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**EARLY CARBONIFEROUS STRATIGRAPHY**

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# NEW PALYNOLOGICAL DATE FROM THE LOWER PART OF THE HANGENBERG SHALES IN SAUERLAND, GERMANY

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New palynological data has been obtained from several levels in the lower part of the Hangenberg Shales at Stockum, Oberrodinghausen and Hasselbachtal. In addition, two old assemblages from the Hangenberg Shales equivalent at Riescheid have been restudied and reappraised. In all cases the miospore data show that the lower part of the Hangenberg Shales can now be assigned to the late Devonian LN miospore Biozone. The LE/LN miospore Biozone boundary occurs at or very close to the base of the shales and this can be correlated with the lower/middle praesulcata conodont Biozone boundary. Previous assignments of older LL miospore Biozone assemblages from the Hangenberg Shales are now considered to be incorrect. The reasons for this are discussed but it is best explained by strong overprinting of reworked LL Biozone species into early LN Biozone assemblages. In the light of this new evidence, the suggestion that the boundary between the Wocklum Limestone and the Hangenberg Shales is diachronous is no longer tenable.