

## Monospecific orthophragminids, Discocyclina discus (Rütimeyer, 1850), from the Middle Eocene Seeb Formation, Oman: low-diversity larger foraminiferal assemblages from the tropics of Eocene

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The Middle Eocene Seeb Formation represents a thick, highly fossiliferous carbonate platform cropping out to the west of Muscat, north Oman. At Al Khod locality, the unit is composed of mainly limestone beds, dominated by larger benthic foraminifera (LBF), particularly nummulitids and alveolinids throughout most of its vertical development and abundant orthophragminids occurring only at uppermost levels. Orthophragminids are associated with some key Nummulites species such as N. perforatus and N. bullatus suggesting a late Lutetian age and rare alveolinids. All orthophragminid specimens, studied from twenty-one levels along ca. 30 meters-thick upper part of the unit, are characterized by a saddle-shaped robust test of predominantly megalospheric and rarely microspheric forms. Externally, these forms have a smooth test surface with uniformly distributed piles of almost same size. The equatorial sections reveal large umbilicolepidine to excentrilepidine embryon, displaying an irregular outline of the deuteroconch, which is described on morphometric grounds. All studied specimens appear to belong to Discocyclina discus (Rütimeyer, 1850), a common Middle Eocene genus in Tethys, recorded for the first time from Oman. Our diversity record from orthophragminids shows a strong correlation to that of genus Nummulites from the same section, which was previously reported to contain only one or several species throughout the Seeb Formation.