Palaeoecological aspects and evolution of the Late Cretaceous oyster assemblages
PhD Thesis

The present thesis investigates the role of the palaeoecological aspects within the process of evolution of the well-known fossil oyster genus *Rhynchostreon* Bayle, 1874, one of the most common representatives of the Late Cretaceous benthic fauna. Thanks to the integrated multi-proxy study focused on five palaeopopulations of *R. suborbiculatum* (Lamarck, 1801), occupying three distinctly different habitats, it was possible not only to extend the range of salinity valence of *R. suborbiculatum*, but also to conclude that the ecological response of this fossil oyster species was similar to several recent representatives of the suborder. At the same time, both significant characters, the presence of apical ribs on the left valve surface, as well as the massiveness of the shell, can be considered as adaptations that significantly increase the survival chances of individuals under specific environmental conditions ...

“Nature is the source of all true knowledge.”
Leonardo da Vinci