Preface

Studies on the Cretaceous ammonites of Hungary had been started in the second half of the XIXth century with the finding of the impressive fossil assemblage of "Schichten von Nána" (HAUER 1862). Since then, Cretaceous ammonite studies are in the mainstream of the Hungarian palaeontology (HANTKEN 1868; LÓCZY 1906; BÖCKH 1909; KOCH 1909; SOMOGYI 1914; NOSZKY 1934, 1942; NAGY I. Z. 1973; SCHOLZ 1975, 1979; HORVÁTH, A. 1985, 1989; BUJTOR 1989, 1990a, 1990b, 1991; FŐZY 2001, 2004; FŐZY & FOGARASI 2002; FŐZY et al. 2002; FŐZY & JANSSEN 2005, 2006; COMPANY et al. 2006; SZIVES, 1996, 1999a, 1999b, 2002; SZIVES & MONKS 2002).

The present monograph of the Aptian–Campanian ammonites of Hungary is a summarising work of unpublished or partly published materials. The studied assemblages are mainly from the collections of the Hungarian Natural History Museum and the Geological Museum of Hungary. The well-known and fully published Vraconian assemblage from surface outcrops of the Bakony Mts is complemented with an unpublished, exceptionally beautiful collection of a qualified private collector, Zoltán Evanics.

Before starting to document the Hungarian ammonite record, an outline of the Cretaceous system and geodynamics of the Alp–Carpathian region can help to reconstruct the palaeogeographical situation. The book is divided into chapters according to certain ages as Aptian, Albian, Santonian and Campanian. Each chapter contains a historical outline, a stratigraphic, palaeobiogeographic, palaeoecologic–taphonomic and a systematic part. Both the Aptian and Albian ammonite assemblages from surface outcrops are known from condensed strata. A Late Aptian ammonite record is also documented here from a borehole as well. Fortunately several boreholes with continuous core sampling crossed Albian ammonite-bearing sequences. The Santonian ammonite record of Hungary includes a single specimen. A dozen of ammonites came from Campanian sediments but from a very restricted area.

Acknowledgments

The present monograph is based mainly on those materials, which were collected during decades by the Geological Institute of Hungary (GIH) and stored at the Geological Museum of Hungary (GMH). The author is grateful to the director of the Museum, and now the Institute as well, prof. László Kordos, who kindly let me to borrow thousands of specimens for the purpose of the present work. I am also very obligated to Zoltán Evanics, a highly qualified private collector, who spent 23 years collecting fossils from the Tilos Forest and had shown and lent me his exceptionally beautiful and unique specimens for this investigation.

I am indebted for the friendly cooperation of my colleague, dr. István Főzy, with whom we invented the idea of a monograph about the Hungarian Cretaceous ammonites and we started this work together, with the finding of "thought-to-be" disappeared materials.

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