

Paleoenvironmental and Chronological Significance of the Foraminiferal Record in the Pliocene Asilah Basin (NW Morocco)

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In the most representative stratigraphic sections in the Pliocene Basin of Asilah (Morocco), the associations of benthic and planktonic foraminifera were analyzed. More than 50 taxa of benthic foraminifera and 17 of planktonic were determined.

The planktonic assemblage leave us to assign all the Neogene of the Basin to the Zanclean (biozone PL-2 of Berggren et al. 1995), highlighting the coexistence of *Globorotalia margaritae* and *G. punctulata*.

The benthic assemblages show the spatio-temporal relationships of the basin. The basal levels are of transgressive character, and *Elphidium crispum*, *Lobatula lobatula*, *Ammonia beccarii* and *Nonion boueanum* are the most abundant. In upper levels, *N. boueanum* and *A. beccarii* are the most representative taxa, and the diversity and the planktonic taxa are higher.

The associations of benthic and planktonic foraminifera confirm a progressive deepening, inside the internal platform, with several episodes of a more restricted marine circulation conditions, marked by peaks of abundance of *Buliminidae* and *Fursenkoina schreibersiana*. The malacofauna and ostracofauna record are in agreement with this results.

Key words: Foraminifera, biochronology, paleoecology, Pliocene Zanclean, Asilah, Morocco

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