6)$ changes from 4438 d to 278 d, the specific elastic storage of layer zK, $s_s(2-4)$, changes from $4.0 \cdot 10^{-6} m^{-1}$ to the more acceptable value $1.1 \cdot 10^{-5} m^{-1}$, and the hydraulic resistance $c(5)$ changes from 76 d to 44 d. The other parameter values corresponding with a smaller marginal standard deviation in the OLS solution are not considerably different from those obtained with the BWLS method. Because of the elimination of the outliers in the BWLS method and the attribution of small weights to the observations with rather high residuals the sum of the weighted squares of the residuals, $\sum w_{ii} r_i^2$, is much smaller than in the OLS method where each w_{ii} is equal to one. This meaningful smaller sum results in much smaller marginal standard deviations for the different hydraulic parameters for the BWLS solution.

As a result of the pumping test and the interpretation with the OLS- and the BWLS-method one can conclude that the horizontal conductivities of the two pervious layers are deduced with the highest accuracy. The horizontal conductivity of the layer s3 is 1.43 m/d and the horizontal conductivity of layer KZ1 is 14.3 m/d. Three hydraulic parameters are deduced with a rather high accuracy. They are the specific elastic storage of the pervious layer s3 and KZ1 which are respectively $4.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$ and $5.6 \cdot 10^{-5} m^{-1}$ and the hydraulic resistance of the lower half of the semi-pervious layer zK, 4700 d which results in a vertical hydraulic conductivity of $1.1 \cdot 10^{-3} m/d$.

4. CONCLUSION

The inverse numerical model allows the interpretation of all observed drawdowns simultaneously. The fragmentation of the observation in time-drawdown curves or in distance drawdown curves to compare with some type-curves is no longer necessary. By the numerical model it becomes possible to schematize

Iteration	Total weight	$k^h(1)$ m/d	$k^h(5)$ m/d	$c(1,2)$ d	$c(3,4)$ d	$c(5)$ d	$c(6)$ d	$S_1(1)$ m^{-1}	$S_s(2-4)$ m^{-1}	$S_s(5-7)$ m^{-1}
1	320.	1.43	16.2	7148.	110.	63.1	413.	$4.8 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$3.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$
2	314.	1.46	15.5	6216.	86.8	51.9	578.	$4.4 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$5.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$
3	306.	1.48	15.1	5636.	74.3	48.6	445.	$4.4 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$7.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5.4 \cdot 10^{-5}$
4	301.	1.49	14.8	5188.	64.2	47.2	366.	$4.3 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$9.2 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5.3 \cdot 10^{-5}$
5	301.	1.50	14.6	4748.	60.4	45.7	316.	$4.2 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$5.4 \cdot 10^{-5}$
6	301.	1.51	14.4	4748.	58.6	44.5	290.	$4.2 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$5.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$
7	301.	1.52	14.3	4716.	56.6	43.8	278.	$4.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$5.6 \cdot 10^{-5}$
8	301.	1.52	14.3	4716.	56.4	43.5	278.	$4.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$5.6 \cdot 10^{-5}$
sm_j	-	.0049	.0045	.0091	.0158	.0148	0.245	.0091	.0222	.0101
$Cf98sm_j$	-	1.045	1.045	1.086	1.154	1.143	1.248	1.086	1.223	1.096

Table 2. Evolution of parameter values and the total weight during the iterations of the biweighted least square (BWLS-) method.

accurately the groundwater reservoir. The lithostratigraphical information gathered from drilling and geophysical logs can be used in an optimal way. The inverse model allows not only the interpretation of observed drawdowns in the pumped layer but also the drawdowns measured in the layers adjacent to the pumped layer. In contrast with the classical interpretation methods, consisting of fitting different observed drawdown curves and resulting in a series of different values for each hydraulic parameter, the inverse model gives a unique solution where each hydraulic parameter obtains one value and one marginal standard deviation. This last mentioned statistical parameter can be considered as a measure for the accuracy of the deduced hydraulic parameters. By eliminating the outliers and applying the BWLS-method a better idea about the accuracy of the deduced parameters can be obtained. Those parameters which have a large difference between their estimates obtained by the OLS-method and with the BWLS-method are the parameters with the largest marginal standard deviation in the OLS-solution.

With the double pumping test in the «Rode Polders» the horizontal hydraulic conductivities and the specific elastic storage of the pumped layers are well determined together with the vertical hydraulic conductivity of the semi-pervious layer between these two pumped layers.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the National Fund of Scientific Research (Belgium) under whose auspices the theoretical part of the study was carried out. The pumping tests were executed by K. Pede and the Laboratory of Applied Geology and Hydrogeology of the Ghent University (Prof. Dr. W. De Breuck). The cooperation with the Belgian Geological Survey and with the Council of the «Zwarte Sluis Polder» in the study of the salt-fresh water flow in the area is gratefully acknowledged.

6. NOTATIONS

- A vector of logarithm of adjustment factors according to the different parameters, order p.
- cov_p covariance matrix of the parameters, order $p \times p$.
- CfN_{m_j} marginal confidence factor which determines the upper and lower limits of the N% marginal confidence interval of the j-th parameter.
- $c(l)$ hydraulic resistance between the middles of the layers l and l+1 of the numerical model $=D(l)/2 * k_v(l) + D(l+1)/2 * k_v(l+1)$, (T).

- D(l) thickness of layer l of the numerical model, (L).
- J sensitivity or Jacobian matrix, order $n \times p$.
- $k_h(l)$ horizontal hydraulic conductivity of the layer l of the numerical model, (LT^{-1}) .
- $k_v(l)$ vertical conductivity of the layer l of the numerical model, (LT^{-1}) .
- n number of observed drawdowns.
- p number of deduced parameters.
- P vector of the parameter values, order p.
- Q(l) discharge rate pumped in layer l of numerical model, $L^3 T^{-1}$.
- r vector of residuals, order n.
- δ vector of calculated drawdowns, order n.
- s^* vector of measured drawdowns, order n.
- sf sensitivity factor, dimensionless.
- sm_j marginal standard deviation of j-th parameter in logarithmic region.
- $S_s(l)$ specific elastic storage of layer l of the numerical model, (L^{-1}) .
- S0 storage coefficient near the water table also called specific yield, $(L^3 L^{-3})$.
- u Vector of standardized residuals, order n.
- w diagonal matrix of weights, order $n \times n$.
- α level of significance.
- Σ summation sign.

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RAPPORT DU PRESIDENT

Chers Confrères,

J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter au nom du Conseil d'Administration de notre Société, le rapport annuel d'activités pour l'année 1995 prévu par les statuts et qui sont dorénavant organisées par Geologica Belgica.

L'assemblée générale s'est tenue le mardi 28 février 1995 dans l'auditorium de l'Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique. A cette occasion, la médaille Ernest Van den Broeck attribué à un paléontologue, a été décernée à Monsieur Claude Babin de l'Université Claude Bernard Lyon I qui nous a présenté l'exposé suivant : «Le principe d'actualisme appliqué à la paléontologie paléozoïque : outil ou leurre ?».

Les 18 février et 5 novembre, le Dr Yves Quinif de la Faculté Polytechnique de Mons a conduit une bonne centaine de membres et de spéléologues dans la réserve naturelle des Grottes de Han-sur-Lesse pour terminer leur visite de par un exposé très intéressant sur l'évolution géologique d'un karst.

Dans le cadre de la conférence Dewalque, le Professeur W. Stuart McKerrow de l'Université d'Oxford nous a présenté l'exposé suivant : Continental Distribution in the Early Palaeozoic and the Vendian. Comme toujours, l'Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique a mis à notre disposition son auditoire et nous tenons vivement à lui marquer toute notre reconnaissance.

La réunion annuelle des géologues de l'Euregio Meuse-Rhin organisée par Geologica Belgica s'est déroulée le 5 et 6 mai à l'abbaye de Brogne. les communications suivantes ont été présentées :

De Craen, Mieke & Swennen, Rudy (KULeuven) - Septarian concretions from the Boom clay or inference of open or closed diagenesis during concretion growth.

Herch, Andrea (Lehr & Forschungsgebiet Hydrogeologie - Aachen) - Chemical and isotopic investigations of gases in ground- and mineral waters in the Meuse-Rhine Euregio.

Dusar, Michiel (BGD - Brussel) - Formation of sinkholes in the region of Tournai.

Stemans, Philippe (U.Liège - Liège) - New data on the Sambre-et-Meuse Band.

Streel, Maurice (U.Liège - Liège) - Pollen response to short term climatic changes in the late Maastrichtian at ENCI, South Limburg. The Netherlands.

VERSLAG VAN DE VOORZITTER

Waarde Medeleden,

Ik heb de eer U namens de Raad van Bestuur van onze vereniging het jaarlijks activiteitsoverzicht over 1995 voor te stellen zoals voorzien in de statuten. Alle activiteiten worden voortaan door Geologica Belgica georganiseerd.

De algemene vergadering vond plaats op dinsdag 28 februari 1995 in het Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen te Brussel. Bij deze gelegenheid werd de jaarlijkse Ernest van den Broeck medaille toegekend aan Dhr Claude Babin van de Université Claude Bernard Lyon I voor zijn onderzoek in de paleontologie. De Heer Babin gaf een lezing over «Le principe d'actualisme appliqué à la paléontologie paléozoïque : outil ou leurre ?».

Dr Yves Quinif, van de Polytechnische Faculteit te Bergen, leidde op 18 februari en nogmaals op 5 november 1995 voor een honderdtal leden en speleologen op bezielende wijze een excursie naar de grotten van Han waar de geologische evolutie van een karst werd gedocumenteerd.

Prof. W. Stuart McKerrow (Universiteit Oxford) gaf de Dewalque Lezing over het volgend onderwerp : Continental Distribution in the Early Palaeozoic and the Vendian. Ook deze lezing ging door in het Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen te Brussel dat bijzonder gewaardeerd wordt om de geboden steun.

Het jaarlijks treffen van de Maas-Rijn Euregio Geologen, georganiseerd door Geologica Belgica, ging door op 5 en 6 mei in de abdij van Brogne te St-Gérard. De volgende lezingen werden voorgesteld :

De Craen, Mieke & Swennen, Rudy (KULeuven) - Septarian concretions from the Boom clay or inference of open or closed diagenesis during concretion growth.

Herch, Andrea (Lehr & Forschungsgebiet Hydrogeologie - Aachen) - Chemical and isotopic investigations of gases in ground- and mineral waters in the Meuse-Rhine Euregio.

Dusar, Michiel (BGD - Brussel) - Formation of sinkholes in the region of Tournai.

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