



Upper Triassic Foraminiferal Biostratigraphy and Geochemistry of Associated Volcanics of Bitlis Massif

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The Bitlis Massif forms a part of the Tethyan suture zone that was accumulated during late Mesozoic-Early Cenozoic time. It is an allochthonous unit with a high-grade metamorphic basement and a low-grade cover sequence. The studied section, mainly characterized by recrystallized limestone, is within the cover sequence of the Massif and located at southeastern parts of the Elazığ city. The base of the section starts with volcanic rocks and is followed upwards by limestone alternating with volcanics. The upper part of the succession is mainly characterized by limestones with large megalodonts. The Upper Triassic biostratigraphy within the succession dominantly consists of involutinids, which are strongly recrystallized, nodosarids, trochamminids and ammonitids. The most common taxa include *Triasina hantkeni*, which is a zone marker for the Sevastian-Rhaetian interval, *Aulotortus* gr. *sinuosus*, *Aulotortus friedli*, *Aulotortus* sp., *Auloconus permodiscoides*. Based on the foraminiferal taxa, *Triasina hantkeni* assemblage zone is determined within the studied succession and a Late Norian-Rhaetian age is attributed.

Volcanic rocks of the section found at the lower parts of the succession are alkaline meta-basalts and have enriched MORB affinities with lower Mg#. LILE and LREE display enrichments relative to the HFSE and HREE respectively. Partial melting model calculations suggest that basaltic rocks of the section would be produced by melting of garnet bearing mantle sources. Preliminary results of our study have evidence for the rifting and continental break-up to form the Southern Neotethys.