

Chalk Biozone 18 - *Palynodinium grallator*

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Age: Late Maastrichtian.

Macrofaunal correlation: The upper *B. junior* Zone to the *B. casimirovensis* Zone.

Definition: The interval between the LAD of *Triblastula utinensis* to the LAD of *Palynodinium grallator*.

Comments: Alternative indices for the top of this biozone are the LAD of *Wilsonisphaera petila* (see Schiøler & Wilson, 1994; 1995) and the FADs of *Carpatella cornuta*, *Damassadinium californicum*, *Dinogymnium* spp., *Fibradinium annetorpense* and *Hafniasphaera hyalospinosa* (see Hansen, 1977; Foucher & Masure, 1983; Costa & Davey, 1992; Powell, 1992). *Glaphyrocysta perforata*, *Hystrichostrogylon borisii* and the zonal index *Palynodinium grallator* have FADs close to the base of the *B. casimirovensis* Zone (e.g. Schiøler & Wilson, 1993; Schiøler *et al.*, 1997) hence these datums can significantly subdivide this biozone. *Isabelidinium cooksoniae* has a useful range top in the late Maastrichtian (Costa & Davey, 1992; Schiøler & Wilson, 1993; Schiøler *et al.*, 1997). Furthermore, the FADs of *Senoniasphaera inornata* and *Thalassiphora pelagica* occur in the uppermost *B. casimirovensis* Zone (Wilson, 1974; Hansen, 1977; Schiøler & Wilson, 1993; Schiøler *et al.*, 1997) and therefore are reliable markers for the uppermost Maastrichtian. The index species, *Palynodinium grallator* is present, in low proportions, the Danian of Alabama (Habib *et al.*, 1996), however this material may represent reworking.

Lithostratigraphical correlation: The Tor Formation (North Sea).

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