

**The pre-variscan sequence of the Carnic Alps (Austria and Italy)**  
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**Foreword**

The pre-Variscan sequence of the Carnic Alps is one of the more complete and better known sequences in the world. Several workers investigated the area since the 19<sup>th</sup> century and produced a huge amount of papers dealing with different topics geological sciences (geology, palaeontology, stratigraphy, structural geology, etc.).

However, the different parts of this sequence were mainly denominated with informal names, that derivate either from facies or historical terms. Furthermore, being the region across the state border between Italy and Austria, different terminologies have been adopted on both sides of the mountain chain, which result in different subdivisions of the sequence and a high number of names indicating similar –if not the same- lithological units. Also, in a few cases, the same name was used to indicate different units. Moreover, almost none of these units was formalized according to the rules of the International Commission on Stratigraphy.

This volume is a result of an international research project developed in the last seven years, which involved more than forty researchers from various *European* countries, mainly from Austria and Italy. After four business meetings, three field workshops, and the (re)study of a huge amount of old and new data, a common and now unified terminology was achieved.

As a result the pre-Variscan sequence of the Carnic Alps is now subdivided in 36 formations, lithologically well characterized, with well-defined boundaries and designated stratotypes.

For each unit, beside its definition and the indication of the stratotype, chronostratigraphic and biostratigraphic data are provided as well as information on the boundaries and the depositional environment. An extensive synonymy list is reported; fossil content and biostratigraphical assignment are reported when applicable, and reference sections are indicated when necessary. Complementary references on other stratigraphic methods (i.e.: geochemistry, isotope stratigraphy, etc.) are indicated if available.

The present volume shall serve as a basic information guide for all geoscientists especially field geologists working in the Carnic Alps in future!

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Editors