

PARONELLA ? *OSTUNENSIS* N. SP. FROM THE UPPER CRETACEOUS OF
APULIA (SOUTHERN ITALY)

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Riassunto. Viene descritta una nuova specie di Radiolitide, *Paronella* ? *ostunensis* n. sp., su esemplari provenienti da livelli calcarei del Cretaceo superiore delle Murge sud-orientali (Puglia). L'ottimo stato di conservazione e l'abbondanza degli esemplari pugliesi, hanno consentito di discutere le relazioni tassonomiche tra i generi *Eoradiolites* Douvillé, 1909 e *Paronella* Wiontzek, 1934.

Abstract. A new radiolitid rudist, *Paronella* ? *ostunensis* n. sp. from the Late Cretaceous of Apulia is described. The excellent preservation of the fossil material made possible to discuss the validity of the genus *Paronella* Wiontzek, 1934.

Introduction.

During studies on the Late Cretaceous rudists of Apulia executed in the Ostuni area (South-Eastern Murge), some rudist specimens seemingly belonging to the genus *Distefanella* Parona, 1901 were recovered.

A more thorough examination revealed the presence of a ligamental ridge which precludes the specimens from being ascribed to the genus *Distefanella* Parona; more likely they are to be referred to the genus *Paronella* Wiontzek, 1934 and represent a new species, *Paronella* ? *ostunensis* (Pl. 20, fig. 1).

The specimens considered in this study were obtained from several localities around Pizzicucco (Brindisi, Sheet 191 Ostuni, III SO Casalini), in the southeastern Murgian area (Fig. 1). The limestone outcrops at Pizzicucco are part of a sequence ascribed to the Upper Cretaceous (Pieri & Laviano, 1989; Laviano & Pieri, in print). In particular, the layers bearing *Paronella* ? *ostunensis* n. sp. can be correlated with the middle part of the section "Strada dei Colli" which were assigned a Campanian- Early Maastrichtian age (Laviano, 1984, p. 191). Wiontzek's specimen (*Paronella volzanensis*) coming from "Kuppe 942 (Jeza), Umgebung von Woltschach" was considered by the Author possibly of Early Santonian age.

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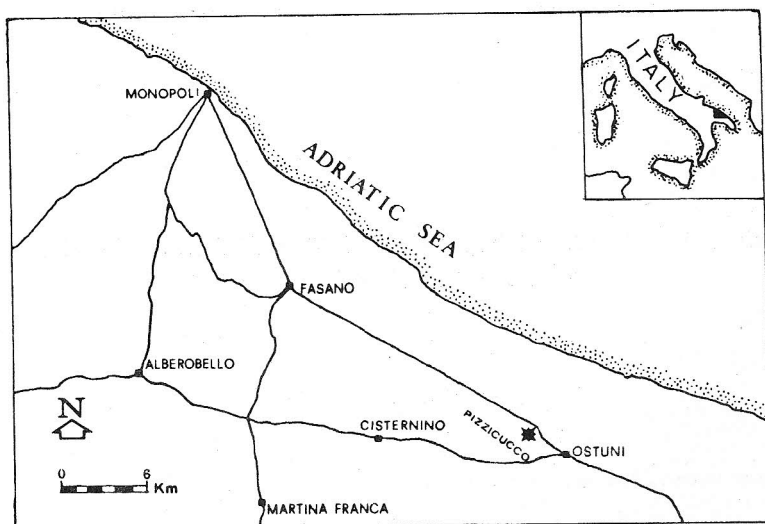


Fig. 1 - Map showing the location of fossiliferous area.

Systematic Palaeontology

Order Hippuritoida Newell, 1965

Superfamily *Hippuritacea* Gray, 1848

Family *Radiolitidae* Gray, 1848

Subfamily *Radiolitinae* Gray, 1848

Genus *Paronella* Wiontzek, 1934

Type-species: *Paronella volzanensis* Wiontzek, 1934 by monotypy.

1934 *Paronella* Wiontzek, p. 26.

1941 *Paronella* - Montagne, p. 80.

1957 *Paronella* - Astre, p. 47.

1969 *Paronella* - Dechaseaux & Coogan, p. N808, fig. E269,4.

Preliminary remarks.

Wiontzek (1934) erected the subgenus *Paronella* (type-species *P. volzanensis*) on a rudist fragment obtained from the surroundings of Volzana (Yugoslavia). According to its Author, *Paronella* is closely related to the genus *Distefanella* Parona, 1901, from which it differs in having the "Ligamentfalte". This taxon is poorly known since no additional specimens were recovered; reference can be found in Montagne (1941), Astre (1957) and Dechaseaux & Coogan (in Moore, 1969) only. The first two Authors provided a diagnostic key for the better known genera and subgenera; both regard the taxon as a

