

Summarised description

Unit name

Vicht Member

Code

VIC

Status

Formal Member

Parent unit

Burnot Formation

Child units

none

Characteristic description

Wine-red colour conglomerate and conglomeratic sandstone containing centimetric to pluricentimetric pebbles of quartz, quartzite, sandstone and occasional tourmalinite with frequent greenish to greyish siltstone intercalations.

Age

Latest Eifelian

Thickness

2 to 80 metres

Area of occurrence

Vesdre area, from Fechereux up to Germany and Theux tectonic Window.

Type locality

Section in the Helle River south of Eupen is the parastratotype.

Alternative names

Vichter-Konglomerat

Authors

Dejonghe et al. (1991)

Modified after

Denayer, J. & Mottequin, B., 2024. Lower Devonian lithostratigraphy of Belgium. *Geologica Belgica*, 27/3-4, 115–154.

Date

23/09/2025

Cite as

Denayer, J. & Mottequin, B., 2025. The Vicht Member, 23/09/2025. National Commission for Stratigraphy Belgium. <https://ncs.naturalsciences.be/lithostratigraphy/Vicht-Member>

Full description

Unit name

Vicht Member

Code

VIC

Status

Formal Member

Parent unit

Burnot Formation

Child units

none

Origin of the name

Vicht River valley near Aachen (Germany).

Alternative names

Vichter Konglomerat

Authors

Holzapfel (1910, p. 210): *Vichter Konglomerat*

Dejonghe et al. (1991, p. 87): *Formation de Vicht*

Modified after

Denayer, J. & Mottequin, B., 2024. Lower Devonian lithostratigraphy of Belgium. *Geologica Belgica*, 27/3-4, 115–154.

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Characteristic description

Eastwards, in the Vesdre River valley, the Burnot Formation is reduced to a tongue of conglomerate resting paraconformably on the Pragian rocks and previously named Vicht Formation (Dejonghe et al., 1991) that is here considered as a local member (Vicht Member). It consists in metric beds of conglomerate and conglomeratic sandstone containing centimetric to pluricentimetric pebbles of quartz, quartzite, sandstone and occasional tourmalinite with frequent siltstone intercalations. The wine-red colour is dominant but tends to fade away westwards with more and more greenish to greyish intercalations (Dejonghe et al., 1991). The Vicht Member appears as a series of fining-upwards sequences with erosive bases formed by a succession of 10–100 m wide lens-like bodies (Kasig & Neumann-Mahlkau, 1969).

Area of occurrence

The Vicht Member is known from the Aachen area (Germany) to Fraipont and in the Theux Window. The proportion of conglomerate is variable and tends to decrease towards the north-east, where the

Sainval Facies is almost devoid of coarse-grained lithologies. In Fechereux and in the Ry de Mosbeux, the Formation is reduced to a metric bed of conglomerate with quartz pebbles and plant remains (Asselberghs, 1955; Liégeois, 1955). East of Gomzée, the development of the conglomerate increases irregularly.

Type locality

The Vicht Member crops out in the Vicht River valley south-east of Stolberg in Germany. The section is however discontinuous, and Dejonghe et al. (1991) proposed the section in the Helle River south of Eupen as a parastratotype.

Age

In the Heusy section, shales intercalated within conglomerate beds and above it both yielded palynological assemblages indicative of the Lem Zone, i.e. earliest Givetian (Hance et al., 1992, 1996). In Eupen and Goé, the shaly beds, within and above the conglomerate of the Vicht Member yielded a palynological assemblage devoid of the spore *Geminopsora lemurata*, and therefore is referred to the 'pre-Lem' AD Biozone, i.e. latest Eifelian in age (Hance et al., 1996).

Thickness

In the Vesdre area, the Vicht Member reaches 80 m in Pepinster, and decreases to less than 5 m west of Verviers (Laloux et al., 1996), 2 m in the Theux Window (Marion et al., in press) and only 1.6 m in the Soumagne borehole (Graulich, 1977).

Lower boundary

Base of the conglomerate beds resting paraconformably on the Praguian or lower Emsian sandstone.

Upper boundary

Last bed of red conglomerate, overlain by the first shaly or sandy bed of the overlying Pepinster Formation.

Regional correlations

South of the Pepinster Fault, where the Burnot Formation is developed, the conglomeratic beds of supposed Emsian age were mapped under this name (e.g. Bellière, 2015; Marion & Barchy, in press, b; Marion et al., in press) but north of it, the Emsian is supposedly absent, the conglomeratic beds resting directly on the Pragian sandstones were mapped as the Vicht Formation (e.g. Laloux et al., 1996). The difference between both lithostratigraphic units is mostly the age: supposed Emsian for the Burnot Formation, Eifelian–Givetian for the Vicht Formation, regarded here as a member of the former (see above). However, in the Ourthe River valley (Hampateau), the conglomerate is Eifelian (Stainier, 1994a, b). Therefore, the Burnot Formation should be considered as post-Emsian in the north-eastern part of the Dinant Synclinorium. As a consequence of this age getting younger north-eastwards, the Burnot Formation passes in continuity to the Vicht Conglomerate. Knowing that the conglomeratic facies are extremely diachronous, it is more reasonable to consider the Vicht Member as a younger extension of the Burnot Formation towards the east and north. The Vicht Member is also known from the Aachen area (Germany) and named *Vichter-Konglomerat*.

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