

Contents

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1 | Introduction..... | 6 |
| 2 | Variations in Carboniferous Numerical Time Scales..... | 6 |
| 3 | Radiometric Ages and their Reliability..... | 8 |
| 4 | Principles and Reliability of Integrative Time Scale Calibration | 11 |
| 5 | Devonian-Carboniferous Boundary..... | 13 |
| 6 | Marine Faunas and Time Ratios in the Dinantian ("Lower Carboniferous")..... | 13 |
| 7 | Tournaisian-Viséan Boundary..... | 16 |
| 8 | Namurian and Westphalian Strata Thicknesses in the Variscan Foredeep | 16 |
| 9 | Miospore Zones..... | 19 |
| 10 | Macroplants | 20 |
| 11 | Viséan-Namurian Boundary and Time Ratios in the Silesian ("Upper Carboniferous")..... | 23 |
| 12 | Mid-Carboniferous Boundary..... | 28 |
| 13 | Stephanian/"Autunian" Boundary and the Rotliegend | 28 |
| 14 | Time Scale A (Minimum Ages): U-Pb, K-Ar, and Rb-Sr Ages..... | 29 |
| 15 | Time Scale B (Maximum Ages): Ar-Ar Ages in the Silesian | 31 |
| 16 | Carboniferous-Permian Boundary..... | 32 |
| 17 | Conclusions | 35 |
| 18 | References..... | 37 |