

BOOK REVIEWS

Catalogus Fossilium Austriae (Ed. W.E. Piller): Bivalvia Band 1/Teil1-3 (in German) By Ortwin Schultz
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It may appear unusual to review a work on Neogene bivalves in the *Journal of Conchology* but I have always believed that we neontologists rarely pay sufficient attention to the fossil record, especially to the Cenozoic and the Neogene in particular. Many modern genera are represented in this fossil record and many genera described from this fossil record are extant today; unfortunately the nomenclatures often fail to recognise this. In my own area of interest, the Arcoidea, I quickly noticed that the Neogene genus *Hoernesarca* was identical to the Recent genus *Noetiella*. In Europe I suspect part of the problem is the inaccessibility of some of the early and seminal works by the likes of Cossmann, Deshayes, Brocchi and Hornes. Here, however, there is no excuse with these three massive volumes on the Neogene bivalves of Austria. Volume 1 (2001) covers Nuculacea to Unionacea in pages 1-379 and 56 plates; Volume 2 (2003) Lucinoidea to Mactroidea runs to page 690 and plate 95 and concludes in Volume 3 (2005), Solenoidea to Clavagelloidea at page 1212 and plate 152. For myself the excellent photographic

illustrations give me an immediate idea of the taxa and whether or not they are relevant to the recent faunas, especially to those of the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean. For the palaeontologist there are extensive, synonymy, stratigraphic and locality lists making these volumes a "one stop shop" for data on the Austrian Neogene and very relevant in the wider European context. If the species has also been recorded outside of Austria, then lists of occurrences are also given.

Ortwin Schultz must be congratulated for the compilation of such an extensive catalogue and I for one would also recognise the Natural History Museum, Vienna in promoting this type of monographic project. This is not a "good read" but then it's not meant to be, but as a lasting work of reference it is an excellent contribution. I would have thought it an essential part of any library serving the study of European Cenozoic faunas and in addition I recommend it to bivalve systematists who often forget the connection between these and modern faunas.

Graham Oliver