The Art of Tilting at Windmills:
the Moral of the Mid-Cretaceous

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"Take care your worship, those things over there are not giants but windmills."
CERVANTES: Don Quijote, I.8.

Abstract. KEMPER & WOLFART (1989) incorrectly infuse the expression “mid-Cretaceous” with singular stratigraphical overtones. This leads them to an ignoration elenchi type of argument in which they demolish a terminology that has never existed. Our riposte takes the form of a review of the use of the expression “mid-Cretaceous” in recent years in the light of the historical development of IGCP Project 58 “Mid-Cretaceous Events”.


1 Introduction

In an article seething with indignation, KEMPER & WOLFART (1989) sing out in a tirade of self-righteous denunciation of Philistines who wish to destroy the Holy Writ of Stratigraphy. Among other geo-felons, we are pilloried for our fell deeds. Knowingly and wittily, they insinuate, IGCP Project 58 “Mid-Cretaceous Events” was deviously devised to subvert purity of stratigraphical intent, with the ultimate end in view of what? fuzzy finding?, starting a new fad?, deceiving the tiro?

In view of the sense of boundless outrage pervading KEMPER’S and WOLFART’S note, it is of interest to see just how much substance and veracity, if any, there really is in their turgidly delivered ban.

2 Origin of “Mid-Cretaceous Events”

That which subsequently became IGCP Project 58 “Mid-Cretaceous Events” was originally proposed to the Board of the IGCP as “Turonian Zonation”. The initiative to the topic derived from the recognition of numerous events, geodynamic and biological, that took place

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