

## **Ammonite Biostratigraphy of the Spiti Shales Formation**

Recently, Universite Claude Bernard-Lyon (U.F.R. Des Sciences la Terre) has brought out a monograph on the ammonite faunas from the Spiti Shales Formation of the Thakkhola area in central Nepal, based on new data (Docum. Lab. Geol. Lyon, No.166, 2009, 351p., 33figs, 52 pls.; Author: Raymond Enay). New data gathered in Nepal modify the traditional scheme inherited from V. Uhlig and established for the type area of Spiti in Indian Himalaya. In the first part of the monograph, the Spiti Shales Formation in Nepal is described along with biostratigraphical sequence of 9 faunal assemblages. Systematic is the second most important part of the mono-graph. It contains descriptions, discussions and/reviews of 164 species of which 43 are new. They are included within 42 genera of which 6 are new; i.e., *Metauhligites*, *Zeissia*, *Praekossimatia*, *Nepalites*, and *Stevensia Malagasites*. Many of the already known genera are fully discussed or revised. Besides, establishment of new taxa, faunas from Nepal enabled to confirm or recognize dimorphism with old know genera.

The studied faunas are often dominated by one single genus or little number of genera within a same taxonomic group. They point out some endemism of the Himalayan faunas, which is also traced in the Indo-SW Pacific faunas along the perigondwanian margin as far as Antarctica and Magallanes Basin. The revised new information on ammonites should prove to be of interest to Himalayan biostratigraphers.

The monograph is available in the Society Library for reference purposes.

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