Representatives of the genus *Triploporella* in the Lower Cretaceous limestones from Romania

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In the Romanian Carpathians, the species of *Triploporella* genus are relatively rare in the Lower Cretaceous limestones. Recent studies on various areas of development of Urgonian limestones allowed us to identify dasycladalean algae that we assigned to *Triploporella* in four regions:

1. Reșița-Moldova Nouă Zone. Here we have identified *Triploporella carpatica* BUCUR (Bucur, 1993) characterized by a wide axial cavity and primary laterals with poorly calcified proximal and distal extremities. No secondary laterals were observed. Nevertheless, the primary laterals contain cyst containers that support our assignment to genus *Triploporella*.

2. Perșani Mountains. Numerous fragments also belonging to species *Triploporella carpatica* BUCUR have been identified in the Urgonian limestones from Perșani (Marian et al., 2008). These show a relatively more advance degree of calcification, corresponding to the entire length of the primary laterals; still, the secondary laterals were not calcified. The morphology and sizes of the cyst containers correspond to those of the type species. More than that, in this area some specimens of *Triploporella* were assigned with reserves to species *Triploporella marsicana* PRATURLON.

3. Dâmbovicioara couloir. In the Barremian patch-reefs from Dâmbovicioara couloir we have recognized rare fragments of *Triploporella*, most probably belonging to species *Triploporella praturlonii* BARATTOLO.

4. Pădurea Craiului Mountains (North Apuseni Mountains). Recently we have identified specimens of *Triploporella* in Barremian limestones. Based on the morphology of the primary and secondary laterals, it is highly probable that they belong to a new species. Further studies and possible new material are needed in order to allow a final decision in this respect.

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References
