

How do shallow water limestones really accumulate?*

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Using skeletal lagerstätten this presentation will demonstrate that the sedimentary and fossil records of carbonate deposition have been misunderstood. For many limestones what we see has little resemblance to the sediment originally buried, distorting or negating any attempts to interpret the ecology or depositional dynamics of such environments. Quantitative estimates of just how little preservable material actually enters into the stratigraphic record will be provided and the fate of the lost carbonate will be reviewed.