Dinoflagellate cyst distributions and the Albian–Cenomanian boundary (mid-Cretaceous) at Cordebugle, NW France and Lewes, southern England

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ABSTRACT - The Albian–Cenomanian boundary successions at Livet Quarry, Cordebugle and Rodmell Cement Works, Lewes are described. Moderately abundant and diverse dinoflagellate cyst assemblages comprising 89 taxa are recorded and related to ammonite, foraminiferal and other faunal data from the two sites. The genus Ouoidinium forms a major component of cyst assemblages from the boundary intervals at both localities. Ouoidinium scabrum (Cookson & Hughes) Davey is replaced by abundant Ouoidinium verrucosum verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes) Davey close to, and possibly at, the stage boundary, offering a potential dinoflagellate cyst marker for the base of the Cenomanian Stage. The published ranges of a number of species are extended. Six taxa are recorded for the first time from NW Europe: Apredinium reticulatum Singh, Disphaeria macropa Cookson & Eisenack, Namatoptaphoresis densiradiata (Cookson & Eisenack) Stover & Evitt and Pervosphaeridium cenomaniense (Norvick) Below occur in the high Upper Albian: Ouoidinium verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes) ostium (Davey) Lentin & Williams and Tanysphaeridium salpinx Norvick are recorded from the lowest Lower Cenomanian. Increased cyst abundance and diversity at Lewes when compared with Cordebugle is related to the more basinal setting of the former locality. J. Micropalaecontol. 15(1): 55–67, April 1996.

INTRODUCTION
The Cenomanian Stage, at the base of the Upper Cretaceous Series, is marked throughout most of NW Europe by the appearance of pelagic carbonates (chalks and marls), replacing dominantly siliciclastic sediments (sandstones and mudstones) of the Lower Cretaceous. This major lithological change was a consequence of the continuing rise in eustatic sea-level, that began in the earliest Cretaceous and which, by the Early Cenomanian, had drowned most available siliciclastic source areas, to form a broad shallow epicontinental sea (Hancock & Kaufmann, 1979; Juignet, 1980; Hancock, 1990, 1992). The sharp lithological change which occurs regionally at the bottom of the Cenomanian has recently been confirmed as a major sequence boundary, and is generally associated with a small hiatus (Amédro, 1992; Hart et al., 1992; Juignet & Breton, 1992; Robaszcynski et al., 1992). This was probably caused by a minor regressive event (Cooper, 1977; Haq et al., 1987; Simmons et al., 1991; Amédro, 1992) or period of still-stand (Hancock, 1989), superimposed on the main mid-Cretaceous sea-level rise.

In this paper, we describe the dinoflagellate cyst distributions of samples taken across two Albian–Cenomanian boundary intervals, one from NW France and the other from southern England. Samples of 10 g were processed using standard palynological acid digestion techniques, and the smear mounts examined under a light microscope. Slides and residues are stored in the reference collection of the Palynological Research Centre, Institute of Earth Studies, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK. In all cases, samples were precisely located within existing detailed litho- and biostratigraphic frameworks, enabling new observations to be made on the ranges and assemblages of dinoflagellate cysts during the Early–Late Cretaceous transition.

CORDEBUGLE
Cordebugle, 10 km SE of Lisieux, département of Calvados, NW France, is situated close to the western limit of the 'Normandy Basin' (Juignet, 1980; Juignet & Breton, 1992), a structurally and sedimentologically distinct area located on the western margin of the Cretaceous Anglo-Paris Basin (Fig. 1). The region lies less than 100 km NE of the Armorican Massif, a significant local source of sediment through most of the Cenomanian which resulted in the accumulation of thick siliciclastic packages on the adjacent 'Maine Platform'. However, further to the northeast, coeval Normandy deposits are dominantly pelagic, if somewhat marginal in nature. Thick glauconitic sands (the Gaise and Glauconie de base) of Albian age are here overlain by cherty, locally sandy, glauconitic Cenomanian chalks with prominent hardgrounds at several levels.

Livet Quarry, situated to the west of Cordebugle village (Fig. 1), is a large working sand pit which exposes more than 30 m of mid-Cretaceous (Aptian–Cenomanian) sediments resting unconformably on Upper Jurassic (Oxfordian) sands and clays. The quarry (Coordonnées Lambert de l'Institut géographique National de France: x = 455,40; y = 157,80) has been described previously by Juignet (1974). Thirteen samples (Crd. 1–13) were collected across the Albian–Cenomanian boundary (Figs 2, 3). All of the residues contained palynomorphs, and a total of 66 species and subspecies of dinoflagellate cysts have been recorded (representative specimens are illustrated in Plates 1, 2;...
Approximately 19 m of Aptian shallow-marine sands and gravels (Sables ferrugineux Formation) overlie the Cretaceous unconformity at Cordebugle. Above this, more than 15 m of glauconitic Albian-Cenomanian sediments, the Glauconie de base and Craie glauconieuse Formations, are exposed.

**Glauconie de base**

The Glauconie de base rests with a sharp contact on a thin (10 cm) iron-cemented pebbly sandstone at the top of the Sables ferrugineux. Our first sample (Crd. 1) was taken 30 cm above this contact. The Glauconie de base (Figs 2, 3) comprises 7.3 m of extremely glauconitic sands, with coarse-grained lenses, interbedded with more argillaceous horizons. The sediments are heavily bioturbated at several levels, and yield macrofossils from the upper beds. A distinctive omission surface overlain by glauconitic sands and gravels (Crd. 2) containing small black phosphatic nodules occurs 1.8 m above the base. Abundant fauna, dominantly bivalves and brachiopods, occur at two levels: the lower (Crd. 5) is a 1.0 m thick bed containing calcareous nodules with sponges; the upper (Crd. 7) occurs at the summit (top 0.9 m) of the formation. A thick coarse-grained dark green glauconitic sand (Crd. 6) containing abundant crustacean burrows, *Spiculina annulata* Kennedy, occurs between these two beds.

**Craie glauconieuse de St Jouin**

The base of the Craie glauconieuse de St Jouin is marked by a prominent omission surface (Juignet & Breton, 1992: Fig. 3) overlain by green to dark brown bioturbated glauconitic sands (Crd. 8) containing *S. annulata* and fragments of bivalve shells. The St Jouin Formation is accessible for approximately 6 m and comprises green and dark brown glauconitic sediments at the base, passing up into paler-coloured marly sediments above. Scattered, partly silicified, carbonate nodules are common in the middle of the sequence, below and immediately above a well-developed omission surface termed the 'Livet' surface by Juignet (1974). Above this, there is a dramatic change in lithology with glauconitic marls at the very base (Crd. 12) overlain (Fig. 3) by creamy-brown marly chalks containing numerous closely spaced tabular and semi-tabular bands of large, irregular, cavernous grey cherts.

**Biostratigraphy**

Macrofossils records, particularly ammonites, provide the initial means of constraining the age of the succession at Cordebugle, but further biostratigraphic refinement has been possible by incorporating our new palynological data.

**Glauconie de base**

The lowest macrofaunal records from the Glauconie de base are from 3.5 m above the bottom of the formation, where the ammonite *Sharpeiceras laticlavum* (Sharpe) has been recorded (Juignet, 1974) in association with abundant bivalves, *Lima* sp., *Chlamys* sp., and brachiopods, *Cyclothyris diformis* (Valenciennes in Lamarck) and terebratulids. The occurrence of *Sharpeiceras* clearly demonstrates that this bed is Lower Cenomanian (Wright & Kennedy, 1984, 1987a). Additional ammonite records from the overlying Craie glauconieuse (see below), indicate that this level must lie within the lowest Lower Cenomanian *Neostylolinoceras carciinense* Subzone of the *Mantelliceras mantelli* Zone. However, in the absence of definitive Albian taxa, macrofaunal records do not allow the Albian-Cenomanian boundary to be placed in the succession with any confidence. The top of the Glauconie de base contains large sponges, bivalves *Spondylus striatus* (J. Sowerby), *Gryphaeostrea canaliculata* (J. Sowerby), *Inoceramus* sp., *Chlamys* sp., *Lima* sp. and brachiopods, principally *Cyclothyris diformis* and terebratulids.

Seven samples (Crd. 1-7) were collected from the Glauconie de base for palynological analysis. Samples Crd. 2-4 displayed the incoming of a number of stratigraphically significant taxa, including *Endoceratium detmanniae* (Cookson & Hughes) Stover & Evitt: emend. Harding & Hughes, *Florentinia deanei* (Davey & Williams) Davey & Verdier, *Owiodinium verrucosum verrucosum* (Cookson & Hughes) Davey, *Exochosphaeridium bifidum* (Clarke &
Verdier) Clarke et al., Hystrichosphaeridium bowerbankii Davey & Williams, Prolixosphaeridium conulum Davey, Cyclonephelium hughesii Clarke & Verdier and Leberidocysta deflocata (Davey & Verdier) Stover & Evitt, whose first appearances elsewhere are taken to indicate strata of latest Albian (S. dispar ammonite Zone) age (Davey & Verdier, 1973; Fauconnier, 1979; Foucher, 1981; Costa & Davey, 1992).

The last appearances of Litosphaeridium conspinum Davey & Verdier; emend. Lucas-Clark and Protolipsodinium spinocristatum Davey & Verdier (Pl. 2, fig. 11) occur in our lowest samples from the Glaucocline de base (Crd. 1 and 3 respectively). These species have not been recorded previously from sediments above the Upper Albian Mortoniceras (Mortoniceras) inflatum ammonite Zone (Davey & Verdier, 1973; Foucher, 1981; Costa & Davey, 1992). Certainly, our lowest sample at Cordebugle (Crd. 1) contains a very different dinoflagellate cyst assemblage [dominated by Oligospheeridium complex (White) Davey & Williams with subordinate Ovoidinium scabrosum (Cookson & Hughes) Davey; Pl. 2, fig. 3] compared to the immediately overlying beds containing typical S. dispar Zone forms. No macrofauna have been recovered from this part of the sequence, so it is possible that the lowest beds of the Glaucocline de base (i.e. below the phosphatic nodule bed) are M. (Mortoniceras) inflatum Zone. However, P. spinocristatum (Crd. 3; Pl. 2, fig. 11) is also recorded higher in the succession at Cordebugle and at Lewes (see below) together with assemblages of typical S. dispar Zone dinoflagellate cysts, indicating that the species must extend further up in the Upper Albian than recognized previously. Similarly, although L. conspinum is recorded only from our basal sample at Cordebugle, it was also recovered from the S. dispar Zone at Lewes. The age of the oldest beds of the Glaucocline de base, therefore, remains uncertain, but on balance, is most probably S. dispar Zone.

Craie glauconieuse de St Jouin Phosphatized fragmented internal moulds of ammonites [Schloenbachia varians (J. Sowerby) subplana, S. varians subtuberculata, S. varians subvarians], along with sponges, Inoceramus sp. and bryozoans, occur approximately 2 m above the base of the St Jouin Formation. The ammonite assemblage confirms the Cenomanian age of this bed (Wright & Kennedy, 1987b), a dominance of Schloenbachia spp. being common in the lowest Lower Cenomanian N. carcitanense Subzone (Hancock, 1991).

A more diverse phosphatised ammonite fauna has been recorded (Juignet, 1974) from immediately above the Livet Omission Surface, including abundant Neostlingoceras carcitanense (Matheron), together with Anisoceras jacobi (Breistroffer), Hyphoplites falcatus falcatus (Mantell), H. curvatus arausionensis (Hebert & Munier-Chalmas), H. curvatus curvatus (Mantell), S. varians subplana and Forbesiceras largilliertianum (d’Orbigny). This assemblage is
Plate 1
Dinoflagellate cysts of the Albian–Cenomanian boundary

typical of the N. carciit aureste Subzone. Mantelliceras cantiunum Spath provides the only biostratigraphically useful macrofossil recovered from the cherty upper beds of the Craie glauconieuse, although ammonite records from elsewhere in the region (Juignet, 1974) suggest that the base of the overlying mid-Lower Cenomanian M. saxhii Subzone lies above the exposed section at Cor debugle.

Several stratigraphically significant dinoflagellate cysts have been recorded from the Craie glauconieuse. Most importantly, the last appearances of Camingia torulosa Davey & Verdier and O. verrucosum verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes) Davey occur within the lower beds (Crd. 10) of the Craie glauconieuse, indicating that this part of the succession is basal Lower Cenomanian (Foucher, 1981; Costa & Davey, 1992). This conclusion is confirmed by the presence of a Schloenbachia-dominated ammonite assemblage (see above) at this level.

Two dinoflagellate cysts species are recorded for the first time from the Anglo-Paris Basin. Oovidinium verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes) ostium (Davey) Lentin & Williams (Crd. 9, 10) has previously been described from Albian–Lower Cenomanian strata in Saskatchewan (Davey, 1970), and Tanyosphaeridium salpinx Norvick which occurs in the Lower Cenomanian at Cor debugle (Crd. 8, 12), but has only been described before from Aptian–Albian strata in Australia (Norvick, 1976; Morgan, 1980).

LEWES

Lewes lies 9 km north of the East Sussex coast of southern England. The Upper Cretaceous of this region is characterized by thick successions of basinal chalks (Rawson et al., 1978; Mortimore & Pomerol, 1987), typical of the central Anglo-Paris Basin. The supply of coarse detritus was cut-off to the area in the latest Aptian, the Albian being represented by a thick succession of silts and clays (Lake et al., 1987) passing up, via a thin development of glauconitic marls, into a pelagic carbonate sequence of rhythmically bedded marls and limestones in the Cenomanian. No Upper Albian sands (Upper Greensand Formation) occur around Lewes, although this facies is well developed in coastal exposures at Eastbourne, 23 km to the southeast.

Rodmall Cement Works, 4 km SE of Lewes, once a complex of three pits (Fig. 4), now almost entirely infilled, prior to 1991–2 exposed strata ranging from Upper Albian to Lower Turonian. The locality (also referred to in the literature as Beddingham Limeworks) was described previously by Gaster (1929), Kennedy (1969), Carter & Hart (1977), Wright & Kennedy (1984) and Lake et al. (1987). Borehole data from the quarry were presented by Price (1977) and Lake et al. (1987). The Albian–Cenomanian boundary was exposed on the edge of a large flooded clay pit (Fig. 4, Pit 1; UK National Grid Reference: TQ 441 071). The Lower–Middle Cenomanian was best seen in an adjacent pit (Pit 2, TQ 438 067), 500 m to the south.

Five samples (Rod. 1–5) were collected across the Albian–Cenomanian boundary for palynological analysis; one additional sample (Rod. 6) was obtained from the Middle Cenomanian. Each preparation contained a diverse assemblage of dinoflagellate cysts, a total of 85 cyst taxa being recorded (Fig. 5; Plates 1, 2; Appendix 1). Since all samples yielded several hundred individuals, cyst occurrences are reported as percentage abundances (Fig 5), based on counts of 200 individuals per slide.

Lithostratigraphy

More than 25 m of section, including the uppermost beds of the Upper Gault Clay Formation (Upper Albian) and the lower beds of the Lower Chalk Group, Glaucolithic Marl and overlying Chalk Marl Formations (Lower–Middle Cenomanian), were intermittently exposed in Rodmall Pits 1 and 2.

Upper Gault Clay The summit of the Upper Gault Clay was exposed at Rodmall Pit 1 (Fig. 4), where it consisted of approximately 1 m of blue-grey bioturbated silty clay, passing up into 3 m of light brown silty calcareous and micaceous bioturbated clay. The silt content increased towards the top of the succession and occasional thin diagenetically laminated units were present. The top of the Upper Gault was marked by a sharply defined omission surface which was penetrated by numerous glauconitic sand-filled Thalassinoiodes burrows (Fig. 5). The sediment within these burrows was identical to that which immediately overlies the omission surface, forming the basal facies of the Lower Chalk, Glaucolithic Marl. The facies consisted of intensely bioturbated, light brown and green, friable, glauconitic marly sands. An unconformity of up to 15° has been observed by other workers (Wright

Explanation of Plate 1

Representative Upper Albian–Lower Cenomanian dinoflagellate cysts from Cordebugle and Lewes. Figure captions include species name, author(s), sample number, preparation number, and England Finder co-ordinates. Samples are deposited in the reference collection of the Palynological Research Centre, Institute of Earth Studies, Aberystwyth. All specimens were photographed at ×500. Fig. 1. Apiteodinium maculatum (Eisenack & Cookson, 1960) grande (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Below, 1981, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, H24/2. Fig. 2. Florentinia laciniata Davey & Verdier, 1973; Crd. 4, MCP/3157, R27/2. Fig. 3. Apiteodinium reticulatum Singh, 1971, Rod. 3, MCP/1291, R24/4. Fig. 4. Oligosphaeridium complex (White, 1842) Davey & Williams, 1966, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, J49/4. Fig. 5. Stephodinium coronatum Deflandre, 1936, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, O31. Fig. 6. Coronifera oceania Cookson & Eisenack, 1958; emend. May, 1980, Crd. 1, MCP/3154, H27. Fig. 7. Apiteodinium maculatum maculatum Eisenack & Cookson, 1960, Rod. 3, MCP/1291, G18/2. Fig. 8. Disphaeria macropyla Cookson & Eisenack, 1960; emend. Norvick in Norvick & Burger, 1976, Rod. 3, MCP/1291, R46/2. Fig. 9. Palaeoperidinium cretaceum Pocock, 1962; emend. Davey, 1970; emend. Harding, 1990, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, D33 Fig. 10. Lithosphaeridium cortispinum Davey & Verdier, 1973; emend. Lucas-Clark, 1984, Rod. 3, MCP/1291, T25. Fig. 11. Lithopheridium arundinum (Eisenack & Cookson, 1960) Davey, 1979; emend. Lucas-Clark, 1984, Rod. 3, MCP/1291, K31/3. Fig. 12. Lithopheridium siphonophorum siphonophorum (Cookson & Eisenack, 1958) Davey & Williams, 1966; emend. Lucas-Clark, 1984, Rod. 2, MCP/1292, L54/3. Fig. 13. Circulodinium distinctum (Deflandre & Cookson, 1955) Jansonius, 1986, Crd. 1, MCP/3154, Q43/4.
Dinoflagellate cysts of the Albian–Cenomanian boundary

Fig. 4. Location maps for Rodmell Cement Works, Lewes. The regional map (bottom left) shows the distribution of major Cretaceous outcrops in the UK (horizontal ornament). The pits have now been largely filled and the site is being reclaimed for agricultural use.

& Kennedy, 1984) between the Upper Gault and Glauconic Marl.

Glauconic Marl Abundant, small (1–3 cm), black phosphatic clasts and common bivalve shell fragments, including small Aiscellina, occurred up to 15 cm above the base of the Glauconic Marl. The glauconitic content decreased rapidly upwards and virtually disappeared in a more indurated limestone which occurred at the top of the unit (Kennedy, 1969), and marked the boundary with the overlying Chalk Marl. Macrorganisms were poorly preserved in the basal Glauconic Marl, but prominent Thalassioideae and other burrows occurred throughout. Sparse ammonites and common Inoceramus crippsi Mantell have been recorded at the summit of the formation (Kennedy, 1969), which is approximately 1.5 m thick. Palynological samples (Fig. 5, Rod. 1–5) were taken across the Upper Gault/Glauconic Marl boundary from 4 m below to 0.7 m above the contact.

Chalk Marl Nearby, in Rodmell Pit 2, intermittent exposures of Chalk Marl occurred within a 20 m thick succession of interbedded greyish white limestones and medium to pale grey marls. One small exposure near the summit of the succession contained abundant Orbirhynchia mantelliana (J. de C. Sowerby) brachiopods and Sciponoceras heteromorph ammonites, with common I. crippsi and echinoid fragments. These beds have been termed the upper O. mantelliana band (Lake et al., 1987; = O. mantelliana band of Kennedy, 1969), and occur only a few metres below the boundary between the Chalk Marl and the overlying Grey Chalk Formation. A single sample was taken from this interval (Fig. 5, Rod. 6) for palynological analysis.

Biostratigraphy

Published macro- and microfossil records, principally ammonites and foraminifera, provide a means of determining the age of the succession at Rodmell. When combined with our new dinoflagellate cyst data, they enable a highly refined biostratigraphy to be developed.

Upper Gault Clay No stratigraphically significant macrofossils have been recorded from the summit of the Upper Gault at Rodmell. However, the foraminiferal assemblage in these beds (Carter & Hart, 1977) contains large numbers of planktonic Globigerinelloides bentonensis (Morrow), indicative of the Upper Albian G. bentonensis Zone. Evidence of a stratigraphic gap at the Upper Gault/Glauconic Marl contact is provided by the benthonic foraminiferal biostratigraphy (Carter & Hart, 1977; Lake et al., 1987) which demonstrates that the uppermost Upper Albian (Zone 6a of Carter & Hart, 1977; Zone 9 of Price, 1977) is absent. This suggests that the S. dispar ammonite Zone is incomplete, the top of the Gault at Rodmell probably falling within the lower part of the Mortoniceras (Durnovarites) perinflatum Subzone (Price, 1977; Lake et al., 1987).

Samples from the Upper Gault (Fig. 5; Rods 1–3) contain a number of dinoflagellate cyst species whose first appearances are thought (Clarke & Verdier, 1967; Davey & Verdier, 1973, 1976; Verdier, 1975; Fauconnier, 1975, 1979; Foucher, 1979, 1981; Costa & Davey, 1992) to indicate strata of latest Albian, S. dispar Zone Age. These include Cribroperidinium exilicristatum (Davey) Stover & Evitt, Exochosphaeridium bifidum (Clarke & Verdier) Eddie et al., Heterosphaeridium? heteroanthum (Deflandre & Cookson) Eisenack & Kjellstrom, Kleithriasphaeridium receit (Davey & Williams) Davey & Verdier, Leberidocysta cErlosi (Davey & Verdier) Stover & Evitt.

Explanation of Plate 2

Representative Upper Albian–Lower Cenomanian dinoflagellate cysts from Cordeburgie and Lewes. See Pl. 1 for conventions. Fig. 1. Disphaeria manda (Davey & Verdier, 1973) Norvick in Norvick & Burger, 1976, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, W22/2. Fig. 2. Stipholosphaeridium anithophorum (Cookson & Eisenack, 1958) Lentin & Williams, 1985, Rod. 12, MCP/3165, Q53/1. Fig. 3. Ossoinium scabrum (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Davey, 1970, Rod. 1, MCP/3154, U27/1. Fig. 4. Ossoinium verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) osum (Davey, 1970) Lentin & Williams, 1975, Rod. 4, MCP/1290, P47/4. Arrow indicates characteristic opening in the posterior periole of. Fig. 5. Hystrichostephrylon membranifusorum (Dale & Williams, 1964, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, G52/3. Fig. 6. Achosphaeridium crassaepis (Deflandre & Cookson, 1955) Stover & Evitt, 1978, Rod. 3, MCP/1291, G37/1. Fig. 7. Ossoinium verrucosum verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Davey, 1970, Rod. 4, MCP/1290, L38/4. Fig. 8. Spiniferites tiwingiensis (Maier, 1959) Fensom et al., 1990, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, M46/1. Fig. 9. Pterodinium cingulatum cingulatum (O. Wetzel, 1953) Below, 1981, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, M52/4. Fig. 10. Pterodinium cingulatum reticulatum (Davey & Williams, 1966) Lentin & Williams, 1981, Rod. 2, MCP/1292, W36/3. Fig. 11. Protosiphonella spinocristata Davey & Verdier, 1971, Rod. 1, MCP/3154, M29/4. Fig. 12. Ellipsosphaeridium reticulatum Clarke & Verdier, 1967, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, T32. Fig. 13. Dapsilidium amiguum (Deflandre, 1937b) Wheeler & Sarjeant, 1980, Rod. 1, MCP/1293, G37/4. Fig. 14. Oligosphaeridium reticulatum Davey & Williams, 1966, Rod. 4, MCP/1290, Q50/1. Fig. 15. Cleisto.sphaeridium clavatum (Davey, 1969) Below, 1982, Rod. 2, MCP/3155, H18.
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Fig. 5. Stratigraphy and palynomorph distribution across the Albian–Cenomanian boundary at Rodmell Cement Works, Lewes. Cyst abundances reported as percentages, based on counts of 200 specimens per slide. See Fig. 2 for lithological key.

Litospheridiurn siphoniphorum siphoniphorum (Cookson & Eisenack) Davey & Williams; emend. Lucas-Clark (Pl. 1, fig. 12), Odontoctita costata Alberti; emend. Clarke & Vercier. Palaeohystrichophora infusorioides Deflandre and Pervosphaeridiurn pseudoarystrichodinium (Deflandre) Yun. The last appearances of Rhombodellu puucispinu (Alberti) Duxbury and Apteodiniurn maculatum grande (Cookson & Hughes) Below in our basal sample (Rod. 1), and those of Litospheridiurn arundum (Eisenack & Cookson) Davey emend. Lucas-Clark and L. consipinum in sample Rod. 3, are also regarded as being indicative of the uppermost Albian (Foucher, 1981; Costa & Davey, 1992).

Overall, the dinoflagellate cysts assemblages recovered from the Upper Gault at Rodmell are representative of the Upper Albian. However, Oligospheridiurn reticulatum Davey & Williams (Pl. 2, fig. 14) must have a more extensive range than recorded previously from the Anglo-Paris Basin. This species has not been described before from pre-Cenomanian sediments (Davey & Williams, 1966; Davey, 1969; Foucher, 1981; Costa & Davey, 1992).

A number of taxa present as minor components of our assemblages (Fig. 5: Appendix 1), have not been recorded before from the Anglo-Paris Basin. Apteodinium reticulatum Singh (Rod. 3; Pl. 1, fig. 3) was first described (Singh, 1971) from the Upper Albian of Canada. Disphaeria macroplia Cookson & Eisenack; emend. Norvick (Rod. 2, 3; Pl. 1, fig. 8) was originally described from the Turonian of Australia by Norvick (1976), although Morgan (1980) also reported this species as occurring in the uppermost Upper Albian S. dispar Zone of Australia. Nematosphaeropsis densiradita Cookson & Eisenack (Rod. 2) was previously known only from the low-Upper Albian, Mortoniceru6 (Mortoniceru6) inflatum Zone of Australia (Morgan, 1980), while Pervosphaeridiurn cenomaniense (Norvick) Below (Rod. 2) has only been recorded previously from Albian–Cenomanian sequences in Australia (e.g. Norvick, 1976).

Glauconitic Marl The upper beds of the Glauconitic Marl at Rodmell have yielded a sparse and unusual unphosphatized basal Lower Cenomanian M. mantelli Subzone ammonite fauna, including numerous heteromorphs (Neostlingoceras, Idiohamites), Schloenbachia and, locally, Stoliczkaia (Lamnayella) (Kennedy, 1969; Wright & Kennedy, 1984). The occurrence of Stoliczkaia is noteworthy given that Muntelliceras, the definitive Cenomanian genus (Birkelund et al., 1984), is known to be derived from a Stoliczkaia stock (Hancock, 1991), yet is itself unrecorded from the basal Glauconitic Marl at Rodmell. The ammonite assemblage recorded, therefore, appears to retain some Albian affinities.

The bottom of the Glauconitic Marl marks the appearance of keeled planktonic foraminifera, particularly Rotalipora appenninica (Renz), definitive of the Upper Albian–Lower Cenomanian R. appenninica Zone (UKP.1 of Hart et al., 1989). However, the basal Glauconitic Marl contains a benthonic foraminiferal assemblage which indicates the upper part of the Lower Cenomanian Flourensina intermedians/Arenobulimina anglica Concurrent Range Zone (Zone 8 of Carter & Hart, 1977; UKB.2 of Hart et al., 1989), demonstrating that in addition to Zone 6a,
Zone 7 (UKB.1) and the lower portion of Zone 8 (UKB.2) are also unrepresented. A comparable, and often greater, stratigraphic gap occurs throughout most of southern England (Carter & Hart, 1977) and northern France (Robaszynski et al., 1980; Amédro, 1983, 1992; Robaszynski & Amédro, 1986), and is equivalent to several metres of sediment in the more complete borehole sections described from Folkestone, East Kent, and offshore in the English Channel (La Manche).

Samples from the Glauconitic Marl (Rod. 4, 5) contain a number of species whose first appearances lie (Davey & Verdier, 1973; Foucher, 1979, 1981; Fauconnier, 1979; Costa & Davey, 1992) within the Upper Albian S. dispar Zone of the Anglo-Paris Basin. These are: Achomosphaera sagena Davey & Williams; Canningia torulosa; Ovoidinium verrucosum verrucosum (Pl. 2, fig. 7); Endoceratium dettmanniae (Cookson & Hughes) Stover & Evitt; emend. Harding & Hughes; Florentinia deanei; Hysterichosphaeridium bowerbankii. Most of these are minor elements of the flora, except O. verrucosum verrucosum which occurs commonly in, and is restricted to, the Glauconitic Marl.

Protoellipsoidinium spinocristatum Davey & Verdier, a species which is thought to last occur in the Upper Albian Mortoniceras (Mortoniceras) inflatum ammonite Zone, is recorded from the Upper Gault (S. dispar Zone) and a single specimen also occurred in our basal Glauconitic Marl sample (Rod. 4). However, the observed angular discordance, the associated sudden facies change from silty clays to coarse glauconitic sands, and the proven hiatus at the contact, would suggest that this last specimen is most likely a remanent element in the assemblage. Similarly, the coincident first appearances of some rarer species might be a consequence of condensation at the contact.

Several species, whose last appearances are thought to occur within the lowest Cenomanian (Foucher, 1981), occur in the Glauconitic Marl at Rodmell. These include Ovoidinium scabrosum, O. verrucosum verrucosum, Palaeoperidinium cretaceum Pocock; emend. Davey: emend. Harding (Pl. 1, fig. 9), Pieroridinium cingulatum (O. Wetzel) reticulatum (Davey & Williams) Lentini & Williams (Pl. 2, fig. 10) and Canningia torulosa. In addition, the last appearance of Disphaeria munda (Davey & Verdier) Norvick in sample Rod. 5, suggests a slightly younger age for this species than the previously published Late Albian top occurrence (e.g. Davey & Verdier, 1973). With one exception (P. cingulatum reticulatum), all of these taxa are absent in our sample from the upper part of the Chalk Marl (Fig. 5), which is consistent with them disappearing within the Lower Cenomanian. However, we have taken too few samples to place their last occurrences more precisely. Our records of P. cingulatum reticulatum in the Middle Cenomanian indicates a more extensive range for this species.

Ovoidinium verrucosum ostium (Pl. 2, fig. 4) and Tanyosphaeridium salpinx, species which have not been recorded previously from the Anglo-Paris Basin, both occur in our basal Glauconitic Marl sample (Rod. 4). This confirms our records of these taxa from the basal Craie glauconieuse (Lower Cenomanian M. mantelli Zone) at Cordeville (see above) and suggests that they probably have a widespread occurrence within the Anglo-Paris Basin.

**Chalk Marl** The upper O. mantelliana band constitutes the summit of the low Middle Cenomanian ammonite Acanthoceras rhotomagense Zone, Turrilites costatus Subzone (Kennedy, 1969; Wright & Kennedy, 1984), and also coincides with the top of the planktonic foraminiferal Rotaliapora recheli Zone (UKP.2). This level lies within the benthonic foraminiferal P. cenomana Interval Zone (UKB.5 of Hart et al., 1989), at the summit of Zone 11(i) of Carter & Hart (1977; Arenolbulimina anglica/Plectina cenomana Concurrent Range Zone); its top marks the so-called mid-Cenomanian non-sequence, above which there is a sudden and marked increase in the planktonic/benthonic ratio of the foraminiferal assemblages. The base of the mid-Middle Cenomanian ammonite T. acutus Subzone is taken at the top of the brachiopod band.

Stratigraphically significant species are rare in our single Chalk Marl sample (Rod. 6). However, the continued presence of Cribroperidinium exilicristatum, Endoceratium dettmanniae and Epelidosphaeridia spinosa (Cookson & Hughes) Davey, are consistent with this part of the sequence being no younger than Middle to early Late Cenomanian (Foucher, 1981; Jarvis et al., 1988; Costa & Davey, 1992).

**DISCUSSION**

Palynomorph assemblages recovered from Cordeville are of moderate abundance and diversity (Fig. 3). However, in the upper part of the Glauconic de base and lowest Craie glauconieuse de St Jouin, these assemblages are dominated to a large extent by specimens of Ovoidinium (particularly O. verrucosum verrucosum) and bisaccate pollen grains. This dominance continues up to sample Crd. 10 (a level yielding common Schloenbachia ammonites), above which Ovoidinium disappears and assemblages consist predominantly of Cleistosphaeridium clavulum (Davey) Below (Pl. 2, fig. 15), Circulodinium distinctum (Deflandre & Cookson) Jansonius (Pl. 1, fig. 13) and Epelidosphaeridia spinosa (Cookson & Hughes) Davey. This change is associated with declining glauconite and the appearance of silicified nodules in the sediment, but takes place below the major facies change to flinty marls which occurs somewhat higher, above the Livet Omission Surface (Fig. 3).

Dinoflagellate cyst assemblages from Lewes are more abundant and diverse than those from Cordeville, but are similar in a number of respects. The genus Ovoidinium is again a major component throughout the uppermost Upper Albian–basal Lower Cenomanian, but particularly in the lowest Lower Cenomanian Glauconitic Marl where O. verrucosum verrucosum appears in large numbers. At both localities Ovoidinium scabrosum is essentially replaced by O. verrucosum verrucosum close to, and most probably at, the Albian–Cenomanian boundary and Cleistosphaeridium clavulum is abundant in the uppermost beds yielding Ovoidinium. However, other elements of the flora, particularly Dapsilidinium ambiguum (Deflandre) Wheeler & Sarjeant (Pl. 2, fig. 13), Epelidosphaeridia spinosa, Kiokansium unituberculatum (Tasch) Stover & Evitt,
*Odontochitina operculata* (O. Wetzel) Deflandre & Cookson, *Oligosphaeridium* complex and *Spiniferites ramosus* ramosus (Ehrenberg) Mantell are also important components of assemblages recovered across the stage boundary at Lewes. These latter taxa occur, but do not represent major components of coeval assemblages at Cordebugle. Furthermore, terrestrially derived material represents a much greater proportion of the palynofacies at Cordebugle. These differences reflect the contrasting palaeogeographic settings of the two sites. Cordebugle was situated in a shallower-water sediment-starved marginal environment close to the western edge of the Anglo-Paris Basin. In contrast, Lewes was located in a deeper basinal setting far removed from continental influences, promoting increased phytoplankton productivity and diversity but reduced terrestrial input.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The last appearances of *Litosphaeridium conispinum* Davey & Verdier; emend. Lucas-Clark and *Protoellipsoidinum spinocristatum* Davey & Verdier occur in the high Upper Albian *S. dispar* Zone (M. (M.) rostratum Subzone) and not in the low—mid-Upper Albian *M. (M.) inflatum* Zone as suggested by previous workers. The last occurrence of *Rhomboella paucispina* (Alberti) Duxbury is confirmed as being Upper Albian in this region. The range of *Oligosphaeridium reticulatum* Davey & Williams is extended down into the Upper Albian *M. (M.) rostratum* Subzone.

The last appearances of *Cannigia torulosa* Davey & Verdier and *Ovovindinium verrucosum verrucosum* (Cookson & Hughes) Davey lie within the lowest Lower Cenomanian *Mantelliceras mantelli* Zone (N. carcitansense Subzone). The latter taxa replaces *O. scabrosum* (Cookson & Hughes) Davey, forming a major component of the cyst assemblage at the base of the Cenomanian at Rodmell and dominates the stage boundary transition at Cordebugle; the appearance of *O. verrucosum verrucosum* potentially represents a basal Cenomanian marker event. *Ovovindinium verrucosum* (Cookson & Hughes) *ostium* (Davey) Lentin & Williams, recorded for the first time in NW Europe, forms a minor element of our basal Cenomanian assemblages.

*Apteodinium reticulatum* Singh, *Disphaeria macropyla* Cookson & Eisenack; emend. Norvick, *Nematosphaeropsis densiradiata* (Cookson & Eisenack) Stover & Evitt and *Pervosphaeridium cenomaniense* (Norvick) Below occur in the Upper Albian *S. dispar* Zone (M. (M.) rostratum Subzone); all four taxa are recorded for the first time from the Anglo-Paris Basin. *Tanyosphaeridium salpinx* Norvick, also previously unknown from NW Europe, is recorded from the basal Lower Cenomanian.

The range of *Pterodinium cingulum* (O. Wetzel) *reticulatum* (Davey & Williams) Lentin & Williams is extended up into the Middle Cenomanian *A. rotomagense* Zone (T. costatus Subzone).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Initial phases of this research were undertaken at the School of Earth Sciences, University of Greenwich (previously part of City of London Polytechnic). Subsequent support from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and Kingston University is gratefully acknowledged.

**APPENDIX 1**

List of dinoflagellate cyst taxa recorded (for further taxonomic details and references see Lentin & Williams, 1993). Locality records (C = Cordebugle; R = Rodmell) and figured taxa (details in parentheses) are indicated.

*Achomosphaera crassispellis* (Deflandre & Cookson, 1955) Stover & Evitt, 1978; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 6).

*A. neptunii* (Eisenack, 1958) Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R

*A. ramulifera* (Deflandre, 1937) Evitt, 1963; C, R.

*A. sagena* Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R.

*Apteodinium deflandrei* (Clarke & Verdier, 1967) Lucas-Clark, 1987; R.

*A. maculatum* (Eisenack & Cookson, 1960) grande (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Below, 1981; R (Pl. 1, fig. 1).

*A. maculatum maculatum* Eisenack & Cookson, 1960; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 7).

*A. reticulatum* Singh, 1971; R (Pl. 1, fig. 3).

*Ascodinium acrophorum* Cookson & Eisenack, 1960; R.

*Calliosphaeridium asymmetricicum* (Deflandre & Courteville, 1939) Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R.

*Cannigia torulosa* Davey & Verdier, 1973; C, R.

*Canniningopsis colliveri* (Cookson & Eisenack, 1960) Backhouse, 1968; C.

*Cauca parva* (Alberti, 1961) Davey & Verdier, 1971

*Circulodinium attadalicum* (Cookson & Eisenack, 1962) Helby, 1987; R.

*C. distinctum* (Deflandre & Cookson, 1955) Jansonius, 1986; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 13).

*Cladosphaeridium armatum* (Deflandre, 1937) Davey, 1969; C, R.

*C. clavulatum* (Davey, 1969) Below, 1982; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 15).

*Coronisphaeridium oceanica* Cookson & Eisenack, 1958; emend. May, 1980; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 6).

*Cribroperidinium edwardsii* (Cookson & Eisenack, 1958) Davey, 1969; C, R.

*C. exilicristatum* (Davey, 1969) Stover & Evitt, 1978; C, R.

*Cyclon Elijah Hughes* Clarke & Verdier, 1967; C, R.

*C. membraniphorum* Cookson & Eisenack, 1962; C.

*Dapsilidinium ambiguus* (Deflandre, 1937) Wheeler & Sarjeant, 1990; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 13).

*D. laminaspinosus* (Davey & Williams, 1966) Lentin & Williams, 1981; C, R.

*D.? pumilum* (Davey & Williams, 1966) Lentin & Williams, 1981; C, R.

*Disphaeria macropyla* Cookson & Eisenack 1960; emend. Norvick in Norvick & Burger, 1976; R (Pl. 1, fig. 8).

*D. mundi* (Davey & Verdier, 1973) Norvick in Norvick & Burger, 1976; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 1).

*Ellipsodinium rugulosum* Clarke & Verdier, 1967; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 12).

*Endoceratum dettmanniae* (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Stover & Evitt, 1978; emend. Harding & Hughes, 1990; C, R.

*Endoscrinium campanula* (Gocht, 1959) Vozzhennikova, 1967; C, R.
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Epelidiosphaeridia spinosa (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Davey, 1969; C, R.
Exochoxosphaeridia arnace Davey & Verdier, 1973; R.
E. bifidum (Clarke & Verdier, 1967) Clarke et al., 1968; C, R.
E. phragmites Davey et al., 1966; C, R.
Florentinia deanei (Davey & Williams, 1966) Davey & Verdier, 1973; C, R.
F. laciniata Davey & Verdier, 1973; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 2).
F. mantellii (Davey & Williams, 1966) Davey & Verdier, 1973; C, R.
F. radiculata (Davey & Williams, 1966) Davey & Verdier, 1973; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 9).
Gonyaulacysta cassisata (Eisenack & Cookson, 1960) Sarjeant, 1966; R.
Heterosphaeridia? heteroamathium (Deflandre & Cookson, 1955) Eisenack & Kjellstrom, 1971; R.
Hystrichodinium pulchrum Deflandre, 1935; C, R.
Hystrichosphaeridium bowenbanki Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R.
H. tubiferum tubiferum (Ehrenberg, 1838) Deflandre, 1937; emend. Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R.
Hystrichostrogon membranophorum Agelopoulou, 1964; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 5).
Kiokunsiicysta cassisata (Eisenack & Cookson, 1960) Sarjeant, 1966; R.
Kleithriosphaeridium readei (Davey & Williams, 1966) Davey & Verdier, 1976; C, R.
Lebedrycyta chlamydata (Cookson & Eisenack, 1962) Stover & Evitt, 1978; emend. Fechner, 1985; emend. Marheineck, 1992; C, R.
L. deflocata (Davey & Verdier, 1973) Stover & Evitt, 1978; C, R.
Litosphaeridium arundrum (Eisenack & Cookson, 1960) Davey, 1979; emend. Lucas-Clark, 1984; R (Pl. 1, fig. 11).
L. consipinum Davey & Verdier, 1973; emend. Lucas-Clark, 1984; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 10).
L. siphonophorum siphonophorum (Cookson & Eisenack, 1958) Davey & Williams, 1966; emend. Lucas-Clark, 1984; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 12).
Microdinium setosum Sarjeant, 1966; emend. Below, 1987; C, R.
Nematosphaeropsis densiradiata (Cookson & Eisenack, 1962) Stover & Evitt, 1978; R.
Odontochitina costata Alberti, 1961; emend. Clarke & Verdier, 1967; C, R.
O. operculata (O. Wetzel, 1933) Deflandre & Cookson, 1955; C, R.
Oligosphaeridium complex (White, 1842) Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 4).
O. reticulatum Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 14).
Ovoidalium scabrum (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Davey, 1970; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 3).
O. verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) ostium (Davey, 1970) Lentin & Williams, 1975; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 4).
O. verrucosum verrucosum (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Davey, 1970; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 7).
Palaeohystrichopora infusoria (Deflandre, 1935; C, R.
Palaeoperidinium cretaceum Pocock, 1962; emend. Davey, 1970; emend. Harding, 1990; C, R (Pl. 1, fig. 9).
Pereosphaeridium cenomaniense (Norwick & Burger, 1976) Below, 1982; R.
P. pseudyhstrichodinium (Deflandre, 1937) Yun, 1981; C, R.
P. truncatum (Davey, 1969) Below, 1982; emend. Masure 1988; emend. Harker in Harker et al., 1990; C, R.
Prolixosphaeridium conulum Davey, 1969; C, R.
Protoellipsodinium spinocrisatum Davey & Verdier, 1971; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 11).
Psaligongyaulax deflandrei Sarjeant, 1966; emend. Sarjeant, 1982; R.
Pseudoceratium eisenackii (Davey, 1969) Bint, 1986; C, R.
Pterodinium conulum conulum (O. Wetzel, 1933) Below, 1981; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 9).
P. cingulatum (O. Wetzel, 1933) granulatum (Clarke & Verdier, 1967) Lentin & Williams, 1981; C, R.
P. cingulatum (O. Wetzel, 1933) reticulatum (Davey & Williams, 1966) Lentin & Williams, 1981; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 10).
Rhombodella paucispa (Alberti, 1961) Duxbury, 1980; R.
Spiniferites? denticus (Gocht, 1959) Lentin & Williams, 1973; emend. Duxbury, 1977; R.
S. ramus rusculus (Ehrenberg, 1838) Mantell, 1854; C, R.
S. ramus reticulatus (Davey & Williams, 1966) Lentin & Williams, 1973; C, R.
S. twtteringini (Maier, 1959) Fensome et al., 1990; C, R (Pl. 2, fig. 8).
Stephodium coronatum Deflandre, 1936; R (Pl. 1, fig. 5).
Stiphosphaeridium anthophorum (Cookson & Eisenack, 1958) Lentin & Williams, 1985; C (Pl. 2, fig. 2).
Surculosphaeridium? longifarcatum (Firtion, 1952) Davey et al., 1966; C, R.
Tanyosphaeridium salpinx Norwick in Norwick & Burger, 1976; C, R.
T. variecalamatus Davey & Williams, 1966; C, R.
Trichodinium castanea castanea (Deflandre, 1935) Clarke & Verdier, 1967; R.
Valensiella ovulum (Deflandre, 1947) Eisenack, 1963; emend. Courtinat, 1989; R.
V. reticulata (Davey, 1969) Courtinat, 1989; R.
Walldinium anglicum (Cookson & Hughes, 1964) Lentin & Williams, 1973; C.
Xenascus ceratoides (Deflandre, 1937) Lentin & Williams, 1973; C.
Xiphosphoridium alatum (Cookson & Eisenack, 1962) Sarjeant, 1966; C, R.

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Manuscript received November 1993
Manuscript accepted June 1994
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