



Planctonic Foraminifera of Lower Cretaceous interval of Essaouira basin (Morocco)

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The studied area is on the west of Morocco in the High Moroccan western Atlas. It is limited by Amizmiz and the Essaouira city.

Lower Cretaceous - Barremian, Aptian and Albian- of Essaouira basin show thickness and variable lithology from east to west basin.

The Barremian is characterised by clays and calcareous, Aptian and Albian are characterised by several typical marls and carbonates. The Albian is homogeneous in all the basin. Only Barremian and Aptian are very rich on planctonic Foraminifera, the base of this level is poor on planctonic Foraminifera. The Albian presents several benthic Foraminifera like *Pleurostomella*.

Biostratigraphy and micropaleontology study, essentially, based on planctonic Foraminifera can list 24 species indicating 13 biozones in this area.

The Barremian interval is composed of three biozones :

- *Hedbergella sigali* biozone indicating the Early Barremian.
- *Hedbergella similis* biozone, *Globigerinelloides gottisi* and *Globigerinelloides duboisi* are indicated in the Upper Barremian.

The Aptian is recognised by six biozones :

- Early Aptian interval is characterised by the *Schackoina cabri*, *Globigerinelloides ferreolensis*, *Globigerinelloides algerianus*, *Hedbergella gorbachikae* and *Hedbergella trochoidea* biozones.
- Upper Aptian is recognised by *Ticinella bejaouensis* and base of *Hedbergella planispira* biozones.

The Albian is characterised by three biozones :

- *Hedbergella planispira* biozone of Lower Albian.
- *Ticinella primula* and *Biticinella breggiensis* biozones which characterised the Upper Albian. *Planomalina buxtorfi* is also present but small size.

This study was followed by Pr. Saloua Gargouri Razgallah (FS- Tunis- Tunisia)