

# The Maastrichtian Stage in NW Europe, and its brachiopod zonation

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Surlyk, F.: The Maastrichtian Stage in NW Europe, and its brachiopod zonation. *Bull. geol. Soc. Denmark*, vol. 33, pp. 217–223, Copenhagen, September, 11th, 1984.  
<https://doi.org/10.37570/bgsd-1984-33-20>

The uppermost Campanian-Maastrichtian of NW Europe is divided into twelve brachiopod zones. Each zone is defined by its lower boundary in a stratotype by the appearance or disappearance of a species. The upper boundary is then formed by the lower boundary of the next succeeding zone. The zones are given binomial names using the species names of the taxa defining the lower and upper boundary respectively. The zonation is mainly based on localities in Denmark and most of the zones can be traced to Sweden, Poland, DDR, NW-Germany and eastern England. The section at Kronsnoor, NW Germany is proposed as stratotype for the lower boundary of the Maastrichtian Stage. Stevns Klint is by definition stratotype for the upper boundary and thus for the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary. It may be substituted by Nye Kløv, Denmark if it can be demonstrated that it contains a hiatus at the boundary. It is formally proposed to place the boundary at the base of the Fish Clay since all available evidence points towards a global isochronous nature of the boundary clay bed.

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## Introduction

The Maastrichtian Stage was proposed by Dumont (1850) on the basis of localities and faunas from eastern Holland. The stage was very loosely defined and has been subject of considerable discussion as regards delimitation, rank, correlatives and even spelling (e.g. Berggren, 1964; van Gorsel, 1973; van der Heide, 1954; Jeletzky, 1951a, b; El-Naggar, 1966; Romein, 1962, 1963; Schmid, 1955, 1956, 1959, 1967; Seitz, 1952; Sisingh, 1978; Surlyk, 1982; Thiadens, 1970; Voigt, 1956). There now seems to be general agreement on the following points:

- 1) The Maastrichtian has the rank of a stage.
- 2) The correct spelling is Maastrichtian (not Maestrichtian).
- 3) The type section is in the E.N.C.I. quarry in Limbourg, Eastern Holland.
- 4) The type section includes only a part of the Upper Maastrichtian Substage as generally defined.
- 5) The stage corresponds roughly to the *Hoploscaphites constrictus* Range Zone.
- 6) The base of the stage is generally (in NW Europe) defined by the first occurrence of *Belemnella lanceolata*.

The section at Kronsnoor was proposed as a stratotype of the lower boundary by Surlyk (1975, 1982) and Schulz (1978). It was discussed during the present symposium organised by the Subcommittee of Cretaceous Stratigraphy (see Birkelund et al., this volume).

It is here formally proposed that the upper boundary of the stage is defined by the base of the lowest Danian bed, the Fish Clay in Stevns Klint, Denmark and not by a biostratigraphic marker. All available evidence points towards a global isochronous nature of the boundary clay, which makes it ideal in the definition of a major chronostratigraphic boundary. The Stevns Klint section may be substituted by the section at Nye Kløv, NW Denmark, if it can be demonstrated that it contains a hiatus at the boundary. Nye Kløv is (one of) the most complete Cretaceous – Tertiary boundary sequences known in the world.

The biostratigraphic zonation of the Maastrichtian of NW Europe including Great Britain has mainly been based on foraminifera, coccoliths, dinoflagellates, belemnites and brachiopods. The by far most detailed and applicable zonation in this area has been worked out on the brachiopods (Steinich, 1965; Surlyk, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1975, 1982; Bitner & Pisera, 1979).

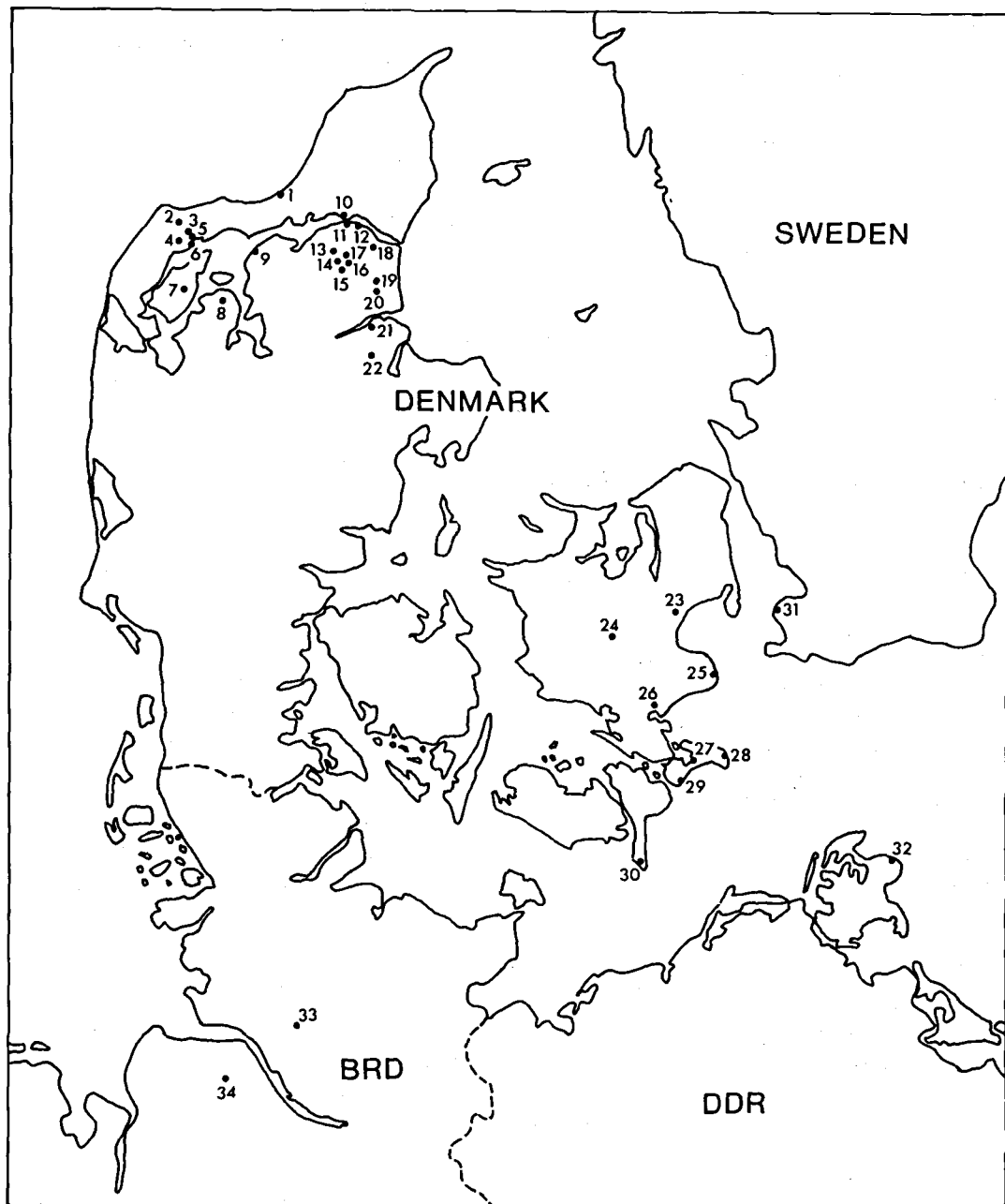


Fig. 1. Map showing the position of the examined late Campanian and Maastrichtian localities. 1. Svinkløv, 2. Bjerre, 3. Kjølbjgård, 4. Hillerslev, 5. Nye Kløv, 6. Hov, 7. Eerslev, 8. Batum, 9. Aggersund, 10. Lindholm, 11. "Danmark", 12. Rørdal, 13. Nørre Flødal, 14. "Linds Kalkværk", 15. Ellidshøj, 16. Mjels, 17. Ferslev, 18. Gudumholm, 19. Sønder Kongerslev, 20. Smidie, 21. "Dania", 22. Spentrup, 23. Karlstrup, 24. Allindelille, 25. Stevns Klint, 26. Kongsted, 27. Lille Bissinge, 28. Møns Klint (Jættebrink, Hundefangsklint, Hvidskud, Lille Stejlebjerg, Store Stejlebjerg, Gråryg, Nellerendenakke, Sommerspir, Sandpynt, Maglevandspynt, Forchhammers Pynt, Vitmunds Nakke, Nylands Nakke, Sættelekint, Store Taler, Lille Taler, Slotsgavlene), 29. Hvide Klint, 30. Gedser Fyr and Gedser Odde, 31. Limhamn, 32. Rügen, 33. Kronsmoor, 34. Hemmoor.

The highest part of the Maastrichtian of Denmark has, however, been subdivided into even greater detail by means of dinoflagellates (Hansen, 1977, 1979). Foraminifera and coccoliths have been of limited use for detailed subdivision and have their main importance in long distance correlation.

Denmark occupies a key position in the biostratigraphic study of the Maastrichtian of NW Europe, because the stage reaches very great thicknesses, is exposed in a large number of sections, is developed in a uniform highly fossiliferous chalk lithology, and because of the presence of the upper boundary stratotype.

The Maastrichtian of Denmark was subdivided into 10 zones on the basis of a very large material of mainly micromorphic brachiopods obtained by washing of bulk samples from all known Danish localities by Surlyk (1969, 1970). This zonation could be correlated with an earlier zonation of the Rügen chalk (Steinich, 1965) and was extended to NW Germany (Surlyk, 1970, 1975, 1982), Sweden (Surlyk, 1969), eastern England (Surlyk & Johansen, in prep.), and Poland (Bitner & Pisera, 1979). The Danish zonation was described in detail in an unpublished thesis (Surlyk, 1969) and only a summary of the zonation has been published (Surlyk, 1970).

In the present paper a coherent brachiopod zonation for the Maastrichtian chalk of Sweden, Denmark, NW Germany, East Germany and eastern England is presented for the first time. Sections from Poland, Holland and Belgium are incorporated in the zonation as far as their brachiopod faunas are known. The zonal nomenclature follows the system proposed by Murphy (1977). This system was introduced for the Upper Cretaceous chalk of NW Europe in a paper on the Campanian-Maastrichtian boundary sequence at Kronsnoor (Surlyk, 1982).

Each zone is defined by its boundaries, each boundary is defined in a stratotype by a palaeontological event, and only one taxon is used in the definition of a zone boundary. The upper boundary of each zone is automatically defined by the lower boundary of the overlying unit. A zone is given a binomial name using the species names of the taxa defining the lower and upper boundary respectively. Species which are particularly common, or which seem to appear or disappear in a

consistent position with respect to the boundaries are indicated as characteristic species.

The zones until now recognized in NW Europe are described below in a standardized way. They are from oldest to youngest:

#### *tenuicostatus* – *longicollis* Zone

Age: Late-latest Campanian.

Base: Start of *R. tenuicostata*. No stratotype.

Characteristic species: *R. tenuicostata*, *R. spinosa* s.l. (see Surlyk, 1982).

#### *longicollis* – *jasmundi* Zone

Age: Latest Campanian – Campanian/Maastrichtian boundary.

Base: Start of *T. longicollis*.

Stratotype: Kronsnoor sample 8 (see Surlyk, 1982).

Characteristic species: *T. longicollis*, *R. acutirostris*.

#### *jasmundi* – *acutirostris* Zone

Age: Earliest Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 1 or to an interval between zones 1 and 2 of Surlyk (1970).

Base: Start of *G. jasmundi*.

Stratotype: Kronsnoor sample 10 (see Surlyk, 1982).

Characteristic species: *G. jasmundi*, *T. gracilis*.

#### *acutirostris* – *spinosa* Zone

Age: Early Early Maastrichtian. Corresponds roughly to Zone 2 of Surlyk (1970).

Base: Start of *R. acutirostris*.

Stratotype: Kronsnoor sample 13 (see Surlyk, 1982).

Characteristic species: *R. acutirostris*, *G. gisii*, *G. jasmundi*, *T. gracilis*, *M. chitoniformis*, *D. mielnicensis*.

#### *spinosa* – *subtilis* Zone

Age: Early Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 3 of Surlyk (1970) and almost exactly to the *obtusata* Zone of Schulz (1979).

Base: Last occurrence of *R. spinosa*.

Stratotype: Kronsnoor sample 18 (see Surlyk, 1982).

Characteristic species: *G. jasmundi*, *R. tenuicostata*, *T. gracilis*.

Stages	Brachiopod zones	Zonal indices																										
MAASTRICHTIAN	Upper	Upper	stevens-chitoniformis	Rugia tenuicostata	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra	
			Lower	humboldtii-stevens	Gisilina jasmundi	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra
			Lower	semiglobularis-humboldtii	Rugia acutirostris	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra
	Lower	Upper	tenuicostata-semiglobularis	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra	
			Lower	pulchellus-tenuicostata	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra
			Lower	pulchellus-pulchellus	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra
		Lower	subtilis-pulchellus	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra	
			Lower	spinosa-subtilis	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra
			Lower	acutirostris-spinosa	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra
	CAMPAIAN (pars.)	Upper	longicollis-jasmundi	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra	
			tenuicostata-longicollis	Rugia spinosa s. s.	Argyrotheca n. sp. aff. coniuncta	Kingena pentangulata	Argyrotheca bronni	Argyrotheca hirundo	Creirrhynchia sp.	Terebratulina chrysalis	Terebratulina faujasii	Isocrania costata	Carnelithyrus subcardinalis	Aemula inusitata	Terebratulina gracilis	Gisilina gisii	Vermiculothecidea vermicularis	Dracius carnifex	Neolithyrina obesa	Gemmarcula n. sp. ?	Neolithyrina fittoni	Isocrania barbata	Lacazella wehnerelli	Argyrotheca obsarinata	Rugia tegulata	Isocrania n. sp.	Thecidea recurvirostra	

Fig. 2. Stratigraphic range chart for the late Campanian-Maastrichtian brachiopods of NW Europe. Only information obtained from well horisonted bulk samples is included. Some rare or little known species are excluded from the diagram as are the species *Dalligas nobilis*, *D. mielnicensis*, and *Scumulus inopinatus* which at present are under revision.

#### *subtilis* – *pulchellus* Zone

Age: Early Early Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 4 of Surlyk (1970) and includes zone 1 of Steinich (1965).

Base: Start of *T. subtilis*.

Stratotype: Hvidskud, Møns Klint, sample 9 (Surlyk, 1972, fig. 14).

Characteristic species: *T. subtilis*, *G. gisii*, *G. jasmundi*, *R. tenuicostata*, *T. faujasii*.

#### *pulchellus* – *pulchellus* Zone

Age: Late Early Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 5 of Surlyk (1970) and zone 2 of Steinich (1965).

Base: Start of *T. pulchellus*.

Stratotype: Hvidskud, Møns Klint, sample 5 (Surlyk, 1972, fig. 14).

Characteristic species: *T. pulchellus*, *R. tenuicostata*, *G. gisii*, *G. jasmundi*.

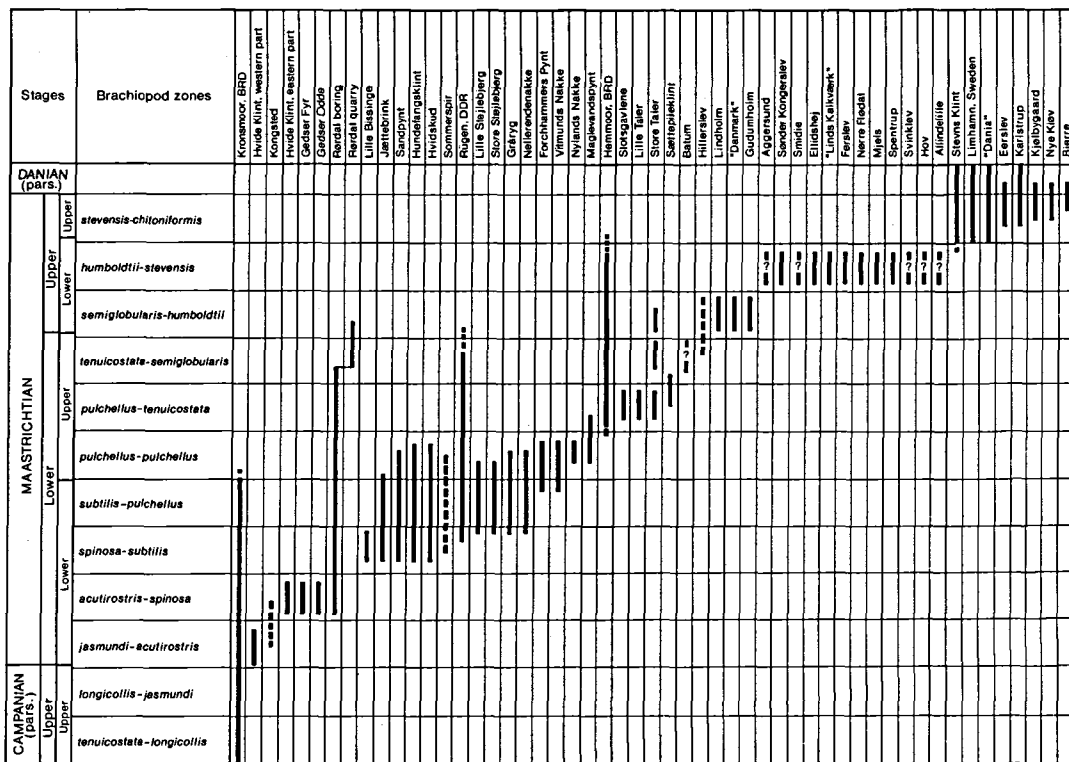


Fig. 3. Scheme showing the stratigraphic distribution of the main Danish Maastrichtian localities. The NW German sections at Kronsnoor (Surlyk 1982) and Hemmoor (Surlyk 1970, 1975) and the section at Rügen, DDR (Data from Steinich, 1965) are included.

*pulchellus – tenuicostata* Zone

Age: Late Early Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 6 of Surlyk (1970).

Base: Last occurrence of *T. pulchellus*.

Stratotype: Chalk complex 8, sample 18, Rügen (Steinich, 1965, fig. 296).

Characteristic species: *G. gisii*, *G. jasmundi*, *R. tenuicostata*.

*tenuicostata – semiglobularis* Zone

Age: Latest Early Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 7 of Surlyk (1970).

Base: Last occurrence of *R. tenuicostata*.

Stratotype: Hemmoor sample 82 (see section in Schmid, 1982).

Characteristic species: The fauna is of low diversity and the zone is essentially characterized by the disappearance of several important Lower Maastrichtian species at the lower boundary, and the appearance of the main Upper Maastrichtian index *M. semiglobularis* at the upper boundary.

*semiglobularis – humboldtii* Zone

Age: Early Late Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 8 of Surlyk (1970).

Base: Start of *Meonia semiglobularis*.

Stratotype: Hemmoor sample 95 (see section in Schmid, 1982).

Characteristic species: *M. semiglobularis*, *Rugia tegulata*, *T. gracilis*.

*humboldtii – stevensis* Zone

Age: Mid Late Maastrichtian. Corresponds to zone 9 of Surlyk (1970).

Base: Start of *Ruegenella humboldtii*.

Stratotype not designated as *R. humboldtii* is relatively rare. Usually some specimens are found in each locality exposing strata of this age if just a few samples are examined. Steinich (1965) indicated *R. humboldtii* occurring at the very top of the Rügen section, i.e. at the top of the Lower Maastrichtian, but has elsewhere mentioned the possibility that the specimens were out of place (Steinich, 1972). If, however, the start of *R. hum-*

*boldtii* is strongly diachronous starting much earlier in East Germany than in Denmark it will eventually have to be dropped as defining a zone boundary.

Characteristic species: *R. humboldtii*, *Meonia semiglobularis*, *Magas chitoniformis*, *Terebratulina gracilis*.

#### *stevensis* – *chitoniformis* Zone

Age: Latest Maastrichtian to the Maastrichtian-Danian boundary. Corresponds to zone 10 of Surlyk (1970).

Base: Start of *A. stevensis*.

Stratotype: Stevns Klint, lowest part of the section. The Maastrichtian brachiopod fauna experienced a sudden mass-extinction at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary (Surlyk & Johansen, 1982, 1984). Any of the disappearing Maastrichtian brachiopod species can be selected to define the lower boundary of the next succeeding zone of earliest Danian age. As a brachiopod zonation has not yet been worked out for the Danian Stage the top of the *stevensis-chitoniformis* Zone is defined by the disappearance of one of the most characteristic Maastrichtian species, *Magas chitoniformis*.

### Mass-extinction of the Maastrichtian brachiopod fauna.

The Maastrichtian brachiopod fauna of Denmark consists of about fifty species. Johansen (1982) and Surlyk & Johansen (1984) demonstrated the extinction pattern for one locality, Nye Kløv. The general validity of the data from Nye Kløv was checked with data from several other boundary localities (F. Surlyk, 1969 and unpublished data). When all boundary localities are included the number of species becoming extinct becomes even more impressive. Fig. 2 shows a schematic range chart for all the Maastrichtian brachiopod species of NW Europe. The chart only shows occurrence on zone level as the data are mainly obtained from a very large number of relatively short sections rather from a few very long sections. Of the 50 recognised Maastrichtian species only 6 are known with certainty from the Danian Stage. A few additional species may occur in the basal Danian strata but this still has to be confirmed. Some of the extinct species disappear at

different levels of the Maastrichtian, but 38 species still occur in the highest Maastrichtian zone, the *stevensis-chitoniformis* Zone. Most or all of these species become extinct right at the boundary.

### Age of the Maastrichtian localities in NW Europe

The brachiopod zonation of the NW European chalk is based on a large number of samples from several selected long sections. These sections are Hvidskud on Møns Klint, Rørdal quarry and boring, Stevns Klint, "Dania" quarry, Kronsmoor and Hemmoor in NW Germany, Rügen in DDR (Stenich, 1965). In addition virtually all other localities in the region has been sampled to test and refine the basic zonation. Many of these localities were dated for the first time. Others had previously only been very crudely dated to sub-stage level. Figure 3 shows the stratigraphic range of the localities. The work on the English sections is still in progress and is not presented here.

Acknowledgements. This paper gives a short synthesis of an extensive study of the stratigraphy, taxonomy and palaeoecology of the brachiopods of NW Europe supported by the Carlsberg Foundation. N. Turner and B. Sikker Hansen are thanked for their assistance in the preparation of the manuscript.

### Dansk sammendrag

Det øverste campanien-maastrichtien i nordvest Europa inddeles i dette arbejde i tolv brachiopod zoner. Hver zone er defineret i en stratotype ved første eller sidste optræden af en art. Zonens øvre grænse er automatisk defineret af den følgende zones nedre grænse. Zonenavnene er binomiale, dannet af artsnavnene på de arter, der definerer henholdsvis nedre og øvre grænse. Eksempelvis er *subtilis* – *pulchellus* zonens nedre grænse defineret ved den første optræden af *Terebratulina subtilis* og dens øvre grænse ved den første optræden af *Trigosemus pulchellus*. Zoneringsen, der især bygger på lokaliteter i Danmark, kan følges til Sverige, Polen, Vesttyskland, Østtyskland og England. Kronsmoor profilet i nordvest Tyskland foreslås som stratotype for maastrichtien etagens nedre grænse. Stevns Klint er per definition stratotype for etagens øvre grænse og dermed for kridt – tertiær grænsen. Det foreslås her, at Stevns Klint kan erstattes af Nye Kløv i Hanherred, hvis det kan påvises, at Stevns Klint profilet indeholder en hiatus ved grænsen. Det foreslås, at kridt – tertiær grænsen placeres ved basis af fiskeleret, idet alle oplysninger peger på, at grænselerlaget repræsenterer en isokron horisont over det meste af jorden.

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