

INSTITUT ROYAL DES SCIENCES NATURELLES
DE BELGIQUE

MÉMOIRES

MÉMOIRE N° 147

KONINKLIJK BELGISCH INSTITUUT
VOOR NATUURWETENSCHAPPEN

VERHANDELINGEN

VERHANDELING N° 147



FORAMINIFERA OF THE EOCENE OF BELGIUM

BY

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« BATAAFSE INTERNATIONALE PETROLEUM MAATSCHAPPIJ N.V. », THE HAGUE

(WITH 16 PLATES)

P 4085



BRUXELLES

INSTITUT ROYAL DES SCIENCES NATURELLES DE BELGIQUE
RUE VAUTIER, 31

1961

BRUSSEL

KONINKLIJK BELGISCH INSTITUUT VOOR NATUURWETENSCHAPPEN
VAUTIERSTRAAT, 31

1961

Distribué le 31 juillet 1961

Uitgedeeld de 31^e juli 1961.

INTRODUCTION

During the years 1953 to 1958 a team of the Paleontological Department of the Geological Institute of the State University of Utrecht studied the ostracoda and foraminifera of the Eocene and Oligocene of Belgium. The first paper by Dr. A. J. KEIJ, dealing with the ostracoda, was published in 1957. The second, by Dr. D. A. J. BATJES, on the results of his studies of the Oligocene foraminifera, followed in 1958. The present paper is the last of this series.

These studies were started because of the special importance of the Belgian Eocene-Oligocene for the general stratigraphic column. The type deposits of some, more or less commonly accepted, stratigraphic units of the Eocene are to be found in Belgium : Ypresian, Ledian and Wemmelian. Furthermore, there are the types of the Paniselian, Bruxellian, Laekenian and Assian of the Belgian geologists.

During four months, in 1953 and 1954, over four hundred and fifty samples were collected from a great number of pits and smaller outcrops. In addition, about one hundred and seventy samples from borings could be studied by the courtesy of the Directorate of the Geological Survey of Belgium. Furthermore, samples were available from classical localities of the Lower and Middle Eocene of the Paris basin, such as Cuise, Grignon and Daméry, and from some localities of the Hampshire basin, such as Barton Cliff, Alum Bay and Whitecliff Bay. Through the kindness of the Directorate of the Geological Survey of the Netherlands an important series of samples from the boring Woensdrecht, covering nearly the whole Eocene interval, could be investigated. They facilitated the detailed study of many of the lithologic units in the Belgian sequence.

While studying the foraminifera, it appeared desirable to enter into further detail on the stratigraphy of the Belgian Eocene. For this purpose several weeks were spent in Brussels studying the Archives of the Geological Survey of Belgium. The collected data enabled us to prepare a number of stratigraphic maps. For definite conclusions the number of reliable data appeared insufficient; only a number of suggestions can be given.

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The author acknowledges his sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. G. H. R. VON KOENIGSWALD for granting all kinds of facilities during his study in the Paleontological Department of the State University of Utrecht.

He is especially indebted to Dr. C. W. DROOGER for suggesting the problem, and for his unflagging criticism and cooperation during the investigations and the preparing of the manuscript; to Dr. A. J. KEIJ and to Dr. D. A. J. BATJES for their continuous interest and helpful collaboration during many years.

Sincere thanks are also due :

to the Directorate of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique for their permission to insert this paper in the series of the Memoirs;

to the Gemengde Technische Commissie ter Uitvoering van het Nederlands-Belgisch Cultureel Accoord for the financial support of the field work in Belgium;

to the Netherlands Foundation of Pure Research (Z.W.O.) for partly financing the work in Belgium and England;

to Ir. A. GROSJEAN, Director of the Geological Survey of Belgium, for his permission to publish data from the Archives of the Survey, and to investigate samples of its collections;

to Dr. A. A. THIADENS, Director of the Geological Survey of the Netherlands, for his permission to study the Eocene material of the boring Woensdrecht;

to Ir. M. GULINCK, of the Geological Survey of Belgium, for his many suggestions and valuable interest during the investigations;

to Dr. M. GLIBERT, of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, for his helpful interest;

to Dr. H. HAGN, Munich (Germany), for his samples of the Eocene of Bavaria;

to Mr. J. E. VAN HINTE for his valuable assistance, both in the field and in the laboratory;

to Mr. G. J. BOEKSCHOTEN and Dr. P. MEYBOOM for their help in collecting and preparing the samples;

to Mr. P. VAN HEUMEN for his assistance in preparing the samples;

to Mr. F. K. BARENDSE for making the drawings.

An expression of gratitude is due to the « Bataafse Internationale Petroleum Maatschappij N. V. » for relief from obligations in order to permit completion of this paper.

Finally the author wishes to express his gratitude to the following persons :

Ir. A. DELMER (Brussels), Mr. J. DE HEINZELIN (Brussels), Prof. Dr. R. TAVERNIER (Gent), Ir. R. MARÉCHAL (Gent), Dr. J. H. VAN VOORTHUYSEN (Haarlem), Ir. W. VAN LECKWIJCK (Antwerp), as well as to Mr. J. H. M. VAN DIJK (Utrecht), Miss M. H. KAMPERS (Utrecht), Miss M. LAADSTRA (Haarlem) and Miss M. VAN LEUVEN (Haarlem).
