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Stratotype Sinémurien

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THE BOOK

The Sinemurian stratotype—a Lower Jurassic stage—is an international geological reference site located in the region of Semur-en-Auxois, a medieval town in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté. Alcide d'Orbigny, one of the most productive French naturalists during the first half of the 19th century, defined this stratotype in 1849 in his 'Cours élémentaire de paléontologie et de géologie stratigraphiques'. At that time, he benefited greatly from the help of the active 'Société des sciences de Semur' and more particularly from several of its members. This stratotype is now materialised by several geological sections in the Semur-en-Auxois area, but also by the remarkable collection of palaeontology in the city museum, which constitutes a world reference for Sinemurian marine biodiversity.

Making the most of many complementary approaches, this book presents the current state of knowledge on the Sinemurian stage, mainly from the type area. In particular, it gathers for the first time a large set of photographic plates showing remarkable fossils from this stage.

THE SERIES

France possesses a very rich geologic heritage, which deserves to be known and preserved. Among the geologic sites which must be protected, there are those representing international standards, also called stratotypes. These sections, which allowed to divide the geological time scale in intervals internationally recognized, are about forty in France. Every book of this collection will aim at making discover a stratotype through various aspects: history, geology, paleontology, monuments...

The international Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), in a partnership with the UNESCO and IUCN (international Union for Conservation of Nature) for Geosciences, has set up a working group 'Geoheritage task group' in 2011. The series 'Stratotypes' has been rewarded both by the IUGS and the UNESCO and has been thus allowed to flag its covers with their respective logos.

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