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ABSTRACT

The Mojsisovicsiinae and Engonoceratidae from the uppermost layer of the La Puya Member have been described in two earlier publications (O. RENZ 1968, 1970). As a continuation the Brancoceratinae and Mortoniceratinae from the same layer are dealt with in the present article.

The La Puya Fauna is of special interest, as it derives from a single layer, reaching a thickness of only about 1 m. It forms the termination of a thick sequence consisting predominantly of carbonate rocks without cephalopods. As reworking or condensation might be excluded, this fauna represents a cross section during a short time interval within the Upper Albian. It apparently has been deposited within the passage zone from the southern rim of the slowly sinking Maracaibo Platform towards a deeper pelagic basin.

A correlation of the fauna with one of the European ammonite zones could not be achieved with the Mojsisovicsiinae and Engonoceratidae as these forms are found only occasionally in the classical sections of England and France. On the contrary most of the species here described of the genera *Hysterocheras* and *Mortoniceras* occur abundantly in the sections of Europe (table 1).

The absence of *Hysterocheras varicosum* (J. de C. Sow.) within the La Puya Limestone suggests a younger age for its fauna than the *varicosum* Zone in Europe. On the other hand *Hysterocheras bucklandi* (SPATH), occurring abundantly in Venezuela, remains restricted to the *auritus* Zone in England and France.

With one exception, all *Mortoniceras* from the La Puya Limestone are characterized by only two rows of tubercles. *Mortoniceras (M.) kiliani* (LASSWITZ), restricted to the *aequatoreale*- and the *substuderi* Zone in England and France, has so far not been detected in Venezuela. On the contrary *M. (M.) pricei intermedium* SPATH, which is known in England from the *auritus* Zone only, occurs rather abundantly in the La Puya Limestone. Moreover the occurrence of the subgenus *Deiradoceras* in the lower part of the Upper Albian (*orbigny*- and *varicosum* Zone) in England as well as in France has to be remarked. This confirms the assumption that the La Puya Fauna, containing abundant *Deiradoceras*, is not younger than the *auritus* Zone.

The above observations point to a correlation of the La Puya Fauna with the *auritus* Zone in England and with the lower part of the „sous-zone B” in France.

Amongst 11 species and subspecies of *Hysterocheras*, reaching 21% of the fauna, 4 are known from England and 5 from France. All forms rather suggest a connection to Europe.

The genus *Mortoniceras* is represented by 10 species and 1 subspecies, amounting only to 7% of the fauna. The majority of the species available point to a relation to West and South Africa, as well as to Madagascar.

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1. Einleitung

In zwei früheren Mitteilungen (RENZ 1968 und 1970) wurden die Vertreter der Gattungen *Oxytropidoceras*, *Parengonoceras* und *Knemiceras* aus dem La Puya-Kalk in den venezolanischen Anden beschrieben. In vorliegender Arbeit sollen weitere Cephalopoden aus der Familie Brancoceratidae SPATH 1933 zur Darstellung gelangen. Es