

The ferns of the late Ladinian, Middle Triassic flora from Monte Agnello, Dolomites, N-Italy


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Several fern remains are described from the para-autochthonous early late Ladinian flora of the Monte Agnello (Dolomites, N-Italy). The plants are preserved in subaerially deposited pyroclastic layers. Some ferns, known already from the Anisian and Ladinian of this area, are confirmed (*Neuropteridium elegans*), but several taxa are described for the first time (*Phlebopteris fiemmensis* sp. nov., *Cladophlebis ladinica* sp. nov., *Chiropteris monteagnellii* sp. nov.). *Cladophlebis* sp. and some indeterminable fern remains cannot yet be assigned to any family. *Phlebopteris fiemmensis* is now the oldest formally established species in the genus. The fern family Dipteridaceae (*Thaumatopteris* sp. and some fragments probably belonging to the Dipteridaceae because of their venation) has not been recorded previously from European sediments as old as the Ladinian. Although stratigraphically attributed to the late Ladinian, the flora is markedly distinct from other Ladinian floras of the Dolomites and the Germanic Basin. The flora from Monte Agnello shows a higher diversity in ferns than coeval floras from this area although characteristic elements of the Ladinian of the Dolomites such as *Anomopteris* and *Gordonopteris* are missing. The new flora misses also the Marattiales (e.g., *Danaeopsis*, *Asterotheca*) and other elements such as *Sphenopteris schoenleiniana*, typical for the Ladinian of the Germanic Basin.

Key words: Dipteridaceae, Matoniaceae, *Phlebopteris*, *Cladophlebis*, *Chiropteris*, *Thaumatopteris*, plant fossils, Middle Triassic, Southern Alps, Italy.

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