



## **Late Oligocene-Early Miocene larger benthic foraminifera from the mixed siliciclastic-carbonate and reefal strata of Kharabeh Sanji stratigraphic section, NW Iran**

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The marine Oligo-Miocene sediments of the Qom Formation at Kharabeh Sanji section west Uromieh consisting of mixed siliciclastic-carbonates changing to reefal strata were studied in detail to establish a high resolution biostratigraphic zonal scheme. Continuous distribution of larger benthic foraminifera (mainly miogypsinids) allowed us to correlate the identified taxa with the shallow benthic zonation (SBZ) already introduced for European sequences and to ascribe detailed age to the study section based on the determined biozones. The identified fauna include the genera *Miogypsinodes*, *Miogypsina*, *Neorotalia*, *Nephrolepidina*, *Eulepidina* and *Spiroclypeus*. The foraminiferal assemblage resemble to the fauna described from European basins characterizing the SBZ 23 to SBZ 25 zones representing a time interval from the Late Chattian to Burdigalian.