

Contribution to Moroccan Palaeozoic Biostratigraphy by Microfossils Conodonts. Example: Devonian of North-Western Meseta

El Mostafa Benfrika¹, Mohamed Raji¹, Piere Bultynck², and Ahmed El Hassani³

¹ University Hassan II- Mohammedia , Faculty of Sciences Ben M'Sik Sidi Othmane BP 7955 Casablanca, Morocco

² Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, rue Vautiers 29, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgique

³ University Mohamed V, Institut Scientifique de Rabat, Avenue Ibn Batouta, BP 703 Rabat-Agda Morocco

The study of microfossils Conodonts from Devonian strata of Northwestern Moroccan Meseta allows to recognize several biostratigraphic species. These microfossils are very interesting to date with precision and correlate various devonian Formations of three significant areas of Meseta.

1. Rabat-Tiflet area

The Conodonts biostratigraphy studies from some sections of this area, allows to:

- Recognize the presence of Givetian in the Rabat-Tiflet area (Lower varcus Zone);
- Confirm and recognise the age of some Formations such as Pragian of Al Khaloua, Emsian (dehiscens and inversus/laticostatus Zone) and Eifelian (partitus and ensensis Zone) of the Rabat- Tiflet area.

2. Oued Cherrat area and its southern extension

Late Pragian to early Givetian sections from the Oued Cherrat shear Zone and its southern extension were also systematically sampled for conodonts. Serotinus through lower varcus Zone conodonts were recognized and allow an approximate positioning of the base of the Emsian, Eifelian and Givetian.

3. Oulad Abbou and Mechraa Abbou areas

Many sections in these areas have been analyzed for conodont biostratigraphy. Two sections are interesting, the first one (Oulad Abbou area) concerns the Lochkovian to Emsian (Caudicriodus woschmidt, Ancyrodelloides transitans, Pelekysgnathus serratus, Icriodids...) of Oued Cheguiga; the second one (Mechraa Ben Abbou area) corresponds to the Emsian-Eifelian and the Givetian of Bouchhada quarry (Icriodus corniger ancestralis, Polygnathus costatus, Polygnathus linguiformis, Polygnathus varcus, Polygnathus timorensis.)

Key words: Biostratigraphy, Devonian, Microfossils, Conodonts, Palaeozoic, Meseta, Morocco.