

Microfaunal and nannofloral analysis of the Cretaceous of the Adda-3 well

- a contribution to the EFP-93 project:
Lower and upper Cretaceous
stratigraphy in the Central Trough

David J. Jutson and Jan Audun Rasmussen

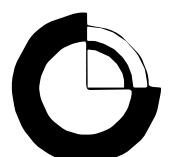


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1. Introduction

As part of the EFP-93 Cretaceous Stratigraphy Project, microfaunal and nannofossil analyses of the cored intervals covering the Chalk Group to Valhall Formation of the Adda-3 well were undertaken. A stratigraphic subdivision has been produced and is presented in this report.

The chronostratigraphic subdivision of the Chalk Group to Valhall Formation that has been established from the Adda-3 material is based on the research of the EFP 93 project together with published and confidential proprietary schemes from the North Sea and adjacent areas (Figs 1-3).

1.1 Materials and methods

Core samples were collected using normal techniques appropriate to the discipline involved. In the case of nannofossils, this required stringent precautions to avoid contamination from sample to sample. Implements used to take samples were cleaned with mild acid before a new sample was taken.

Preparation techniques for microfaunas were as follows. The samples were cleaned in water and then crushed by use of a hammer. The resultant material was soaked in hydrogen peroxide for a period not less than 12 hours. They were then heated to just below boiling point and left to cool. The peroxide which had soaked into the sample material caused the sediment particles to disaggregate due to the release of oxygen in the form of small bubbles. The residues of this were separated through a 63μ sieve and the remaining material was dried under infra-red lamp and bagged for future analysis.

The nannofossil samples were prepared by smear technique. That is, the samples were crushed and put into solution with distilled water in a test tube. This was physically agitated and left to stand for ten seconds to allow the larger fragments to fall out of suspension. A small amount of the dissolved material was removed from the top 1 cm of solution by use of a dropper pipette. The sediment solution was then spread on a cover slip and left to dry. When it had dried, the cover slip was set onto a standard thickness microscope slide with an epoxy resin (Norland Optical Adhesive) and set under ultra violet light. At all stages, precautions to avoid contamination were taken. Nannofossils are small enough to be

transported in the air around a room so a positive pressure environment would be desirable. Unfortunately, this was not available for this project.

Number of samples analysed: Microfaunal: 31

Nannofossil: 50

A full sample list is given in Appendix 1. Preparations for this project are catalogued and stored in the GEUS laboratory.

2. Biostratigraphic summary

All depths quoted are in feet and inches and are measured depth from rotary table (MDRT). The stratigraphic distribution of micro and nannofossils are summarised in Summary Charts 1- 2.

2.1 Compiled biostratigraphy: Adda-3 well

INTERVAL AGE	MICROZONE	DEPTH	NANNOZONE	DEPTH	COMBINED ZONE
Upper Santonian (top not seen)	UCM11	7220.00'	NUC11	7220.00'	HC II
Lower Coniacian	UCM14	7237.00'	NUC14	7237.00'	HD II
Turonian (undivided)			NUC14/15	7532' 5"	HD I - HE
Upper to Middle Cenomanian			NUC16/17	7617' 5"	HRA/B
basal Lower Cenomanian to Upper Albian	UCM18 - LCM1	7672' 5"	NUC18 - NLC1	7672' 5"	HRC/RA
Upper to Middle Albian	LCM1	7682' 2"			RA
Lower Aptian	M2	7683' 5"	d-e	7683' 5"	SL4-5
Middle to Lower Barremian	M6b-M8c	7698.00'	n-s	7698.00'	TX4-9
	M8c	7755.00'	t-u1	7755.00'	TX10-11
	M10	7777.00'	v	7777.00'	TX13
	M11	7816.00'	w	7816.00'	TX14
Upper Hauterivian	M13	7826.00'	y2	7826.00'	TX 15
Lower Hauterivian	M18	7856.00'			VH4
	M19	7875.00'			VH5

Last sample examined at 7889' 6"

2.2 Biostratigraphic description

Adda-3 well: Microfauna.

7220.00' (first sample examined) - 7237.00': Upper Santonian

The occurrence at 7220.00' of the calcareous benthic foraminifera *Stensioeina exsculpta gracilis* and *Stensioeina exsculpta exsculpta* indicate that the age of the interval is no younger than Upper Santonian. (Koch, 1977).

The microfauna analysed in this interval was poor in both diversity and abundance.

7237.00' - 7532' 5": Lower Coniacian

At 7237.00', an influx of planktic foraminifera including *Dicarinella imbricata*, *Dicarinella asymmetrica*, *Globotruncana bulloides* and *Hedbergella planispira* suggests Lower Coniacian age for the interval. This is supported by an influx of actinommid radiolaria (*Cenosphaera* spp.) at the same depth.

The age is confirmed by the top ranges of the planktic species, *Marginotruncana pseudolinneiana*, *Dicarinella concavata* and *Marginotruncana marginata* (abundant) together with the calcareous benthic foraminifera, *Stensioeina granulata granulata* all at 7252.00'.

Between the samples at 7282.0' and 7617' 5", no sampling was undertaken as the lithology was unfavourable for reasonable extraction of microfossils. Nannofossil samples covering this interval were taken.

7532' 5" 7672' 5": Turonian to Upper/Middle Cenomanian

Microfossil recovery over this interval was very poor and no stratigraphically significant inferences could be made. The interval was age-dated using nannofossils.

7672' 5" - 7682' 2": Basal Lower Cenomanian

An influx of well preserved planktic and benthic foraminifera at 7672' 5" *including White-inella brittonensis*, *Hedbergella delrioensis*, *Gavelinella baltica* and *Gavelinella ceno-manica* suggests Lower Cenomanian age.

This is supported by an influx of abundant *H. planispira* and abundant *H. delrioensis* at 7679' 4". Associated with this influx were specimens of *Hedbergella simplex*.

7682' 2" - 7683' 5": Upper to Middle Albian

This thin interval was characterised by the calcareous benthic *foraminifera Lingulogavelinella ciryi ciryi* and the agglutinated benthic foraminifera *Spiroplectammina complanata*.

Reworking was evident with the presence of *Hedbergella infracretacea* s.l. from the Aptian in characteristic white preservation.

7683' 5" - 7698.00": Lower Aptian

Microfaunal assemblages in this interval were dominated by planktic foraminifera, especially *Blefuscuiana excelsa cumulus*, *Blefuscuiana infracretacea aptica* and *Hedbergella planispira*. Notable calcareous benthic species included *Gavelinella cf. barremiana* and *Gavelinella barremiana*. *B. excelsa cumulus* has an age range lying totally within the Lower Aptian and its presence throughout the section in core samples delimits the age of this interval.

7698.00' - 7826.00": Middle to Lower Barremian

A change in the composition of microfaunas was noted at 7698.00'. The assemblage at that depth included smooth ostracods (*Macrocypris* spp., *Pontocyprilla* spp.) together with an increase of lenticulinids. At 7755.00', an influx of *Inoceramus* (bivalve) prisms can be correlated with a similar event in the Valdemar-2 well.

Additional Middle to Lower Barremian events are noted at 7797.00' where an influx of agglutinated benthic foraminifera including *Falsogaudryinella moesiana*, *Ammobaculites agglutinans* and *Triplasia* spp. was noted and at 7816.00' ,with the top range of *Mean-drospira washitensis* with *Marssonella* spp.

Between 7699.00' and 7754.00', core recovery was very poor and no samples could be obtained for analysis. Electric log signatures suggest that the Munk Marl falls within this missing interval.

7826.00' - 7856.00': Upper Hauterivian

An influx of benthic foraminifera including *Lenticulina ouachensis wisselmanni*, *Vaginulina riedeli riedeli* ,*Vaginulina recta* and *Vaginulina striolata* at 7826.00' indicates that the Upper Hauterivian has been reached. Additional important species included *Aulotortus neocomianus* and increases in abundance of *F. moesiana* and *Marssonella* spp. Smooth ostracod species were also an important component of the microfauna at 7826.00'

At 7844.00', the top range of *Tristix acutiangulata* and *Conorboides hofkeri* supported Upper Hauterivian age, as did the occurrence of *Lenticulina schreiteri* at 7846' 5"

7856.00' - 7889' 6" (last sample examined): Lower Hauterivian

An influx of agglutinated foraminifera at 7856.00' which included *Verneuilinoides neocomiensis* (sensu Sliter) suggests that the Lower Hauterivian gas been reached. This is confirmed at 7875.00' by the occurrence of *Ammovertella cellensis*, and at 7889' 6" by the occurrence of *Bigenerina clavellata* as part of another agglutinated benthic foraminiferal influx.

Adda-3 well: Calcareous Nannofossils

7220.00' (*first sample examined*) - 7237.00': *Upper Santonian*

The sample at 7220.00' includes large specimens of *Micula decussata* together with very common *Lucianorhabdus cayeuxii*, *Reinhardtites levis* and *Watznaueria barnesae*. This assemblage suggests Upper Santonian age.

7237.00' - 7532' 5": *Lower Coniacian*

The incoming of very common *W. barnesae* at 7237.00' indicates a change in nannofloral assemblage character. The base occurrence of *M. decussata* at 7262.00' suggests that this change of nannofloral character is associated with the penetration of significantly older material, probably of Lower Coniacian age.

7532' 5" - 7617' 5": *Turonian (undivided)*

The increase in the abundance of *Gartnerago obliquum* at 7532' 5" suggests Turonian age for this depth (Mortimer 1987). This is supported by the first downhole occurrence of *Helicolithus turonicus* at 7555' 5". The occurrence of *Prediscosphaera columnata*, a Cenomanian species, at 7568' 7" is considered to be due to reworking.

The top boundary of this interval may well be placed higher in the section as nannofossil recovery was poor over the basal part of the overlying interval and into the top of the Turonian interval.

7617' 5" - 7672' 5": *Upper to Middle Cenomanian*

The occurrence of a nannofloral assemblage including *Rhagodiscus asper* and *Parhabdolithus embergeri* at 7617' 5" is a strong indication that the Upper to Middle Cenomanian has been reached.

7672' 5" - 7682' 2": *Basal Lower Cenomanian to Upper Albian*

The top occurrence of *Phanulithus anfractus* at 7672' 5" indicates that the interval top is of basal Lower Cenomanian (to Upper Albian) age. (Jakubowski, 1987).

No specific nannofossil evidence of Albian age was recorded in the relevant sample from this study .

7683'5" - 7698.00": *Lower Aptian*

A change in nannofossil assemblage characterised by abundant *W. barnesae*, common *R. asper* and *Viminites swinnertoni* indicates Aptian age.

7698.00' - 7826.00': *Middle to Lower Barremian*

A change of nannofloral assemblage to those dominated by nannoconids and micrantholithids at 7698.00' indicate Middle to Lower Barremian age. Upper Barremian sediments are very thin or absent in this area due to a regional unconformity at this level.

Specific Middle to Lower Barremian species at 7698.00' include *Micrantholithus hoschulzii* and *Rhagodiscus pseudoangustus* . Supporting evidence for this age was noted at 7899.00' where *Assipetra infracretacea*, *Conusphaera rothii* and *Nannoconus globulus* were recorded: at 7755.00', where the nannofloral assemblage included *Crucibiscutum salebrosum* and at 7777.00' where *Microstaurus chiastius* was present.

7826.00' - 7846' 5": *Upper Hauterivian*

An influx of abundant *Micrantholithus hoschulzii* and *Nannoconus globulus* indicate a change in the nannofloral character. The top range of common *Tegalulithus septentrionalis* at 7846' 5" indicates Upper Hauterivian age and it is possible that the actual boundary of this age interval is at the change at 7826.00'.

Below 7846' 5", samples were poor in nannofossils and no definitive stratigraphic information could be derived from the limited results.

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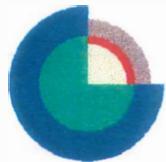


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MAASTRICHTIAN TO LATE Aptian BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC ZONATION

FIG.1

AGE/LITHOSTR.			ZONATIONS			MICROFAUNAL EVENTS			NANNOFOSSIL EVENTS				
PAL.	LWR.	EKO.	MICROFAUNA	NANNOFOSSIL	COMBINED								
MAASTRICHTIAN	TOR FM.	UPPER	UCM1	NUC1	TA	(III)	P.elegans, R.contusa, R.fructicosa			A.cymbiformis, N.frequens, K.magnificus			
			UCM2			(II)	S.beccariiformis, G.volziana, R.szajnochæ			M.decussata			
			UCM3	NUC2		(I)							
			UCM4	NUC3	TB	incr. in diversity comm. B.draco, G.nitidus			comm. L.cayeuxi, R.levis(?rew.)				
			UCM5	NUC4		(II)	abnt. S.beccariiformis, comm/v.comm. Præbulimina spp., Citharina spp.; comm/v.comm. ostracods			comm. P.cretacea, dom. A.cymbiformis v1			
			UCM6	NUC5	TD	dominant A.cymbiformis v2							
			UCM7	NUC6		(II)	dominant A.cymbiformis v3						
			UCM8	NUC7		(I)	comm. Biscutum spp.						
	CAMPANIAN	LOWER	UCM9	NUC8	HA								
			UCM10	NUC9		(II)	abnt. Inoceramus spp. prisms, comm. echinoid spines, V.?aff.reidell, B. draco millaris			decr. in diversity and abundance R.levis			
			UCM11	NUC10	HB	P.obscurus			A.cymbiformis v4				
			UCM12	NUC11		(II)	comm. H. globulosa			dominant A.cymbiformis v4			
			UCM13	NUC12	HC	comm. W.barnesæ			comm. W.barnesæ				
			UCM14	NUC13		(I)	R.anthophorus, L.maleformis			R.eximus, O.campanensis			
			UCM15	NUC14	HD	B.enormis, Q.gartneri, L.grilli M.quaternarius							
			UCM16	NUC15		(III)	S.commerana, S.exsculpta exsculpta						
			UCM17	NUC16	HE	S.granulata perfecta, S.granulata incondita			abnt. L.maleformis, H.trabeculatus				
			UCM18	NUC17		(II)	comm.-abnt. ?Whiteinella spp. comm. actinommid radiolaria			super abnt. W.barnesæ			
			LCM1	NLC1	HRA	S.exsculpta gracilis, S.granulata perfecta			abnt. H.trabeculatus, E.florals,				
			LCM2	NLC2		(I)	S.granulata polonica S.gran. incondita			Eprolithus sp.7			
			LCM3	a	HRB	comm.-abnt. grey/glassy Hedbergella spp. S.granulata granulata			Eprolithus sp.7, M.decussata				
			NO SAMPLES COVERING THIS INTERVAL			comm.-abnt. M.marginalia, M.pseudolinniéana, comm.-abnt. actinommid radiolaria							
ALBIAN	RØDBY	H/DRA FM.	D.imbricata S.gran. levius			S.granulata kelleri			R.affithei, R.asper				
			S.granulata humili S.granulata humili keeled planktics			G.baltica, G.cenomanica, L.ciryi inflata Rotalipora spp.			E.planus				
			comm. H.planispira, H.delrioensis (chalky)			S.antiqua			M.chiastius				
CENOMANIAN			O.schloenbachi, consistent S.antiqua			comm. T.phacelosus, B.enormis, G.nanum			Z.theta				
TURON.			comm.-abnt. H.planispira, H.delrioensis (non-chalky)			P.anfractus, B.constans							
CONCIACIAN						H.gorkæ?							
LWR.-MID.			comm. G.barremiana, v.comm. ostracods			abnt R.asper							
M.-U.													
UPP. L.													
SOLA													



AGE/LITHOSTR.		ZONATIONS			MICROFAUNAL EVENTS		NANNOFOSSIL EVENTS		
		microfauna	nannofossil	combined					
VOLG. RYAZANIAN UPPER FARSUND FM.	VALANGINIAN UPPER LOWER VALHALL FM.	TUX.	M12	X	TX15	Louachensis wisselmanni	influx of T.septentrionalis	abnt. Nannoconids (?)	
			M13	y		incr. in diversity and abundance: D.macfadyeni	incr.in A.infracretacea		
			M14	a	VH1	M.robusta grp.	C.cuvillieri, S.coligata		
			b	3		V. humilis precursor			
			M15		VH2	L.nodosa, P.superba, incr. P.mandeli starni abundant T.betenstaedti	T.(?) shetlandensis		
			M16			influx of radiolaria	C.silvaradion, comm. C.margarelli T.stradneri		
			M17		VH3				
			M18		VH4	G.neocomiensis (sensu Sliter) H.inconstans gracile, influx G.frianooverana	v comm. D.lehmanni & C.achylosum R.wisei, N.steinmanni minor		
			M19		VH5				
			M20	β	VH6	A.cellensis agglit. influx: Giomospira spp., B.clavellata E.tenuicostata, A.eocretaceus	abnt C.achylosum, N.steinmanni minor		
				1	a				
				2	b	B.loeblichii, M.valdensis, C.valdensis F.woburgi	M.speetonensis, T.gabalus N.dolomiticus, D.rectus		
				3	c				
			M21	γ	VH7	incr. B.loeblichii, Trocholina spp.	abnt C.salebrosus. comm. Solasites spp.		
				1	a				
				2	b	K.borealis K.borealis (small)	K.curvata, N.concavus		
				3	c				
			M22	δ	VH8	Tricolocapsa sp.1 & sp.2, P.jonesi H.calloviensis	S.arcuatus T.(?) shetlandensis S.arcuatus, abnt R.asper		
			M23	ε	F1				
						Præconocaryomma(?) sp.2 (Dyer & Copestate) comm. S.devorata			

Fig.3



BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY SHEET

1

Well: ADDA-3
Operator: MÆRSK OLIE OG GAS
Country: OFFSHORE DENMARK
Analyst(s): D. JUTSON

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LITHOSTRAT. **AGE** **ZONE/SUBZONE** **LITH.** **FEET** **S** **BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC EVENTS**

UPPER SANTONIAN

UCM11 NUC11 HC II

7220 ♦ S.exsculpta gracilis, S.exsculpta exsculpta: M.decussata (large)

7230

7240 ♦ D.imbricata, H.planispira, D.asymmetrica, G.bulloides
actinommid radiolarian influx: comm. W.barnesae

7250 ♦ S.granulata granulata, M.pseudolinneiana, abnt. M.marginata

7260 ♦ v.comm. Inoceramus prisms: M.decussata

7270

7280 ♦ W.baltica, E.floralis

7290 ♦ influx of radiolaria (actinomuids, archaeodictyonitids)

7300

7310

7320

7330

7340

LOWER CONIACIAN

UCM14 NUC14 HD II

HOD FM.

The geological log displays two main zones: the Lower Coniacian (UCM14, NUC14) and the Upper Santonian (UCM11, NUC11). The log shows a thick section of dolomite (HD II) at the bottom, followed by a thin section of dolomite (HC II) at the top. Biostratigraphic events are listed on the right side of the log, corresponding to specific depths. The depth scale ranges from 7220 feet at the top to 7340 feet at the bottom. A question mark is present above the top of the HC II section, indicating an uncertain boundary or thickness.



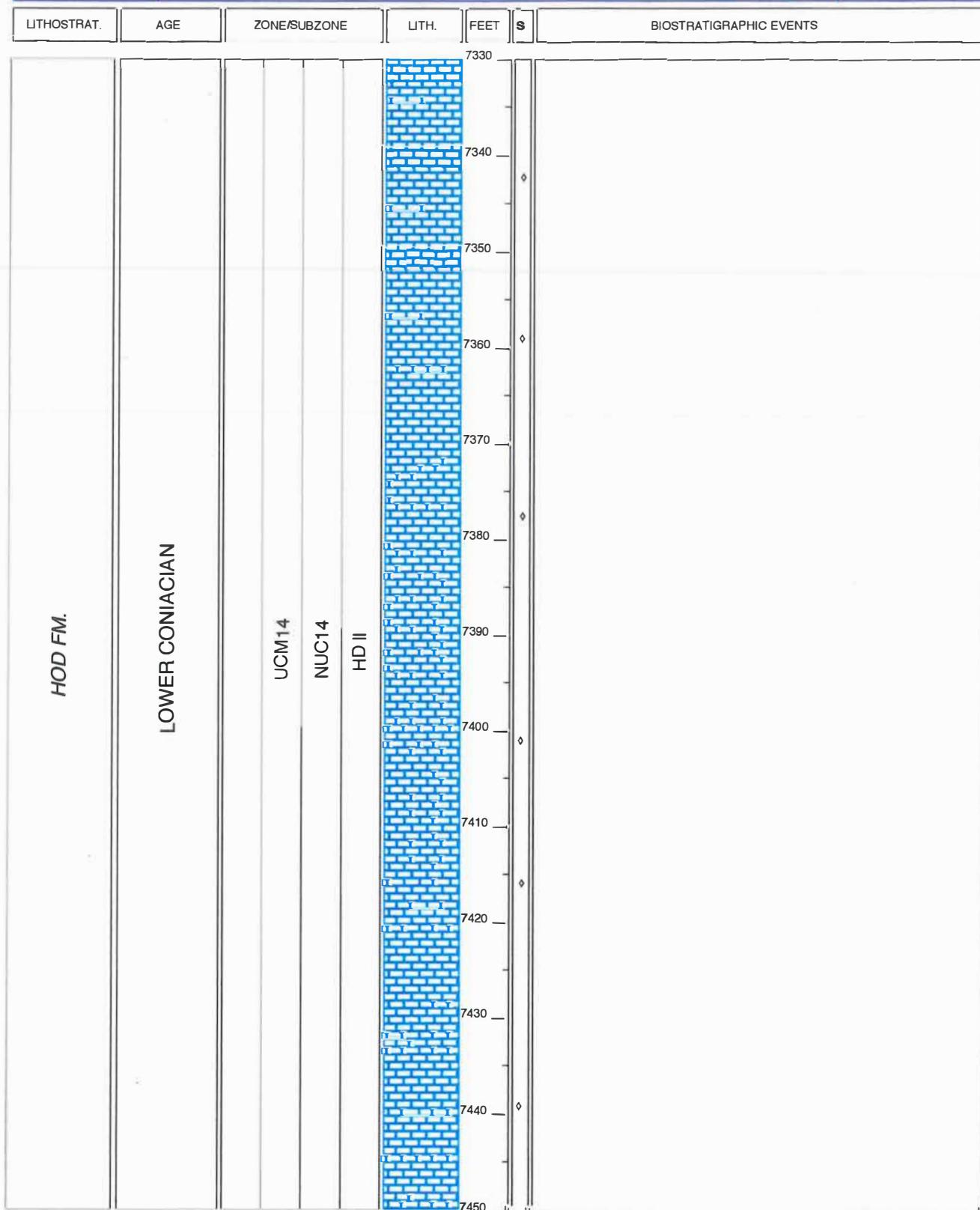
BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY SHEET

2

Well: ADDA-3
Operator: MÆRSK OLIE OG GAS
Country: OFFSHORE DENMARK
Analyst(s): D. JUTSON

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Date: JUNE 1996



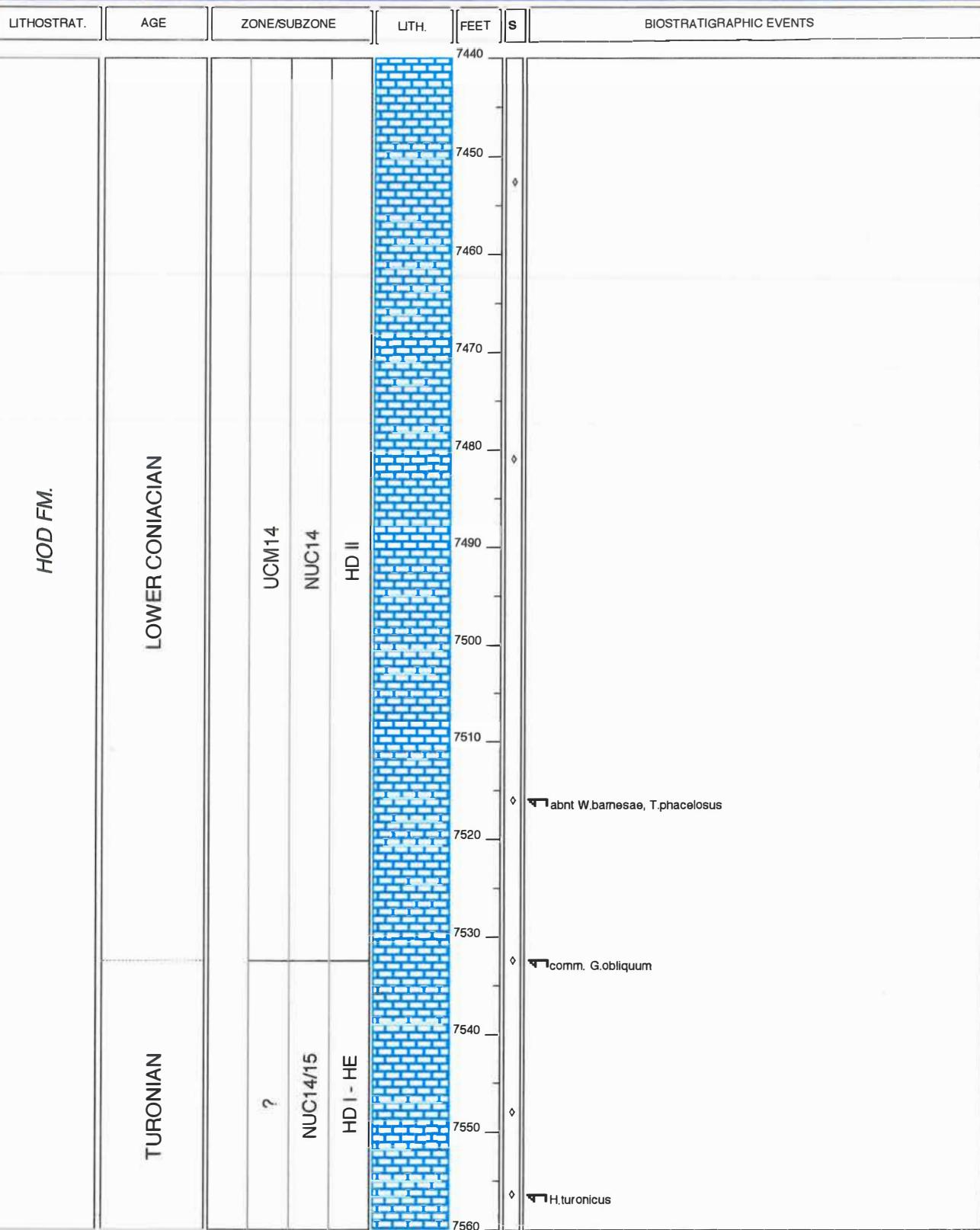


BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY SHEET

3

Well: ADDA-3
Operator: MÆRSK OLIE OG GAS
Country: OFFSHORE DENMARK
Analyst(s): D. JUTSON

Date: JUNE 1996

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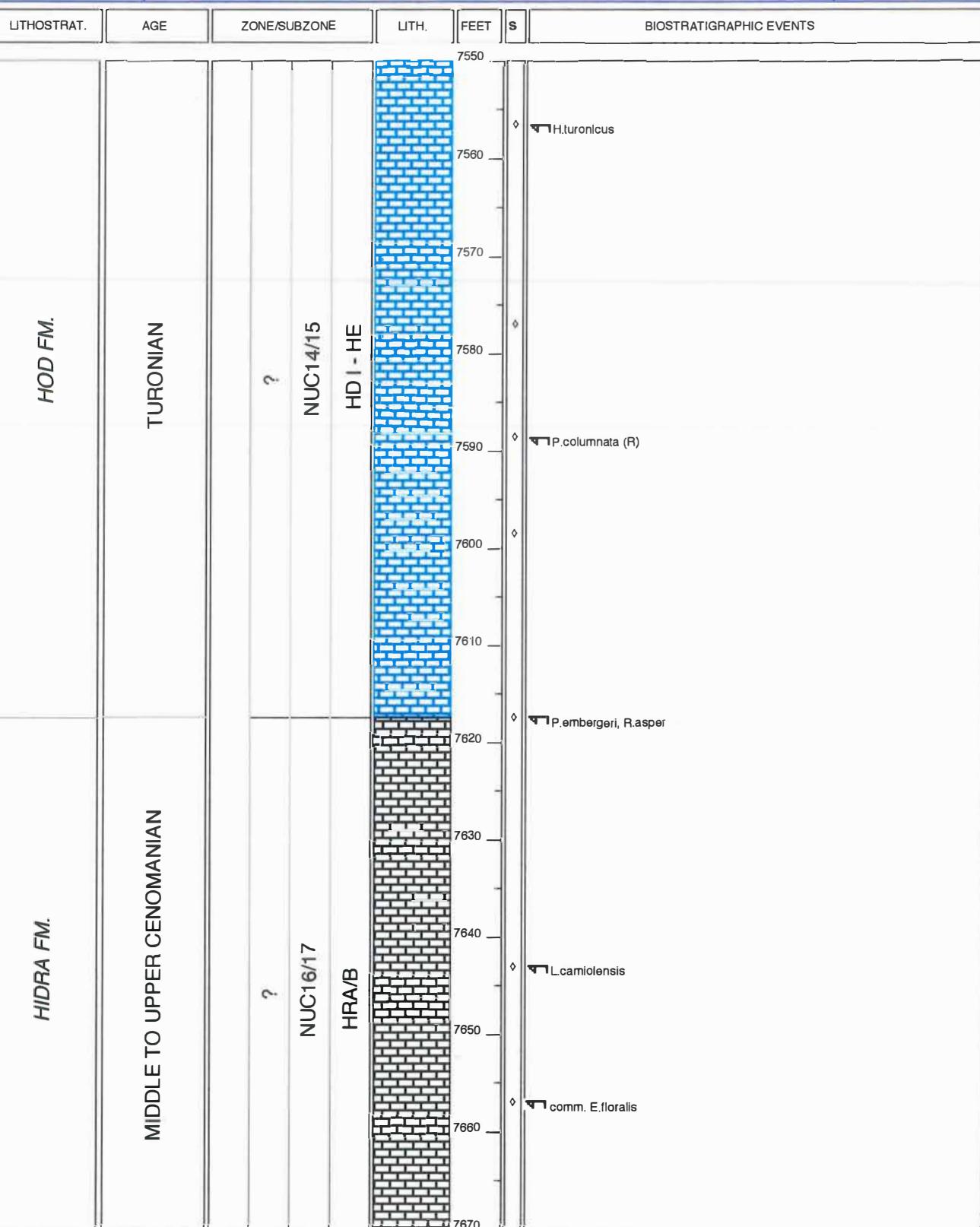
BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY SHEET

4

Well: ADDA-3
Operator: MÆRSK OLIE OG GAS
Country: OFFSHORE DENMARK
Analyst(s): D. JUTSON

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Date: JUNE 1996





BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY SHEET

5

Well: ADDA-3
Operator: MÆRSK OLIE OG GAS
Country: OFFSHORE DENMARK
Analyst(s): D. JUTSON

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Date: JUNE 1996

* = UPPER TO MIDDLE ALBIAN

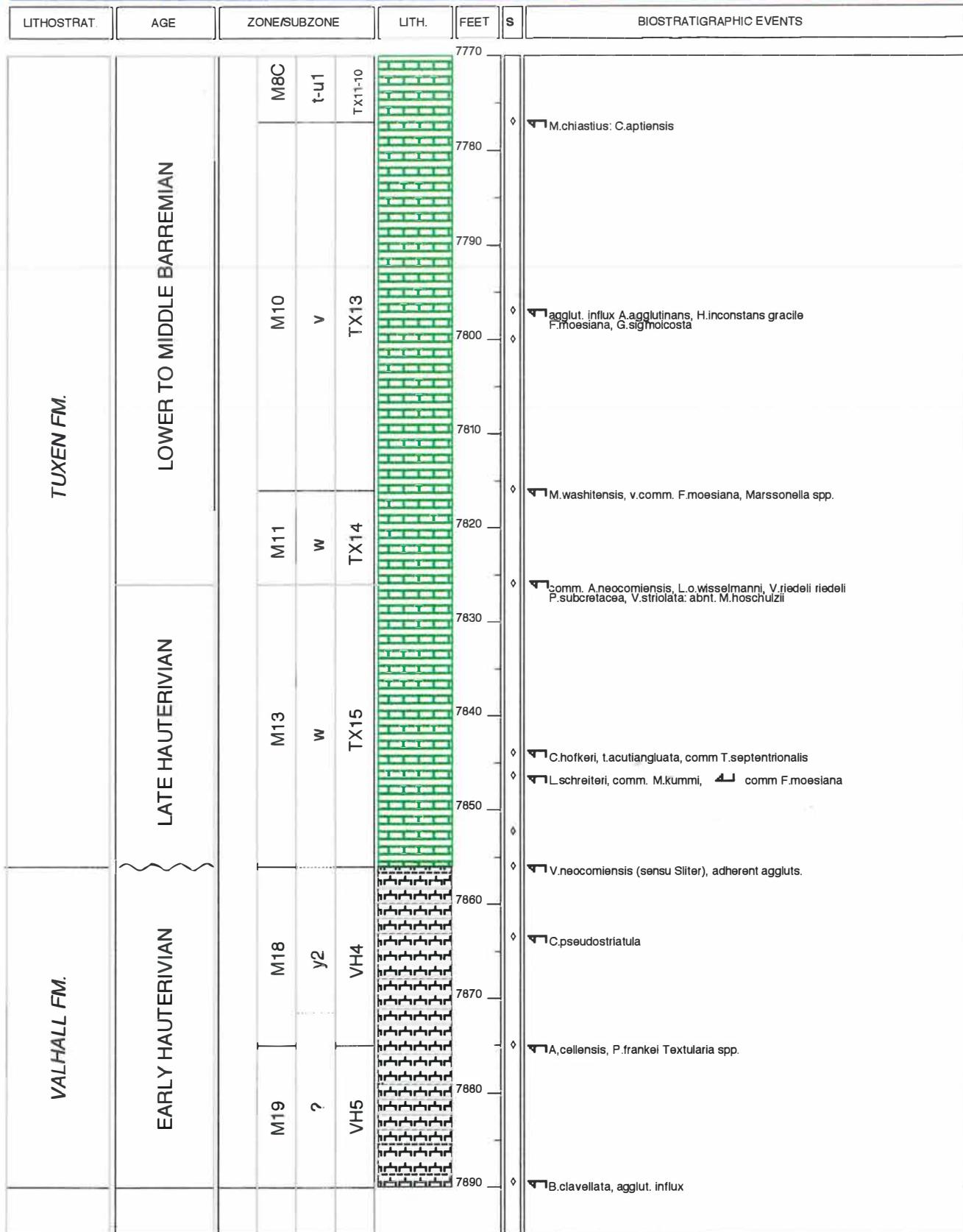


BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY SHEET

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Well: ADDA-3
Operator: MÆRSK OLIE OG GAS
Country: OFFSHORE DENMARK
Analyst(s): D. JUTSON

Date: JUNE 1996

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Appendix 1

Samples Analysed for Micro/nannopaleontology

Adda-3

Nannofossils

7220.00'	7846' 5"
7237.00'	7852' 3"
7252.00'	7856' .00'
7262.00'	7863' 6"
7275.00'	7875.00
7290.00'	7889' 6"
7211.00'	
7324' 11"	
7324' 9"	
7342' 4"	
7359.00'	
7377' 8"	
7401.00'	
7416' 3"	
7439' 2"	
7452' 8"	
7481.00'	
7516.00'	
7532' 5"	
7548.00'	
7556' 5"	
7577.00'	
7588' 7"	
7589.00'	
7589' 8"	
7598' 6"	
7617' 5"	
7643.00'	
7657.00'	
7672' 5"	
7675.00'	
7679' 4"	
7682' 2"	
7683' 5"	
7684' 4"	
7692' 9"	
7698.00'	
7699.00'	
7755.00'	
7777.00'	
7797.00'	
7800.00'	
7816.00'	
7826.00'	
7844.00'	

Microfaunas

7220.00'
7237.00'
7252.00'
7262.00'
7275.00'
7282.00'
7617' 5"
7643.00'
7657.00'
7672' 5"
7675.00'
7679' 4"
7682' 2"
7683' 5"
7684' 4"
7692' 9"
7698.00'
7699.00'
7755.00'
7777.00'
7797.00'
7800.00'
7816.00'
7826.00'
7844.00'
7846' 5"
7852' 3"
7856.00'
7863' 6"
7875.00'
7889' 6"

Total number of samples:	Microfaunas	50
	Nannofossils	35

N.B. all samples are conventional core samples