

“The End Triassic Extinction - A Catastrophic Event: Evidence from the Gabbs and Sunrise Formations in Nevada”

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Abstract: The Triassic-Jurassic boundary is examined in detail in the Gabbs and Sunrise Formations in Nevada.

This section offers a more continuous record of marine macrofauna across the boundary than elsewhere in the world. Three new paleo-communities are recognized; the *Agerchlamys*, *Mesomiltha* and *Goniomya* associations. The invertebrate fauna is dominated by bivalves, but a diverse assemblage of organisms indicates waters that had good connection to the open marine environment. The fauna indicates that the boundary at the Ferguson Hill section lie somewhere between beds 15 and 20 and our stratigraphic section is measured there. The lithofacies indicate a regressive pulse immediately prior to the extinction event.

Finally, the wholesale demise of Triassic organisms, within a couple meters of strata at the base of the Muller Canyon Member, reveals that the extinction event was abrupt.

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