

LATE EOCENE-OLIGOCENE CORALS FROM EVROS (THRACE BASIN, NE GREECE)

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During Tertiary, Evros region (northeastern Greece) was located in the Thrace Basin. The northward directed transgression started in this part of the basin in the Middle Eocene (Lutetian), and during the Late Eocene (Priabonian) covered all the Hellenic Rhodopes. In the Late Oligocene time increase in reef development occurred on a global scale, which is reflected also in Evros.

The studied corals come from the three time slices:

Late Eocene (Priabonian). Preliminary field studies of isolated outcrops in Lefkimi, Lagina and Likofos revealed poorly diversified coral assemblages (small massive faviids, poritiids and branching acroporiids). At Lefkimi corals are dominated by large colonies or fragments of branching acroporiids. Priabonian corals from Evros are often silicified, locally heavily encrusted by coralline algae. Some of them occur within conglomerates covering tuffs.

Late Eocene ? – Early Oligocene. Small reef structures from Soufli contain generally similar coral assemblage as that one from Didimoteicho and Koufovouno characterized below. However, small ramose colonies of *Stylophora* are relatively abundant, and *Caulastraea* occurs subordinately.

Late Oligocene. Large reef is exposed in Didimoteicho and near located Koufovouno, the most northern localities on the studied area. Corals are abundant and diversified. The presence of large phaceloidal colonies of *Caulastraea* is characteristic feature. Other species represent massive (*Astreopora*, *Alveopora*, *Goniopora*) and branching acroporiids and poritiids, *Stylophora*, *Actinacis*, *Pavona*, *Cyathoseris*, *Diploria*, *Leptoria*, *Antiguastraea*, *Montastraea*, ? *Favia*, *Colpophyllia* and ?*Euphyllia*.

Matrix of coral limestones from Soufli and Didimoteicho area is composed mainly by bioclastic and peloidal packstone/wackstone. Skeletal elements are dominated by foraminifers, coralline algae and bryozoans. Coralline crusts are not common; algae occur mainly as unattached branches and their detritus.

Corals from Evros display a typical Mediterranean Tethys character. The only richest coral fauna from Paleogene of Greece has been recently described from Oligocene of Doutsiko (Mesohellenic Basin, NW Greece). Interestingly, Schuster (2002) recognized there the oldest (Late Oligocene) fossil record of *Acropora*-dominated coral assemblage. The assemblage from Lefkimi with abundant branching acroporiids needs further investigation.

Reference

Schuster, F., 2002. Oligocene scleractinian corals from Doutsiko (Mesohellenic Basin northwestern Greece). *Cour. Forsch.-Inst. Senckenberg*, 239: 83-127.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Berichte des Institutes für Geologie und Paläontologie der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz](#)

Jahr/Year: 2003

Band/Volume: [7](#)

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