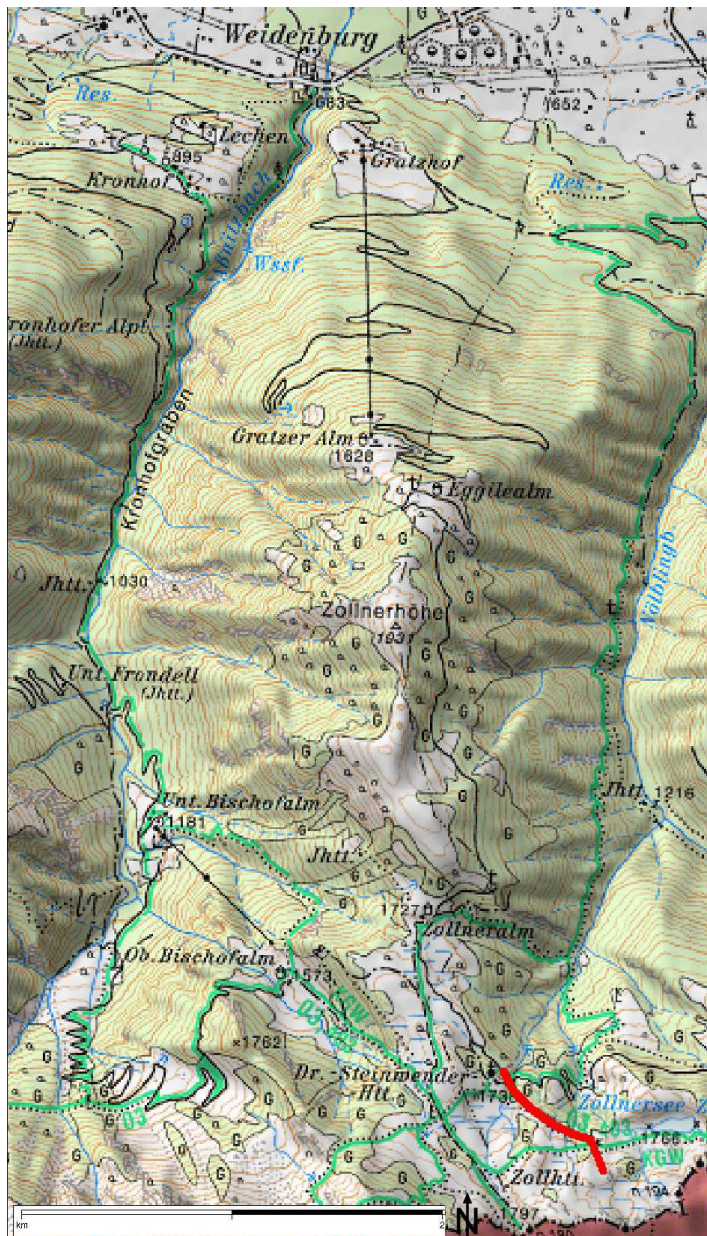


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Geotope 39: Zollner-See-Höhe 1813 – A Place for Sea-lilies



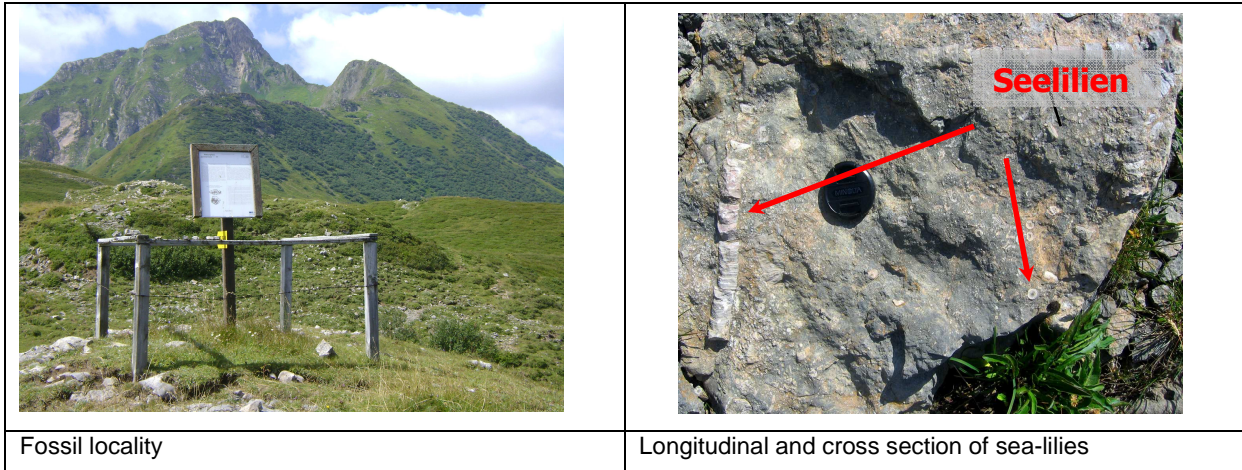
Access:

Either from the villages of Weidenburg or from Nölbling along the Nölbling Creek to Zollner Hut and further on by trail or by car along the forest road from Weidenburg via “Eggilealm” to the fossil locality south of Zollner Hut.

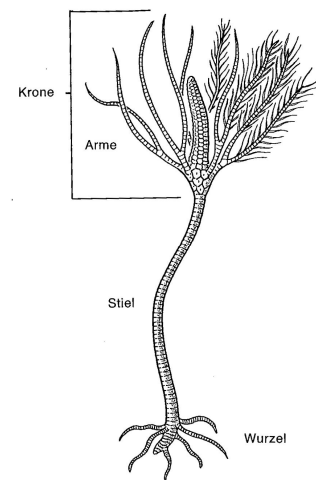
Red marking: Hiking route according to advance description; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

Description of the Geotope

Southwest of Lake Zöllner hills are extending which are covered by a thick fossiliferous limestone plateau which is split into several smaller pieces. The locally rich in fossils indicate an Upper Carboniferous age (some 300 m.y. BP).



The westernmost hill reaching an altitude of 1813 m has long been famous for its rich occurrence of excellently exposed sea-lilies (crinoids), the stem of which may reach almost 1 m length. Besides crinoids, calcareous algae, corals, snails, sponges, brachiopods, trilobites, fusulinids, fish teeth and conodonts are found. Of particular interest are representatives of the extinct group of fusulinids belonging to the protozoa which enable exact age determinations and correlations with coeval occurrences in other parts of the world.



Main characteristics of a sea-lily.

Sea-lilies are marine organisms, although their appearance resembles flowers. They are characterized by a mouth on the top surface that is surrounded by feeding arms. Although the basic echinoderm pattern of five-fold symmetry can be recognized, most crinoids have many more than five arms. Crinoids usually have a stem used to attach them to a substrate. After death they fall apart, since the flexible band holding the individual skeletal parts together is disarticulating and their primary connection gets lost.

Sea-lilies were very abundant in shallow seas of the Devonian and Carboniferous Periods. During these times the Carnic Alps had a position near the equator. Often some thick limestone beds are almost entirely made up of disarticulated crinoid fragments.