

LATE VALANGINIAN FORAMINIFERA AND AMMONITE FROM THE TARAISES FORMATION OF THE CUENCAMÉ REGION, DURANGO, NE MEXICO

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In the central-east part of the Durango State a section was measured 6.28 m thick from the base of the upper member of the Taraises Formation. This sequence consists of grey limestone, shale and white marl that provides a rich paleontological material which allow to study of the ammonite and the microfossils (foraminifera) associated to them.

The examined section contains several species of ammonite as *Oosterella begastrensis*, *O. gaudryi*, *O. cultrata*, *O. cultrataeformis*, *Ceratotuberculus linguituberculatus*, *Rodighierites belimelensis*, *Olcostephanus (Olcostephanus) balestrai*, *O. (Jeannoticeras) colorinensis*, *Karakaschiceras* sp. and *Bochianites* spp. that are regarded as the Late Valanginian (*Peregrinus* Zone) of the

standard biozonal scheme for the Mediterranean Faunal Province.

With respect of the planktic foraminifera, they display small size and low diversity. *Hedbergella sigali*, *Caucasella hoterivica*, *Globigerinelloides* sp and *Gorbachikella* sp. are identified.

On the basis of the planktic foraminiferal assemblage is defined the *Hedbergella sigali-Hedbergella intermedia* Zone of the Late Valanginian.

The occurrence of the hedbergellids suggested an epipelagic setting of an open-shelf water mass. Also the *Olcostephanids* and the *Neocomitids* could have lived in the upper part of the water column.

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