

# MAASTRICHTIAN SOLITARY CORALS FROM THE SIMSIMA FORMATION, GEBAL AL FAYAH SERIES, WESTERN SIDE OF THE NORTHERN OMAN MOUNTAINS, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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A highly fossiliferous Maastrichtian limestone known as the Simsima Formation is exposed at Gebal Al Fayah series, western side of the Northern Oman Mountains, United Arab Emirates. The section is rich in macrofossils which are represented mainly by rudistid bivalves, acteonellid gastropods and corals, besides other species of gastropods, bivalves and echinoids. Microfossils are represented by abundant occurrences of orbitoids besides other benthonic and planktonic foraminifera.

Corals are studied from the taxonomic aspect, 36 species are represented which are mainly colonial forms (25 species).

Solitary corals are represented by 12 species which belong to the genera *Cunnolites*, *Peplosmilia*, *Cyclolites*, *Epistreptophyllum*, *Ellipsosmilia*, *Diploctinium* and *Phyllosmilia*.

Cunnolitid corals are the most dominant among the solitary corals, they are characterized by discoid morphotypes that are indicative for hard substrate environment with low sedimentation rate.