



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 tickness and variable lithology from east to west basin.

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

Biostratigraphy and micropalaentology study, essentially, based on planctonic Foraminifera can listing 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, Globigerinelloïdes gottisi and Globigerinelloïdes duboisi are incated the Upper Barremian.

The Aptian is recognised by six biozones :

- Early Aptian interval is caracterised by the Schackoïna cabri, Globigerinelloïdes ferreolensis, Globigerinelloïdes algerianus, Hedbergella gorbachikae and Hedbergella trochoïdea biozones.
- Upper Aptian is recognised by Ticinella bejaouensis and base of Hedbergella planispira biozones.

The Albian is caracterised by three biozones :

- Hedbergella planispira biozone of Lower Albian.
- Ticinella primula and Biticinella breggiensis biozones who caracterised the Upper Albian. Planomalina buxtorfi is also present but smal size.

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