

Deep water chondrichthyans from the Early Miocene of the Vienna Basin (Central Paratethys, Slovakia)

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Sampling of latest Burdigalian (Miocene) silty clays from the Malé Karpaty Mountains in the Slovakia revealed a deep-water, low diversity shark fauna. The fauna is dominated by teeth of very small squaliform sharks, including two new species, *Eosqualiolus skrovinai* sp. nov. and *Paraetmopterus horvathi* sp. nov. The generic composition of the squaliform fauna is more similar to that known from the Eocene than that of today, suggesting a post-early Miocene faunal turnover within this clade, at least locally. Nectobenthic, non-squaliform sharks are rare, but include the new sawshark species *Pristiophorus striatus* sp. nov., while minute teeth of an enigmatic taxon described here as *Nanocetorhinus tuberculatus* gen. et sp. nov. probably indicate the presence of a previously unrecorded planktivore. The unusual composition of the fauna, with the complete absence of taxa known to be of medium to large size, suggests an unusual, and probably very stressed, palaeoenvironment.

Key words: Squaliformes, Dalatidae, Etmopteridae, *Pristiophorus*, sharks, Miocene, Slovakia, Paratethys.

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