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All the new taxa were found in the Oligocene Molasse basin of Switzerland and Savoy. They are used as fossil indices in the biostratigraphical scale of the Lower Freshwater Molasse and their estimated age is from the top of the Lower Oligocene (assemblage zone of Balm) to the Upper Oligocene (assemblage zone of Rickenbach). All the taxa have been determinated using the maximum available characters of the masticatory apparatus (maxillary and mandibular fragments and dentary structure) among them the foramina (less dependently of the selection pressions).

CONTENTS

Introduction

The biozonation of the Lower Freshwater Molasse of Switzerland and Savoy will soon be published. This work is based on the study of a considerable quantity of fossil-remains. Among them the eomyds, cricetids, lagomorphs and theridomyids proved to be the best fossil index. This paper is about the last group of rodents mentioned above, and the purpose here is to describe species that are used as reference fossils in the biozonation.

During the elaboration of our biostratigraphic scale (ENGESSER & MAYO 1987), a special study of the rodent Family Theridomyidae ALSTON 1876 took place. Therefore several papers were published concerning theridomyids (MAYO 1980, 1981, 1982 and