

The Solling Formation (Buntsandstein) near Jena, Eastern Thuringia

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Abstract

New outcrops related to road construction works on Highway A 4 near Jena offered possibilities for a detailed subdivision of the Solling Formation (s6). Various locations near Jena have been described by different authors, however, thus far a detailed correlation failed. The fluvial facies, consisting of coarse grained clastic channel sediments can now be compared with profiles of floodplain deposits with relics of soil formation and bioactive layers in the middle portion. Both the H-discordance and the S-discontinuity are characterized by erosion and cuttings into underlying deposits. Paleontologically important are new discoveries of larger surfaces with tetrapod footprints that are dominated by chirotherians. These are the ichnogenera Isochirotherium, Chirotherium and Synaptichnium. Trackmakers were different archosaurs. Biostratigraphically the assemblage is characteristic of the early Anisian (Middle Triassic).