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Radiolarian biostratigraphic framework for Mesozoic paleoceanography

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Mesozoic biostratigraphic frameworks were established independently in North America, Europe and Japan in late 1970s. The first joint research on Mesozoic radiolarian zonation was started in late 1980s by the Mesozoic Working Group of the International Association of Radiolarian Paleontologists (InterRad) and was published in several years later (Baumgartner et., 1995). Since then, the group has continuously made an effort to establish a worldwide biostratigraphic framework. Biostratigraphically important radiolarian genera and species of early-middle Jurassic (Pliensbachian, Toarcian and Aalenian) age were described by Gorican et al. (2006). This work is intended to be a base of further biostratigraphic research. Another comprehensive work on Mesozoic radiolarians has just been published by O'Dogherty et al. (2009). They reviewed 140 years of Mesozoic radiolarian taxonomy and reported 915 genera of the entire Mesozoic. This work can be a basis for setting up a useful biostratigraphic framework for paleoceanographic research.

Keywords: Mesozoic, paleoceanography, radiolaria, biostratigraphy